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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-first Session • Trente et unième session • 31º período de sesiones

**Rome, 2-13 November 2001
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 2-13 novembre 2001
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES
DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**Roma, 2-13 noviembre de 2001
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS
DE LA CONFERENCIA**

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LE PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – PARTIE XIV

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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2-13 November 2001 Rome, 2-13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2-13 de noviembre de 2001
FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
2 November 2001

The First Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours
Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 10h 15
sous la présidence de Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera sesión a las 10.15 horas
bajo la presidencia del Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Presidente de la Conferencia

**INTRODUCTION
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INTRODUCCIÓN**

1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (C 2001/LIM/1)

1. Élection du Président et des Vice-Présidents (C 2001/LIM/1)

1. Elección del Presidente y los Vicepresidentes (C 2001/LIM/1)

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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

I am glad to see many of the friends here today and to greet new delegates who are here for the first time. I should also like to say a special word of welcome to the representatives of the four countries who have applied for membership in the Organization and whose applications will be voted on later today.

Our first Item on the agenda is the election of the Chairperson of the Conference. The Council, at its Hundred and Twentieth Session in June 2001, designated the United Arab Emirates as the country which would provide the Chairperson for the Conference. The Council, at its Session which concluded yesterday, proposed that His Excellency Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Raqabani, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of the United Arab Emirates, preside over this Session of the Conference.

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

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

May I now invite His Excellency Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Raqabani to come forward and take the Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God, Merciful and Compassionate, Your Excellency Mr Chairperson, Your Excellency Mr Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen, may the peace and blessing of God be upon you all.

I am pleased to speak on behalf of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates and on my own behalf to express my thanks and appreciation for the trust you placed in me in choosing me as the Chairman of this Thirty-first Session of the Conference of FAO. I believe that this choice is indeed an honour to my own country and a tribute to its efforts in promoting the world agricultural development under the leadership of Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the President of our State.

I should also like to thank the Director-General and the Secretariat of FAO for all the efforts they have been putting in the preparation of these documents. My thanks also go to the collaborators and I do hope that our deliberations will be crowned with success.

FAO is indeed the forum where the rich and the poor gather and, when we meet here, we have to find solutions in order to alleviate the suffering of millions of people who suffer from the pains of poverty and hunger and diseases. Therefore, the international community should act in order to promote peace and stability, because peace and social stability lead to the achievement of food security.

We also condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and we call upon all to face this scourge. We believe, nevertheless, that the regional and international conflicts, in addition to poverty, are the main causes for the economic and political instability in the world.

We feel the pain while we live in this era which witnessed a tremendous development in the fields of technology, space technology and electronic communication. It pains us to see that our brethren suffer from poverty, hunger and malnutrition and we, as human beings, should think about this, we should promote compassion and solidarity so that all of us live in peace, love and harmony, which would secure the prosperity of happiness of future generations. We are fully convinced, in this connection, that FAO does have the necessary expertise in order to find solutions to these challenges, provided the political will is there and provided we secure the necessary resources and wherewithal.

Our Conference is being held under critical circumstances and, despite the fact that the world food production is enough to meet the needs of the whole population of the globe, we still witness poverty and hunger. Indeed, 800 million people are still suffering from poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and this is a threat to all peoples in the world.

In addition to that, the states of the world, in the World Food Summit held here in Rome in 1996, did pledge to reduce the number of hungry people to 400 million people by the year 2015, namely the reduction of the number of hungry people by 20 million people on a yearly basis. However, that figure has not been achieved so far because the reduction has been six million people only, according to the statistics of FAO. Therefore, we can safely say that the target has not been achieved and, if we maintain the present figures, we shall need more than 60 years in order to achieve our targets. Therefore, we would like to express our appreciation here to the initiative of the Director-General and for his invitation to convene a World Food Summit: *five years later* in order to mobilize efforts, and in order to give yet another impetus to this initiative in order to eliminate poverty and malnutrition and hunger.

The motto of the World Food Day this year, which calls upon all to combat poverty and hunger, is indeed a lofty goal and reflects the noble and lofty intentions of this Organization. In this connection, we should like to pay tribute to the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, for his determination and his efforts in order to promote agricultural development, sustainable development and the various programmes carried out by the Organization, such as the SPFS and Telefood and all those programmes related to the elimination of poverty. Therefore, we should like to seize the opportunity to call upon all nations, particularly the rich nations, to support the Organization in implementing its developmental and humanitarian activities.

The international community is called upon to assist developing countries and poor countries not only in times of crises and natural catastrophes, but they should also help with the developing countries to implement developmental programmes and infrastructure activities which would promote their self-reliance and sustainable development.

I am honoured to say that the United Arab Emirates, under the guidance of His Highness the President of our Nation, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, as a nation, has been supporting all nations in need. We have also contributed in the implementation of production projects and those activities related to the alleviation of poverty, malnutrition and hunger. We also carried out a number of programmes related to agriculture, land reclamation, the building of dams and research work, in addition to the mechanization of agriculture and the promotion of modern technologies.

The agenda of this Session is full of important issues, namely, the Review of the State of Food and Agriculture, the Programme of Work and Budget for the year 2002 and 2003, in addition to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and other important issues. We hope, in this connection, that our meeting will be held in the spirit of cooperation and we hope that positive inputs will contribute to sound decisions and resolutions which would lead to the promotion of agricultural development. This, in turn, will promote agricultural production, the promotion of farmers' income and the raising of their living standards.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Rule 8 of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Conference, after considering the Report of the Council, shall elect the three Vicepersons of the Conference, the seven Members of the General Committee of the Conference and the nine Members of the Credentials Committee.

May I read the proposal of the Hundred and Twenty-first Council Session regarding the nominations of the three Vice Chairmen of the Conference. They are as follows:

Mr Francis Montanaro Mifsud from Malta, Mr Majzoub-Al-Khalifa Ahmad from Sudan and Mr J.N.L. Srivastava from India.

You have just heard the proposal of the Hundred and Twenty-first Council concerning the three Vice Chairpersons of the Conference.

Can I take it that there are no objections? You approve.

It was so decided.
Il en est ainsi décidé.
Así se acuerda.

- 2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee (Member Nations)**
 (C 2001/LIM/1; C 2001/LIM/12)
- 2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (États Membres)**
 (C 2001/LIM/1; C 2001/LIM/12)
- 2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales (Estados Miembros)**
 (C 2001/LIM/1; C 2001/LIM/12)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We now proceed to Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda which is the Appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee. I will read the nominations for the seven Member Nations to be elected to the General Committee, as submitted by the recently-concluded Council.

The States are as follows: Bulgaria, China, Republic of Congo, Cuba, Islamic Republic of Iran, Sweden and the United States of America.

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

It was so decided.
Il en est ainsi décidé.
Así se acuerda.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

The seven Member Nations proposed by the Hundred and Twenty-first 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 Session in June this year.

The countries are: Australia, Costa Rica, Cyprus – Mr Poulides, Chairperson, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

We have heard the list of nine Member Nations to serve on the Credentials Committee. Do you wish to endorse this list? Approved. I consider these nine countries duly endorsed as Members of the Credentials Committee.

It was so decided.
Il en est ainsi décidé.
Así se acuerda.

Christian MONNOYER (Belgium)

I am speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Union.

The issue of Voting Rights and Arrears is addressed in the Constitution of FAO. It is for the General Committee of the Conference to apply Article III.4, and to make recommendations.

The issue of Voting Rights and Arrears was thoroughly discussed in the Finance Committee and in the June Council. The Council concluded and recommended that the current practice be retained.

In order to clarify how this legal statute is applied and can retain its value, the Member States of the European Union would like the General Committee to report to the Conference in accordance with the decision in the June Council.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We have heard your contribution, which will be referred to the Director-General. The Conference will discuss this issue.

**PART V - OTHER MATTERS
CINQUIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS DIVERSES
PARTE V - OTROS ASUNTOS****22. Any Other Matters****22. Autres questions****22. Otros asuntos**

22.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture

22.1 Conférence McDougall

22.1 Disertación en memoria de McDougall

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We now turn to Item 22 on our agenda. The Conference will listen to the McDougall Lecture. This lecture is part of a series which began in 1959 to commemorate the late Frank 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.

EL DIRECTOR GENERAL

Me cabe hoy el privilegio de presentarles el homenaje a Frank McDougall realizado por el Excelentísimo Señor Don Patricio Aylwin, ex-Presidente de Chile. Presidente de la República entre 1990 y 1994, quien se ha ganado el respecto de la comunidad internacional por el juicio y la firmeza con que supo conducir su país a través de un período particularmente difícil de su historia.

Durante su mandato, con una permanente preocupación por la equidad y la justicia social y un fino sentido de las realidades políticas y económicas, el Presidente Aylwin logró consolidar de manera irreversible el retorno de la democracia y las libertades públicas, mejorando a la vez la situación de los sectores más vulnerables de la sociedad.

En el plano internacional sostuvo con vigor los esfuerzos en favor de una cooperación internacional más amplia y más intensa para obtener un desarrollo que mejore los equilibrios económicos y sociales, pieza esencial de la paz y la seguridad.

Estadista dotado de una profunda y aguda visión de las grandes cuestiones políticas, sociales y económicas de la sociedad de nuestros días, tras terminar su mandato el Presidente Aylwin ha seguido participando en los grandes debates internacionales, guiado por profundas consideraciones éticas y un rechazo a todo encasillamiento entorno a recetas dogmáticas e ideológicas. Así lo puso de manifiesto, como representante especial del Presidente de Chile en la

Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación en noviembre de 1996. Su compromiso por un desarrollo económico y social sostenible, basado en la libertad de iniciativa, así como en la necesidad de asegurar la equidad y la justicia para que sus frutos beneficien a la sociedad en su conjunto, es el resultado de una rica experiencia política de casi sesenta años y de un profundo conocimiento de las necesidades y los elementos en juego.

Jurista, dirigente político, parlamentario, presidente del Senado, reconocido como una de las personalidades destacadas de América Latina, sus interesantes reflexiones se han nutrido de su contacto directo con las realidades sociales y económicas y su elevada sensibilidad ante los problemas de la condición humana.

Es por ello un honor para mí invitarle ahora a tomar la palabra para la tradicional Conferencia McDougall.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Patricio AYLWIN (ex-Presidente de la República de Chile)

Agradezco al señor Director General, Dr. Jacques Diouf, su generosa invitación a pronunciar en esta oportunidad en que se inaugura el 31° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la Organización de Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, la tradicional disertación en homenaje a Frank McDougall. Ello constituye para mí un alto honor, que recibo como expresión de aprecio a la colaboración de mi país con la FAO. Agradezco especialmente al señor Director sus palabras tan generosas en esta presentación.

Frank McDougall, colaborador de la antigua Sociedad de las Naciones en el ámbito de la salud pública, fue de los primeros en plantear hace ya más de sesenta años, la relación que existe entre la salud colectiva, la alimentación de las personas, el desarrollo de la agricultura y la política económica. Y recogiendo el llamado del Presidente Roosevelt para lograr en el mundo las "Cuatro Libertades", entre ellas la de "liberarse de la miseria a todas las personas", lo cual – dijo el mandatario en 1941 - "puede lograrse en nuestra época y en esta generación", McDougall planteó la posibilidad de suministrar a toda la población humana una dieta apropiada para mantener un buen estado de salud y calculó que para lograrlo sería necesario duplicar las disponibilidades mundiales de alimentos, lo que exigiría a las grandes potencias de la época no sólo asegurar la alimentación suficiente de su propia población, sino también proporcionar asistencia financiera y técnica a los países menos avanzados para que desarrollaran la agricultura y logaran la adecuada nutrición de su población.

Estos planteamientos inspiraron la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Alimentación y Agricultura que se celebró en Hot Springs en mayo de 1943, cuya Resolución XXIV, sobre "Institución de una economía de abundancia", luego de aseverar - entre otras verdades - que "la causa principal del hambre y de la mala nutrición es la pobreza", que "el fomento del empleo total de los recursos humanos y materiales, de acuerdo con una política social y económica bien fundada, es requisito primordial para el incremento general y progresivo de la producción y del poder adquisitivo", y que "los aranceles y otros impedimentos al comercio internacional, como también las fluctuaciones anormales en los tipos de cambio, restringen la producción, la distribución y el consumo de alimentos y otros artículos", recomendó a los gobiernos y autoridades que participaron en esa Conferencia una serie de medidas para concretar "su determinación de lograr para todos los pueblos de la tierra una vida exenta de miseria".

De esa Conferencia de Hot Springs surgió una Comisión Interina de Naciones Unidas sobre Alimentación y Agricultura, que a su vez preparó la Constitución de la FAO, cuya primera Conferencia se celebró entre el 16 de octubre y el 1° de noviembre de 1945. Es justo y oportuno que al iniciar ahora la 31° Conferencia de la FAO, recordemos con gratitud y admiración el fecundo aporte que Frank McDougall hizo a la concepción, razón de ser y nacimiento de esta Institución. Y junto con rendirle este homenaje, oportuno es también que nos preguntemos qué

pensaría McDougall si supiera de la situación a que, en estos inicios del Tercer Milenio, al cabo de sesenta y seis años de vida de la FAO, ha llegado la humanidad en materia de agricultura y alimentación.

Para dar respuesta a esta pregunta conviene recordar que hace cinco años, en Noviembre de 1996, reunidos en esta ciudad por invitación precisamente de la FAO, los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de casi todas las naciones del mundo, o sus representantes, acordaron solemnemente la “Declaración de Roma sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial” y un “Plan de Acción sobre la Alimentación” cuyas propuestas se comprometieron a adoptar y a prestarles el apoyo indispensable para lograr su cumplimiento.

Como acaba de recordar el señor Presidente, en lo esencial, esas propuestas afirmaron y se comprometieron a asegurar el derecho a la alimentación, que definieron como “el derecho de la persona a tener acceso a alimentos sanos y nutritivos, en consonancia con el derecho a una alimentación adecuada y con el derecho fundamental de toda persona a no padecer hambre”. Consecuentemente, declararon “intolerable que más de 800 millones de personas en todo el mundo y, en particular, en los países en desarrollo, no dispongan de alimentos suficientes para satisfacer sus necesidades nutricionales básicas” y asumieron el compromiso de consagrar su voluntad política y hacer el esfuerzo necesario “para erradicar el hambre de todos los países, con el objetivo inmediato de reducir el número de personas desnutridas a la mitad” – es decir, cuatrocientos millones - “no más tarde del 2015”. Para materializar esos propósitos asumieron siete compromisos específicos sobre objetivos que deberían perseguirse y medidas que deberían adoptarse.

Han transcurrido cinco de los veinte años que los gobiernos de este mundo se auto-fijaron para cumplir esa tarea. ¿Cuánto hemos avanzado hacia su logro?

Según una publicación de la FAO de Enero de este año relativa a la “Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*”, que se programaba para estos días y que ha sido suspendida, entiendo que por pocos meses, la información recopilada y analizada hasta entonces indicaba “que la reducción media anual del número de personas desnutridas en el mundo, estimada en ocho millones, que se consiguió durante el decenio de 1990, es muy inferior al promedio de veinte millones al año que sería necesario para alcanzar el año 2015 la meta fijada”. Si se mantiene este ritmo de disminución del hambre, de ocho millones de personas cada año – el señor Presidente nos ha dicho que es menor aún, seis millones - para liberar a la humanidad de este flagelo sería necesario un siglo: para que termine el hambre en el mundo sería necesario todo un siglo. Basta enunciar este antecedente para tomar conciencia del trágico fracaso que significaría para la humanidad que no fuéramos capaces de revertir esta situación a corto plazo.

La brutal paradoja de esta realidad – éticamente inaceptable y políticamente incomprensible - es que ella ocurre en circunstancias en que “uno de los logros principales del siglo pasado fue la producción suficiente de alimentos para atender las necesidades de una población mundial que se ha duplicado desde una cifra cercana a los tres mil millones de personas en 1960 a más de seis mil millones en el 2000 y para garantizar al mismo tiempo una mejor nutrición, con el aumento de la ingestión diaria de alimentos de 2.250 Kcal a 2.800 Kcal por persona durante este mismo período”, según expresa textualmente el Informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria que conocerá la Conferencia que en este acto se inaugura. Con razón, al referirse dicho Informe a esta situación “de que existiera el hambre en gran escala cuando la producción mundial de alimentos era más que suficiente para erradicarla”, la califica como “inaceptable”.

No debemos ni podemos ocultar el desaliento que provocan estos resultados. Mientras algunos de los países en vías de desarrollo – los más avanzados - disminuyen levemente sus índices de desnutrición, estos continúan deteriorándose de manera alarmante en los países menos desarrollados de Africa, Centro América, Caribe y Cercano Oriente. Esto ocurre no obstante la creciente disponibilidad de alimentos a nivel mundial, evidenciada por los aumentos constantes en los stock de productos alimenticios básicos, tanto en el mundo desarrollado como en algunos países en desarrollo.

No se trata, por lo tanto, de buscar solucionar los problemas del hambre a través del mero aumento de la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo. El problema es más complejo y se refiere a la falta de ingreso y empleo y la consiguiente prevalencia continua de altos niveles de pobreza. Tal como señala el científico indio M.S. Swaminathan: "La Seguridad Alimentaria se expresa mejor en términos de millones de trabajos creados que en millones de toneladas de alimentos producidos".

No obstante las esperanzas de importantes mejoramientos en las condiciones económicas de las poblaciones más pobres que prometían los programas de ajuste macroeconómicos, forzados por los organismos multilaterales de crédito internacional, cifras del Banco Mundial muestran los escasos avances logrados y los retrocesos registrados en la reducción de la pobreza.

El total de personas que viven con menos de 1 dólar EE.UU. al día ha disminuido apenas de 1,321 millones en 1990 a 1,214 millones en 1998 y ello es principalmente el resultado del buen desempeño de los países del Este de Asia y del Pacífico en este período, los que disminuyeron en casi 200 millones las poblaciones con estos niveles de ingreso. Todas las otras regiones del mundo, a excepción del Medio Oriente y África del Norte, han aumentado significativamente el número de pobres.

En América Latina y el Caribe, según estudios de CEPAL, las personas que viven en condiciones de pobreza han aumentado, en el curso de la década de los 90, de 196 millones a 224 millones; las situaciones de "pobreza dura", discriminación étnica, segregación residencial y violencia se mantienen o aumentan; la mayor parte del empleo se ha generado en el sector informal y en varios sectores los salarios son inferiores a los de la década anterior. Esta realidad significa un serio obstáculo para el desarrollo de nuestros países, amenaza gravemente la paz social y constituye un escándalo desde el punto de vista moral.

Por otra parte, la distribución del ingreso, cuando no ha retrocedido, ha permanecido escandalosamente desigual. El quinto de la población mundial que vive en los países ricos goza de un ingreso 74 veces mayor que el quinto más pobre del mundo; 74 veces mayor. Mientras en América Latina sólo en Bolivia, México, Honduras y Uruguay la distribución del ingreso tuvo una leve mejoría, en el resto permaneció igual o se deterioró, a partir de los niveles más inequitativos del mundo.

Estas cifras y la observación atenta de las tendencias mundiales ocurridas en los años noventa, nos indican un fenómeno creciente de marginación de las grandes mayorías nacionales en los beneficios del desarrollo, distribución regresiva del ingreso, concentración creciente del poder económico en algunos países y en algunas grandes empresas. Esto ha generado fuertes aumentos de las migraciones rural-urbanas y hacia los países desarrollados, como puede observarse en sus principales ciudades. Esto revela que hoy hay en el mundo una globalización de la pobreza.

Vivimos un tiempo de grandes contradicciones. Los años noventa vieron cambios tecnológicos de notable significación, cuya expresión más notoria ha sido el fenómeno vertiginoso de la globalización económica, cultural y comunicacional.

En el plano económico se ha registrado un acelerado crecimiento del comercio internacional y un aumento aún más dinámico de la inversión extranjera directa. Pero la expansión de los flujos de capitales financieros es espectacularmente mayor; se nos informa que más de un billón de dólares circula diariamente en los mercados internacionales cambiarios y financieros.

Más flujos comerciales, un gran auge financiero, mayores innovaciones tecnológicas. Con todo ello se esperaba que resultase un crecimiento económico más acelerado del mundo, mayor creación de empleos productivos y menos pobreza. Se nos dijo, además, que las distancias entre personas ricas y pobres, entre países pobres y ricos deberían irse reduciendo. Es lo que los técnicos llaman "una convergencia de niveles de ingreso y bienestar".

Sin embargo, los hechos son distintos. Evidencias irrefutables atestiguan que la justicia social, la equidad económica, ha retrocedido en muchas partes del mundo en los dos últimos decenios. África, Asia y América Latina han estado estancados o han experimentado auges temporales

seguidos de severas crisis financieras. Hoy sabemos con certeza que esas crisis son profundamente regresivas y con efectos por lapsos prolongados.

La región de la cual provengo, América Latina, hizo profundas reformas estructurales, principalmente en los años noventa. Siguió al pie de la letra muchas de las recomendaciones de lo que se ha llamado el "Consenso de Washington;" lo hizo con intensidad y con fe en la ortodoxia económica. Se trató, me parece, de confiar con plenitud en la libertad del mercado para crear riqueza y bienestar. No obstante, América Latina creció con más lentitud en los años noventa que entre 1950 y 1980 (menos de 3 por ciento anual en el decenio reciente en comparación con un promedio de 5,5 por ciento de crecimiento en aquellos tres decenios). Por otra parte, la distribución del ingreso, cuando no ha retrocedido, ha permanecido escandalosamente desigual.

¿Qué es lo que funciona mal?

Una causa central, me parece, es que la receta ortodoxa, neo-liberal, peca de varios defectos. Se aplica por igual a países de grados muy diversos de desarrollo. Se aplica por igual en coyunturas recesivas o en auges financieros. Se aplica por igual en diferentes contextos políticos, económicos y sociales.

Se nos ha dicho que estamos en el fin de la historia. Que sólo hay una manera única, absoluta, de conducir la economía. Esa visión, extremadamente ideologizada, que deifica el neo-liberalismo y el mercado omnipotente, es notablemente errada y causante de algunos de los males más graves que nos aquejan. Hay falta de equidad, hay crecimiento mediocre y predominan una alta inestabilidad e incertidumbre.

Es cierto que con las innovaciones tecnológicas, muy bienvenidas en sí, el mundo se ha achicado y nos acerca a la "aldea global". Pero surge la paradoja de que las distancias entre países ricos y pobres se han agrandado y también han crecido las distancias entre ricos y pobres al interior de cada país. Lo reiteramos: hay una globalización de la pobreza.

¿Que ha hecho la comunidad internacional frente a esta situación?

Que los esfuerzos desarrollados en estos años han sido insuficientes, lo demuestra la situación que acabamos de describir.

Los fuertes desequilibrios macroeconómicos ocurridos en el mundo en desarrollo durante los años 70 y 80 llevaron a muchos, liderados por los organismos multilaterales de crédito y financiamiento internacionales, a drásticas correcciones en estas tendencias. Pero ellas han buscado privilegiar los mecanismos de ajuste vía soluciones economicistas, muchas veces extremas, por sobreajustes que incluyan las variables humanas y sociales y una mejor comprensión de la limitada capacidad de respuesta de los mercados, sin una debida orientación por parte de las autoridades nacionales e internacionales. Ejemplo de ello son las costosas crisis financieras, como lo han demostrado con clarividencia y profundidad los nuevos Premios Nobel de Economía, en particular Joseph Stiglitz que ha estudiado sus graves consecuencias para el mundo en desarrollo.

Una de las áreas en que se ha registrado una fuerte globalización es el comercio internacional. ¿Cuántos productos que usamos en nuestros distintos países incorporan bienes y servicios provenientes de diversos rincones del mundo? El fenómeno no nace recién; desde el fin de la segunda guerra mundial el comercio internacional crece más intensamente que el producto interno bruto del conjunto de los países.

Entre mediados de los años cuarenta y fines de los noventa, la expansión del comercio exterior duplicó la tasa anual de crecimiento del producto mundial. Esta tendencia fue favorecida por la presencia del GATT y, posteriormente, por las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay y la Organización Mundial del Comercio. La expansión comercial fue particularmente significativa en las manufacturas. En los años noventa el incremento del comercio con respecto a la producción se acentuó más aún. Un alza anual del producto mundial de 2,5 por ciento estuvo acompañado por un crecimiento del 7 por ciento del comercio mundial. Este hecho, sin embargo, no significa que

este dinamismo comercial corresponda a la mayoría de lo que producimos. Sólo un quinto, uno de cada 5 dólares que produce el mundo, es la fracción que cruza las fronteras.

Más aún, en el caso del mundo desarrollado, una proporción altísima de ese comercio se realiza entre vecinos asociados en procesos de integración regional. En la Unión Europea, el 63 por ciento de sus exportaciones van dirigidas a alguno de sus otros catorce Países Miembros; el 37 por ciento va al resto de las más de 180 naciones del mundo. En el caso de Norteamérica (Canadá, Estados Unidos y México), algo más de la mitad de sus exportaciones llega a los otros dos socios en el Acuerdo de Libre Comercio de América del Norte. Ello ilustra el hecho de que la geografía aún cuenta mucho y de que los países en desarrollo la aprovechamos poco; muy poco. También nos enseña que la globalización puede ser más equitativa y balanceada si desarrollamos, fortalecemos o creamos instituciones regionales o subregionales nuestras, adaptadas a nuestras realidades, que intermedien entre las organizaciones mundiales y las nacionales. Así podremos hacernos oír mejor en nuestros legítimos intereses y cooperar para el desarrollo recíproco de nuestros países.

Una salida tradicional para la inequidad internacional, señalada desde los primeros años de la post-guerra, consiste en la Ayuda Oficial al Desarrollo ofrecida por los países más ricos y por los organismos multilaterales. No obstante, los continuos compromisos de estos países, la ayuda al desarrollo ha caído desde el 0,33 por ciento del producto interno bruto de los países de altos ingresos en 1992, al 0,24 por ciento en 1999. Esto es, decreció nada menos que una cuarta parte, en vez de elevarse al 0,7 por ciento, que era lo comprometido.

Pero ahora las naciones más avanzadas han señalado la importancia de ofrecer oportunidades de comercio más que recursos para la cooperación al desarrollo. Sin embargo, estas oportunidades no han llegado. No sólo siguen protegiendo en forma creciente sus sectores agro-industriales, en perjuicio de las oportunidades de comercio en estos productos por parte de las naciones en desarrollo, donde éstas efectivamente tienen ventaja, sino a la vez mantienen aranceles crecientes según el grado de industrialización de los productos primarios, impidiendo así el progreso en las etapas de desarrollo de estos países.

La expansión del comercio ha tenido lugar, en parte, con la conducción de la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC, ex GATT). Crecientemente, en especial en la última serie de negociaciones llamada Ronda Uruguay, se estableció una estricta "nivelación normativa", que puso en un pie más uniforme las reglas a los países en desarrollo con los industrializados. Lamentablemente, se trata de "normas niveladas" para países con enormes "desniveles productivos"; resulta, entonces, un tratamiento igual a desiguales. Así nos encontramos, de nuevo, con un ideologismo neo-liberal que se impuso arbitrariamente. Ello dificulta, de manera grave, a los países en desarrollo generar nuevas capacidades productivas, diversificar sus exportaciones y elevar su capacidad de generar mayor empleo productivo. Para lograr el desarrollo con equidad se precisa adquirir ventajas comparativas, desarrollar competitividad, con mejoras crecientes de ingresos, por ejemplo siguiendo la exitosa experiencia de desarrollo del Asia Oriental entre mediados de los años sesenta y los noventa. La receta neo-liberal lleva con frecuencia a una competitividad espúrea, basada en salarios míseros.

Las esperanzas generadas para el mundo rural por los acuerdos de la Organización Mundial del Comercio se han visto frustradas. El acuerdo negociado entre cuatro paredes por las principales potencias mundiales, ha permitido que los países desarrollados mantengan altos niveles de protección agrícola (aranceles, cuotas y otras restricciones contra la importación de productos provenientes de los países en desarrollo), y un incremento sustancial de sus niveles de apoyo al sector agro-rural interno en los países de la OCDE (los subsidios se incrementaron en un 8 por ciento desde la firma del Acuerdo, llegando a un monto total de 363 mil millones de dólares EE.UU.). ¿Cómo poder, entonces, seguir promoviendo incrementos sostenidos en la producción agrícola de los países en desarrollo, si no se abren mercados para ella? Ello provoca muchas veces una agudización de los fenómenos de pobreza rural, pues se sobreabastecen mercados internos afectando así negativamente los ingresos de sus agricultores, en especial de los más pobres.

Por su parte, los países en desarrollo no han asignado la suficiente prioridad en sus estrategias de desarrollo a la seguridad alimentaria y a la búsqueda de un desarrollo integrador y generador de empleos.

Así, desgraciadamente, no obstante los buenos deseos y compromisos mundiales asumidos en este tipo de encuentros, hasta hoy ellos no se traducen en efectos reales para el mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de los millones de hambrientos y pobres que sobreviven en el mundo.

¿Qué hacer?

La experiencia nos demuestra que la libertad económica irrestricta no garantiza la justicia en relaciones entre sujetos desiguales, porque en ese cuadro el más fuerte impone al débil sus propias condiciones. En tales casos, hay que buscar los caminos que permitan alcanzar el bien común. Bien común que ha sido definido como "el conjunto de aquellas condiciones de la vida social que permiten a los grupos y a cada uno de sus miembros conseguir más plena y fácilmente su propia perfección". Y esta es, precisamente, la razón de ser y el fin del Estado: promover y asegurar el bien común. Común al todo y a las partes: a la sociedad en su conjunto y a cada uno de sus miembros.

Hacerlo significa aceptar que la libertad de los mercados no es un dogma intocable – como postula el pensamiento neo-liberal – sino que admite limitaciones en razón del bien común. La mera libertad no garantiza el bien común, porque en relaciones entre sujetos desiguales, concurriendo libremente, el más fuerte impone sus condiciones y al más débil no le queda más que someterse.

El desempeño económico mediocre en crecimiento, regresivo en equidad y negativo en estabilidad real, muestra señales inequívocas de la urgencia ética y política de corregir rumbos. Necesitamos intensificar los esfuerzos nacionales para reformar nuestras economías, para modernizarlas, en el sentido de difundir el progreso económico y social y los derechos humanos hacia todos los rincones y sectores del mundo en desarrollo. Pero, al mismo tiempo, parece evidente la necesidad de "reformar las reformas" que las entidades económicas y financieras internacionales han estado predicando e imponiendo a las naciones.

La globalización no es un dato, sino que se hace; esto es, se construye con la acción humana, y parte de ésta son las políticas públicas. Paradojalmente, en esta época de globalización, hay rasgos esenciales para una gobernabilidad mundial más integral y balanceada que se han debilitado. Por ejemplo, los esfuerzos de apoyo de las naciones ricas a las en desarrollo son hoy más débiles, cuando la necesidad es mayor. Los flujos de capitales especulativos se mueven hoy con una supervisión deficiente en relación a las necesidades que plantea la enorme expansión de los capitales volátiles. Ello exige una acción más decidida, más efectiva, libre de los intereses creados sectoriales, tanto al nivel nacional, como al regional y al internacional. Su objetivo clave debe ser evitar la recurrencia de crisis financieras y comerciales cuyos efectos se transmiten contagiosamente a través del mundo.

Como ha dicho reiteradamente Michel Camdessus, ex Director Gerente del Fondo Monetario Internacional, a quien nadie podría tildar de socializante, "a la mano invisible del mercado hay que agregar la mano fuerte de la justicia del Estado y la mano de la solidaridad". Considero que hacerlo es requisito indispensable para conciliar el desarrollo con las exigencias de la ética. Se trata de buscar y encontrar caminos eficaces para lograr que el desarrollo no se conciba simplemente como proceso de crecimiento económico – por el incremento de los bienes y pesos más de que la sociedad humana en su conjunto pueda disponer - sino como un proceso mucho más profundo de mejoramiento de la calidad de vida de todos y cada uno de los seres humanos.

La libertad es un atributo propio de la dignidad del ser humano, pero como las personas no vivimos aisladas ni constituimos universos separados, sino que convivimos, la única manera de asegurar la libertad de todos es regulando su ejercicio para hacer compatible la de unos con los otros y que en definitiva prevalezca la justicia. Sin regulación, la ley del más fuerte se impondría brutalmente sobre los débiles y sobrevendrían la violencia y la arbitrariedad o el caos.

Por otra parte, la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos y los documentos que la complementan, convenidos por todas las naciones del mundo en solemnes documentos que constituyen la Carta Magna de la convivencia humana, complementan el derecho de toda persona a la libertad y sus garantías con otros derechos que de algún modo le son inherentes o la complementan, como el “derecho al trabajo, a una remuneración equitativa y satisfactoria”, “a un nivel de vida adecuado que le asegure, al trabajador así como a su familia, la salud y el bienestar y en especial la alimentación y el vestido” y a la atención de otras exigencias humanas fundamentales, entre ellas la salud y la educación.

Como ha dicho Juan Pablo II, “no sería verdaderamente digno del hombre un tipo de desarrollo que no respetara y promoviera los derechos humanos, personales y sociales, económicos y políticos, incluidos los derechos de las naciones y de los pueblos”.

Si el concepto de derechos humanos – inherentes a la dignidad de las personas - ha llegado a ser en nuestros tiempos la piedra fundamental sobre cuya base debe construirse la convivencia entre los hombres y entre las naciones, es ineludible concluir que la vida económica de las sociedades no debe ni puede desenvolverse al margen de la consideración y el respeto que esos derechos merecen en cuanto imperativo ético formalmente aceptado por todas las naciones.

La búsqueda de la justicia es función del Estado. Ella exige a cada Estado, en el ámbito de su soberanía, y al conjunto de los Estados, en la esfera internacional, establecer o convenir las regulaciones indispensables para asegurar el bien común por encima de los intereses particulares de cada uno de ellos o de los intereses privados de personas o grupos, por muy poderosos que estos sean.

La práctica de la solidaridad es función de la sociedad civil. Las economías de mercado prevalecientes en nuestros días, tienden a hacer a los hombres esclavos de la cosas. La adquisición de bienes de consumo suele convertirse para muchos en su principal afán, genera un agresiva competencia, convierte a los compañeros en rivales y agudiza el individualismo. Las redes sociales se debilitan, pero la historia enseña que su fortalecimiento es recurso indispensable para contener la tiranía de los poderosos y defender o promover el bien común. La fuerza de los débiles está en su colaboración y unidad, cuyo instrumento natural y eficiente es la organización comunitaria.

Con mucha modestia, inherente a quien viene de un pequeño y lejano país llamado Chile, parte del denominado mundo en desarrollo, he creído que ante la generosa invitación del señor Director Diouf, mi deber, en esta solemne ocasión, era plantear ante vosotros muy francamente lo que en forma modesta pienso. No soy especialista en economía ni en agricultura, pero la razón natural me muestra como incomprensible que en esta etapa del desarrollo de las sociedades en que se ha logrado tan asombroso dominio de las leyes de la naturaleza y tanta riqueza y posibilidades de bienestar para toda la humanidad, haya mil doscientos millones de personas que viven en pobreza extrema, ochocientos millones de ellas que sufren hambre habitualmente y varios cientos de millones que carecen de trabajo.

Como es lógico, el mundo no lo ignora. Y la Organización de Naciones Unidas ha promovido, en el último decenio, diversos encuentros internacionales, al más alto nivel, para encarar los desafíos que esta realidad – y otras igualmente preocupantes - plantean a la humanidad de nuestros días. Tales han sido, entre otras, la Cumbre de la Infancia en 1990, la Cumbre de la Tierra en 1992, la Cumbre del Desarrollo Social en 1995, la Cumbre de la Mujer el mismo año y la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación en 1996. En todos esos eventos, en que han participado prácticamente todas las naciones de la tierra, representadas por sus Jefes de Estado o por muy altos dignatarios, se han aprobado y reconocido frecuentemente los grandes problemas que la humanidad enfrenta en los respectivos ámbitos, se han contraído solemnes compromisos para enfrentarlos y se han aprobado programas para superarlos, que todos nos hemos comprometido a cumplir o implementar.

Pero el tiempo pasa y las soluciones no llegan. El hambre, la pobreza, la discriminación de las mujeres, el abandono de los niños y la contaminación de la atmósfera y destrucción de la capa de

ozono, continúan en mayor o menor medida. Los compromisos y programas de ayuda al desarrollo se cumplen sólo a medias o simplemente no se cumplen.

Ante esta penosa realidad, mucha gente – especialmente entre los grupos humanos más afectados, o entre quienes sienten compasión por ellos - pierde la confianza en las instituciones internacionales y en los propios gobiernos nacionales, propicia acciones de protesta y llega hasta a aceptar y aún justificar reacciones de violencia. Se explica así que hasta los criminales hechos terroristas que recientemente han conmovido al mundo y provocado la abrumadora condenación que merecen, hayan suscitado algunos intentos para explicarlos.

El desafío es grande y urgente. Necesita de todos un esfuerzo muy grande de buena voluntad y de generosidad. Reclama de los organismos internacionales el máximo celo y eficiencia para estudiar, proponer e implementar soluciones realistas. Pero sobre todo exige de los gobernantes de las naciones visión de estadistas, independencia y coraje para adoptar las decisiones que reclama el bien común.

En el caso específico de la agricultura y la alimentación, de que esta conferencia ha de ocuparse, espero que las consideraciones que he expuesto sean compartidas por los señores delegados participantes y ayuden a adoptar acuerdos y recomendaciones más eficaces para superar con éxito el flagelo de hambre y para el mejor desarrollo de la agricultura en el mundo.

Al concluir, vuelvo a preguntarme: ¿Qué pensaría Frank McDougall si se impusiera de la situación actual de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo?

Aunque no soy versado en sus conocimientos técnicos ni en sus convicciones, no puedo dejar de imaginarme que sufriría una gran desilusión. Como el Presidente Roosevelt – a quien asesoró - él debe haber pensado y esperado que la humanidad sería capaz de liberarse del hambre en su generación. Esa generación ya pasó. Sin duda sufriría al comprobar que, pasado ese lapso, estamos tan lejanos de lograrlo.

Pero el recuerdo y el ejemplo de su espíritu deben estimularnos a seguir luchando con tesón para que su ideal se convierta en realidad en el más breve plazo.

Es lo que la humanidad tiene derecho a demandarnos.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

I wish to thank His Excellency Don Patrizio Aylwin for delivering this valuable Twenty-second MacDougall Lecture. As you know, Frank MacDougall came from Australia and I now call upon the delegation of Australia to take the floor.

Simon HEARN (Australia)

Mr Chairman, Excellency Aylwin, Director-General, Honourable Delegates, may I start by thanking FAO for this opportunity today. On behalf of all of us here I would like to thank you, Excellency Aylwin, for your very instructive and thoughtful address highlighting some of the very important challenges and opportunities facing food and agriculture at the beginning of the Twenty-first century.

I would like to begin my brief response by first acknowledging this memorial lecture and the person it commemorates.

The Twenty-ninth Session of the FAO Council, in 1958, introduced the MacDougall Lecture to perpetuate the memory of the grand old man of the FAO Frank L. MacDougall, who was one of visionary founding fathers of this Organization. As Mr Aylwin has suggested the ambitions and aspirations of Mr Frank MacDougall, particularly freedom from want, remain as much a goal today as they did in the 1940s. Despite all the scientific and technological changes that have

occurred since that time. This was why such requirements were identified so clearly again in the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Rome Declaration on World Food Security in 1996.

Mr Aylwin has said much about the vision of Mr MacDougall an Australian farmer and an international representative and so I will not say more on this here. I will simply say that it is an enormous honour as an Australian that I am able to be here before you, today, to respond to the Twenty-second MacDougall Memorial Lecture and to assure you of Australia's ongoing commitment to the FAO and its work.

His Excellency Aylwin has raised matters of great importance to all agricultural producing countries and those that share a concern for the future of world food security and national development. As he said, the more advanced countries have now recognized the importance of providing trade opportunities, rather than simply resources as cooperation for development. But such opportunities have yet to materialize and this is being aptly described.

I also agree, fully, that though open trade is of critical importance, the provision of social infrastructure in developing countries to achieve the opportunities in trade, are an essential element of development.

We commend the FAO for its ongoing work to achieve social, economic and sustainable agricultural goals for developing countries.

There are many challenges and opportunities facing world agriculture today. Over the time available I wish to focus on just two issues that highlight many challenges and opportunities facing the international and Agricultural Community of which we are all a part.

The first, relates to the opportunities and challenges of reforming world agricultural trade. While the second concerns increasing importance of science for both development and food safety. In both these areas, FAO can make a very significant difference, and for this reason I am sure both matters would be high on Frank MacDougall's work agenda if he were with us today.

As I am sure all FAO Members who are gathered here today are well aware, another major ministerial meeting will take place next week in Doha, Qatar. The goal of that meeting will be to launch a new multilateral round of trade negotiations. Indeed, many of you may be directly involved. As we all know, the outcome of that Conference of the World Trade Organization will have major implications for the future direction of global agricultural production and trade. Therefore sir, for global food security.

There can be little argument that protectionism and distortions in world markets for agricultural products, undermine the ability of developing countries to create the strong agricultural sectors and the sustained economic growth necessary to enhance the development and truly address food security concerns. The urgency of this task is all the more evident that we are to make serious inroads in to eliminating poverty and hunger in developing countries.

It is for these reasons that on the eve of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, I suggest that it is clear that a pre-eminent challenge facing world agriculture, at this time, lies in the opportunities for substantial multilateral agricultural trade reform presented by a successful outcome at Doha.

To obtain commitment by both developed and developing countries to trade liberalization the agenda, the process and the outcomes must reflect a balance between the interests of all Member countries. The processes must also not be too lengthy as we understand that developing countries are understandably impatient for results.

As we all know, the World Food Summit Declaration and Plan of Action explicitly recognizes the role of trade as a key element for providing food security. If we are serious about meeting the goals of the World Food Summit by fostering economic development in the developing world, all of us here should be seeking an ambitious mandate at the WTO Conference.

To do so would be to pursue, in highly tangible way, actions which will directly influence the achievement of the World Food Summit targets. They can be no more important tasks for our

Conference here in Rome, head of the WTO, than to send the strongest possible message of support for further agricultural trade reform and the successful launch of a new broad WTO round of trade negotiations.

This will provide further opportunities for developing countries to be more active in the WTO and achieve greater recognition of their interests. A provision for special and differential treatment for developing countries is a legitimate objective, which must be embraced.

I would like now to turn briefly to a second topical issue for the FAO, that of the role of science in underpinning agricultural development, trade and safety. Science has and will continue, to be an essential element in agricultural development and sustainable production. We live in an age of innovation which means all countries must have access, more than ever before, to education, training and capacity-building. Otherwise sir, the gap between rich and poor could become even larger despite the benefits of technology in so many areas.

At the same time, we must continue to strive to avoid any attempts to dilute the role of science by those who wish to achieve non-scientific objectives. An example of the day-to-day role of science within FAO is its work on field safety. This is a major challenge and opportunity for the International Agricultural Community and an increasingly important dimension in international trade.

It is also an area where FAO has a critical role to play to the work, for example, of *Codex Alimentarius Commission*. I would urge all FAO Members to recognize the unique role and responsibility that Codex has had thrust upon it as the WTO safety food standards setting reference body.

I should remind you that some 75 percent of traded agricultural commodities now have some degree of processing. A lot more is now being asked of Codex given the increased importance attached to its work in supporting international trade. There is an increased need for Codex to perform effectively and efficiently. At the same time, Codex is under considerable pressure and its work is being questioned.

It is vital that the work of Codex be much better resourced so that they can continue to perform professionally the increasingly important role that the International Community is asking of it.

In conclusion, FAO must continue to strive to deliver the goals its founders set for it, by maintaining its relevance to the broader membership in this rapidly changing and demanding area of globalization. Globalization presents not only challenges but also great opportunities for agricultural development, in developed and developing countries alike. We must work more closely to realize these opportunities and FAO is uniquely placed to contribute to these goals. Indeed, it is beholden upon the Membership to ensure that FAO continues to be forward looking and innovative, and to continue as an Organization well positioned for the opportunities and challenges of this new century.

It has been a great privilege for me to respond on behalf of Australia's Minister for Agriculture to this address in memory of an eminent Australian. The life and work of Frank McDougall should be an inspiration to all of us who are involved in endeavours in the food and agricultural area. May I again thank Excellency Aylwin sincerely for his distinguished address to this forum.

Ángel SARTORI ARELLANO (Chile)

Para nuestra delegación es muy gratificante asistir a esta reunión donde hemos tenido la oportunidad de escuchar una intervención sólida, contundente, vigente del Presidente Aylwin.

El Gobierno de Chile siempre ha manifestado un serio compromiso con el desarrollo agrícola. Consideramos que los esfuerzos que los países hacen con el propósito de mejorar el desarrollo agrícola, de permitir el acceso a los mercados, es un paso fundamental con el propósito de superar los niveles crecientes de pobreza.

En esa orientación ha estado el discurso del Presidente Aylwin y consideramos que también es una contribución, en el sentido de poner este tema sobre la mesa; sobretudo en una Organización

como esta, donde justamente su razón de ser es buscar todos los caminos con el propósito de la satisfacción de una necesidad tan elemental como lo es la alimentación. Es por eso que he querido entregar estas palabras, con el propósito de reiterar el compromiso de mi gobierno con la tarea que desarrolla la FAO y todos sus Estados Miembros.

Júlio Cesar GOMES DOS SANTOS (Brasil)

No creo que necesitemos más de un documento básico para la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación: cinco años después. El discurso del Presidente Aylwin es más que suficiente: lo dijo todo y más también, no hay más nada que inventar.

David BLANCO ZABALA (Bolivia)

En primer lugar, quisiera felicitarlo en nombre del GRULAC y de mi país, Bolivia, por haber sido elegido Presidente de esta 31ª Conferencia. Estoy seguro, Sr. Mohammed Al Raqabani, que con el espíritu y contenido de su intervención sobre nuestras deliberaciones, en esta oportunidad se reforzarán los compromisos políticos acordados en la declaración de Roma y expresados en su Plan de Acción. La claridad y profundidad de sus conceptos muestran una nueva perspectiva para la humanidad, especialmente para los más pobres. No puedo dejar pasar esta oportunidad sin felicitar al Señor Director General por los esfuerzos que ha venido realizando y que concretamente se expresan ahora en una nueva Cumbre en la que se pondrá a prueba la voluntad política de los países desarrollados, no sólo para contribuir con recursos sino con acciones específicas para reducir el hambre y fortalecer a esta institución.

No podría terminar sin transmitir nuestra complacencia y extender nuestras felicitaciones al distinguido Señor Patricio Aylwin, ex-Presidente de Chile. Su contribución al afianzamiento de los valores democráticos, la libertad y la justicia, están ya inscritos en la historia de América Latina y en la historia de la humanidad. En esta etapa de la globalización, en que la humanidad en su conjunto es un sólo mercado, donde compiten ricos y pobres, las reflexiones del Sr. Aylwin muestran una clara perspectiva. Como ha dicho elocuentemente y de forma más breve pero más profunda que la mía, el Distinguido Señor Embajador de Brasil, su trabajo nos ahorra mucho tiempo en nuestras futuras deliberaciones.

Sra. Elsa Diana Rosa KELLY (Argentina)

Quisiera sumarme a las expresiones de los representantes que han intervenido anteriormente, para agradecer muy sinceramente al Sr. Presidente Aylwin por su disertación significativa que expresa un pensamiento de gran estadista y el pensamiento de América Latina.

Mallam Adamu BELLO (Nigeria)

I wish to congratulate Chile's former President for the wonderful reawakening statement he has made. I was almost lost. I thought the whole world had been bought over to the concept of free trade, unimpeded, unchecked, with very, very inappropriate consideration. I am very glad that at least we have a refreshing relook at what the situation is. The position expounded by the former Chilean President is quite refreshing. We need to take a look at what free trade is doing, particularly to the developing countries of Africa and Latin America. It is disheartening to see the statistics, how poorly these areas have done. We are going into the World Trade Conference at Doha and it is very important that we look at the agricultural sector very closely. Over 70 percent of the developing world depends on agriculture and, with development so far, the gap is widening, free trade is only done in terms of manufactured goods. For the agriculture system, there are so many subsidies, so much farm support all over the world. I think we need to look at this very, very critically. If we are going to fight hunger, we have to empower the people of the developing world.

Juán NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

En primer lugar, quisiéramos expresar, como Presidente del Grupo de los 77, nuestra complacencia por verlo a Ud. presidir esta reunión, que viene de un país muy estimado por nuestro Grupo, los Emiratos Árabes Unidos. Con gran satisfacción lo vemos en la conducción de

este 31° período de sesiones y nos sentimos realmente orgullosos de verlo sentado en la conducción de esta Conferencia. Al mismo tiempo quisiéramos felicitar a los Vice-Presidentes elegidos para sus cargos.

Quisiéramos expresar que no podría haber tenido más brillante presentación e inicio este 31° período de sesiones, que la disertación que acabamos de escuchar del Presidente Patricio Aylwin. Realmente nos sentimos orgullosos como latinoamericanos y caribeños, así como Presidente del Grupo de los 77, en donde también Chile es miembro distinguido, haber escuchado su disertación en la cual no tenemos más nada que agregar.

Tenemos que decir que al Presidente Patricio Aylwin lo conocemos desde hace mucho tiempo y nos honramos con su amistad; y como lo calificó nuestro Director General, Patricio Aylwin no es solamente un gran dirigente chileno sino también una personalidad latinoamericana y del Caribe. Hoy aquí lo ha demostrado; nos ha hablado de una cosa muy importante: que la fuerza de los débiles, y no diría yo débiles sino de los pobres, está en su unidad. Nos ha hablado, y lo ha repetido, de la globalización de la pobreza; nos ha hablado de cosas medulares y fundamentales para el desarrollo de la humanidad en su derecho fundamental: la alimentación. Nos ha dicho que hay producción pero no hay acceso a los mercados y a los alimentos. Entendemos que las palabras del Presidente Patricio Aylwin deben tener una profunda reflexión, y que para el inicio de esta 31° Conferencia, felicitamos al Director General de la FAO por habernos traído al Señor Aylwin para orgullo de todos nosotros.

Fabio VALENCIA COSSIO (Colombia)

En nombre del señor Ministro de Agricultura quien preside la delegación de Colombia y del Gobierno de Colombia, quiero manifestar primero la complacencia por su elección como presidente de esta Conferencia; por el trabajo intenso que ha hecho el Señor Diouf para poder permitir este diálogo sobre uno de los temas de más palpitante actualidad en el mundo de hoy como es el hambre y la pobreza; y al tener la oportunidad de escuchar a un humanista de los quilates y del liderazgo del Presidente de Chile Patricio Aylwin. Porque siempre le pone corazón a la economía. Los que no le ponen corazón a la economía son los que realmente asisten permanentemente a este tipo de sesiones, aprueban unas declaraciones de buena voluntad pero en la práctica nunca se llevan a cabo. La estadísticas presentadas por el Presidente Aylwin son aterradoras, son escalofrantes. Entiendo porque se opusieron tanto a la Cumbre Mundial; los países desarrollados no tenían respuesta frente al compromiso de reducir la pobreza del mundo; precisamente ha sucedido todo lo contrario, como lo ha mostrado aquí el Presidente Aylwin, el hambre ha aumentado, la pobreza ha aumentado y la iniquidad en la estructura social, política y económica del mundo ha perdido terreno. Por eso me parece que estas conferencias deben salirse un poco de lo formal, de las meras declaraciones de buena voluntad y llegar a decisiones concretas que permitan realmente la superación de los problemas que hoy agobian al mundo. Mientras los países desarrollados sigan subsidiando sus economías y nos sigan obligando a nosotros a no subsidiar las nuestras, no tendremos posibilidad de competir en ningún mercado; entre otras razones, porque tampoco nos abren los mercados y el hambre va a seguir aumentando. Yo diría que el peor de los terrorismos hoy en el mundo es el hambre, es el que más víctimas está dejando a diario, pero es el que con menos voluntad estamos asumiendo para superarlo.

Que esa intervención de Patricio Aylwin, que interpreta el sentimiento del tercer mundo, de América Latina, de la gente que en este instante está muriendo de hambre, sea el principio de unas conclusiones reales en esta Conferencia para que de verdad el mundo entienda que mientras haya hambre y mientras haya iniquidad e injusticia no puede haber paz.

Julio César LUPINACCI (Uruguay)

La delegación de Uruguay se adhiere a las demás delegaciones que han precedido en felicitarle por haber sido elegido Presidente de esta Conferencia augurándole el mejor de los éxitos en sus trabajos.

Queremos agradecer al Director General sus esfuerzos permanentes en la lucha contra la pobreza y el hambre y la elección que ha hecho del disertante del día de hoy que nos ha dado una

magnífica elección. El Sr. Aylwin, que conocemos profundamente por los estrechos vínculos que unen a Uruguay con Chile, es un gran estadista y no solamente en el sentido teórico, en su visión del estado y de la sociedad, sino también en la aplicación práctica de sus ideas y de sus esfuerzos al servicio de su pueblo y al servicio de América Latina. Nos ha dado una lección que debemos recoger y constituye una orientación fundamental para los trabajos de esta Conferencia y la futura Cumbre sobre la Alimentación.

Gracias al Sr. Presidente Aylwin por la contribución tan importante que nos ha hecho, gracias Sr. Director General por haberlo elegido y esperamos que estas lecciones que nos ha dado sirvan para orientar nuestros trabajos futuros.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela)

Permítame, ante todo, felicitarle por asumir la presidencia de este 31° período de sesiones de la Conferencia y cuánto nos complace que sea su persona, proveniente de un país amigo, miembro de una Organización en la cual conjugamos esfuerzos para luchar por una mayor justicia a nivel internacional que haya sido escogida para esta presidencia. Oportunidad propicia para agradecer al Director General Jacques Diouf por su inteligencia y, especial y particularmente por haber invitado en esta ocasión al Presidente Don Patricio Aylwin para disertarnos en el marco del homenaje que se rinde a Frank McDougall.

La clase magistral que hemos escuchado nos llena de orgullo como latinoamericanos y al mismo tiempo nos provoca profundas reflexiones y nos lleva a constatar que, por fortuna de todos, aún existe lucidez en este mundo, como la del humanista y estadista Patricio Aylwin, están conscientes que la mano invisible del mercado, que el pensamiento único que se quiso imponer en los años 90, no puede ser la única razón y el motivo esencial que lleve al hombre a buscar su desarrollo. La igualdad, la solidaridad, la equidad, la justicia social e internacional son elementos fundamentales que hoy, más nunca, son requeridos. En esta Organización, constante y permanentemente se lucha por ello y sus palabras son profundamente alentadoras para continuar por este camino. Gracias Presidente Aylwin.

Javad MOZAFARI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I would also like, on behalf of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to join other previous speakers to congratulate you on your election for the Chairmanship of this Conference and wish you all the success for achieving a very fruitful Conference.

It was a great pleasure to hear Mr Aylwin and we would like to express our happiness with the sentiments that he just echoed in this forum. I think it will be a good starting tune. He set a good tune for a start in this Conference.

We also would like to join him in underlining the importance of advancement of science, in line with the humanity, capacity building and development, fair distribution of world resources in achieving alleviation of poverty and, hopefully, achieving food security.

Majzoub AL-KHALIFA AHMAD (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God, most merciful, I avail of this opportunity, on behalf of Sudan, to congratulate you for this confidence given to you.

I thank the Director-General for his efforts being exerted to achieve the success of this international Organization.

I also thank you for choosing me as Vice-chair, on behalf of my country. I would like to express the fact that I really enjoyed this valuable lecture given by His Excellency Aylwin that represents a call upon all the people present at this Conference to think seriously about the current situation and analyse the current problems. I would like to quote what he said about the reform of the

international organizations and its importance for the economy, especially in the Third World countries. We have figures that should be analyzed and evaluated, in order to understand the reasons that led to more poverty in the world and imbalance of economic and even ethical values.

Now we are at the beginning of this new century, however, there is no fairness and equity in distributing the international resources. We have seen deplorable events. We have to analyze the reasons for this. I, indeed, share the opinion of people who spoke about the goals that we need to achieve.

On behalf of my country and the African Group, I will contribute to support this Conference. We all, as developed and developing countries, have to cooperate for the transfer of technology and for the equitable development.

I call upon FAO to hold the World Food Summit: *five years later* as soon as possible.

Mahmud DUWAYRI (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God the compassionate.

I should like to express my heartfelt congratulations to you, sir, upon your election as Chairman of this Thirty-first Session of the General Conference of FAO. I know you personally, sir, and I know to what extent you are interested in the promotion of agriculture in your own country. I am also aware of your contribution in the alleviation of the suffering of many people in this world, particularly those suffering from poverty and hunger.

I am also pleased to congratulate the other colleagues who were elected Vice-Chairmen to this Session.

May I seize this opportunity to extend our thanks to the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacque Diouf, and his collaborators within FAO. I thank them for their serious work, which would promote the stance of this Organization to reach its objectives and targets.

May I also congratulate the Director-General for having chosen Mr Aylwin to submit this lecture. We cannot add anything to that lecture. It is a valuable one indeed.

The speaker did point out that poor people should be involved in decision making processes and that we should cooperate at the highest level, in order to achieve the goals of the World Food Summit to decrease the number of hungry people, with the grace of God.

Finally, I do wish you every success and may the blessing of God be upon you all.

The meeting rose at 12.15 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2-13 November 2001 Rome, 2-13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2-13 de noviembre de 2001
SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
2 November 2001

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours
Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15
sous la présidence de Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 15.15 horas
bajo la presidencia del Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I will give the floor to the Secretary-General who has a short announcement to make regarding the participation of the European Community.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

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

I have been asked to inform you that the Declaration made by the European Community and its Member States is contained in C 2001/INF/16, which has already been distributed to all Members of the Meeting.

I would draw the attention of the Conference to this Declaration.

INTRODUCTION (continued)**INTRODUCTION (suite)****INTRODUCCIÓN (continuación)**

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session (C 2001/1-Rev.1; C 2001/12-Rev.1; C 2001/INF/2-Rev.1; C 2001/INF/16)

3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation de la session (C 2001/1-Rev.1; C 2001/12-Rev.1; C 2001/INF/2-Rev.1; C 2001/INF/16)

3. Aprobación del programa y la organización del período de sesiones (C 2001/1-Rev.1; C 2001/12-Rev.1; C 2001/INF/2-Rev.1; C 2001/INF/16)

4. Admission of Observers (C 2001/13; C 2001/13-Sup.1)

4. Admission d'observateurs (C 2001/13; C 2001/13-Sup.1)

4. Admisión de observadores (C 2001/13; C 2001/13-Sup.1)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

This brings us to Item 3 of our agenda, Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session. also Item 4 Admission of Observers. On these two points the Conference General Committee met, as instructed by the Conference at the end of the morning and prepared its first report. The report contains proposals on the following items: Adoption of the Agenda, Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items, Admission of Observers, as well as other related arrangements.

I now propose that the Secretary General read the General Committee Report, section by section, for the consideration of the Conference. The report itself will be available tomorrow as documents C 2001/LIM/9.

May I ask the Secretary-General of the Conference to read the first section of the Report.

First Report of the General Committee**Premier rapport du Bureau****Primer informe del Comité General****SECRETARY-GENERAL**

The first item is on the Agenda for the Session and that covers two items on the Provisional Timetable, Items 5 and 7, which were agreed to, and which will move from the Plenary Session to Commission I and the General Committee recommends that the Conference adopt this Provisional Agenda with the above-mentioned items moved from Part I to the Plenary.

Having noted that the Provisional Agenda, which was in document C 2001/REV/1, was followed by a list of subjects on which information documents were tabled, the Committee also recommends that delegates wishing to comment on these documents be given the opportunity to do so under Any Other Matters.

The second item discussed by the General Committee was the Establishment of Commissions and the Tentative Timetable of the Sessions. The General Committee conveys to the Membership that the Conference will establish two Commissions to consider and report on Part I, as amended above, and Part II of the agenda, respectively.

The second item, Item 16, Payment by the European Community to cover expenses arising out of its Membership in the Organization, be examined first by the General Committee.

Item 4, under this sub-set: the Committee noted that Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Secretary of State of the Holy See, will be delivering to the Conference a message on behalf of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, on the morning of Saturday 3 November.

The Committee further noted that the Vice-President of Guatemala will be visiting FAO Headquarters to address the Conference. The Committee recommends that both events be accommodated and be shown in the Journal of the Conference.

The Committee recommends that the Conference approve the Tentative Timetable, as proposed by the Council, taking into consideration the modifications indicated in point one and four above.

The other sub-item, is the attention of the Conference is called to the fact that, in order to accommodate requests for speaking time by Ministers, the duration of each intervention should not exceed seven minutes.

The third major item, Appointment of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the two commissions. The Committee noted that, for Commission I from Guatemala, Acisclo Valladares Molina, for Commission II, Carl-Josef Weiers from Germany. The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Council's proposal.

In accordance with Rule X.2c) GRO the Committee recommends that the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commissions be as follows: Commission I, Neil Fraser from New Zealand, S.M. Hasan Zaidi from Pakistan. For Commission II, Ahmed Mustafa Hassan, from Sudan and Ms Lan Hoang from Canada.

The General Committee recommends that, for the Resolutions Committee, the following countries represent the following regions: for Africa, Cape Verde, for Asia, Philippines, for Europe, Finland, for Latin America and the Caribbean, Peru, for the Near East, Jordan, for North America, Canada and for South West Pacific, Australia.

Finally, on the Resolutions Commission, the Chair of the Committee, Noel D. de Luna of the Philippines is recommended by the General Committee.

May I now move to Admission of Observers from Applicants for Membership. As is customary, the Director-General has provisionally invited applicants for Membership to be represented by Observers until a decision has been taken on their application. The Conference will no doubt wish to confirm the invitations in respect of Monaco, Nauru, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia.

Admission of Observers from non-Member Nations. the General Committee proposes that the Conference facilitate attendance by Andorra, Belarus, Brunei, Dar-es-Salaam, Liechtenstein, Micronesia, Russian Federation, Singapore, Tuvalu. and Ukraine. These non-Member Nations had been invited to the World Food Summit, in 1996, and invitations were again extended to the Conference in observer capacity.

May I now move to Admission of Member Nations. In conformity with the provisions of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization, the following applications for Membership have been received by the deadline of 2 October: the Principality of Monaco, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Under Article 2.2 of the Constitution, the Conference decides on the Admission of Additional Member Nations by a two-third's majority of the votes cast, provided that a majority of Member Nations of the Organization is present. Votes cast means votes for and against and does not include abstentions or defective ballots. The Membership becomes effective on the date when the Conference approves the application.

The General Committee recommends that the Conference holds the vote for the Admission of Monaco, Nauru, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia at the Plenary Meeting on the afternoon of Friday 2 November.

As is customary, the Chairperson will welcome the new Members, each of whom may make a brief statement.

I now move to the Contribution of New Members. In accordance with Regulation V.8 of the Financial Rules, the Conference determines the amount of the contribution to be paid by newly-admitted Member Nations, beginning with the quarter in which the application is approved. According to the established principles and customs, the minimum contribution due from new Members for the last quarter of 2001, and the advance to be made to the Working Capital Fund, are, for Monaco's contribution, US\$3 215.50, Working Capital Fund, US\$1 000; Nauru, US\$803.88, Working Capital Fund, US\$250; Uzbekistan, US\$8 842.63, Working Capital Fund, US\$2 750; Yugoslavia, US\$16 077.50, Working Capital Fund, US\$5 000.

The next item of importance, the Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council. By the date determined by the Council, which was 17 August 2001, four nominations have been received and are now listed in alphabetical order, according to the English language, as follows: Francis Ofori of Ghana, Frederick Zenny of Jamaica, Aziz Mekouar of Morocco and Tjibbe Joustra of The Netherlands. These nominations were notified to all Members by Circular State Letter, as of 24 August 2001.

Under the terms of reference of Rule XXIII.1(b) GRO, the General Committee determines and announces the date of the election. The Committee recommends that a secret ballot be used for this appointment and that it take place on Friday 9 November. If no candidate obtains the required majority of votes cast, successive ballots will be held. If, it further recommends that, as was the case in 1997, the candidate having received the smallest number of votes in each ballot, shall be eliminated.

May I now treat with the election of Members to the Council. The Committee recommends that the election be held on Friday 9 November. Nominations for Council Seats are to be filled at present Session, be communicated to the Secretary-General by 12 midday on Saturday 3 November at the latest, to permit the General Committee to communicate to the Conference the valid nominations received at least 3 working days before the date selected for the election, in accordance with the appropriate rule. In this connection, I think I will remind Members of the applicable rules.

In selecting Members of the Council, the Conference shall give due consideration to the desirability of including in its Membership a balanced geographical representation of nations interested in the production, distribution and consumption of food and agricultural products, ensuring the participation in the work of the Council of such Members as contribute in a large measure toward the success of the Organization and giving to the greatest possible number of Member Nations an opportunity, by rotation of Membership, to serve in the Council.

Member Nations shall be eligible for re-election under the following conditions: no Member Nation shall be eligible for election to the Council if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to, or exceeded, the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years. A Member of Council shall be considered to have resigned if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to or exceeding the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years, or if it has not been represented at two consecutive Sessions of the Council.

The Committee recommends that the Council deal with, in its elections, Uzbekistan, in the Asia Region, Monaco and Yugoslavia to be in the Europe Region, Nauru to be in the Southwest Pacific Region, and that the distribution of other Member Nations by region remain as shown in the document C 2001/11, which provides all relevant information concerning the seats for which nominations must be submitted and the forms submitting nominations.

Regarding the Right to Vote, the General Committee noted that the following Member Nations - and there is a long list - have not paid sufficient amount to be assessed. If the Chairman allows me, I will not read out the list of names. I think it will be available to Members.

The Committee recommends to the Conference, in accordance with past practice, that all Member Nations in attendance be authorized to vote on Friday 2 November and Saturday 3 November, on the understanding that contacts with them shall be continued with a view to regularizing their arrears situation.

The Committee also expressed its concern that there are a large number of Members in arrears. In the meantime, the General Committee agreed to elaborate guidelines and procedures and standards for considering conditions beyond the control of Member Nations.

Finally, I will deal with the Right to Reply referred to, the rules concerning Verbatim Records and two other items briefly.

Right to Reply. At its Seventeenth previous Session, the Conference had decided that if delegates wished to reply to criticisms of their government's policy, they should preferably do so on the day on which such criticisms had been voiced, after all those wishing to participate in the discussion had an opportunity to speak. The General Committee recommends that the same arrangements be followed at the present Session.

Verbatim Records will be conducted in accordance with the appropriate rule. Statements by Heads of Delegation, I think I already referred to that, will be limited to a maximum of seven minutes in accordance with the order published in the Journal of the Conference.

Admission of Observers from Intergovernmental Organizations and International Non-governmental Organizations. The list of such organizations which have been invited are given in document C 2001/13 and C 2001/13-Sup. 1. After reviewing this list, the General Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the said provisional invitations.

Statements in Plenary of the Conference by international NGOs having consultative status. The General Committee was apprised of requests from the following international NGOs: the International Federation of Agriculture Producers; and the International Union of Food, Agriculture, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Association, formerly known as the International Federation of Plantation and Agricultural and Allied Workers. Having examined this request, the Committee recommends that the Conference grants speaking time not exceeding four minutes to the above-mentioned organizations.

Attendance by Liberation Movements. In conformity with the suggestion made by the Council at its Hundred and Twentieth Session, the Palestine Liberation Organization has been invited to attend the Conference in an Observer capacity. The General Committee recommends that the Conference confirm this invitation.

The conclusion therefore is that the Committee recommends that the Conference confirm all the detailed arrangements for this Session and that the normal working hours for meetings of both Plenary and Commissions be 9:30 to 12:30 in the morning and 14:30 to 17:30 in the afternoon. The Committee also invites all delegations to observe the working hours with maximum punctuality.

That concludes the major report. Unfortunately, I have one more report to read which I will try to do quickly. This is actually the first Report of the General Committee concerning Payment of Contributions by Bolivia.

The General Committee was informed that, in November 1999, the Government of Bolivia made a proposal to liquidate its arrears of contributions over a period of ten years commencing 1 January 2000, by paying annually US\$20 070.10 under an instalment plan. The Committee noted that the Conference at its Thirtieth Session agreed that all Member Nations in attendance be authorized to vote on 12, 13 and 15 November 1999 and subsequently that Voting Rights be restored to a number of Member Nations, including Bolivia. Because of these decisions, the

instalment plan proposed by Bolivia was not formally approved. However, since 1 January 2000, Bolivia has been effecting annual payments of arrears in accordance with the instalment plan, in addition to the payment of each year's current contribution in the calendar year of assessment.

The General Committee was informed that the Government of Bolivia has proposed to continue as it has been doing since 1 January 2000, to effect annual payments of instalments of US\$20 070.10 for the settlement of arrears, together with each payment of each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment, as well as any advances to the Working Capital Fund that may be due, and that this be formally approved by the Conference.

The Government of Bolivia has also proposed that the Conference consider that, by effecting the above payments since 1 January 2000, it has been fulfilling its financial obligations to the Organization, thus being eligible for election to the Council. The General Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the following resolution.

May I crave your indulgence and read the Draft Resolution. Payments of Contributions, Bolivia:

The Conference, considering that the Government of Bolivia made on the occasion of the Thirtieth Session of the Conference in Rome, 12 to 23 November 1999, a proposal to liquidate its arrears of contributions over a period of ten years on 1 January 2000 by paying annually US\$20 070.10; noting that while the Conference at its Thirtieth Session agreed that all Member Nations in attendance be authorized to vote on 12, 13 and 15 November 1999 and, subsequently, that voting rights be restored to a number of Member Nations including Bolivia, the instalment plan proposed by Bolivia was not formally approved; further noting that, since 1 January 2000, Bolivia has been effecting annual payments of arrears in accordance with the instalment plan; further noting that Bolivia has paid its assessed contributions for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001, decides that, by effecting annual payments of instalments of US\$20 070.10 for the settlement of arrears together with the payment of each current contribution in the calendar years of assessment and any advances to the Working Capital Fund that may be due, Bolivia has been fulfilling its financial obligations to the Organization. Instalments shall continue to be payable in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.5 for a period of eight years. Default in payment of two instalments shall render this instalment plan null and void.

I have completed the reading of the Report, the first meeting of the General Committee.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

As read out by the Secretary-General, there is a slight correction in the last paragraph, which could be inserted by the Secretariat, to indicate the phrase "while waiting for this to be effected".

Are there any comments? Since there are no comments or observations, I declare the Report adopted.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

QUATRIÈME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS

PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES

18. Applications for Membership in the Organization (C 2001/10)

18. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (C 2001/10)

18. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (C 2001/10)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

The Conference will now examine Item 18 on Applications for Membership in the Organization. There are four applications, submitted by the Principality of Monaco, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Article 11.2 of the Constitution states that the Conference may, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast provided that the 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 enforced at the time of admission.

The document giving details of these applications is C 2001/10. I shall now call on the Secretary-General to give details of the voting procedure and to ascertain the number of the delegates present.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will first describe the voting procedure and, once that is understood, we will move to the setting of the quorum. There are four ballots; you will receive four ballots, one ballot paper for each applicant Member. Each form has boxes with yes, no and abstention. That is yes, no and abstention written on these forms. Each delegate will vote by marking one of those three choices with an "x" on each of the four ballot papers. Please note that, in accordance with Rule X11.4© of the General Rules of the Organization, blank ballot papers will be treated as abstentions. Please note also that, according to Paragraph 4d of the same Rule, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark other than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote on each of the four ballot papers.

If that is clear, I will proceed to set up the system for ascertaining the number of delegates present. Please do not do anything until I indicate that. When I indicate, and only when I indicate, would you press the green button, but not right now. I will indicate.

You may now press the green button before you to indicate those present and voting.

May we ask the tellers, the scrutineers to come forward and to go to the voting booths. Two tellers have been appointed.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I shall now proceed to call on the delegations country by country and the delegates are kindly requested to proceed to the voting box.

Vote

Vote

Votación

The voting procedure has been completed and the tellers will leave the room and, with the assistance of the officers in charge of the election, they will count the votes.

While the counting of the votes takes place, we will proceed with the presentations of the B.R. Sen Award, the A.H. Boerma Award, the Edouard Saouma Award and the Margarita Lizárraga Medal for 2000 and 2001.

PART V – OTHER MATTERS

CINQUIÈME PARTIE - AUTRES QUESTIONS

PARTE V - OTROS ASUNTOS

22. Any Other Matters

22. Autres questions

22. Otros asuntos

22.2 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards

22.2 Remise des prix B.R. Sen

22.2 Entrega de los Premios B.R. Sen

Let us now begin with Item 22 of the agenda, namely the presentation of the B.R. Sen Awards 2000 and 2001.

This Award was established by the Conference in honour of Mr Sen, who was Director-General of FAO from 1956 to 1967. The Award is made annually to a field officer who has made a special contribution to the country or countries to which he or she was assigned. The prize consists of a medal, a scroll, and a cash prize of US\$5 000, in addition to a round trip for the winner and spouse in order to attend the Conference Session in Rome during which the Awards are made.

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

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

This prestigious Award honours the name of the late Mr B.R. Sen, who was Director-General of FAO from 1956 to 1967. The Sen Award is given each year to the 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.

On this occasion, we shall be presenting the Awards for 2000 and 2001.

The Award for 2000 goes to Mr Jean Koyo, a national of Congo. It is given in recognition of his major contribution to the project "Appui à la restauration et à la gestion de l'environnement au Burundi".

Through his personal effort, professionalism and leadership, Mr Koyo has built a team to promote training with a vision to effectively develop national capacity to ensure continuity in a sustainable way well after the end of the project.

The Government of Burundi, in endorsing the selection of Mr Koyo, has recognized his diligence, exemplary sense of responsibility and impressive efficiency during a difficult period for the country.

The Award for 2001 is conferred on Mr Menachem Lourie, a national of Israel, for his outstanding contribution to the work of "Sustainable Agrarian Reform Communities – Technical Support to Agrarian Reform and Rural Development" in the Philippines.

Under his leadership, pragmatic solutions were found to problems in addressing major constraints of agrarian reform to beneficiaries who continue to live in rural areas in extreme poverty.

The Government of the Philippines has recognized Mr Lourie's outstanding performance, dedication and commitment to the work and has supported his selection for the B.R. Sen Award.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I invite Mr Jean Koyo to take the floor.

Jean KOYO (B.R. Sen Award Recipient)

Au nom des populations burundaises, particulièrement celles des provinces de Karuzi, Gitega, Cankuzo, Bujumbura Rural et Kirundo, au nom de la famille FAO au Burundi, au nom de mon pays, le Congo, et à mon nom personnel, je voudrais, Monsieur le Directeur général, vous témoigner toute ma profonde gratitude et vous remercier très sincèrement de l'honneur qui est fait à ma personne pour mériter le Prix B.R. Sen année 2000.

A travers vous, Monsieur le Directeur général, je voudrais également remercier les collègues du bureau régional de la FAO pour l'Afrique, ceux du Département des forêts et les Membres de sélection du Comité du prix B.R. Sen. Ce prix est un témoignage de plus au combat inlassable que vous ne cessez de mener depuis que vous êtes à la tête de notre très chère Organisation pour réduire de manière significative le fléau de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde. Il constitue aussi un honneur à l'Afrique et un encouragement pour le Burundi et le Congo à relever les multiples défis auxquels ils sont confrontés parmi lesquels on peut citer les conflits armés, la pauvreté et la famine. Pour parler un peu plus du Burundi, je dois signaler qu'il s'agit d'un pays à fort relief, enclavé entre la République unie de Tanzanie, le Ruanda et le Congo démocratique. C'est un pays qui a une densité de population parmi les plus élevées d'Afrique, c'est un pays où 90 pour cent de la population vit en zone rurale dans un habitat dispersé et où l'agriculture intervient

pour plus de 60 pour cent du PIB national. Pays montagneux, les hautes terres du Burundi se présentent sous la forme de multiples bassins versants constitués de trois composantes essentielles: les crêtes dénudées rocailleuses et impropres à l'agriculture, les versants qui supportent toute l'activité agricole et qui représentent environ un million d'hectares, et les marais qui sont d'environ 120.000 ha et qui sont exploités de manière artisanale. Du fait de l'appauvrissement des sols consécutif à une intense érosion des sols, une surexploitation des terres et une forte pression sur les maigres ressources naturelles, le projet PNUD/FAO BDI/96/001 "Appui à la restauration et à la gestion de l'environnement" se devait, entre autres, de mettre au point un modèle d'aménagement global et intégré des bassins versants et des marais afin d'en assurer une exploitation durable et soutenue.

Avec une forte implication des populations et des ONG et grâce à l'approche participative, ces aménagements ont consisté à boiser les crêtes, installer sur les versants des haies isohypses mixtes composées d'arbres agroforestiers, d'herbes et d'arbustes fourragers, réaliser des ouvrages d'irrigation et de drainage dans les marais et, enfin, intégrer l'animal en stabulation semi-permanente à tout le système, le fumier ou le composte, résultant du système revenant au sol pour corriger l'acidité des sols souvent très élevée. Au total, 1150 ha répartis entre 400 ha de boisement, 523 ha de versants et 230 ha de marais ont été aménagés sur cinq sites. Ces aménagements permettent aujourd'hui au Burundi de maîtriser de manière quasi totale les eaux de ruissellement, les marais, la protection et la restauration progressive de la fertilité des sols, la production du petit bois de feu et de service et enfin la production de lait et de viande. Le développement à grande échelle de ces aménagements, suivi de l'intensification et de la diversification des cultures, cadre parfaitement avec les objectifs du Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire, en sigle PSSA. Le FIDA, à travers son programme de relance et de développement du monde rural, financé à la hauteur des 30 millions de dollars E.-U., applique déjà ce modèle d'aménagement. La Banque mondiale s'apprête à financer un projet de même type.

Eu égard au processus de paix en cours, la FAO, de par son mandat et son expertise très appréciée par tous, devrait pouvoir jouer le premier rôle en assistant le Burundi dans la promotion de ces techniques et la relance de la production agricole, véritable gage de la paix et de la réconciliation nationale.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mamadou DEKAMO KAMARA (République du Congo)

Au nom du Gouvernement congolais et au nom des Membres de l'Ambassade du Congo à Rome, nous tenons à vous remercier, Monsieur le Directeur général, pour ce geste. Ce geste est important parce que vous savez que la jeunesse africaine a besoin des exemples de ce genre. Mon pays, le Congo, qui sort d'une situation catastrophique et qui est dans une phase de reconstruction nationale, a besoin de cet exemple pour montrer à notre jeunesse qu'un travail bien fait est toujours récompensé. Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, nous vous disons merci ainsi qu'à la famille Koyo et à Madame Koyo car il ne faut pas oublier que pour réussir un travail de ce genre il faut un soutien important. Et une fois encore merci à tout le monde.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I should like to invite Mr Lourie, the winner of the award for the year 2001, to deliver his speech.

Menachem LOURIE (B.R. Sen Award Recipient)

FAO Director-General, distinguished Members, participants and guests, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to FAO for this rare privilege of receiving this very prestigious B.R. Sen Award.

As we all know, managing a large and complex development project is not a one-man show. I therefore share this great honour with all those in FAO who have provided me with highly effective technical and administrative support, my project team members with whom I am most fortunate to have worked, the Philippine Department of Agrarian Reform through its successive three honourable secretaries, Ernesto Garilao, Oracio Morales and Hernane Briganza, and their dedicated staff who were greatly responsible for a most favourable and highly professional working environment.

The success of this project, which continues to provide technical support to agrarian reform and rural development in the Philippines, is also due to the highly collaborative support of the governments of Italy and the Netherlands through their Cooperation Programme with FAO. I take humble pride in receiving this Award, knowing that thousands of project beneficiaries have improved the quality of their lives as a result of FAO intervention. I take humble pride and joy in having been one of those instrumental in bringing these positive changes into peoples' lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to express utmost thanks to our Director-General for his leadership and to all FAO staff who have fully supported the work we are undertaking in the Philippines.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife and children, who have always shared my own pride and enthusiasm in being part of this Organization.

Thank you once again for this honour and *boroshashem*.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Philippe J. LHUILLIER (Philippines)

On behalf of my country, the Republic of the Philippines, and on my personal behalf, I would like to express our appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization for giving the B.R. Sen Award for the year 2001 to an FAO officer who is practically an adopted son of the Philippines.

Mr Menachem Lourie has given 25 years of his life to the Philippines and to the Filipinos. In his 25 years of service to the Filipinos, he has developed innovative approaches in agrarian reform, which have proven very successful in my country. His first contribution, if authorship is to be claimed, is a farming system development approach he has assigned for the Philippines. The linchpin of his highly participatory approach is a presentation between agrarian reform beneficiaries and project management in order to identify and prioritize constraints and elements for a successful agrarian reform.

Finally, in order to sustain agrarian reform communities, beneficiaries had to be linked to the mainstream economy through market matching. As a result of these successes, the project has been replicated in other areas in the Philippines and has snowballed additional foreign assistance from the World Bank, the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan, the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. More than expressing our appreciation to FAO, we would like to express our warmest gratitude to the donor countries that gave this technical support and services for agrarian reform and development. These are principally Italy and the Netherlands. To them, we would like to express our thanks because the project would not have been possible without their generous funding. It goes without saying that, without them, Mr Lourie would not be here with us today.

We do hope that Italy and the Netherlands will fund other similar projects in the Philippines.

Thank you so much for your indulgence.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

22.3 Presentation of A.H. Boerma Award

22.3 Remise du prix A.H. Boerma

22.3 Entrega del Premio A.H. Boerma

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Could we go on now to Item 22.3, which is the A.H. Boerma Award. This is given to either a writer or a journalist whose work in the media has increased international awareness of the problems of famine throughout the world and the steps to be taken so as to remedy that situation.

This means the winner is given a certificate and a medal, a cash prize of US\$10 000, and a round-trip to Rome for the ceremony for the winner and spouse.

The Director-General will present this prize.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

One of the greatest privileges as Director-General of FAO is presenting the A.H. Boerma Award. This is an award that honours a journalist, or a group of journalists, whose coverage of development issues has helped focus public attention on the problem of hunger and malnutrition in the world.

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

With this Award, we recognize the important role of the media in the fight against hunger. Journalists are key allies who keep readers, listeners and viewers around the world informed of the plight of those who do not have enough to eat. They communicate complex agricultural and economic issues to the wider public. They report on successful solutions and projects in the battle against hunger and they provide millions of farmers with valuable information on how to produce more food in a sustainable way.

I am pleased to announce that the Boerma Award winners for 2000 and 2001 are:

Mr Jim Clancy, an anchor and correspondent for CNN International, and Mr Palagummi Sainath, freelance journalist, photographer and writer, reporting for, among others, the "Times of India".

These two winners have very different professional backgrounds, yet both have played key roles in disseminating valuable information on development questions and have helped to focus public attention, at the international and regional level, on important aspects of the world's food problems.

Mr Jim Clancy joined CNN in 1981 as a national correspondent after an extensive career in local radio and television in Denver and San Francisco. From 1982 to 1996, he was a CNN international correspondent in Beirut, Frankfurt, Rome and London.

Some of the most memorable news stories of recent decades are to be found in his field reportages. His reporting on the genocide in Rwanda, the war in Bosnia and the famine and international interventions in Somalia gained him numerous prestigious awards around the world.

Mr Clancy has covered Africa for nearly two decades. As host of "Inside Africa", he regularly covers political, cultural and economic news from the continent. This programme is also the only international television news programme focusing on the issues that confront that enormous and culturally varied continent. Over the years, he has covered just about every aspect of African life, showing people not only the depths of Africa's problems but also its success stories.

That field background has served him well in his capacity as CNN International News Anchor and has helped to expand CNN's coverage of these issues.

Now based in CNN World Headquarters in Atlanta, he also covers major "breaking news" stories on assignment for all other CNN networks.

We can say without doubt that Mr Clancy's understanding of the problems faced by developing societies is significantly contributing to a better appreciation and understanding by the viewers of his programmes internationally of the tenacity with which many in the developing world struggle for a better life, with the likely result of having increased public support for measures leading to solutions of their problems.

The Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen described Mr Palagummi Sainath publicly as "one of the world's great experts on famine and hunger".

Mr Sainath's book *Everybody Loves a Good Drought* consists of a series of reports on living conditions in some of the poorest villages and communities in the world. That work was part of a project the author undertook on a "Times of India" fellowship: *The Forgotten Poor: Putting Poverty back on the National Agenda*, that includes some 84 field reports to the "Times of India". This work was described as "stories of extreme deprivation, but also of the enormous dignity of the poor. Stories of silent and invisible hunger, but also of breathtaking, often exemplary, survival strategies of the poor."

The book, now in its eighth edition, remained the number one best seller, non-fiction, by an Indian author through much of 1997-1998. It is presently being used as a teaching aid or textbook in at least seven universities and colleges in India and abroad, and has been translated into several languages.

Mr Sainath has also built up the largest, indeed the only known, photo archive on rural labour: thousands of photographs of poor rural people at work. Many have appeared in newspapers and magazines across the world, and many have been used in schools to sensitize young people to the incredibly hard work the rural people do and their huge and unacknowledged contribution to the local and world economy.

Mr Sainath's contribution to journalism is his ability to examine the socio-cultural and political aspects of food and agricultural issues and to focus on the livelihoods of farmers. He was the first journalist in India to highlight the adverse impact of poor policies on food security and poverty. His work has changed the nature of development debate in the Indian media, and has been held up as an example of what can be achieved by a committed journalist writing on the problems of food, hunger and rural development.

I would like to conclude my remarks about Mr Clancy and Mr Sainath by quoting Mahatma Gandhi: "Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man you have seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to control over his own life and destiny?"

Mr Chairman, I am confident that you, the delegates and all the participants of this Conference will join me in expressing our great appreciation to these dedicated media professionals whose work has posed a challenge to the international community.

Jim CLANCY (A. H. Boerma Award Recipient)

It is really an honour to be here today with all of you and to be sharing all of this. I know a lot of you have probably seen me on television but this is a great opportunity to see you now in the flesh, face-to-face. After that great lunch that we were hosted, just a few minutes ago, I guess you all have to go out and buy bigger television sets.

I want to, in a personal way, tell you why the A.H. Boerma Award is significant for me. It is not just another award. It is special in its own right, but for me, personally, I want to introduce you to my grandfather, who is gone now more than a half century, and my namesake, James O'Brien, my grandfather on my mother's side. I guess the best way to describe him would be to tell you the story of the first time he ever drove a Model T. He took it around the park a few times and negotiated his way back towards the garage and, when it came time to stop, he pulled back on the steering wheel, shouted, *whoa*, pulled the steering wheel out of the steering column and drove the Model T through the back of the garage.

He never ploughed a field with a tractor. He used a four-horse team of percherons. I think the Ambassador from Belgium can explain that draught horse to you. Mine was a farming family. In fact, I am the first generation that has not, in one way or one time or another, been involved in farming. On both sides, the Clancys and the O'Briens, there was that history; the O'Brien's still farm today in Dewitt County, Illinois.

For me, this kind of award is especially significant. Obviously, I did not earn it by myself. The executives at CNN International, people like Chris Kramer, the President, Rina Golding, the Executive Vice-President, my colleagues in "Inside Africa", Producers K. Leewood and William Burke, people like our video tape editors, Andre Murphy and so many others that are involved, including my fellow anchors Tumi Makgabo, Zain Verjee and Femi Oke. I am proud to work with all of them on a project "Inside Africa" that really aims to do just one thing and that is be fair. Be fair to a continent that has been robbed of the kind of news coverage that everyone else has taken for granted, a continent that is only covered by the international media when there is death, civil war, famine or other natural disasters, the kind of reportage that projects a negative image of a people, that hinders investment, that hinders respect.

"Inside Africa", very simply, tries to show African solutions to African problems, tries to highlight, not only the cultural, the music, the heritage of the continent itself, but the contribution all of that has made to the rest of the world.

It is my deep honour to accept this Award today. The cash prize is going to be used as part of CNN's Africa Journalist of the Year Awards, to fund an African journalist to come to CNN and to study, to work with the CNN staff, to learn about their job. This is going to, in a sense, do what your work is and that is, plant a seed. To nourish it and to help it grow. I pledge to you today, you have honoured me and I will honour you back, by continuing to do the job, in journalism, that it takes and, hopefully, set a new standard for the coverage of Africa, one that is fair and just.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Palagummi SAINATH (A.H. Boerma Award Recipient)

As my senior professional colleague, Jim Clancy, has already explained, this is a special award. It is a worldwide thing and especially it is important because of the kind of issues it is based on.

However, if you are like me, a freelance journalist, it has an additional edge to it. You get the Award letter, look at the terms and you say, "now I get to pay my phone bills".

It sort of restored my faith in the word "prestigious award", because the last four prestigious awards I received in the last year, the word prestigious, indeed, was a euphemism for "very lovely memento and no cash". This means that my collection of beautiful Plexiglas statuettes has grown in inverse proportion to my bank balance. So it is very nice. For some reason, telephone departments are very loathe to accept prestigious currency so if you are a freelancer, this is a very, very special thing to happen. That's wonderful.

However, I am here and proud to accept this award. I will pass on the acknowledgements of governments, though I have many friends in my own. Most of the governments I interact with would be extremely embarrassed to accept responsibility for the things I do.

The Food and Agriculture Organization defines food security as access to all to food, at all times, under all conditions. I think that is very hard to dispute. I agree with it. However, I think it also leads us inexorably to examine the policy linkages that deny that access to so many, for so much of the time, in our world today.

In the Indian subcontinent, last year, all the three major countries, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, declared huge food surpluses. Between these three countries, they have 65 million tons of surplus food grain and half the world's hungry. I think this is a ridiculous and criminal situation to have existing in your world – such huge surpluses among so much hunger.

Food security exists not in the mountains of food grain but in millions of jobs that enable people to buy that food grain. The millions of tons piled up would vanish over night if people had that purchasing power. So we have to look at the linkages, the policies, that drive an assault on the livelihoods of the poor.

In the last few years, I have been covering this growing agricultural crisis and it has not been pleasant. In a single region in my home state, between 1997 and the end of 2000, 1 826 small and marginal farmers have committed suicide out of distress, driven over the edge by policies formulated, often, outside their society, by processes outside their control, by people beyond accountability, by mechanisms in which they had no participation and no voice.

Yet it has not been pleasant to interview those families whose breadwinners committed suicide, not because they wanted charity, not because they wanted handouts, but because they wanted the dignity of feeding their families through their own labour. That was the dignity that people sought.

For me, I come back yet with strength from those villages because of the resilience, the astonishing resilience of millions of others in their situation who have not given up that fight, who are determined to fight for their rights, for their right to food, for their right to employment, for their freedom to take their decisions, for their right to participate in the decision-making process that affects their lives and, in a sense, that is for democracy itself, in their name, on their behalf, I am very proud to accept the Boerma Award.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Costa Ricky MAHALU (Tanzania, United Republic of)

The Africa Group wishes to congratulate Mr Jim Clancy for the award he has just received. To most of us, it has been such a great moment to see, physically, the person whom we have come to admire and respect today. We do not have sufficient ways to express our gratitude to you, Mr Clancy, for your tireless efforts to give Africa what it also deserves, a good name.

Mr Clancy you are an Africa, or Afro-optimistic and that is why you have consistently fought Afro criticism through "Inside Africa". We congratulate you for this and we encourage you for that and you will always have our cooperation whenever you need it.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Siddharth SINGH (India)

I am delighted to have this opportunity to say a few words about my countryman, Mr Sainath, on his winning this prestigious award. Mr Sainath is a young journalist who uses, very effectively, the democratic processes of India and the freedom of speech to raise public awareness about the really poor and deprived sections of rural communities. He has brought the problems of food security for them to the attention of government and civil society, especially in terms of improving the programmes and delivery systems that are in existence.

His reporting is not just a collection of data, but they convey very knowledgeable and, indeed, academic insights into the problems. I think, to a very large extent, this can be said to be the result of the very extensive touring that he does to difficult areas where he spends time with people who are living difficult lives.

Mr Director-General, you have already referred to his book, titled *Everybody loves a Good Drought*. I do believe it is a must read for anyone dealing with relief and rural development. I think it can be truly said, without doubt, that Mr Sainath has taken journalism to new heights of excellence.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

22.4 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award
22.4 Remise du prix Édouard Saouma
22.4 Entrega del Premio Edouard Saouma

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

The Edouard Saouma Award, which was established by the Conference at its Twenty-seventh Session, 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 inscribed with the name of the recipient institution, a scroll and a cash prize of US\$25 000. I should like to invite the Director-General to introduce the winning institution and to present the Edouard Saouma Award.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The Technical Cooperation Programme, or TCP, is a long-standing feature of FAO. It makes FAO's specialized competence more readily available to Member Nations for the solution of urgent and unforeseen problems.

In honour of my predecessor, the Twenty-seventh Session of the Conference established the Edouard Saouma Award. It is given to a national or regional institution that has implemented a TCP project with particular efficiency and demonstrated outstanding results achieved with very little means.

Of the many and high quality award nominations, received this biennium from all regions and all sectors, one stands out, namely the Goat and Rabbit Research Centre of Viet Nam. It is represented here today by its Director, Dr Dinh van Binh.

The staff of the Centre demonstrated exceptional ability in implementing project TCP/VIE/66/13, *Improving the wellbeing of poor farmers by developing milk production from local resources*. They were highly motivated and able to transmit their enthusiasm to all involved in the project, leading to widespread adoption by farmers of the milk production and dairy processing technologies developed.

After the completion of the TCP project, the Centre has continued to carry out these activities. I consider that this is an excellent example of a project that has produced practical and concrete results at the farm level, leading to substantially increased income of producers, including women.

It has, and is, contributing to the improvement of national food security and the livelihood of our constituency, the farmers.

Dinh VAN BINH (Viet Nam) (Edouard Saouma Award Recipient)

His Excellency, Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, Conference Chairperson, and all the FAO Member Nations, Distinguished Guests and Friends.

It is with great pleasure and pride that I am here to receive the Edouard Saouma Award on behalf of the Goat and Rabbit Research Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as the Vietnamese people. Vietnam, the country from which I am from, is predominantly an agrarian country. Up to 80 percent of the total population live in rural areas, with two-thirds dependent on farming for a living. Since the advent of economic reform, starting from 1986 with the *doi moi* policy, rural areas have experienced dramatic changes, particularly during the last decade. While overall agricultural output and productivity have risen significantly, the achievements in the rice sector have been spectacular, transforming Viet Nam from a net importer into the world's second largest exporter. As a result, food security has been improved at the aggregate level. Rural incomes have also increased remarkably, poverty has fallen and overall wellbeing of the people in rural areas has improved.

FAO's technical assistance to raise agricultural productivity and competitiveness, and boost smallholder production has been pivotal to improving livelihoods in the rural areas. FAO is associated with many of the achievements that have been made in the Vietnamese agricultural sector during the last decade.

In spite of these improvements, high levels of rural poverty and food insecurity still persist, particularly in the remote upland areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, and in some coastal provinces. A striking 90 percent of the families classified as living below the poverty line are located in rural areas.

The Government has recognized the urgency of accelerating development in rural areas. Investment in rural infrastructure and services has been increased, and a number of support programmes have been initiated. In order to help rural Vietnamese people to improve their living standards, a TCP project titled "Improving the Wellbeing of Poor Farmers by Developing Milk Production from Local Resources" was supported by FAO. The project was implemented from 1996 to 1998.

Thanks to the FAO assistance and the very enthusiastic cooperation of Vietnamese researchers and staff involved in the project, more than six hundred scientists and farmers have been trained in goat raising for milk and cheese production. The project has promoted new livelihood options and income-generating strategies for the rural poor, particularly disadvantaged women. It has also helped to improve household food security and nutrition. Based on the success of this TCP project, the Vietnamese Government undertook a national extension programme from 1997 to the year 2000 to promote dual-purpose goat production of "*Bach thao*" and F1 crossbreeds with local goats. Additionally, the Vietnamese Government has also developed and approved a dairy goat production project that will run from 2001 to 2005 and will focus on assisting ethnic minority villages and poor farmers in mountains and remote areas.

Due to the outstanding success of this project the Centre for Goat and Rabbit Research was awarded the Edouard Saouma Award. This is a very prestigious award for the Vietnamese people. Through my positions as national project coordinator and director of the Goat and Rabbit Research Centre, I am greatly honoured to receive this award on behalf of my office and all Vietnamese people.

Finally, building on 25 years of close collaboration between FAO and the Vietnamese Government, I would like to express the sincere gratitude of the Goat and Rabbit Research Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Vietnamese Government to FAO and, in particular, to the Director-General for having the opportunity to substantially improve the livelihoods of these 100 poor rural farmers, through this TCP project.

I also wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the TCP project staff, national and international, particularly Messrs Lambert, from the Animal Production Service, Drs Preston and Siirtola, international consultants, and the FAO Offices in Hanoi and Bangkok for their continuous support well beyond the completion of this project and the Edouard Saouma Award Selection Committee for selecting our project to receive this Award.

Once again, I would like to extend my sincere wishes of good health and happiness to all of you and wish that the Thirty-first FAO Conference be successful.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ali ABDALLAH (Liban) (Langue originale arabe)

C'est un plaisir pour moi également de partager avec vous cette occasion qui nous est donnée de féliciter M. Saeed Al Raqabani à la présidence de cette session de la Conférence, ce qui atteste de ses qualifications remarquables et je suis certain qu'il assurera le succès de cette session.

Je suis heureux, également, d'exprimer nos salutations au Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour réaliser le rêve d'un monde libéré de la faim et de la famine. Nous sommes certains que ses efforts seront couronnés de succès.

Mon pays, le Liban, est un tout petit pays affligé de nombreuses souffrances, comme l'occupation de ses territoires dans la région de Djeball depuis 25 ans déjà, et de menaces constantes à la paix et à la stabilité sur son territoire, surtout au sud. Mais, nous sommes fiers de nos concitoyens, de leurs compétences, de leurs qualifications, ce qui a toujours fait qu'ils ont su donner une image brillante de notre pays dans le monde entier. L'un de mes concitoyens remarquables est M. Edouard Saouma qui a dirigé trois sessions successives de la Conférence, et qui a donc tenu les rênes de cette Organisation pendant trois mandats successifs, l'amenant à être une Organisation compétente au niveau international. Il a participé aux rêves et aux ambitions de la FAO pour lutter contre la pauvreté, la faim, et pour arriver à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. C'est un plaisir pour moi, aujourd'hui, que le prix Edouard Saouma soit attribué au Centre de recherche sur la chèvre et le lapin au Viet Nam, et à M. Son Tay plus particulièrement pour ses qualifications. Je souhaite au lauréat tout le succès possible ainsi qu'à son pays, et j'espère que cette récompense et le symbole qu'elle représente sera une incitation de plus à arriver concrètement à l'agriculture durable pour assurer la prospérité de larges secteurs de nos populations.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

22.5 Margarita Lizárraga Medal

22.5 Médaille Margarita Lizárraga

22.5 Medalla Margarita Lizárraga

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

At its Twenty-ninth Session in November 1997, the Conference had instituted the Margarita Lizárraga Medal to be awarded biennially by the Conference, upon the proposal of the Council, to a person or organization that had served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

I should like to invite the Director-General to introduce the winner of the Medal.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

At its Twenty-ninth Session in November 1997, the FAO Conference instituted the Margarita Lizárraga Medal to be awarded biennially by the Conference, 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 the late Dr Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga, Senior Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, her productive work in the field of fisheries for almost 40 years, great dedication to FAO and its mission, and her strong commitment toward fostering the promotion of the fisheries sector, especially in developing countries.

For the 2000-2001 biennium, the Secretariat short-listed three nominations on the basis of criteria agreed upon by the Selection Committee. The Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board and its Secretariat was selected unanimously for its unprecedented grassroots approach in the development of a national *Code of Conduct* based on the *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. This initiative is resulting in responsible fisheries management and new partnerships between industry and the government in the fisheries sector of Canada.

I am delighted to call upon the representative of the Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board to receive this award.

David BALFOUR (Margarita Lizárraga Medal Recipient)

We are very encouraged by the cooperation among Government and fishing industry to secure the future of the fishing resource for today's fishermen and for future generations. It is truly a privilege and an honour to see our efforts recognized by FAO as an example of the implementation of the *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.

I am here today with the President of the Canadian Responsible Fishing Board, Captain Rick Meisner and I am privileged to accept this reward on behalf of the Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and all fishermen in Canada.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

Mi delegación expresa su felicitación a la Junta Canadiense de Pesca Responsable y su Secretaría por la obtención de este reconocimiento. La medalla Margarita Lizárraga es un merecido homenaje a una mujer ejemplar, a una talentosa mexicana, pero quizás más importante es el tributo a una funcionaria internacional que entregó su vocación, su capacidad y, sobre todo, su empeño ético a las mejores causas de esta gran Institución. El Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable marca la cúspide de la aportación de Margarita Lizárraga a favor del desarrollo sustentable y la vinculación entre conservación, ordenación y aprovechamiento de los recursos pesqueros y acuícolas. El Código se ha convertido en una referencia fundamental para apoyar las políticas nacionales; avanzar en seguridad alimentaria y acrecentar las oportunidades sociales y económicas de millones de seres humanos que trabajan y viven de la pesca.

La Junta Canadiense ha contribuido a la elaboración de un Código Nacional de Consulta basado en el Código aprobado por la FAO en 1995. Acción que ha impulsado el establecimiento de nuevas asociaciones entre la industria y el Gobierno Canadiense en el sector pesquero. Por ello es una digna merecedora de este reconocimiento que entrega la FAO.

México agradece a la Organización el apoyo para mantener vivo el recuerdo y la extraordinaria contribución a la Pesca Responsable de Margarita Lizárraga, que más allá de su trabajo técnico realizó una labor social a favor de numerosos grupos de pescadores de varios países. Justo allí, ante cientos de mujeres y hombres, dejó su mejor legado: el trabajo por un mundo mejor.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

David BLANCO ZABALA (Bolivia)

En nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe deseo transmitir nuestras especiales congratulaciones a la Junta Canadiense de Pesca Responsable y a su Secretaría por esta distinción. Este premio, como lo ha señalado la distinguida Delegación de México, ha sido instituido en nombre de una ilustre representante de América Latina y el Caribe.

Los recursos pesqueros se han constituido en uno de los pilares más importantes para consolidar políticas eficaces destinadas a asegurar la provisión de alimentos a hombres y mujeres. La necesidad de buscar asociaciones entre el sector industrial y el gobierno, se complementa adicionalmente con un Código Nacional de Consulta, resultado del trabajo desarrollado y aprobado por la FAO, se convierte en una poderosa herramienta de transformación.

En este caso particular, tal como lo ha señalado el Director General, es un premio instituido en nombre de una mujer ilustre mexicana, que con su ejemplo nos legó una conducta digna de ser imitada.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We should like to express our heartfelt congratulations to the winners of all these awards.

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

QUATRIÈME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS (suite)

PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

18. Applications for Membership in the Organization (Vote) (C 2001/10) (continued)

18. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (Vote) (C 2001/10) (suite)

18. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (Votación) (C 2001/10) (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We go back now to Item 18, namely Applications for Membership in the Organization.

The votes have been counted and the Secretary-General will read the results.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of Ballot

Resultat du scrutin

Resultado de la votación

Admission to Membership

Admission de membres

Admision de miembros

1. Ballot papers deposited

1. Bulletins déposés

1. Papeletas depositadas **125**

2. Defective ballots

2. Bulletins nuls

2. Papeletas defectuosas **0**

3. Abstentions

3. Abstentions

3. Abstenciones **3**

4. Votes for

4. Voix pour

4. Votos favorables **122**

5. Votes against

5. Voix contre

5. Votos en contra **0**

6. Votes cast

6. Suffrages exprimés

6. Votos emitidos **122**

7. Majority

7. Majorité

7. Mayoría **82**

MONACO

having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Ms Ana Maria Baiardi Quesnal

Paraguay

Ms Rose Berstein

United States of America

S. Dowd

Elections Officer/Fonctionnaire électoral/El oficial de elecciones

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of Ballot

Resultat du scrutin

Resultado de la votación

Admission to Membership

Admission de membres

Admision de miembros

1. Ballot papers deposited

1. Bulletins déposés

1. Papeletas depositadas **125**

2. Defective ballots

2. Bulletins nuls

2. Papeletas defectuosas **0**

3. Abstentions

3. Abstentions

3. Abstenciones **4**

4. Votes for

4. Voix pour

4. Votos favorables **119**

5. Votes against

5. Voix contre

5. Votos en contra **2**

6. Votes cast

6. Suffrages exprimés

6. Votos emitidos **121**

7. Majority

7. Majorité

7. Mayoría **81**

NAURU

having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Ms Ana Maria Baiardi Quesnal
Paraguay

Ms Rose Berstein
United States of America

S. Dowd
Elections Officer/Fonctionnaire électoral/El oficial de elecciones

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of Ballot
Resultat du scrutin
Resultado de la votación

Admission to Membership
Admission de membres
Admision de miembros

1. Ballot papers depositedl	
1. Bulletins déposés	
1. Papeletas depositadas	125
2. Defective ballots	
2. Bulletins nuls	
2. Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions	
3. Abstentions	
3. Abstenciones	3
4. Votes for	
4. Voix pour	
4. Votos favorables	121
5. Votes against	
5. Voix contre	
5. Votos en contra	1
6. Votes cast	
6. Suffrages exprimés	
6. Votos emitidos	122
7. Majority	
7. Majorité	
7. Mayoría	82

UZBEKISTAN

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

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Ms Ana Maria Baiardi Quesnal
Paraguay

Ms Rose Berstein
United States of America

S. Dowd
Elections Officer/Fonctionnaire électoral/El oficial de elecciones

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of Ballot
Resultat du scrutin
Resultado de la votación

Admission to Membership
Admission de membres
Admision de miembros

1. Ballot papers deposited	
1. Bulletins déposés	
1. Papeletas depositadas	125
2. Defective ballots	
2. Bulletins nuls	
2. Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions	
3. Abstentions	
3. Abstenciones	5
4. Votes for	
4. Voix pour	
4. Votos favorables	117
5. Votes against	
5. Voix contre	
5. Votos en contra	3
6. Votes cast	
6. Suffrages exprimés	
6. Votos emitidos	120
7. Majority	
7. Majorité	
7. Mayoría	80

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

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

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Ms Ana Maria Baiardi Quesnal
Paraguay

Ms Rose Berstein
United States of America

S. Dowd
Elections Officer/Fonctionnaire électoral/El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I avail myself of this opportunity to welcome the new Members to the Organization, wishing them every success.

The Principality of Monaco, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are now Members of FAO. We should like to welcome them as new Members to this Organization.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

It is with great pleasure that I welcome our new Member Nations, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Principality of Monaco. They belong to the three widely-separated regions, Asia, Europe and Southwest Pacific, and their adherence to our Organization is an important step toward the achievement of truly global and universal Membership. I feel that the entry of these four countries to the Membership of FAO will strengthen our cooperative efforts and benefit all Member Nations.

Henri FISSORE (Monaco)

Au nom du Gouvernement monégasque, je tiens à remercier l'ensemble des États Membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture d'avoir approuvé la candidature de Monaco à devenir membre de la FAO. La Principauté de Monaco participait déjà depuis de nombreuses années à la Commission générale pour les pêches et s'est plus récemment intéressée aussi bien au projet *Téléfood* qu'au Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire, programme auquel elle consacre certains fonds depuis décembre 2000. La Principauté de Monaco a par ailleurs l'intention d'apporter une contribution financière à un projet de mise à disposition de techniciens dans le cadre d'un programme sud-sud.

Compte tenu de l'importance de la lutte contre la faim et des questions liées à la sécurité alimentaire, compte tenu des actions de coopération menées par la Principauté à travers le monde, compte tenu également de l'intérêt que Monaco attache au développement durable agricole et à tout ce qui touche le domaine des pêches et des ressources provenant de la mer, le Gouvernement monégasque a souhaité devenir membre de la FAO et apporter à l'avenir sa contribution aux efforts déployés par votre Organisation internationale.

Je voudrais remercier et féliciter son Excellence, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, et l'ensemble de ses collaborateurs pour l'activité et l'énergie déployées pour développer toujours davantage le rôle et les actions de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture à travers le monde.

La Principauté de Monaco est heureuse et fière d'avoir été admise au sein de votre Organisation et se réjouit d'être à présent parmi vous.

Nariman MANNAPBEKOV (Uzbekistan)

I am very glad to be here with you today and on behalf of the Government of Uzbekistan we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for accession of Uzbekistan to the Membership of FAO.

Just ten years ago we gained our independence from the postcolonial system we are moving to the market oriented system. Unfortunately, within the last two years Uzbekistan and central Asian States are suffering with a severe drought situation.

We, as our colleagues from that region, are very much looking forward to working with our colleagues, the staff of FAO, to build a strong systematic regular and coherence relationship with the perception of several important challenging things in Uzbekistan that can be mitigated and assisted by our new partners.

Uzbekistan by entering the new Organization, putting together its efforts to join the International Community would also like to express its good wishes for a successful meeting of the Thirty-first Session of the Conference of FAO.

Miodrag LEKIC (Yougoslavie)

Je tiens tout d'abord à présenter au nom de la délégation yougoslave et à mon propre nom mes félicitations les plus cordiales pour votre élection en qualité de Président de la session. La Délégation yougoslave se tient prête à coopérer pleinement avec vous afin que les meilleurs résultats possibles soient réalisés lors de cette session. Parallèlement, je tiens à vous remercier de la décision sur l'adhésion de la Yougoslavie, c'est-à-dire Serbie-Monténégro, à la FAO. Nous considérons cela comme une consécration des changements démocratiques de notre pays.

La délégation yougoslave participe pour la première fois comme plein membre au travail de la FAO, depuis les changements démocratiques et depuis la régulation de notre statut de Membre de cette Organisation de très grande importance pour nous. Après une absence de près de dix ans à la FAO, la coopération et la participation au programme de l'Organisation se montrent plus que jamais nécessaires. Nous avons entre-temps dans la République yougoslave passé une période difficile de guerre civile, de sanctions, d'isolement, de conflits armés, et l'alimentation et l'agriculture sont justement le thème constant et une question vitale, car nous souhaitons nous détacher de l'aide humanitaire et prendre la voie du développement.

Depuis qu'elle a acquis le statut d'observateur au sein de la FAO, la Yougoslavie prend part directement à plusieurs projets qu'elle réalise, en coopération avec la Représentation de la FAO récemment ouverte à Belgrade, dans le domaine de l'agriculture.

Je saisis cette occasion pour remercier de la coopération et de l'assistance apportées par la FAO jusqu'à présent et pour exprimer mon désir que la coopération future soit encore plus intense et diversifiée.

La Yougoslavie, nouveau mais aussi vieux Membre, est prête à prendre part à toutes les activités et programmes importants de la FAO et à coopérer avec les Pays Membres à la réalisation des décisions prises et des programmes convenus.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Here we have finished with agenda Item 15, the number of the Member States in the Organization now reaches 183 Member Nations. Tomorrow at 12.30, the traditional flag raising ceremony for the Member Nations will be held at the side of Building A where the flags of all Member Nations are flown.

Dag BRISEID (Norway)

On behalf of the European Region I would like to wish all the four countries a welcome as Members of FAO.

I would like to add that there are two countries that will be belonging to the European Region, the Principality of Monaco and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

We wish them a hearty welcome into our group and we will be meeting them with a cooperative spirit and an open mind.

First Report of the Credentials Committee (C 2001/LIM/10)

Premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 2001/LIM/10)

Primer informe del Comité de Credenciales (C 2001/LIM/10)

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (Vicepresidenta del Comité de Credenciales)

Antes de someter a vuestra consideración el primer informe del Comité de Credenciales, permítame expresarle mis felicitaciones por su acertada elección a la Presidencia de este importante período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Permítame asimismo hacerle llegar a usted y a los honorables países representados en esta Plenaria la disculpa del Embajador George Poulides, Presidente del Comité de Credenciales, que por motivos urgentes tuvo que viajar esta mañana, por lo que lamenta mucho no poder presentarles personalmente este informe. Es por ello que me ha correspondido este honor en mi calidad de Vicepresidenta del Comité de Credenciales.

Como usted acaba de señalar, el primer informe del Comité de Credenciales se encuentra en el documento C 201/LIM/10. Procederé a su lectura:

El Comité de Credenciales celebró su primera reunión el 19 de octubre de 2001 a las 10:00 horas, su segunda reunión el 29 de octubre a las 11:00 horas, la tercera reunión el 1^o de noviembre de 2001 a las 17:00 horas y la cuarta hoy a las 13:00 horas, para examinar las credenciales de las delegaciones de los Miembros que participan en el 31^o período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO.

El Comité eligió Presidente al Embajador George Poulides (Chipre) y Vicepresidenta a la Señora María Eulalia Jiménez (El Salvador).

Segundo: El Comité fue informado de la recomendación formulada por el Consejo de la FAO durante su 116^o período de sesiones, celebrado en junio de 1999, que ya se aplicó durante el 30^o período de sesiones de la Conferencia de 1999, relativa al criterio que debía adoptar el Comité de Credenciales con respecto a la aceptación de éstas.

Tercero: Conforme a lo dispuesto al Artículo III.2^o del reglamento general de la Organización y a los criterios establecidos por el propio Comité en períodos de sesiones anteriores, así como a la recomendación del Consejo antes indicada, el Comité de Credenciales examinó las credenciales de 148 delegaciones. Los países cuyas delegaciones han depositado credenciales halladas en buena y debida forma figuran en la Lista A que se adjunta al presente documento. Los países cuyas credenciales fueron consideradas como una simple información sobre sus delegaciones figuran en la Lista B. Se recomienda que la Conferencia acepte las credenciales de las delegaciones que figuran en la lista A y de las que figuran en la Lista B, en el entendimiento de que las credenciales oficiales de los Miembros de la FAO indicados en la Lista B, se comunicarán al Director General lo antes posible.

Además, de conformidad con el Artículo III.5^o del Reglamento General de la Organización y con la práctica ritual de la FAO, en espera del informe final del Comité de Credenciales y de la decisión de la Conferencia sobre dicho informe, se autoriza a todas las delegaciones a participar plenamente en las labores del período de sesiones de la Conferencia.

Cuarto: Habiendo examinado la cuestión de las credenciales de Afganistán, el Comité decidió aplazar la adopción de una decisión sobre las credenciales de los Representantes de Afganistán, en el entendimiento de que los representantes actuales de Afganistán que están acreditados ante la FAO seguirán participando provisionalmente en las labores de la Conferencia con los mismos derechos que las de los demás Estados Miembros.

Quinto: Hasta la fecha 32 Estados Miembros no han presentado credenciales.

Sexto: Cualesquiera otras credenciales que se reciban de los Miembros, así como las de los representantes de los organismos especializados de las Naciones Unidas y las organizaciones afines, serán examinadas por el Comité en reuniones posteriores.

Procederé ahora a la lectura de las dos listas:

Lista A: Lista de Miembros que han depositado credenciales halladas en total, en buena y debida forma. Total: 78. Angola, Arabia Saudita, Argelia, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Belice, Benin, Bután, Bolivia, Botswana, Brasil, Burkina Faso, Canadá, Colombia, Comunidad Europea, República Democrática del Congo, República Popular Democrática de Corea, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, China, Chipre, Dinamarca, Ecuador, Egipto, El Salvador, Emiratos Árabes Unidos, Eslovaquia, Filipinas, Finlandia, Gabón, Grecia, Honduras, República Islámica de Irán, Irlanda, Israel, Japón, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Libia, Lituania, Malasia, Malawi, Maldivas, Malí, Marruecos, Mauricio, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Níger, Países Bajos, Pakistán, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Polonia, Portugal, Qatar, República Centroafricana, República Dominicana, Senegal, Siria, Sudán, Suecia, Swazilandia, Tailandia, República Unida de Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, Turquía, Uganda, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen y Zimbabwe.

Lista B: Lista de Miembros cuyas credenciales se han considerado como una simple información sobre sus delegaciones. Total: 70. Albania, Alemania, Antigua y Barbuda, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrein, Bélgica, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Camboya, Camerún, Chile, República de Corea, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Dominica, Eritrea, España, Estados Unidos de América, Estonia, Etiopía, Fiji, Francia, Ghana, Granada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haití, Hungría, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Islandia, Islas Marshall, Italia, Jordania, Kazajstán, Kirguistán, Lao, Letonia, Líbano, Luxemburgo, Madagascar, Malta, Mauritania, México, República de Moldova, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Niue, Noruega, Nueva Zelanda, Omán, Papua Nueva Guinea, Reino Unido, República Checa, Rwanda, Saint Kitts y Nevis, Samoa, San Vicente y las Granadinas, Santa Lucía, Sierra Leona, Sri Lanka, Sudáfrica, Suiza, Túnez y Venezuela.

Así mi informe.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much Madam Jiménez de Mochi Onori. Do you have any comments on this report? I believe we have adopted the first Report of the Credentials Committee.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2-13 November 2001 Rome, 2-13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2-13 de noviembre de 2001
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
3 November 2001

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours
Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50
sous la présidence de Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I call the third Plenary Meeting of the Thirty-first Session of the Conference to order.

Before giving the floor to His Excellency the Director-General of the Organization, I should like to inform the distinguished participants that we did not manage to arrange for an interview with the Pope, therefore the Secretary of State of the Vatican will deliver a message from the Pope to welcome you.

I should like to give the floor to his Excellency the Director-General, who will deliver his statement to the Conference.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE
DECLARATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCE
DECLARACION DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCIA****LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL**

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

Cette 31ème session de la Conférence se tient au moment où les terribles événements du 11 septembre viennent de bouleverser la quiétude et les certitudes de tant de personnes dans le monde. La communauté internationale dans son ensemble a fermement condamné les actes qui ont entraîné la mort de nombreuses victimes innocentes. Hélas, cette tragédie a précipité le monde dans une ère de turbulences politiques, diplomatiques et économiques. Et une nouvelle zone de confrontations militaires s'ajoute ainsi aux autres conflits qui perdurent dans différentes régions de la planète. Certes, il s'agit d'un échec douloureux dans la construction d'un environnement international de paix et de sécurité. Certes, l'inquiétude et la lassitude caractérisent les sentiments exprimés, notamment dans les médias. Mais la solidarité et la fraternité doivent continuer de l'emporter sur la division et l'exclusion. Aussi aujourd'hui, plus encore qu'hier, il est important, il est urgent, de renforcer la lutte pour les droits de l'homme, dont le plus fondamental demeure celui à la nourriture. C'est en effet sur le terreau de la pauvreté et de l'iniquité que germent les semences de l'intolérance et de la violence.

Cette session de la Conférence devait accueillir le Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation: *cinq ans après* et permettre aux dirigeants du monde entier d'examiner les progrès accomplis dans la lutte contre la faim afin d'envisager les mesures à prendre pour accélérer ce processus.

Mais le maintien de la date prévue n'était plus opportun dans les circonstances internationales actuelles. Pour les 815 millions de personnes qui n'ont pas accès à une nourriture suffisante, dont environ 300 millions d'enfants livrés à leur triste sort, il n'est pas acceptable de surseoir trop longtemps aux initiatives nécessaires pour atteindre l'objectif du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996.

Je voudrais donc rendre hommage au Conseil qui a compris que les enjeux éthiques et politiques de cette problématique exigeaient une décision sur le Sommet et je suis heureux que cette décision ait été prise de tenir le Sommet l'an prochain au niveau des Chefs d'État du 10 au 13 juin.

Les problèmes que l'Organisation doit affronter dans le moyen terme sont extraordinairement complexes. Dans un contexte d'insécurité alimentaire pour les pauvres, l'environnement de la planète fragilisée subit encore plus les effets néfastes des sécheresses et des inondations, mais aussi des ouragans et des tremblements de terre. La sécurité sanitaire des aliments est menacée par les maladies trans-frontalières des animaux et des plantes, la déforestation à grande échelle et les feux contribuent aux changements climatiques, les courants marins déclenchent des tempêtes et les entorses aux codes de conduite internationaux affectent les ressources naturelles.

Bien que la production agricole mondiale continue d'augmenter, son taux de croissance estimé à 1,2 pour cent pour l'année 2000 est le plus faible depuis 1993. Ce ralentissement reflète une baisse

de la croissance de la production végétale et animale aussi bien dans les pays développés qu'en développement. Il est dû à plusieurs facteurs: conditions climatiques défavorables et impact des conflits internes pour l'Afrique au sud du Sahara; ralentissement de la production pour la région d'Asie et du Pacifique; sécheresse persistante au Proche Orient et en Afrique du Nord. La production céréalière, quant à elle, a connu une diminution sensible de 1,6 pour cent. Les perspectives pour l'année 2001 sont aussi sombres. Les dernières prévisions indiquent une nouvelle diminution de 1,4 pour cent, faisant craindre une réduction substantielle des stocks.

Plus préoccupant encore est le nombre de pays faisant face à des pénuries alimentaires graves. En septembre dernier, on en comptait 34 et on estimait à 60 millions le nombre de personnes touchées.

La production animale par contre connaît une expansion remarquable dans les pays à faible et à moyen revenu et l'on s'attend à ce qu'elle double au cours des vingt prochaines années. Mais cet optimisme est tempéré par l'inquiétude croissante suscitée par le développement insuffisamment maîtrisé de l'élevage intensif dans les pays industrialisés.

Garantir la participation entière, équitable et profitable de toutes les parties à un système mondialisé et ouvert à tous est donc une responsabilité partagée.

Les négociations de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce sur l'agriculture sont en cours depuis plus d'un an maintenant. Après six ans, la mise en oeuvre de l'Accord sur l'agriculture conclu à l'issue des négociations du Cycle d'Uruguay a été mitigée. Il a certes contribué à modifier les instruments de politique intérieure et commerciale, mais les changements effectifs des niveaux de soutien et de protection du secteur n'ont pas été assez profonds pour permettre un commerce mondial des produits agricoles compétitif.

La FAO a récemment fait des propositions pour renforcer l'impact de la Décision de Marrakech, notamment avec la création d'un fonds de roulement destiné à venir en aide aux pays faisant face aux augmentations soudaines de leur facture d'importation alimentaire.

L'extension des maladies des animaux et des plantes a été facilitée par l'accroissement et l'accélération du commerce, surtout avec la multiplication des échanges de produits frais et d'animaux vivants. La propagation de la maladie de la vache folle, et plus encore de la fièvre aphteuse, constituent à cet égard des exemples significatifs. Ces problèmes, ainsi que l'apparition dans les aliments de bactéries pathogènes résistantes aux antibiotiques ont considérablement accru la prise de conscience de la nécessité de mieux contrôler la sécurité sanitaire des aliments.

Le drame de la faim dans un monde d'abondance et de gaspillage demeure une inquiétante réalité. Selon les dernières estimations, le nombre des personnes sous-alimentées dans le monde s'élève à 815 millions: 777 millions dans les pays en développement, 27 millions dans les pays en transition et 11 millions dans les pays industrialisés. Au cours des années 90, le nombre des personnes sous-alimentées dans les pays en développement a diminué à un taux moyen annuel largement insuffisant de seulement 6 millions. Par conséquent, pour atteindre en 2015 l'objectif fixé par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, il faudra réduire le nombre de personnes qui souffrent de la faim de 22 millions par an. Au rythme actuel, il faudrait plus de 60 ans pour atteindre l'objectif fixé pour 2015.

Pour lutter efficacement contre la faim et la pauvreté, il faudra donc mener le combat sur deux fronts. En cas de crise, due aux facteurs climatiques ou aux conflits, il sera nécessaire d'apporter une aide alimentaire immédiate et ciblée en faveur des populations affectées. Mais la seule solution durable est celle qui consiste à aider les communautés rurales pauvres à se passer de l'aide alimentaire en accroissant leur propre production, pour l'auto-consommation d'abord, la commercialisation ensuite.

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

La FAO ne peut, ni ne prétend, traiter seule des problèmes internationaux de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. La recherche d'un partenariat élargi, pour renforcer les capacités de l'Organisation et son ouverture sur l'extérieur, constitue des principes de base de sa méthode de travail. C'est

aussi un aspect important du Plan à moyen terme qui prévoit d'établir des accords de partenariats avec les organisations d'aide multilatérale ou bilatérale en vue d'instaurer une coopération cohérente à long terme dans certains domaines du développement agricole et rural.

Cette approche est concrétisée par des mécanismes de concertation et des accords spécifiques avec plusieurs Etats Membres. La coopération avec les institutions financières internationales s'est orientée vers la prise en compte du secteur agricole dans les priorités de la lutte contre la pauvreté. C'est ainsi que ces organisations ont été invitées à participer au Groupe de travail de haut niveau sur la mobilisation des ressources pour la sécurité alimentaire, le développement rural et l'agriculture.

La FAO collabore aussi étroitement avec le FIDA et le PAM notamment pour la préparation de la Conférence internationale sur le financement du développement qui se tiendra en mars 2002 à Monterrey.

L'Organisation a continué à aider les pays membres à formuler des projets d'investissement. Soixante-cinq projets, préparés avec un apport substantiel du Centre d'investissement, ont été approuvés en 1999-2000, ce qui représente un investissement total voisin de 3,25 milliards de dollars E.-U., dont 2,1 milliards sous forme de prêts extérieurs.

En outre, la FAO multiplie les initiatives pour identifier et attirer des partenaires du secteur privé en vue d'une coopération à long terme.

Le dernier biennium a aussi été marqué par la multiplication des contacts avec les organisations non gouvernementales et la société civile. Le document définissant les orientations à suivre dans ce domaine, "Politique et stratégie de coopération avec les ONG et les OSC," a été publié l'année dernière.

Les capacités des bureaux existants ont été renforcées pour leur permettre de faire face au transfert progressif de responsabilité dans l'exécution des projets opérationnels entamé dès la fin de l'année 2000, afin de diminuer les coûts d'exécution des projets. A l'heure actuelle, les Représentants de la FAO assurent la gestion de 60 pour cent du Programme de terrain.

La Conférence examinera également le texte de l'Engagement International sur les ressources phylogénétiques afin d'adopter une convention couvrant ce sujet.

Après plus de sept années de négociations, menées de façon remarquable sous la présidence de l'Ambassadeur Gerbasi, à qui je voudrais rendre hommage, je n'ai guère besoin de souligner l'importance de cet accord pour la sécurité alimentaire.

Je suis conscient du fait que le texte que vous avez devant vous contient encore quelques parenthèses, qui n'ont pas encore pu être éliminées, bien que les délibérations aient continué jusqu'au dernier moment. Mais j'ose espérer que vous parviendrez à surmonter ces divergences.

La Conférence aura à examiner de nouveaux paragraphes du Code international de conduite sur l'utilisation et la distribution des pesticides. L'Organisation assure, conjointement avec le PNUE, le secrétariat de la Convention de Rotterdam qui devrait entrer en vigueur au cours du prochain biennium. Des programmes innovateurs vont permettre de réduire les résidus de pesticides dans la chaîne alimentaire au niveau des différentes régions du monde.

La préparation en cours du premier rapport sur la situation mondiale des ressources génétiques animales permettra à la communauté internationale d'avoir une évaluation de la situation dans un contexte d'érosion rapide du potentiel et sera utile donc pour une intensification durable de la production.

"L'évaluation mondiale des ressources forestières-2000", accessible sur Internet, fournit l'évaluation la plus complète et la plus récente de l'état et des tendances des ressources forestières dans le monde. Il comprend des cartes fournissant une vue synoptique du couvert forestier mondial.

L'Organisation continue de participer activement au dialogue international sur les forêts. Elle a en particulier soutenu la création du Forum des Nations Unies sur les forêts dont elle encourage les travaux.

Chef de file de la coordination inter-agences pour l'organisation de l'Année internationale de la montagne en 2002, la FAO oeuvre pour promouvoir les objectifs de développement durable des montagnes.

Le Comité des pêches a recommandé de mettre sur pied un nouveau Sous-comité sur l'aquaculture pour tenir compte de sa part croissante dans la production halieutique.

La FAO et le Gouvernement islandais, avec le co-parrainage de la Norvège, ont en outre organisé récemment et avec succès la Conférence de Reykjavik sur une pêche responsable dans l'écosystème marin. Sur recommandation du Conseil, la déclaration de cette Conférence vous sera présentée au cours de cette session.

Enfin, je rappellerai qu'en juin dernier, le Conseil a entériné un plan d'action international visant à prévenir, contrecarrer et éliminer la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée.

La FAO a poursuivi le développement du Centre mondial de l'information agricole (WAICENT), l'une des plus importantes sources d'information dans ce domaine, disponible en cinq langues, et accessible sur Internet. En outre, l'Organisation s'efforce de communiquer son contenu à travers les médias disponibles, notamment sous forme électronique.

Les inégalités entre les hommes et les femmes jouent un rôle décisif dans la persistance de la pauvreté et de l'insécurité alimentaire. Dans ce cadre, la Conférence examinera le "Plan d'action 2002-2007 pour la parité des hommes et des femmes dans le développement" afin de placer les femmes rurales au centre de la réflexion et des travaux de l'Organisation.

Les débats sur le mode de production agricole dans les pays développés et son impact sur la santé publique induisent, au-delà des objectifs économiques et financiers, la question existentielle et les valeurs éthiques des choix faits au regard des intérêts des consommateurs. Il a donc fallu établir un Groupe d'experts éminents sur ces questions qui s'est réuni pour la première fois l'année dernière. Ses travaux devraient conduire à enrichir les réflexions des pays membres et plus généralement de la communauté internationale à cet égard.

Le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire (PSSA) a continué à se développer sur le terrain. Sur un total de 95 pays qui ont demandé à y participer, la phase I ou phase micro-économique du programme est opérationnelle dans 66 d'entre eux et en cours de formulation dans 17 autres. Les paysans ont appris et adopté des technologies simples et à faibles coûts. Les rendements des cultures ont en très peu de temps doublé ou plus. Les petites productions animales, la pêche et l'aquaculture ont permis la diversification des activités, l'apport de protéines et l'amélioration de la trésorerie des communautés rurales pauvres. Les revenus des agriculteurs se sont en outre notablement accrus, conduisant ainsi à une amélioration de leurs conditions de vie.

Le programme de coopération Sud-Sud, fondé sur la solidarité entre pays en développement, est devenu très vite un élément clé pour la mise en oeuvre effective du PSSA. A ce jour, 23 protocoles d'accord ont été signés, sur la base desquels les pays en développement les plus avancés se sont engagés à fournir 2300 experts et techniciens qui travailleront deux à trois ans dans les pays bénéficiaires. Dix-sept autres accords ont été formulés et sont sur le point d'être signés dans les jours à venir permettant d'ajouter 1700 experts et techniciens à ce chiffre.

La ligne PSSA du Programme régulier est toujours limitée à 10 millions de dollars E.-U., soit 2 pour cent du budget. Elle est complétée par les requêtes du PCT selon les modalités propres à ce programme. Les donateurs bilatéraux, les institutions financières internationales et régionales continuent à appuyer le Programme spécial. Sur un total de 290 millions de dollars mobilisés pour le PSSA, environ la moitié provient des pays bénéficiaires eux-mêmes démontrant ainsi leur confiance dans cette approche.

Cependant, le PSSA n'a été en mesure ni de couvrir tous les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, ni d'intégrer le nombre recommandé de communautés rurales et d'activités dans chaque pays. Neuf-cent millions de dollars E.-U. seraient nécessaires pour la mise en œuvre adéquate du programme dans l'ensemble des pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier.

En ce qui concerne le Programme *Telefood*, mis en œuvre surtout pour la sensibilisation de l'opinion publique à la cause de la lutte contre la faim, il permet aussi de financer de petits projets auprès de communautés rurales pauvres. A ce jour, il a financé plus de 960 projets dans 113 pays pour un peu plus de 6,8 millions de dollars sur les 7,8 millions de dollars collectés.

La tâche qui reste à accomplir est immense. Faire toujours plus et toujours mieux, avec toujours moins, tel est le paradoxe auquel la FAO est confrontée depuis plus de six ans. Au cours de cette période, d'énormes efforts ont été faits pour réduire les coûts opérationnels de l'Organisation, pour la rendre plus efficace, plus moderne, plus flexible. Depuis 1994, de nombreuses mesures ont été prises pour réduire non seulement les coûts des facteurs, mais aussi ceux des procédures. Les économies réalisées grâce à ces efforts ont été estimées à 50 millions de dollars par an et ont été affectées aux nouvelles priorités de l'Organisation et au maintien de ses capacités normatives et opérationnelles.

Aucune autre Agence des Nations Unies n'a été soumise à des contraintes budgétaires aussi drastiques, six-cent cinquante postes ont été supprimés. Mais il y a des limites en toutes choses et il n'est pas possible de continuer indéfiniment dans cette voie.

Le Plan à moyen terme de la FAO pour la période 2002-2007, dont le concept a été adopté par le Conseil, prévoit une croissance indicative de 9,6 pour cent pour le prochain biennium. Le Conseil a aussi demandé d'utiliser ce plan comme base pour la préparation du Programme de travail et budget. Pourtant, certains États Membres qui, aux Comités de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches, demandaient d'augmenter les ressources à affecter à ces divers secteurs, ont exigé par la suite que le budget total ne connaisse aucune augmentation.

Il n'est pas possible d'atteindre les objectifs assignés sans y mettre les moyens. La FAO a besoin de ressources adéquates pour jouer correctement son rôle et remplir le mandat qui lui est assigné par les États Membres. Elle a besoin de ces ressources pour fournir des informations et des statistiques; pour développer les normes de qualité, de sauvegarde de l'environnement et de facilitation du commerce; pour préparer les accords internationaux qui assurent une utilisation durable des ressources naturelles de la planète.

La FAO a aussi besoin de ressources pour le transfert de connaissances, car telle est sa mission. Il faut donc mener des projets pilotes, car comment transférer les connaissances sur une base simplement théorique? Pour identifier les technologies nécessaires à l'accroissement de la productivité dans les zones rurales, il faut travailler dans les conditions réelles et concrètes des agriculteurs. Il faut être avec les petits cultivateurs, éleveurs, les pêcheurs artisanaux et les petits exploitants des forêts.

Aujourd'hui, 815 millions de personnes de par le monde sont sous-alimentées. Cette situation est inacceptable ! Pourtant l'Organisation, qui doit jouer un rôle moteur pour la solution de cette question, dans sa complexité et son ampleur, se voit attribuer un budget correspondant annuellement à 40 cents par personne concernée.

Les Etats Membres doivent assumer leurs responsabilités face à un enjeu qui est surtout politique et éthique. Car il s'agit en effet de volonté politique et de nulle autre chose. Quel prix, quelle priorité, attache-t-on au droit dont dispose tout être humain à se nourrir ?

Bien sûr, la FAO joue un rôle bien modeste dans le financement de la lutte contre la pauvreté. Mais 70 pour cent des pauvres vivent en milieu rural et constituent une part majeure de ceux qui ont migré pour devenir les pauvres des zones urbaines. Aussi l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture doit parler haut et fort au nom de la multitude silencieuse des affamés du monde.

Dès lors, n'est-il pas grand temps pour certains pays de renoncer à la politique de la croissance nominale zéro du budget de l'Organisation? N'est-ce pas le moment de faire une lecture courageuse des messages codés d'un monde en pleine mutation? Ne convient-il pas aujourd'hui et maintenant de faire un geste symbolique, mais combien significatif, pour répondre aux appels désespérés des plus faibles? Je suis sûr que vous êtes capables de cette vision politique et de cette générosité humaine au profit des plus démunis de la terre.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We thank His Excellency the Director-General for his statement. There is no doubt that his statement shed light on the problems afflicting a large number of food insecure and I am certain that you are all interested in solving this problem. We wish the Director-General every success.

We proceed to the statement by the outgoing independent Chairman of the Council, Dr Sjarifudin Baharsjah.

**INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE
DECLARATION DU PRESIDENT INDEPENDENT DU CONSEIL A LA CONFERENCE
DECLARACION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO A LA
CONFERENCIA**

Sjarifudin BAHARSJAH (Independent Chairman of the Council)

Four years ago the FAO Conference, at its Twenty-ninth Session, appointed a son of Indonesia to the high post of Independent Chairman of the Council. Today, at the end of my second term, at the helm of your Council, I feel privileged to report to you.

Please allow me to focus my report on three areas of excellent work carried out by the Organization, during the past four years, which were significant strides that have far-reaching impacts in our continuing effort to help eliminate hunger and poverty in the world.

The first focus of my report concerns the way the Organization responded to the challenge posed by the Rome Declaration of 1996, of halving the number of the world's undernourished, which was estimated to reach 800 million by the year 2015. Benefiting from a visionary leadership, the Organization embarked on a concerted effort, which involved not only the Secretariat but also the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, the Technical Committees and the Council, in an intensive and interactive way to produce a Strategic Framework for FAO 2000-2015. This excellent document was adopted by the Conference during its Thirtieth Session, providing the Organization with a major policy orientation over the longer term, covering 2000-2015 and laying down the essential elements of an enhanced programming and accountability process which are necessary to achieve the targets set by the 1996 World Food Summit.

I am happy to report that a very effective mode of operation, based on a truly corporate approach, which produced the Strategic Framework for FAO 2000-2015 was maintained by the Organization to produce the Medium-Term Plan, which covers a period of six years, with a Rolling Plan of every two years and the biannual Programme of Work and Budget. Let us hope that with the Strategic Framework and the adoption of the corporate approach that the Organization stands ready to respond to the increasing demand for its services.

The second focus of my report concerns the continuing and enhanced effort by the Organization to decentralize operational responsibilities from Headquarters to the Regional, Sub-regional and Country levels. The Hundred and Nineteenth Council prescribed a gradual and phased approach for the implementation or transfers of responsibilities from the Regional Offices to the FAO Country Offices. Taking into consideration the adequacy of resources, in particular human resources, the task to decentralize the Organization, which is particularly welcome by the Member Nations is quite formidable.

It is heartening to witness that significant progress has been made. Since September 2000, operational responsibilities have been transferred to FAO Representative's Offices in 34 countries in Africa, 19 countries in Latin America, 14 countries in Asia, eight countries in the Near East and one country in Europe. By July 2001 a total of 308 projects have been transferred to new budget holders, with another 35 pending. In preparing human resources, which are needed to assume transferred responsibilities, we note that a total of 150 persons, from 74 Member Nations, had been trained. To enhance their capabilities and improve communication, 75 FAO Representative Offices were provided with dedicated computers.

Still, the decentralization effort is far from complete. Nevertheless, the decision that was taken and the continuing and consistent steps so far are proof that the Organization is making itself closer and more relevant to the people it seeks to help. In the process, efficiency can be increased and savings realized. It is also a significant step, which contributes towards striking the ideal balance between operational and normative activities of the Organization.

The third focus of my report concerns the complex and difficult task of negotiating an International Undertaking, which is to be a comprehensive instrument on plant genetic resources, which guarantee its conservation, its use toward achieving food security for all and the realization of Farmers' Rights. At the request of Conference, the Eighty-Fifth Council in November 1983 established the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. Subsequently, the Twenty-eighth Session of the Conference decided the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources is to cover all components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture. Thus, the Commission was renamed as the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The first negotiation under the advice of the Commission and with the support of the Council began in November 1994, followed by three regular and five Extraordinary Sessions. In addition, to facilitate the negotiations other meetings were conducted, namely the Informal Expert Meeting and six meetings of the Chairman's Contact Group.

A number of difficult issues were negotiated including legal aspects, access to the plant genetic resources, the list of crops that will be included and the just and fair allocation of benefits accruing from the commercial usage of plant genetic resources. The negotiations were conducted under the capable and dedicated leadership of Ambassador Gerbasi, the Chairperson of the Commission. The negotiation had also benefited from the flexibility and spirit of compromise shown by Members. Nevertheless, there is still a need of strong political will to resolve the very few remaining points of disagreement. I am sure that it is our hope that a binding convention can soon be established which is a milestone for mankind in its effort to make responsible use of the world's plant genetic resources for food security for all.

Having highlighted the three topics in an optimistic way, I would like to refer briefly to a couple of concerns which I hope would merit your consideration.

During the four years of my service in the Council, while we all recognize the importance of technology, very rarely had the work of the world's agricultural research establishment been seriously discussed. In the meantime, three significant developments in agriculture research should be duly noted.

First, the national research systems in many developing countries have grown and are contributing significantly to the availability of technology to increase food production.

Secondly, the Consultative Group of International Agriculture Research Centres (CGIAR) is presently restructuring itself with the view of increasing relevance to global challenges.

Thirdly, the last decade witnessed the growth of agriculture research by the private sector, particularly in advanced biology.

Each of the three components of the world's agriculture research establishment contributes to increased food production. However, the total impact on global food security is determined by the cooperation and collaboration which can be established among and between them. It is high time

that the Organization assumes a proactive attitude, and monitor, evaluate, and even give direction to this important aspect of our quest for global food security.

The other concern is one which we all share, namely the limited resources that can be made available to the Organization. Perhaps, this is not the best time to bring this matter up, when we are very much aware of the grave difficulties faced by us all at present. However, it would be a mistake not to mention it, not just for the sake of putting it on record but more importantly to point out that now, more than any other time, we see the need for more support and resources for FAO. The demand for the services of FAO is there, as long as there is a gap between the need for food and its availability.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity you gave me to serve the Council during the last four years. My particular thanks go to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for nominating me to this position and to the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, and his dedicated associates for their advice, helpfulness and cooperation throughout my tenure as Independent Chairman of your Council. I also wish to thank my family for their support.

I have often been asked about the term "Independent" in Independent Chairman. The simplest answer would be that in this position I was not representing my country. However, in the course of my service at your Council it became evident that the term "Independent" should not be interpreted as simply as impartial, or even worse, neutral.

There were times when I felt disappointed when, after a constructive debate, a consensus could not be reached because several delegates had yet to receive directives from their capitals, although a large number of delegates from developing and developed countries had so eloquently and forcefully made their points.

I do not intend to offer apologies for being partial and biased to the fate and interest of the millions of our fellow men, women and children who are suffering from undernourishment and poverty. After all, this is what FAO is all about.

I thank you for your attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Bungaran SARAGIH (Indonesia)

First of all, allow me to congratulate His Excellency Mr Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Raqabani of the United Arab Emirates on his election as the Chairman of this very important Conference.

My congratulations also goes to all the Vice-Chairmen of the Conference.

My delegation wishes to congratulate His Excellency, the Director-General, for his successful effort in preparing this Conference. My delegation welcomes his opening statement. He has very clearly explained the future direction of FAO's programmes and activities for the next two years.

I also take note, with appreciation, the Independent Chairman's statement, a valuable statement by him to FAO.

I take this floor, especially to use this good moment, on behalf of the Indonesian people, particularly the farmers, to express our thanks to all Member Countries, the Ministers, the Permanent Representatives, the leadership and officials of FAO, and other friends who helped my senior colleague, the Honourable Sjarifudin Baharsjah, former Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia, in carrying out his noble duty as Independent Chairman of the Council for the period 1997 to 2001.

Especially to you, Mr Director-General, my Government conveys its thanks and gratitude to you, for your close cooperation and continuous assistance rendered to the out-going Independent Chairman of FAO.

My government also wishes to express their thanks to the Director-General, the Assistant Director-General, the senior staff and all staff who assisted Professor Baharsjah in carrying out his duty.

To you, Professor Sjarifudin Baharsjah, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, the Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Marine and Fisheries and all related institutions in Indonesia, we wish to express their gratitude and thanks for your very responsive, dynamic, trusted and whole heartily manner in undertaking your important duty with one sole aim, to be a the best and responsible representative of the Government and the people of Indonesia.

My thanks also goes to your wife, Madame Sjarifudin Baharsjah, who is also my senior colleague, the former Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Social Affairs of Indonesia. I know that she was always with you and gave her full support, her brilliant and professional advice, at all times, during your four-year term in the Council.

May God bless you in your future endeavours. May God bless FAO in its struggle to combat hunger and poverty.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICE-PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
ALLOCUTION DE SON EXCELLENCE LE VICE-PRÉSIDENT
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU GUATEMALA
DECLARACIÓN DEL EXCMO. SR. VICEPRESIDENTE
DE LA REPÚBLICA DE GUATEMALA**

Juan Francisco REYES LÓPEZ (Vicepresidente de la República de Guatemala)

Permítame, antes que nada, felicitarle por su designación como Presidente de este 31° período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Le deseo el mejor de los éxitos.

He venido a esta cita para honrar el compromiso y como testimonio del respaldo que hemos y seguiremos dando a la celebración de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: cinco años después, para dar testimonio de nuestra solidaridad con la democracia y nuestro rechazo y repudio al terrorismo en general y, en particular, al que motivó y produjo la tragedia del 11 de septiembre de este año.

Guatemala fue el primer país que aceptó la invitación formulada por el Director General a la luz de lo resuelto en el Consejo y, por eso, nos hacemos presentes en esta Conferencia para honrar y reiterar el compromiso. Presentes, porque si parecía importante la Cumbre cuando la propuso el Director General y la aprobó el Consejo, hoy, en este difícilísimo momento histórico que vivimos, parece poco menos que impostergable.

Quiero unirme a las palabras pronunciadas en este mismo recinto, hace escasas tres semanas, en ocasión del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, por el Presidente de la República Federal Alemana, el Excmo. Sr. Johannes Rau, que dijo: "A la gran coalición que se está formando contra el terrorismo, debe sumarse la Gran Coalición Contra el Hambre y la Pobreza". Estas mismas palabras fueron reiteradas por el Ministro Italiano de Agricultura, el honorable Giovanni Alemanno.

La Gran Coalición Contra el Hambre y la Pobreza: un sueño que puede ser común para todos los pueblos y que puede unirnos a todos como hermanos. "La paz no es el silencio de las armas, es el aplacar el hambre, el luchar contra la injusticia, es desterrar la pobreza". Ese es nuestro fin, que nos reconocemos hijos de Dios.

Los compromisos ya los hicimos en 1995, y se fijaron las metas. Hoy debemos de revisar si los compromisos se han logrado y si las metas serán alcanzadas. Debemos de evaluar si existe la

suficiente voluntad política para cumplirlas y alcanzarlas. Si los recursos se mueven con la rapidez y en las cantidades precisas para cumplirlos y alcanzarlos.

De no ser así, debemos poder establecer el porqué de este retraso y, lo más importante, tomar todas las medidas prontas y adecuadas para que la voluntad política se produzca y que se dé la movilización de recursos necesarios.

Ideas como la del ex-Embajador de los Estados Unidos de América, George McGovern, deben ser implementadas: La universalización de la alimentación escolar a todos los niños del mundo es un reto importante que la humanidad debe de plantearse.

Sin embargo, previo a este reto, está el de alimentar a la madre gestante. Es determinante que el mundo reciba niños sanos y fuertes al nacer. Adicionalmente debe apoyarse la nutrición preescolar: si un niño o una niña llega a la escuela en condiciones adecuadas, la mitad de la tarea ya se ha logrado.

Hoy, más que nunca, debe estar unida nuestra Organización. No pertenece a unos o a otros: pertenece a la humanidad y debe ser capaz de llegar a consenso por el bien de nuestros hijos, de nuestros nietos.

Por ello, es importante que aprendamos a ceder en respecto a la opinión de otros, sin transigir en lo fundamental. Lo básico es común a todos, y debemos ser capaces de aceptar y mantener hasta que nos encontremos más cerca de lo que pudiera parecer. Las posiciones diferentes no son tan distintas como parecen. Concurro a esta cita, pese a que la Cumbre yo no será celebrada, para hablarles desprovisto de formalismos con el corazón en la mano, en nombre de Guatemala multiétnica, multilingüe y multicultural que legítima y democráticamente representamos.

Más de 71 millones de personas sufren de hambre crónica en América Latina, Guatemala, tristemente aporta a esa cifra el 54 por ciento de su población o más. Quiero señalar que los listados como el OBIDA, que se elaboran en base a simples indicadores macroeconómicos, son poco adecuados en materia de hambre y hasta "la Renta per Cápita", puede ser en un momento dado espejismo de un progreso engañoso, donde los más ricos, siendo un 10 por ciento de la población, concentran el 80 por ciento de este ingreso, y el 90 por ciento de la gente no obtiene más que el 20 por ciento de este ingreso per cápita. Por ello, este parámetro puede dejar fuera de la asistencia necesaria a muchísimos seres humanos que, sin ella, no podrían sobrevivir o tener la oportunidad de cambiar su misérrima condición de vida.

América Latina es un continente con muchas posibilidades de esperanza pero también con tanta pobreza. Sin embargo, ha evidenciado que sabe aprovechar la asistencia que se le brinda, y a la vez, se muestra generosa en cuanto puede. Ejemplar sin duda alguna es la asistencia Sur-Sur de los médicos cubanos y alentadores los pasos de la República de Chile, ya donante, en el sistema.

Entre los compromisos de la Cumbre, uno en especial que nos parece que, por excelencia, es la expresión más contundente de la voluntad política: el no uso de los alimentos como instrumento de presión política; no debe respetarse ni desmoronarse la confianza que pueda haber en la voluntad política de cumplirlo. Si no se cumple esto que depende de la simple voluntad, ¿cómo esperar que se cumplan otros objetivos más complejos?.

No tan solo dependiente de la voluntad política, sino íntimamente ligada y relacionada con esta libertad que debe exigirse en los mercados. El libre comercio debe de estar garantizado, el fácil acceso de los productos para concurrir en libre competencia, donde se pueda competir y crear fuentes de trabajo con salarios dignos, iguales o mayores a lo que cuesta una simple taza de café en un país desarrollado.

La barreras no arancelarias y los subsidios, llame como se les llame, impiden el comercio libre y que los productos agrícolas, manufacturas primarias de países como los nuestros, puedan desplazar la producción ineficiente, muchas veces subsidiada en los países que producen cientos y miles de otros productos. En otras palabras, el perfeccionismo condena a los pobres a permanecer en la pobreza, a emigrar de su tierra natal, como lo tuvieron que hacer los abuelos de los hoy habitantes de muchos países desarrollados. Sí, ésta es la principal causa de la inmigración ilegal y,

peor aún, en la mayoría de los casos de la prostitución. Nadie dejar su hogar por gusto, nadie vende su cuerpo por placer, lo hace la gente que tiene extrema necesidad. La riqueza de los recursos genéticos debe favorecer a todos, retribuyendo debidamente a quien los tiene. No basta la producción de alimentos, sino que se pueda acceder a ellos y que sean sanos y de calidad.

Vemos con preocupación que ciertas calamidades naturales se vuelven recurrentes y que se hace preciso redoblar el esfuerzo multilateral, no sólo *a posteriori* sino con medidas preventivas. Son recurrentes y por eso nos preocupan los fenómenos naturales; debe de asistirse a la población en su preparación para poderlos enfrentar y en su capacidad para superarlos cuando ocurren.

La tragedia de la sequía en muchos municipios de Centroamérica, de Guatemala, como Jocotán, Camotán y otros más, ha tenido el efecto de sensibilizar a sectores que parecían insensibles a la situación de tantísimas personas. Habrán de entender, así lo esperamos, que tal tragedia que finalmente vieron, no ocurre allí sino en muchísimas de nuestras comunidades a lo largo de todo el territorio nacional y centroamericano.

El Sr. Director General, propuso la creación de un fondo y que sea aprobado por el Consejo. Se le aprobó sí, pero sin el debido consenso. Es alentador, en verdad, que el Reino de Arabia Saudita haya concurrido con una pronta aportación de recursos al Fondo establecido, siendo el primero entre nosotros que lo hace, lo que se le debe agradecer y agradecemos, pero más alentador habría de ser que, a pesar de su oposición, países que no concurrieron a la formación del consenso, lo hagan propio con su acción. No puede estar dividida esta Organización. No cabe la fuera sorda que se produce cuando cada cual sigue su camino sin prestar atención a los demás. Lo ideal hubiese sido el consenso y no la votación para crear este Fondo y debemos ser sumamente celosos en lo sucesivo, para que los consensos se produzcan por el bien de los niños que no saben por qué los hombres de buena voluntad no evitan su llanto, sufrimiento y, a veces, su muerte.

En temas que implican la voluntad y la participación de todos es poco recomendable acudir a votación alguna. Es imperativo el esfuerzo para lograr el consenso y obtenerlo.

Guatemala, país caficultor por excelencia, eficiente productor de azúcar y banano, sufre las consecuencias de precios en estos productos que son capaces de desplazar del mercado laboral a un significativo y elevado porcentaje cada vez mayor de productores, con las gravísimas consecuencias que esto tiene a nivel de empleo nacional y, porque no decirlo, en la pobreza.

Enfrentamos un reto que es difícil de asumirlo solos. Nos corresponde emprender una transformación estructural y poco alentador resulta entonces que las entidades crediticias y financieras más importantes estén prestando cada vez menos atención al tema agrícola que es la base de la vida.

El Centro del Inversiones de la FAO está llamado a jugar un papel fundamental en casos como el nuestro; intermediario técnico que debe ser entre quienes necesitamos y quienes tienen.

Guatemala, me honra decirlo, tiene en ejecución varios proyectos del FIDA que son puestos por esta entidad como ejemplos de participación comunitaria y de buen manejo.

Los proyectos PESA de este Organismo, financiados bilateralmente por España, se ejecutan adecuadamente y resultan de extraordinario impacto en las comunidades escogidas.

Pérdidas que anteriormente se dieron en nuestra ejecución de la asistencia prestada por el PMA, han dejado de darse, y es más, el actual gobierno presidido por el Lic. Alfonso Portillo, las ha compensado.

Somos una nación que sabe honrar sus compromisos y que, precisamente por ello, aspira a la asistencia adecuada en la grave crisis que debe de enfrentar. Recientemente hemos salido de 36 años de conflicto armado con sus gravísimas secuelas, inmersa en la concurrencia de fenómenos naturales, ciclones y sequías. Estamos plenamente comprometidos en cumplir con el fiel seguimiento y cumplimiento de los Acuerdos de Paz, que permitieron terminar con el conflicto y que nuestro gobierno los elevó a Acuerdos de Estado. El cumplimiento de estos Acuerdos nos ha llevado a eliminar inveterados privilegios que existían en el mercado y a incrementar la carga

tributaria, y aunque sea indispensable y justo el esfuerzo no tuvimos el apoyo de ningún partido de la oposición, ni siquiera de los que suscribieron los Acuerdos de Paz. Ello indudablemente acarrea consecuentes dificultades que hemos asumido con firmeza puesto que tenemos la solvencia moral para pedir la asistencia bilateral y multilateral de los países de la comunidad internacional. Nuestra parte la estamos realizando.

¿Por qué habla el Vicepresidente de la República de Guatemala sobre el FIDA, el PMA en este recinto? Porque reconocemos que la FAO debe ser el Órgano Rector en la materia y que es imperativa la coordinación de todos los esfuerzos.

Hace poco más de 48 horas se celebró en Guatemala, por primera vez en su historia, una reunión pública del Gabinete de Gobierno, convocada por el Presidente de la República, Licenciado Alfonso Portillo Cabrera. Un Gabinete General Público. En esa sesión de Gabinete se abordó el tema de la situación de extrema pobreza y de pobreza en Guatemala, con la presencia de más de 200 personalidades invitadas, representantes de las iglesias, universidades, organizaciones empresariales, sindicatos, agencias de cooperación, entidades no gubernamentales y la totalidad del Cuerpo Diplomático acreditado en nuestro país.

El combate a la pobreza es la prioridad de los próximos dos años de Gobierno, de lo que nos resta de la actual administración, combatiremos a la pobreza y con esto le estamos demostrando nuestro esfuerzo y nuestros deseos de luchar contra el hambre y de buscar y obtener la Seguridad Alimentaria, que es el principal instrumento de combatir esta pobreza. No concluiremos, pero estamos seguros de luchar al máximo, lo que nos resta no es suficiente, sin embargo, estableceremos los precedentes para que los subsiguientes gobiernos continúen en su lucha contra este jinete de la Apocalipsis. Luchar contra el hambre para reducir la pobreza es una tarea impostergable. Guatemala, miembro fundador de la FAO, pareció injustificadamente ausente mucho tiempo de nuestra Organización. El actual gobierno ha dimensionado adecuadamente su importancia así como la de todo el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en materia agrícola y en materia de Seguridad Alimentaria. Es Guatemala, por primera vez, miembro del Consejo y siendo así ha presidido su Comité de Redacción y tres veces lo ha integrado. Participa en todos los comités abiertos de la Organización y se apresta a presidir la Primera Comisión de la Conferencia, honor que agradecemos y que nos compromete.

Es activa nuestra participación dentro de nuestro Grupo Regional, el GRULAC, y hemos sido llamados a la corresponsabilidad de coordinación dentro del Grupo de los 77. La oficina nacional en Guatemala, con apoyo de nuestros propios recursos está por abrirse. El FIDA ha colaborado en Guatemala en su coordinación regional, en estos meses de gobierno que no llegan a dos años, la administración actual ha tenido más participación en este Sistema de Naciones Unidas que en los 50 años anteriores. Pese a su compromiso regional y fiel, como lo es a su región, Guatemala, sin embargo, se siente en el seno de esta Organización como parte de un todo al que debe percibirse como debe entenderse. Es esta la Organización de Naciones Unidas capaz de unificar a todos los pueblos de la tierra en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza. No es esta la Organización de los más, tampoco la de los menos: esta es la Organización de todos, en la que las diferencias deben superarse en aras del propósito común.

Si me he hecho presente en esta cita, ha sido para rendir este sencillo testimonio y compartir con ustedes estos momentos tan difíciles de la historia de la humanidad con el corazón en la mano.

Que Dios, Nuestro Señor, les bendiga e ilumine. Que seamos capaces de superar e invoco las palabras de Su Santidad, El Papa Juan Pablo II, *"el divorcio que ha existido y que existe entre la fe y la vida"*. Auguro para esta Conferencia el mejor de los éxitos y comparto con todos ustedes desde ya, el compromiso de Guatemala de concurrir a la Cumbre, al máximo nivel, y me despido invocando las palabras del libro sagrado de los Mayas, el Popol Vuh: *"Que nadie se quede atrás. Juntos todos adelante."*

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank the Vice-President of Guatemala, His Excellency Juan Francisco Reyes López, for delivering his statement to the Conference.

I have the honour to call upon His Eminence Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Secretary of State of the Holy See, to take the floor to convey a message from His Holiness John Paul II.

**MESSAGE FROM HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II
MESSAGE DE SA SAINTETE LE PAPE JEAN-PAUL II
MENSAJE DE SU SANTIDAD EL PAPA JUAN PABLO II****Cardinal Angelo SODANO (Saint-Siège)**

En ma qualité de Secrétaire d'Etat, c'est avec plaisir que je vous donne lecture du message que vous adresse Sa Sainteté le Pape Jean-Paul II:

"A l'occasion de la trente et unième Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, je vous adresse à tous mon cordial salut.

Votre rencontre se situe entre le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation qui s'est tenu en 1996 et le Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation: *cinq ans après*, qui se tiendra au mois de juin de l'année prochaine. Pour ma part, j'ai le fervent espoir que les travaux de la présente Conférence contribueront à affermir les nobles intentions formulées en 1996, de telle sorte que, malgré la situation internationale difficile, le monde puisse, l'an prochain, apprendre qu'un réel progrès a été accompli dans ce domaine absolument vital de l'alimentation.

Les premières pages de la Bible décrivent l'abondance luxuriante du monde créé et elles affirment que tout ce dont l'homme peut avoir besoin lui a été donné afin qu'il mène une vie digne d'une créature faite à l'image et à la ressemblance de Dieu. Il n'est donc pas possible que, dans le monde, des millions de personnes soient sous-alimentées ou affamées. La terre est en mesure de leur procurer le nécessaire et, donc la cause du manque de nourriture doit être recherchée ailleurs.

Dans le Livre de la Genèse, Dieu remet la création entre les mains de l'homme et c'est dans cette direction que nous devons regarder si nous voulons comprendre les désordres actuels. Une gestion équitable des biens de la création a fait défaut, il faut le dire, avec une évidente inégalité du partage des ressources.

Dans cette perspective, votre Conférence veut s'engager à être comme un signe d'espérance pour le monde, manifestant qu'il y a des personnes déterminées à pratiquer une gestion responsable et inventive, visant à garantir la sécurité alimentaire pour chaque composante de la famille humaine. Une telle détermination se fonde sur la reconnaissance du fait que tout être humain jouit du droit inviolable d'avoir une nourriture correcte et que tous les hommes, en particulier ceux qui ont des postes de responsabilité, ont par conséquent le devoir de s'assurer que ce droit est respecté. C'est un principe que nous devons appliquer non seulement pour les individus, mais aussi pour les nations: quand les personnes ne peuvent plus faire face à leurs besoins fondamentaux à cause de la guerre, de la pauvreté, d'un mauvais gouvernement ou d'une mauvaise gestion, ou encore à cause de catastrophes naturelles, les autres ont le devoir moral d'intervenir pour venir à leur secours.

L'éradication de la faim dans le monde implique la volonté non seulement de débattre de cette situation ou de la déplorer, mais aussi d'entreprendre toutes les initiatives concrètes qui s'avèreraient nécessaires pour affronter le problème d'une manière efficace et durable. Parmi les initiatives que je voudrais particulièrement encourager, il y a la décision prise par les nations les plus riches de consacrer une part de leur produit intérieur brut au développement des pays les plus pauvres et de faire tous les efforts possibles pour réduire le poids de leur dette extérieure. Il faut persévérer dans ces efforts, même lorsque des nécessités urgentes, sur le plan national ou international, pousseront à y renoncer.

A la suite des terribles événements du 11 septembre, de vastes débats ont été engagés en ce qui concerne la justice et l'urgence de corriger les injustices. Dans une perspective religieuse, l'injustice est le déséquilibre radical où l'homme s'élève contre Dieu et contre son frère, si bien que règne le désordre dans les rapports humains. A l'inverse, la justice est cette complète harmonie entre Dieu, l'homme et le monde que la Bible décrit comme le Paradis. Bien des injustices dans le monde transforment la terre en un désert: la plus impressionnante de toutes ces injustices est la faim dont souffrent des millions de personnes, avec les inévitables répercussions sur le problème de la paix entre les nations. Le Pape Paul VI n'a-t-il pas déclaré en 1967 que le développement est le nouveau nom de la paix? Depuis, ses paroles se sont révélées toujours plus vraies. Le développement comporte de nombreux aspects, mais le premier de tous est la décision d'assurer à tout homme, l'accès à la nourriture dont il a besoin. C'est pourquoi votre Conférence ne vise pas seulement la sécurité alimentaire, mais aussi la paix mondiale, à un moment où de telles valeurs sont gravement mises en péril.

Vu les graves responsabilités qui sont les vôtres, vu les grandes espérances qui s'ouvrent devant vous, comment pourrais-je ne pas vous accompagner de ma prière? En ces jours, je vous assure de ma proximité, implorant de Dieu Tout-Puissant l'abondance des ses Bénédiction sur les travaux de votre Conférence, afin que la FAO contribue à faire grandir sur la terre la paix et la justice qui viennent d'en haut."

Aux vœux du Souverain Pontife, j'ajoute volontiers mes souhaits personnels, ainsi que mes encouragements les plus profonds pour vos travaux.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PART III - LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

TROISIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES ET ADMINISTRATIVES

PARTE III - ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

13. Constitutional and Legal Matters

13. Questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

13. Asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

LEGAL COUNSEL

Under Item 13, Constitutional Legal Matters, the Conference has before it for confirmation the Agreement with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. The relevant document, which includes the text of the agreement, is C 2001/LIM/16.

This is an Agreement between FAO and an intergovernmental organization, consequently, it is being referred to the Conference under the terms of Article XIII.1 of the FAO Constitution, which reads as follows: "In order to provide for close cooperation between the Organization and other international organizations with related responsibilities, the Organization may enter into agreements with the competent authorities of such organizations, defining the distribution of responsibilities and methods of cooperation."

In accordance with established procedures and practices, the Agreement follows the "Guidelines regarding the relationship between FAO and Intergovernmental Organizations", approved by Conference Resolution 69/59, that is reproduced in Part N of our Basic Texts.

The proposed Agreement was considered by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, at its Seventy-second Session in October 2001. At its recent Hundred and Twenty-first Session, the Council considered the proposed Agreement under the Terms of Rule XXIV.4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization. "The Council approved the proposed Agreement with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and recommended its transmission to the Conference for confirmation."

On the substance of the Agreement, I should like to recall briefly that the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development was established under an Agreement approved by the Council of the League of Arab States on 11 March 1970 and that, in January 1974, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and FAO concluded an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters.

Current Members of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development are all the Members of the Arab League.

Over the years, cooperation between the two organizations has expanded considerably and now covers a large range of fields of cooperation in agriculture, through exchange of information, consultation and exchange of experiences on studies and projects, participation in meetings, and organization of joint programmes and studies, and setting up of liaison mechanisms, in particular with the FAO Regional Office in the Near East, in Cairo.

The evolution of this cooperation led FAO and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development to the conclusion that the Agreement of 1974 needed to be re-negotiated, with a view to elaborating a more structured, legal and institutional framework in order to improve and develop further collaboration between the two Organizations.

The Agreement, approved by the Council at its last Session, is now before the Conference for confirmation.

CHAIRMAN

Can I take it that the Conference confirms the Agreement between FAO and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development?

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

The meeting rose at 11.45 hours

La séance est levée à 11 heures 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.45 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2-13 November 2001 Rome, 2-13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2-13 de noviembre de 2001
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
3 November 2001

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours
Mr Majzoub Al-Khalifa Ahmad
Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Majzoub Al-Khalifa Ahmad,
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Majzoub Al-Khalifa Ahmad,
Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS
PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE
PARTE I - ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS

- 7. International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources** (C 2001/16; C 2001/LIM/17)
7. Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques (C 2001/16; C 2001/LIM/17)
7. Compromiso Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos (C 2001/16; C 2001/LIM/17)

CHAIRMAN

In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate, I should like at the beginning of this Session to express my gratitude to the Conference for having elected me as Vice-Chairman which is an honour that extends to my country, Sudan and the African Group. We do hope that this Conference, which is being held under extraordinary circumstances, would arrive at unconventional resolutions and decisions in this twenty-first century.

We now take up the agenda before us. In this respect, I should like to introduce document C 2001/LIM/17 on Genetic Resources.

The Council has entrusted Ambassador Gerbasi, Chairman of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to submit his Report.

Fernando GERBASI (Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura)

Vengo a presentar ante ustedes, en mi calidad de Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, y cumpliendo el mandato que me diera el Consejo de la FAO en su 121º período de sesiones, mi informe sobre el resultado de siete años de negociaciones para revisar el Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura de 1983, armonizado con el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica y tomando en cuenta la Resolución N° 3 del acta final de Nairobi de mayo de 1992.

Esta Conferencia, en su 27º período de sesiones de 1993, pidió al Director General que proporcionase un foro destinado a las negociaciones entre Gobiernos para revisar el Compromiso Internacional, examinar la cuestión del acceso a los recursos fitogenéticos en condiciones mutuamente concertadas, incluyendo las colecciones *ex situ* no comprendidas en el Convenio, así como conseguir que se hicieran realidad los Derechos del Agricultor. Como consecuencia de la Resolución 7/93 se inició en noviembre de 1994, en la Primera Sesión Extraordinaria de la Comisión, el proceso negociador que en definitiva se ha llevado a cabo a través de cinco reuniones extraordinarias y tres reuniones ordinarias de la Comisión, seis reuniones del Grupo de Contacto del Presidente, que se estableció para facilitar las negociaciones, una reunión del Grupo Abierto de Trabajo del Consejo y numerosas consultas informales.

Quiero aprovechar la ocasión para agradecer de manera muy especial a los Gobiernos de Japón, Alemania, Bélgica, Canadá, Dinamarca, España, Holanda, República Islámica de Irán, Italia, Noruega, Reino Unido, Suecia y Suiza, que a lo largo de estos años aportaron recursos financieros, organizaron en algunos casos reuniones y financiaron la participación de delegados de países en vías de desarrollo en todo el proceso.

Las negociaciones se han beneficiado también del excelente apoyo técnico recibido del Grupo Consultivo de Investigaciones Agrícolas, a través del Instituto Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos (IPGRI).

Ciertamente, tengo que felicitar y agradecer a todos los países, y de manera muy particular a los delegados aquí presentes, que con dedicación, entusiasmo y voluntad política buscaron de manera inteligente e imaginativa soluciones a problemas profundamente complejos y novedosos. Razón por la cual el Tratado Internacional que someteré a vuestra consideración es un instrumento

vinculante de vanguardia que viene a llenar un vacío y a crear puentes entre el sector agrícola, el del comercio y el del ambiente.

Mucho de lo que nosotros hemos logrado en nuestras negociaciones se debe también a la permanente presencia de las organizaciones no-gubernamentales que desde hace dos décadas vienen impulsando, con visión de futuro, la adopción de un tratado de esta naturaleza.

Durante cuatro años he tenido el inmenso privilegio y el honor de presidir estas negociaciones. El trabajo ha sido intensamente fuerte, y en múltiples ocasiones vimos nuestros esfuerzos ampliamente recompensados, pero también sufrimos momentos de decaimiento. Fue necesario coraje y voluntad para seguir siempre adelante y ello fue posible por el constante y decidido apoyo que recibí del Profesor José Esquinas Alcázar, Secretario de la Comisión, y de su inseparable compañero de ilusiones, Clive Stannard. Sin ellos, no habiéramos llegado nunca donde estamos. Lo poco que hoy en día sé sobre estos importantes asuntos se lo debo a ellos. Les agradezco a ambos desde lo más profundo de mi corazón.

En un mundo sometido a un rápido proceso de globalización e integración económica, la cuestión de la agro-biodiversidad pone de manifiesto varios tipos de interdependencia que nos deben hacer reflexionar y que sin duda tienen implicaciones importantes.

En general, podemos decir que ningún país del mundo es hoy autosuficiente en lo que respecta a la biodiversidad agrícola y que, la dependencia media entre países para los cultivos más importantes es del 70 por ciento. Paradójicamente, muchos países que son pobres desde el punto de vista económico, por estar en general localizados en zonas tropicales y subtropicales, son ricos fitogenéticamente y en diversidad genética, que son necesarios para la sobrevivencia de la humanidad. La cooperación internacional debe contribuir a una distribución más justa y equitativa de los beneficios derivados del uso de los recursos fitogenéticos, proporcionando un incentivo imprescindible para asegurar que los países sigan desarrollando su diversidad genética, conservándola y manteniéndola a disposición de la humanidad.

Existe también un tipo de interdependencia generacional. La biodiversidad agrícola es un tesoro preciado heredado de las generaciones que nos precedieron y que tenemos la obligación moral de transmitir en su integridad a las generaciones venideras para que puedan mantener sus opciones frente al futuro.

También podemos hablar de dependencia entre recursos fitogenéticos y biotecnología. En general, los recursos fitogenéticos constituyen la materia prima a la que se aplican las biotecnologías, por lo que para la industria, que aplica estas tecnologías, también es fundamental el que los países conserven y mantengan a disposición su riqueza fitogenética.

Este tratado representa un acuerdo justo y equitativo entre países desarrollados y países en vías de desarrollo en la administración de bienes de interés común para la humanidad y de la seguridad alimentaria para esta y futuras generaciones.

Creo expresar el sentimiento de todos aquellos que han estado involucrados en este proceso al decir que hoy estamos satisfechos al presentar ante usted el texto del Tratado Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, que es el resultado del compromiso alcanzado en nuestras negociaciones. El tratado consta de un preámbulo, de seis sesiones, treinta y cinco artículos y dos anejos. Los objetivos del tratado son: la conservación y la utilización sostenible de los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura, y la distribución justa y equitativa de los beneficios derivados de su utilización, en armonía con el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica. Estos objetivos se alcanzarán vinculando estrechamente este tratado con dicho Convenio.

El artículo de los Derechos del Agricultor reconoce el enorme aporte que a lo largo de los tiempos han hecho y siguen haciendo las comunidades autóctonas y locales, es decir, los campesinos del mundo, para conservar, mantener y desarrollar los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura. Se ha convenido que los Derechos del Agricultor sean instrumentados a través de tres elementos esenciales: la protección de los conocimientos tradicionales; la participación equitativa

de los agricultores en la distribución de los beneficios que se obtengan; y el derecho de los agricultores a participar en la adopción de las decisiones, a nivel nacional, sobre asuntos relativos a la conservación y utilización sostenible de los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura.

La columna vertebral de este tratado es el establecimiento de un sistema multilateral novedoso para el acceso y distribución de los beneficios, que incluye provisiones sobre el intercambio de información, el acceso a tecnología y su transferencia, la creación de capacidades nacionales y la distribución justa y equitativa de los beneficios comerciales que se derivan del uso de los recursos fitogenéticos que se adquieren en el sistema.

En verdad, una de las innovaciones más importantes reside en la manera de alcanzar la distribución de los beneficios derivados del uso comercial. Además de las colaboraciones y asociaciones con los sectores públicos y privados, se prevé el pago de una parte equitativa de los beneficios derivados de la comercialización del producto fitogenético, al que se le haya incorporado material procedente del Sistema.

El Sistema Multilateral comenzará con más de 60 géneros y numerosas especies botánicas que incluyen 35 cultivos y 29 plantas forrajeras. Todas ellas figuran en el Anejo N° 1 que, según cálculos aproximados, supondría más del 80 por ciento de insumos en caloría requeridos para la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Es de esperar que en la medida en que se comprueben las bondades y eficacia del Sistema, los Gobiernos Miembros decidan de manera inteligente ampliar esta lista, para incrementar así también los posibles beneficios para todos.

En lo que respecta a los recursos financieros, el Órgano Rector elaborará y mantendrá bajo revisión una estrategia de financiación cuya finalidad será potenciar la disponibilidad, transparencia, eficacia y efectividad del suministro de recursos financieros para la ejecución de las actividades del Tratado Internacional. Con tal fin, el Órgano Rector fijará periódicamente una meta, es decir, la cantidad necesaria estimada de los fondos a obtener. De conformidad con esta estrategia de financiación, se ha convenido la forma y manera en que se movilizarán recursos financieros de fuentes múltiples de financiación para programas y proyectos que permitirán la implementación eficiente del Plan de Acción Mundial sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos negociado en Leipzig en 1996. Se prevén también aportes financieros de los países, en particular los desarrollados, y las contribuciones voluntarias originarias de los propios países, del sector privado, de las Organizaciones no Gubernamentales y de otras fuentes.

Este Tratado entrará en vigor cuando sea depositado el cuadragésimo instrumento de ratificación. Aprovecho la oportunidad para hacer un llamado a todos los países para que agilicen, oportunamente, sus procesos constitucionales de ratificación.

Formalmente propongo que se eliminen los tres corchetes existentes y se mantengan los tres textos tal como están en el Tratado, de forma tal que se lean de la manera siguiente. En lo que respecta a las definiciones por "recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura" se entiende cualquier material genético de origen vegetal de valor real o potencial para la alimentación y la agricultura; por "material genético" se entiende cualquier material de origen vegetal, incluido el material reproductivo y de propagación vegetativa, que contiene unidades funcionales de herencia; y finalmente, el Artículo 12.3 inciso (d) leería textualmente así: los receptores no reclamarán ningún derecho de propiedad intelectual o de otra índole que limite el acceso facilitado a los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura, sus partes o componentes genéticos, en la forma recibida del Sistema Multilateral.

Manteniendo los tres textos como he propuesto, que son los textos originales que están en el Tratado, pero sin corchetes, tenemos entonces una propuesta completamente limpia.

De conformidad con el Artículo XIV de la Constitución de la FAO y con la venia del Embajador de Cuba, propongo formalmente, en nombre del Grupo de los 77 más China, que esta Conferencia adopte el texto del Tratado sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura tal como lo he sugerido, sin corchete alguno, así como su resolución conexas contenidas en el documento C 2001/LIM/17.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Ambassador Gerbasi for this introduction and for the strenuous efforts through the formal and informal meetings. I should like to thank the scientific bodies for their contributions, extensive and scientific consideration and negotiations which enables the sustainable use of genetic plant resources. This work is now ready for consideration.

I should like to refer to the ex President from Chile who referred to this problem with regards to facilitating sustainable use and access to solve the food problems of developing and poor countries. I should like to thank His Excellency the Ambassador for having submitted this proposal on behalf of the Group of 77 and China with the three expressions of reservations and with reference to the text that should be reserved of Article 12.3(d).

Jan BORRING (Norway)

On behalf of the European Region, I would like to support the proposal from Ambassador Gerbasi and on behalf the G 77 to remove the remaining brackets and adopt the text of this Treaty.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

It seems that the Group of 77, China and Europe have examined the matter and support it.

Costa Ricky MAHALU (United Republic of Tanzania)

I will be speaking on behalf of the Africa Group, stating Africa's position on plant genetic resources and expressing our agreement, emphasizing the position that has just been put forward by the Group of 77.

First of all, the Africa Group expresses its congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, upon your election as Vice-Chairman of this Conference, and wishes you all the best.

FAO estimates that the world has lost 90 percent of its crop genetic resources during the twentieth century. One of the essential bases for sustainable agriculture is the diversity of crops and other species, especially in the face of shrinking resources in climate change. It is the farmers, in the developing countries of the world, who still maintain untapped genetic resources. We have been negotiating, for seven long years, to obtain recognition of their role and their right to inequitable and fair share of the benefits that derive from the use of these resources by developed countries.

The former International Undertaking was based on the notion that plant genetic resources are the common heritage of mankind and did not recognize national sovereignty of biological resources. The idea and the practice was that the PGR could be, and were, accessed freely all over the world, in the latter half of the twentieth century and thousands of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) were collected worldwide, in general, without any regard for national sovereignty.

Now, with the entry into force of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), national sovereignty over biological resources was recognized. However, PGR for food and agriculture were not specifically dealt with in the Convention and farmers' crop varieties continue to be freely accessed, with little regard for the rights of the farmers who had produced, cultivated and nurtured them over generations. In recognition of this situation, the 1993 Conference of FAO requested the PGR Commission to revise the former International Undertaking and harmonize it with the legally binding international instrument, the Convention of Biological Diversity.

Since then, the Convention has held numerous meetings, as we have just stated, of the full Commission Contact Group, as well as informal meetings, over the past seven years. These

extended and difficult negotiations, under the skillful and patient guidance of Chairman Ambassador Gerbasi, and with the untiring help of the Secretary of the Commission, Dr José Esquinas-Alcázar, and members of the Secretariat, have had to include consideration of a wide range of issues with implications for all aspects of food security and sustainable development. These include access to PGRs, farmers' rights, benefit sharing measures, funding mechanisms and effectively the implementation of the Global Plan of Action approved at the Fourth FAO Technical Conference on PGRFA in Leipzig in 1996.

The mechanism which has been agreed to balance access to plant genetic resources and the benefit sharing from its utilization is a multilateral system, with contracting parties providing PGRFA to other parties on a free and facilitated basis, while those receiving and utilizing them will contribute to a common funding mechanism for implementation of programmes and activities to ensure the conservation and sustainable utilization of these resources for present and future generations.

The Treaty contains articles that recognize the role of farmers as breeders and conservers of PGRFA and the need to support their role in continuing these activities.

Contracting parties will have facilitated access to the plant genetic resources of other parties that are in the public domain.

However, one of the weaknesses of the Treaty is that many developed countries have effectively excluded access to resources that are in private institutions and continue to privatize collections of genetic resources that were formally in public hands. This represents a serious imbalance in commitment to the Treaty, since virtually all PGRFA in developing countries are in the public domain while in developed countries more and more are being privatized and progressively being more locked into IPR systems.

The central aim of the negotiations has been to establish a multilateral system in which as many countries as possible agree to common rules of conservation, exchange and benefit sharing pertaining to genetic resources accessed from the system. The main objective of the Treaty is to enable the free flow of material, which is central for agriculture development and crop improvement initiatives, for global food security and to share the benefits which arise from this free flow.

With regard to benefit sharing arrangements, the Treaty spells out a series of non-commercial benefits of considerable potential value to developing countries, such as capacity building, the exchange of information of PGRFA, access to and the transfer of technology and sharing of monetary and other benefits of commercialization. However, the implementation of these measures requires financial commitment. The implementation of the priority activities of the Global Plan of Action on the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of PGRFA, agreed in 1996, requires financial commitment.

Moreover, while articles in the Treaty defining financial mechanism and strategy have been agreed, to date there is no formal commitment from developed countries on funding.

The sales of seeds, bred and developed using these genetic resources, run into tens of billions of dollars annually. It has been estimated that the implementation of the plants and programmes for the conservation and utilization of PGRFA, contemplated in the Treaty, would cost around US\$ 400 million a year. Without the implementation of these programmes, losses to the world's PGRFA will continue. We have, therefore, to halt and revise the trend in order to secure our future.

Otherwise, if I may paraphrase some wise words from the American Continent: "When the last local crop variety has been lost, when the last disease resistance gene has disappeared, we will discover that money is nothing, money is not everything".

Criticisms have been levelled at developing countries for not extending the list of crops included for facilitating access. After many long deliberations, a list of crops to be included in the multilateral facility access system has been achieved. It contains around 40 species of crops and

30 species of forage crops and legumes. It includes all the major cereals and staples and approximately 85 percent of crops essential for world food security. This list includes almost all the crops in the programmes of the International Research Institute of the Consultation Group on International Agriculture and Research System.

We should remember that the original sources of most of these PGRFA is in the developing countries.

Much has been made of the fact that the list could have been longer. We, in Africa, have maintained the position since the beginning of the negotiations that we would prefer to have no list. If we could be assured of a fair and equitable benefiting sharing arrangements in the Treaty, we are willing to have all crops included in the multilateral system. However, it became clear that benefit sharing and, in particular, commercial benefit sharing is not as developed, defined and secured as are the conditions for access.

While the conditions for facility access have been more precisely spelled out, the article of sharing of commercial benefits has been left for fuller implementation only after review five years after coming into force of the Treaty. We could also mention that the lists proposed by some developed country regions contains species that, in our view, have no direct bearing on world food security, such as ginseng, poppies, hazelnuts, etc.

In spite of the fact that we recognize that there are weaknesses in the Treaty as it stands, Africa is prepared to adopt this International Treaty on PGRFA. In the interest of promoting global food security and sustainable development, Africa is prepared to make its valuable plant genetic resources available to Contracting Parties for further breeding, research and sustainable use.

We expect that our goodwill will be reciprocated by equal commitment by all contracting parties. We think it is appropriate to raise an African proverb here: "When all the men in the village go out on a hunting mission, why should one of them not receive his share of the meat?"

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Mary T. CHAMBLISS (United States of America)

First of all, let me add my congratulations to you for your election to be our Chairperson to lead this important activity.

I also want to extend our thanks to Ambassador Gerbasi and to all of the other delegates who we know have worked so tirelessly on this Treaty, a subject which the United States fully understands the importance of.

However, before entering into discussion of the actual text of this proposed Treaty, the United States would like to raise an issue which we first brought to the Conference's attention in our comments which were submitted on 21 September on the then Draft Undertaking, and which have also been raised in the extensive discussions that have preceded today's meetings.

There is one omission from today's proposed text that stands as a barrier to the United States' ratification, separate and independent of any substantive issues in this current text.

To help address this requirement of the United States, we have proposed the insertion of a new separate, free-standing article that would read as follows: "Nothing in this Treaty shall be construed to prevent a Contracting Party from taking any action that it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests".

This article is modelled after a provision of GATT Article XX. Provisions of this nature are not uncommon in international agreements, particularly those agreements involving the transfer of goods.

We have consulted widely on this provision in recent days, in addition to having raised it in the Open-ended Working Group and at the Hundred and Twenty-first Council Session. While this

Conference has the authority to decide on whether to accept this Article, we regret that our consultations have indicated that countries are not, at this time, in a position to take a decision on the addition of this proposed text. Therefore, we are not seeking a decision by the Conference concerning this Article.

However, in our legislative system, the United States Senate must ratify and approve a treaty. Therefore, we wanted to be very certain that all the countries understand that the United States will not be able to send a Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources forward to the United States Senate for its advice and consent to ratify without this issue having been resolved to the satisfaction of the United States.

Having noted the previous discussion and the actions thus far, I think I also need to raise one other substantive issue with the actual text that the good Ambassador has proposed to us to consider.

During the negotiations on Article 12.3(d), it was revealed to us that there is a lack of clarity in the language in this Article. This lack of clarity is of significant concern to the United States and, we think, should be of concern to other countries as they seek to respect intellectual property rights. In the face of this ambiguity, the Council Open-ended Working Group heard a proposal to delete that specific text, i.e. 12.3(d). At this point in time, the United States would like to put forward this proposal to the Conference Members. Therefore, we propose a deletion of the text in that Article – which would be the second set of brackets that the good Ambassador referred to – and we would request a vote on this motion by show of hands.

CHAIRMAN

Could I draw to everyone's attention that all the contributions which are scheduled will take place after this vote requested by the United States of America. The motion is that Article 12.3(d) be deleted.

We will now put this to the vote.

Perhaps we could ask the Secretariat what has to be done so that we can vote by a show of hands.

SECRETARY GENERAL

As we proceed to this vote, the first action I would like to do is to establish the number of countries present. Therefore, when I indicate, would you kindly press the green button? This is now only to establish the number of countries present and I will indicate when you should do so.

May I confirm that all Members present have pressed the green button? If all Members have done so, I will now ask for the printout and ascertain the number of Members present.

I am going to close this aspect of the voting.

The count of Members present is 108, the required quorum is 92. May we proceed to the show of hands.

Point of order

Point d'ordre

Point de Orden

Júlio Cesar GOMES DOS SANTOS (Brazil)

I would ask you or the distinguished delegate of the United States or Ambassador Gerbasi to repeat what the distinguished delegation of the United States of America want. We have a proposition from the Chairman of our Group of Plant Genetic Resources to drop the three brackets. There is another proposition from the distinguished delegation of the United States, and we would like this to be explained again.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

The United States had expressed reservations about what was in the square brackets but they had asked that we take a vote on 12.3d) and that vote would be for its deletion. That is all. I think that is quite clear, so I think we may now proceed to vote.

Point of order

Point d'ordre

Point de Orden

TANG SHENGYAO (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to ask the Secretariat to clarify one point. The proposal from the United States is to vote for the deletion of 12.3d) and he wants a vote by a show of hands. We have just been informed that the vote has to be by a show of hands. The delegates should be informed of this request in advance.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

What we will now do is just take this vote. It is by a simple majority. We will now vote on the proposal from the United States that 12.3(d) be deleted. That is now up for voting.

Could we now vote on for or against deletion of 12.3(d).

Vote

Vote

Votación

SECRETARY GENERAL

FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

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

ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTACION

03/11/2001
15.34.56

Vote on:
Vote sur:
Votación para:

Amendment to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Interim Arrangements proposed by the United States of America

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Show of hands vote/ Vote a main levee/ Votación ordinaria

Present/ Présents/ Presentes	107
Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	107
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	54
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	10
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	97
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	3
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	73

NOT ADOPTED/ NON ADOPTÉE/ NO ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Given that deletion of this article has been rejected by the Conference, we will now look at the Undertaking. We will now consider adoption of this and we will put it to the vote. This requires a two-thirds majority and we will now ask the Secretariat to run the vote. Those who wish to explain their vote, they will be able to do so after the vote has been taken.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will now explain the voting procedure, which is a roll-call vote.

Article XIV, paragraph 1 of the Constitution stipulates that, and I quote, "The Conference may by a two-third's majority of votes cast and in conformity with rules adopted by the Conference, approve and submit to Member Nations, conventions and agreements concerning questions related to food and agriculture.

According to Rule XII paragraph 7(a) of the General Rules, a vote by roll-call shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds is required by the Constitution.

Rule XII, paragraph 3(c) of the General Rule stipulates that when a two-third's majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one-half of the Member Nations of the Organization."

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We have had the procedure explained to us now by the Secretariat and we will now proceed with the vote on the text, as just has been explained to you.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The voting procedure requires us once more to establish the number of Members present and we will do that. The quorum required is 92.

In order for us to do that, I will ask you, when I indicate, if you are going to participate to press the green button, in this case press the green button. Please do so now.

Sra. Lilia ROMERO PEREIRA (Paraguay)

Perdone, pero ¿cuántos son los dos tercios, porque en la traducción sale 92 y, si las matemáticas no engañan, son 72?.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Perhaps Legal Counsel could help us here, perhaps you could make the necessary explanations.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The number mentioned by the Secretary-General is the number of Members needed to be present as quorum, so the quorum is 50 percent of the Membership of the Organization, since all Members are allowed to vote, so the quorum is 92, because we have 183 Members. Fifty percent is 92, plus 1 of course.

I hope this clarifies this situation. It is nothing to do with the majority. This is only to establish whether we have the quorum, whether we can proceed to a vote.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We close the count of the quorum and we request the printout of the quorum.

We have established that a quorum is present. The Chair will now read the Item that we are voting on, after which I will again proceed to the next phase of the voting.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

The vote is on an agreement under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution which is reproduced in C 2001/LIM/17 and its Appendices in their entirety. C 2001/LIM/17 is the text on which we will vote. This is Draft International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

Just to make it absolutely crystal clear, this is text C 2001/LIM/17. That is to say, the three brackets have been removed.

As we have already said, this vote is going to be taken on the Undertaking on this document C 2001/LIM/17 and the Resolution contained in it. This also entails the fact that the square brackets have been removed.

TANG SHENGYAO (China) (Original language Chinese)

You have already answered a question which I wanted to ask just now, namely, on the subject matter of our vote. Are we voting on the Resolution contained in C 2001/LIM/17? We have listened to the explanation from the Secretariat; now we have understood that we are voting on this document.

Vote**Vote****Votación****SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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

03/11/2001
15.48.40

Vote on: Adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Interim Arrangements for its Implementation
Vote sur: Adoption du traité international sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et dispositions provisoires en vue de son application
Votacion para: Aprobación del tratado internacional sobre los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura y disposiciones provisionales para su aplicación

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	Present/ Présents/ Presentes	116
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida		77
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables		116
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra		0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones		2
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta		65

Votes For: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, C.A.R., Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Congo Dem.Rep, Congo Rep, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, D.P. Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egipt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, The F.Y.Rep. of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, U.A.E., U.K., Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions: Japan, U.S.A.
Abstenciones:

No Reply: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Arzerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Cook Islands, Croatia, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea Rep., Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niue, Oman, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, ST. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincente and the Grenadines, Suriname, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vanatu, Yugoslavia

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I think this shows clearly that we have all accepted the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as a new binding international agreement, thanks to the good will and spirit of compromise of all those who participated in the negotiations.

Therefore, this agreement has been adopted by this Session of the Conference.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I just wanted to thank all of you very sincerely for all the efforts you have made to arrive at a consensus on this very difficult matter. I think the achievement of today is really an indication that there is a will within this Organization to solve problems. Our job is to deal with problems and find solutions. If there were no problems we would not be here. We have the capacity, we have the will, and we have the faith in what we are doing. We also have diplomats of very high quality like my friend Ambassador Gerbasi who has spent so much time, mornings, days and nights, devoted to this issue.

This has been a work of so many years, and so many countries around the world contributed by participating in discussions, by coming up with solutions and with ways and means for bringing together views for achieving compromises. Also many Governments contributed funds or hosted us in their countries. These efforts were for us to arrive at a Treaty, which will, I am sure, be a very historic one.

(continues in Spanish)

Yo quisiera de nuevo darles las gracias y particularmente a mi amigo, el Embajador de Venezuela, pero también a todas las personas que han jugado un papel tan importante para que podamos decir hoy que tenemos un éxito.

Y si hemos tenido éxito en esta negociación tan difícil, yo estoy convencido que es posible llegar a resultados positivos en todo lo que estamos haciendo en favor de las poblaciones pobres del mundo. Y si es posible, estamos seguro de lo que Miguel de Unamuno dijo: lo importante no es vencer sino convencer. Hoy día hemos mostrado la fuerza de nuestra capacidad de compromiso y negociación.

Yo quisiera dar gracias a cada uno, a cada una de ustedes por este éxito.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Once again I would like to thank you all for this achievement. I would like to thank Ambassador Gerbasi. I would also like to thank the Director-General and the Secretariat for their efforts they have made. We have ended and completed Item 7. Before we move to Item 14, I will open the floor and the first speaker will be Australia.

Simon HEARN (Australia)

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on this achievement. After considerable deliberation, Australia has opted to vote today for adoption by this Conference of the text of the Treaty on Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and we are, indeed, delighted to see its adoption.

Australia has participated enthusiastically and consistently over many years in the development of this text. We have chosen to do so because we believe firmly in the global need for an effective and workable system of exchange for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Accordingly, Australia will strive to ensure that a workable system, based on the provisions of this text, is achieved in practice. This is essential if this Treaty is to achieve its objectives in a realistic manner.

Australia wishes to strongly emphasize four main issues which are considered necessary for the purposes of practical implementation.

Firstly, the provisions in Article 12.3(d) and Article 2 of the text remain ambiguous with regard to scope and application of Intellectual Property Rights by participating countries. This is a highly regrettable situation which could undermine this Treaty. Australia places on the record that, it considers, the wording in 12.3(d) and associated Articles do not impinge in any way on national Intellectual Property Rights, laws and policies. Australia will insist on the mutual respect within this Treaty, for the national Intellectual Property Right laws of Member Nations. To do otherwise, could undermine this agreement and all the hard work which has been put into its development.

Australia wishes to state that it will ensure that recipients will continue to be able to seek Intellectual Property Rights for innovations developed from the use of material accessed under the multilateral system under this Treaty, provided they meet the relevant conditions and standards in accordance with national laws.

Secondly, Australia wishes to state that this Treaty cannot and does not change the existing rights and obligations of the contracting parties under other international agreements.

Thirdly, the multilateral system must be applied in a commercially realistic way to facilitate open exchange of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture based on fair and equitable sharing of benefits. It will be essential that the material transfer agreements, which will underpin this Treaty, are commercially realistic, in order to facilitate and encourage exchange and development of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for the benefit of all parties. The proposed Governing Body Interim Committee, an experts group, must address this matter with urgency to secure the confidence of all parties.

Fourth and finally, it is desirable that the list of crops included under the Multilateral System should be assessed and extended at the earliest opportunity. A wider list can only add to the benefits and potential achievement of this Treaty. Exclusion of some important crops has the potential to distort the system of exchange with negative implications for the objectives of this Treaty.

Masato ITO (Japan)

I would like to congratulate Ambassador Gerbasi on the conclusion of this difficult negotiation. I would also like to express my gratitude to all participants who made their utmost effort to conclude this negotiation, which lasted for more than seven years.

I have abstained from voting for the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The government of Japan fully recognizes the importance of the conservation and the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for the benefit of present and future generations. Japan has actively participated in this negotiation in good faith since the beginning.

Significant progress has been made in the last week. However, we have grave concerns regarding Article 12.3(d) and the definition of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the text. Therefore, I abstained and decided to bring this adopted text back to the capital and examine the consistency with our national legislation.

Our delegation requests that this statement be included in the official record of this meeting.

Nuri Ibrahim HASAN (Libya) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Vice-Chairman of the Conference in its Thirty-first Session.

I am speaking as a Member of the Contact Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and I am speaking on behalf of the Near East. I would like to congratulate Ambassador Gerbasi for this great achievement.

I would like to say that I am the one who made the least effort in the Contact Group and Mr Gerbasi knows that very well. However, in spite of that I feel that I am quite satisfied with the result because this burden which had been laid upon our shoulders is now off us, so I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Mr Gerbasi for the efforts he made and for this achievement. I would like to thank all the countries because we have all accepted the International Undertaking for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Ms Diane VINCENT (Canada)

Canada congratulates the Commission on Genetic Resources for concluding the negotiations on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We are pleased to support this Agreement and we thank Ambassador Gerbasi and his predecessors, the Secretariat as well as the negotiators, for their hard work.

(continues in French)

Le Canada sait qu'il est impossible pour un seul pays de conserver toutes les ressources phytogénétiques de toutes les plantes cultivées dont il aura besoin. Nous devons tous travailler ensemble ou nous allons tous perdre les bénéfices de la conservation et l'utilisation de ces ressources génétiques. Pour le Canada, ce Traité signifie que la diversité génétique des plantes cultivées sera conservée et se retrouvera davantage dans les mains des scientifiques et des sélectionneurs. Le développement de nouveaux cultivars est critique pour améliorer la productivité agricole et pour permettre la mise en oeuvre de nouvelles techniques en harmonie avec l'environnement.

(continues in English)

We are very pleased that Member Nations of FAO have agreed on significant provisions concerning the conservation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, their sustainable use facilitated access to them for research, breeding and education, benefit sharing arrangements, a funding strategy and the important collections managed by international agricultural research centres.

Canada was an active participant in the negotiations. We recognize that the Treaty, as is the case for most international instruments, is a compromise achieved after lengthy, difficult and arduous negotiations. Throughout the negotiations, efforts were made to arrive at a text that could accommodate as many interests as possible.

Canada wishes to highlight the importance of intellectual property as a tool for stimulating innovation and further research, with a view to achieving sustainable agriculture and improving global food security. The provisions in Article 12.3(d) are regrettably ambiguous in this respect.

In supporting this Treaty, we consider that its provisions do not in any way modify or limit intellectual property rights as protected by international agreements. As well, we are of the view that nothing in this Treaty modifies or limits intellectual property rights, or the exercise and enjoyment thereof, as provided for and protected by national laws and practices.

It is with this understanding of mutual respect for national laws and practices that the Government of Canada will address the issue of signature and ratification of this Agreement in full consultation with all Canadian stakeholders.

It is gratifying that countries with such diverse interest and experiences can come together in this way to build an Agreement that will contribute to agricultural sustainability and alleviate hunger in the world.

Zacharie PÉRÉVET (Cameroun)

La délégation camerounaise pour la première fois qu'elle prend la parole voudrait d'abord vous féliciter pour votre élection, féliciter également les Membres de votre bureau et apprécie à sa juste valeur la conduite qui veut être imprimée à notre Conférence. Nous voudrions remercier très sincèrement et féliciter le Comité qui a eu à travailler sur ce dossier très important et surtout son Président. Le texte était si important que je me suis trompé la première fois qu'il fallait voter. C'est effectivement tellement important qu'au lieu de faire le positif j'ai fait le négatif. Mais j'ai eu l'occasion de me rattraper lors du vrai vote, donc je tenais à le souligner parce que c'est effectivement important. C'est vrai, il faut reconnaître que tout le monde ne peut pas trouver le maximum du consensus. Où nous sommes arrivés, je voudrais une fois de plus remercier le Comité.

Mohammad Saeed NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

First, let me congratulate you on the Chair of this very important session.

Ambassador Gerbasi, during this whole process, I have never envied you except for the last moment when you received a kiss from Ms Fresco and a hug from the Director-General. Let me appreciate your outstanding leadership, your diplomatic excellence and your high negotiation skills in the whole process.

Mr Ambassador, you have done, and you have lead, a "mission impossible" to a successful conclusion. Congratulations.

I also seize this opportunity to thank Mr Esquinas-Alcázar and Mr Stannard for the excellent job they have done, for their expertise, experience, dedication and very hard work.

I shall not fail to congratulate and thank Ms Fresco for her leadership, of course, in remote control mode.

On behalf of my country, and as the host of one of the meetings of the negotiation, and as the representative of the Near East Group in this negotiation, I would like, after this preamble that I have done, I ask my colleague who has done the main job, Dr Mozafari, to take the floor. He has the text we would like to introduce to the floor.

Javad MOZAFARI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I am glad that this is over now. I think that everyone of us can go home now and have a good sleep tonight.

My country has been very active right from the beginning of this negotiation, and also the Near East Region has contributed more than any other region to the real content of this Treaty, which is the Crop Genetic Resources listed in Annex 1 of this Treaty.

We have faith in this Treaty, although we think that the present text is far from perfect. However, it is just a starting point and we hope it will improve even better. Therefore, we give our whole support to this Treaty and we hope it will be just interpreted with a view of achieving food security around the world.

There are still concerns regarding different issues, most important being the misinterpretation of the Articles related to IPR, which might result in the drainage of the plant genetic resources out of the system. At that time, of course, countries who provided the plant genetic resources would not be the only ones to lose, but everybody will lose.

For the independence of this Treaty, it is important that it shall not be subordinate to any other international treaties.

We also believe that effective implementation of this Treaty depends upon the harmonious implementation of all the provisions of this Treaty, in particular the provisions relating to funding strategies, benefit sharing arrangements and avoiding the restrictive features of IPR-related provisions.

Finally, we hope there will be an evaluation mechanism in order to improve the system to ensure its efficacy in achieving food security.

Mrs Neela GANGADHARAN (India)

Let me first express my delegation's appreciation for the able way in which you are handling this important session.

On behalf of the Government of India, I wish to express our happiness at the conclusion of the negotiation and the adoption of a new Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. Words fail me when I try to express our feelings for the role played by Ambassador Gerbasi. I can only say, may we have more people like him. I will fail in my duty if I do not acknowledge the devotion shown and a selfless service rendered by Mr Esquinas and Mr Clive Stannard. Their service truly contributed also to the outcome. I thank also on this occasion all the Member Nations who participated in this important negotiation.

Understandably, the issues surrounding the Treaty have been the subject of long and hard debate but that only reflects the importance of the issues involved. India is one of the mega biodiversity centres of the world. Agriculture in India, which supports 65 percent of the population, which translates to 650 million persons, is the product of several millennia of on-farm experimentation and innovation by farmers. Any system which addresses the concerns of food security and agricultural development must recognize the traditional pool of knowledge that is inherent in farming and tribal communities and traditional people.

We are happy that the Treaty acknowledges the critical issue of farmers' rights, and that it recognizes the enormous contribution of local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world towards the conservation and development of plant and genetic resources, which constitute the basis of food and agricultural production.

India strongly believes that facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture within the Multilateral System presupposes a fair and equitable benefit-sharing arrangement, particularly from the point of view of gene-rich countries. Sharing of benefits arising from the use of plant genetic resources accessed from such gene pools is essential for the sustenance of the multilateral system. India has consistently emphasized the importance of an effective benefit sharing arrangement and funding mechanism and this will form, in our opinion, a key element of the new Treaty.

We hope that all parties to this Treaty realize the importance of a transparent and predictable funding strategy for the Treaty and the fact that IPR should not stymie the system. The issues relating to funding strategy, scope of IPRs and coverage of the Multilateral System are closely interlinked.

The effectiveness of the Treaty will depend on harmonious resolution of these issues in the light of experience over time.

We strongly believe that the provisions of this Undertaking should be implemented in harmony with the provisions of other relevant international agreements, in such a way that they are mutually supported with a view to achieving sustainable development, but we would assert that the International Undertaking should not be subordinate to any other international agreement.

Once again, I wish to reiterate our happiness at the adoption of the Treaty. The Government of India will extend its full cooperation in implementing a Treaty that will form the basis of an effective instrument for the preservation of plant genetic resources, while ensuring food security and facilitating agricultural development.

This is an historic Treaty but whether it will become history or will become an anachronism is in the hands of all of us, in the way in which we carry the implementation forward. We should pledge today to implement the Treaty with the same vigour with which we supported its adoption.

Datuk Mohd Effendi Bin NORWAWI (Malaysia)

The Malaysian delegation joins the others in congratulating you in your superb Chairmanship of this historic and significant meeting.

Malaysia has actively participated in the long seven-year negotiating process and we are very pleased indeed on the adoption by this Conference of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Members of the Commission on the Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture have negotiated hard on the text of the Treaty, in particular farmers' rights, benefit sharing, financial strategy, intellectual property rights and the list of crops in the multilateral system. For this long and difficult process, Malaysia would again express our thanks to His Excellency Mr Fernando Gerbasi, Chairman of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, for his excellent Chairmanship, and to Mr José Esquinas- Alcázar, Mr Clive Stannard, and others who provided excellent secretarial services. We would also like to thank the Government of Venezuela for allowing Mr Gerbasi to chair the negotiating meetings, and all the sponsors of such meetings.

In this age of globalization, this Treaty, indeed, is providing an international framework for the globalization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. In this framework agreement, we have negotiated hard to ensure that it will provide many more winners and many fewer losers, or, if possible, no losers at all, but only winners, from the facilitated access and exchange of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. We have tried very hard during the negotiation to promote an enlightened form of globalization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture that is caring and productive for all, an enlightened globalization that will ensure the common development of all, not only across the world but also within out individual countries. We believe that this International Treaty, if implemented effectively by all countries, will serve well the interest of both the rich and poor countries.

Malaysia believes that the present negotiated text will provide a good example of a globalization network that our Prime Minister would call a productive, caring and compassionate globalization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Malaysia hopes that we can begin immediately the implementation of this historic Treaty.

Ms Mary T. CHAMBLISS (United States of America)

First, I too want to recognize and appreciate all the hard work of Ambassador Gerbasi and the many, many others who, I understand, have spent seven years working on a very complicated difficult subject. The dedication of everyone who has been involved is certainly to be commended by all of us.

For many years, the United States, through its National Plant Germplasm System, has been in the forefront of efforts to promote the conservation, the preservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The United States has also been a major financial supporter of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research System and many national research centres in many countries. These and many other investments, including our full participation and dedication to the negotiations of this Treaty, reflect our commitment to the goals of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and also reflects our will to continue to solve problems.

Regrettably, however, the text of the Treaty as adopted today in our view does have some serious flaws. We have previously stated our concerns with certain key provisions of this text. Central to these concerns is our interest in protecting the integrity of intellectual property rights in order to promote innovation and to promote investment and plant genetic resource conservation, breeding and, again, sustainable use. When we have tried to clarify, through the negotiating process, what we thought Article 12.3(d) and the related definitions article was intended to mean, such clarification has not been forthcoming. We have heard other delegates mention that they too have some concern with the lack of clarity of these Articles. Therefore, we have serious reservations

about moving forward on a binding Treaty text which contains such lack of clarity that is of concern to at least several delegations in this Session. Accordingly, the US voted to delete the text of Article 12.3(d) and I understand that this will be reflected in the record of these meetings.

We have also explained why, in the lengthy negotiations, that in our view the current crop list falls far short of the needs for global food security. Again, we understand that we are not the only government that expresses this concern with the current list in this Treaty.

Finally, our efforts to introduce a standard "essential security" provision were unavailing, notwithstanding that we explained in the clearest terms that we knew how its absence would preclude the United States of America from ratifying this Treaty. As I stated in my first intervention, this is something that we will have to come back to. For these reasons, the United States of America had to abstain on this vote.

Réné POISMANS (Belgique)

La Norvège, au nom de la région Europe, déclarera notre position générale sur ce nouveau Traité. La Communauté européenne et ses États Membres appuie pleinement la déclaration que fera la Norvège au nom du Groupe régional européen. Elle tient toutefois à remercier et à féliciter les autres délégations, le Secrétariat de la Commission pour les ressources génétiques de la FAO et finalement, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Gerbasi, qui a si magnifiquement présidé ces négociations.

Pour la Communauté européenne et ses États Membres, l'adoption de ce Traité constitue non seulement l'aboutissement d'efforts considérables mais aussi et surtout la base sur laquelle nous travaillerons tous ensemble au développement d'un système multilatéral efficace d'accès et de partage des avantages et à la mise en œuvre du Plan Global d'Action de Leipzig pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. L'accès facilité aux ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture est le principal pilier sur lequel est construit ce Traité et apporte un bénéfice important à toutes les parties. A cet égard, l'Article 12 du Traité revêt une importance particulière, puisqu'il vise à assurer un accès facilité continu dans le cadre du système multilatéral.

Pendant les négociations, des craintes furent exprimées sur sa mise en œuvre, en particulier pour ce qui se rapporte aux droits de propriété intellectuelle. La Communauté européenne et ses États Membres interprètent le paragraphe 12.3(d) d comme reconnaissant que les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture ou leurs parties et composantes génétiques ayant été sujet d'innovations peuvent être l'objet de droits de propriété intellectuelle pour autant que les critères relatifs à de tels droits soient satisfaits.

Cependant, nous souhaitons réaffirmer notre conviction que la mise en œuvre du paragraphe 12.3(d) suivant cette interprétation ne soustraira pas de ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture du système multilatéral et sera en pleine conformité avec un accès facilité continu à ces ressources phylogénétiques.

En conclusion, la Communauté européenne et ses États Membres attendent avec impatience de commencer, dans le cadre du Comité intérimaire, le travail préparatoire pour la mise en œuvre effective de ce Traité international sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Juán NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Saludamos su Presidencia teniendo en cuenta que le ha tocado presidir dentro de este 31^o período de sesiones, un importante acontecimiento con gran acierto.

Hoy hemos concluido una etapa, después de una larga y compleja negociación de más de siete años; ahora debe comenzar otra etapa con un manifestado desafío. Momento sensible, especialmente por lo que entiendo necesario destacar y reconocer, ha sido una gran demostración de la política multilateral y, como expresó el Director General de la FAO, sin vencedores ni vencidos; y así lo analizamos en una larga y reciente reunión del Grupo de los 77.

Ha sido, en general, un triunfo de los pueblos, de los agricultores. Deseamos manifestar nuestro reconocimiento al Embajador Fernando Gerbasi, Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, cuyo liderazgo ha sido ampliamente resaltado por todos los presentes; a todos aquellos que han trabajado abnegadamente en todos estos años para lograr estos objetivos, y en particular al Profesor José Esquinas Alcázar. En general, es un reconocimiento a la FAO que con esto ha logrado sus objetivos después de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

Mahmud DUWAYRI (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are the main concern of all countries which depend on plant resources from elsewhere. The conservation, discovery and documentation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture constitute main and major factors for meeting the objectives of the Rome Declaration and the World Food Summit. Plant genetic resources are the main raw materials which are indispensable for the cultivation of crops, whether by farmers or their traditional farming methods or modern techniques of farming. They are fundamental in coping with unforeseen and unpredicted environmental changes. Safeguarding seeds in farms and other resources and the exchange of these resources, the exchange of the efficient uses of genetic plant resources for food and agriculture and equal and equitable sharing, are considered the bases for safeguarding farmers' rights, in addition to their national and international value. We fully recognize that questions related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are the meeting point of agricultural and trade sectors.

I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate my congratulations to FAO and to all its Members for this outstanding achievement, considering the importance of this historic day. I should likewise like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all those who contributed to it over the past years, particularly Ambassador Gerbasi for his invaluable efforts, and the Secretariat of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for their invaluable efforts throughout the past years.

In conclusion, I should like us all to cooperate and to work towards the implementation of all the provisions of this Treaty, considering its importance for food and agriculture and the liberation of hundreds and thousands of hungry people.

David BLANCO ZABALA (Bolivia)

En nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, quiero extenderle nuestras felicitaciones por haber sido elegido como Vicepresidente de esta 31ª Conferencia y particularmente por conducir nuestras deliberaciones en un momento histórico para esta Institución y para sus Países Miembros.

El Director General ha sido muy elocuente en su cita de Unamuno, "*no es importante vencer sino convencer*" y en esa línea nuestra región ve en la aprobación del Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, nuevas esperanzas para el futuro de las generaciones venideras.

La interdependencia que existe entre países desarrollados y países en desarrollo pone de manifiesto la existencia, en este caso, del primer instrumento internacional que se ocupa de la conservación y utilización sostenible de los recursos fitogenéticos. Este logro no hubiese sido posible sin la participación y entrega de un distinguido latinoamericano y venezolano en este proceso, don Fernando Gerbasi, persona de la cual yo he tenido la suerte de aprender en esta Institución. Debo hacerle una confesión, mi experiencia pasada ha estado vinculada al trabajo de organismos internacionales financieros como el Fondo Monetario Internacional y el Banco Mundial. Mi percepción de la FAO, y lo digo constructivamente, era la de una institución burocrática que no podía mostrar resultados efectivos. La realidad que ahora tengo es absolutamente diferente; desde mi modesto punto de vista, es una de las instituciones del sistema de Naciones Unidas más eficaces en la lucha contra la pobreza y en la reducción del hambre del mundo; y el respeto y compromiso personal lo he oído constituyendo gracias al trabajo del Director General, del *Staff* de esta Institución y particularmente, de personas como el Embajador

Fernando Gerbasi al que una vez más le hacemos llegar en nombre del GRULAC nuestros agradecimientos.

No quiero terminar mi intervención sin resaltar la labor desempeñada por el Sr. José Esquinas-Alcázar y Clive Stannard. Estoy seguro que hoy dormirán con la conciencia del deber cumplido. Estamos convencidos que en el horizonte este instrumento no es excluyente, es el primer paso para asegurar el reconocimiento de los estados sobre sus propios recursos fitogenéticos para la agricultura y la alimentación. El futuro es promisorio cuando existe voluntad política para solucionar los problemas y esta ratificación es una prueba de ello.

Juán RISI (Perú)

El Perú concuerda con lo expresado por el Presidente del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe. Vemos con satisfacción la aprobación del presente Tratado Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, producto de la buena voluntad de los países. Saludamos y felicitamos el encomiable esfuerzo desplegado por el Embajador Gerbasi, así como por el doctor Esquinas Alcázar. Al respecto el Perú mantendrá una actitud de colaboración a la implementación de este tratado en tanto que estos recursos fitogenéticos seguirán recibiendo una alta prioridad en lo que concierne a Investigación Estratégica del Estado. Asimismo, consideramos que la lista de cultivos comprendidos en el Anexo 1 contribuye de manera significativa a la seguridad alimentaria mundial y estaremos dispuestos en el futuro a contribuir en el incremento de esta lista cuando observemos que se dé el reconocimiento debido a los agricultores que han contribuido a la conservación de estos recursos y cuando los beneficios lleguen de manera real a los países que han contribuido aportando con cultivos a la lista actual.

Rodrigo VILLABA MOSQUERA (Colombia)

Colombia también se une al reconocimiento expresado al Presidente Gerbasi, al Secretario de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos, José Esquinas y, en general, a su equipo y colaboradores por la perseverancia profesional con que han liderado el proceso de negociación para revisión y el Compromiso Internacional a lo largo de estos años.

Colombia quiere aprovechar esta oportunidad para reiterar su compromiso con el objetivo de llevar adelante un tratado que siendo armónico con los principios establecidos en el convenio de la diversidad biológica permita asegurar una instrucción justa y equitativa de los beneficios derivados del uso sostenible en los recursos genéticos que contribuya a alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria de todos los pueblos, especialmente aquellos más azotados por la pobreza y el hambre.

Es necesario destacar que las mayores causas de la inseguridad alimentaria y la pobreza se relacionan fundamentalmente con la inequitativa distribución de los beneficios del comercio de los productos agrícolas, la frecuencia de algunos países desarrollados en pagar los precios justos a las exportaciones de los productos agrícolas, su rechazo a facilitar la transferencia de tecnología y su negativa a reconocer los derechos de los países y de los agricultores que con grandes sacrificios conservan y suministran los recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura que son la materia prima básica del complejo agroindustrial mundial.

En este sentido y mirando adelante, hacia un proceso de construcción y mejoramiento del sistema que hoy se pone en marcha, Colombia no puede dejar de señalar la necesidad de mejorar la disposición, tanto el tratado relacionado con la distribución de los beneficios, en la medida en que ellas están definidas sobre bases voluntarias mientras que aquellas relacionadas con el acceso facilitado son de carácter mandatorio. Si estas mejoras no se introducen oportunamente, se puede incurrir en mayores iniquidades en perjuicio de los países en desarrollo.

Asimismo, quiero llamar la atención sobre la importancia de los temas relacionados con la aplicación de los derechos de propiedad intelectual con respecto a los recursos genéticos obtenidos en forma facilitada, ya que su uso inapropiado puede llevar a deteriorar los derechos de los países que suministran acceso facilitado a sus recursos genéticos y puede conducir a una pérdida permanente de los recursos puestos de buena fe en el Sistema Multilateral creado en

virtud de este tratado. Por lo tanto, es necesario que estas amenazas sean resueltas en forma tal que el sistema también ofrezca la suficiente confianza a todos los países para continuar dando acceso facilitado a un número creciente de cultivos.

Colombia ha hecho inmensas concesiones en aras a que este tratado pueda ser firmado y aceptado por todas las partes, reitera su compromiso con el mismo y expresa su confianza en que este nuevo sistema tenga la capacidad suficiente para superar exitosamente los retos planteados.

Jan BORRING (Norway)

I will give this statement on behalf of the European Region.

The European Region welcomes the adoption of this Treaty, under Article XXIV of the FAO Constitution.

We warmly congratulate all other delegations, the Chairman as well as the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, for their immense effort over the last seven years.

We have finally done it. This is a landmark. We will have the first legally binding instrument concerned with sustainable agriculture. This will be a significant contribution to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the area of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and for the conservation and sustainable use of such resources. It will provide a major contribution to the realization of the objectives of the Global Plan of Action, agreed in Leipzig in 1996, and to the fight against hunger. It will also secure the role of the CGIAR Centres collections, in this regard.

The core of the Treaty is the multilateral system which, when fully implemented, will ensure the free flow of an important part of PGRFA to the benefit of all, recalling that all countries are both users and providers of PGRFA. It should help to reverse the steep decline in the exchange of PGRFA that we have experienced in recent years.

The European Region, however, remains convinced that the list of crops must be extended and diversified as quickly as possible, particularly to include crops of crucial importance for tropical and sub-tropical regions.

In this regard, we would encourage those countries which have objections to the inclusion of particular crops to reconsider their position, since an extended list will provide benefits to all.

We believe that the benefit sharing arrangement of the Multilateral System comprises a substantial package. In-kind benefits, including information exchange, technology transfer and capacity-building will provide developing countries with the ability to conserve and sustainably use their own PGRFA and that obtained under the Multilateral System.

It is also an obligation for all of us to ensure full, proper and transparent implementation of the commercial benefit sharing arrangements.

The funding strategy needs to be implemented in an effective and efficient manner, to ensure the availability of the resources needed to implement this Treaty.

The role of bilateral and multilateral funding arrangements in this is most important and we should all seek, through these arrangements, to ensure that proper priority is given to the achievement of the objectives of this Treaty.

Finally, and certainly no least, the European Region applauds the International Recognition of Farmers' Rights, the implementation of which has properly to be achieved through national action.

We should now leave the past behind us and start on a positive note. The Interim Committee, which we urge should begin its work as soon as possible and, subsequently, the Governing Body, has a real challenge and a heavy responsibility ahead of it.

Through these Bodies, all nations which become parties to the Treaty – and we hope that this will eventually include all nations present here today – need to ensure that this new System is

workable, unambiguous and completely transparent, providing continued innovation for the achievement of sustainable agriculture and food security.

The European Region would like to give a short second statement concerning one particular part of the text of the Treaty.

I would therefore kindly ask, before continuing on the speaker's list in front of you, to give the floor to Poland to present this, our second statement, on behalf of the European Region.

Ms Zotia BULINSKA-RADOMSKA (Poland)

As Norway said, I would also like to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Region.

The European Region affirms its view that this Treaty is not subordinate to other international agreements and emphasizes that this Treaty and other international agreements are mutually supportive and stresses that the relevant preambular paragraphs of the Treaty should be interpreted in this way, so ensuring that the Treaty contributes to world food security.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to say, as Poland and on behalf of the countries with economies in transition, that we all thank and applaud Ambassador Gerbasi and the Secretariat of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for their commitment and hard work in developing and finalizing this Treaty, which we believe will benefit all nations that will become parties to this Treaty, no matter whether developed, developing or in economies in transition.

Eduardo BENÍTEZ PAULÍN (México)

Sin lugar a dudas después de la aprobación de este histórico tratado para la comunidad internacional, las actividades referenciadas a los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, habrán de hacerse al antes y después del mismo. En este largo período que ha representado el proceso de negociación y el cual, por cierto, podríamos medirlo de múltiples maneras, bien sea por los años que se llevan en negociación, por sus reuniones ordinarias y extraordinarias, así como por las negociaciones que se efectuaron en Montreux, en Teheran, Newchattel, Spoleto y Roma, y todo lo que ello significó para la Organización de estos eventos, nuestro agradecimiento para todos aquellos países que patrocinaron y apoyaron de manera definitiva el proceso.

En este sentido, el logro que hoy tenemos a la mano hubiese sido más difícil y posiblemente no logrado sin la noble y esforzada labor de la Secretaría, así como del gran liderazgo del Embajador Gerbasi.

Permítanos manifestar nuestro enorme reconocimiento por la labor en la cual nos ha conducido el Embajador Gerbasi para transitar por esta etapa tan importante. Reconocemos que el tratado recién aprobado por esta Conferencia, y el cual hemos apoyado, es el resultado de un largo proceso de negociación y que de ello tenemos un texto perceptible, un documento que para nuestro país representa un tratado evolutivo que nos establece la referencia obligatoria para las etapas críticas subsecuentes que representarán, sin duda alguna, las prácticas operativas del tratado, de la necesidad en continuar un esfuerzo sostenido para hacer realidad los derechos del agricultor, que la distribución justa y equitativa sea práctica común del acceso facilitado y el uso sostenible de los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Que los mecanismos de financiación sean una fuente que facilite la dinámica permanente del tratado de manera tal que la cobertura del Sistema Multilateral la podamos ver ampliada en un breve plazo y que sus objetivos se cumplan plena y ampliamente.

Júlio Cesar GOMES DOS SANTOS (Brasil)

Su vida sacó la suerte grande en la lotería. Difícilmente el premio hubiera podido ser mayor que el de haber presidido esta histórica sección. Su nombre por su actuación, sin duda, será asociado al Tratado. Siete años de duras negociaciones, en los cuales participé como jefe de mi delegación en los últimos cuatro. Dios es bueno conmigo, pues yo no tenía otra alternativa: acertar o acertar. Este asunto es tan sensible en mi país que, aparte del football, nada en la opinión pública brasileña

despierta hoy tanta pasión. La experiencia que tuvimos en el inicio del siglo XX, cuando plantas de caucho fueron pirateadas por una potencia de aquel entonces a una de sus colonias, no es olvidada por las generaciones hasta el día de hoy. Principalmente en nuestra Amazonía, pobre y desprotegida aunque orgullosa de aquel pasado del cual es testigo el extraordinario teatro de Manaus.

Entonces, como en el football, aunque el presente no parece muy brillante, en el futuro un mal acuerdo en la negociación de este Tratado hubiera sido un desastre para el país y, posiblemente, una jubilación anticipada para mí. Hablan mucho de congresos y parlamentos fundamentales en el proceso de ratificación. En mi país hay una nueva ley sobre recursos fitogenéticos; en ella trabajó activamente el Dr. Livio Coralín, sentado ahora detrás mío. Nuestra mayor victoria fue negociar de modo tal de permitir que el Tratado no fuera contradictorio con aquella ley. Por ese motivo agradezco profundamente a todos los colegas de todos los países que con nosotros negociaron por haber entendido nuestra posición.

Finalmente, pienso que el éxito de la continuación del Tratado y su implementación dependerá mucho de cómo se manejarán los trabajos futuros.

No hay peor sentimiento que el de la orfandad. El Tratado tiene un padre, el Embajador Gerbasi, no que lo haya concebido pero fue sin duda el gran obstetra de este laborioso parto. Sería oportuno, conveniente, prudente, y yo diría hasta imperioso, contar con su participación en las etapas posteriores, así como con el Comité interino y, porqué no, con el Órgano Rector y con él sus escuderos fieles, Pepe Esquinas-Alcázar de la Mancha, indispensables ayer, indispensables hoy, indispensables en el porvenir del Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura.

Gustavo Eduardo BLANCO DEMARCO (Uruguay)

Le agradezco que me haya dado el uso de la palabra y aprovecho para felicitarlo por su su dinámica gestión durante los trabajos de esta sesión.

Nuestro país ha trabajado duramente durante los siete años y especialmente, y personalmente, durante los últimos seis años, en tratar de llevar a que este Tratado, histórico Tratado que hemos aprobado, fuera un éxito, fuera un hecho concreto.

Muchos oradores han establecido algunas discrepancias con algunos textos, algunas inconformidades con algunos de los textos que hemos aprobado. Pensamos que se ha logrado un equilibrio, el equilibrio posible, el equilibrio que nos permitía aprobar algo que era muy necesario y que no podía extenderse más en el tiempo. Es así que nuestro país apoya este Tratado; entiende que todos los tratados en los cuales nos hemos comprometido deben ser aplicados y que debemos efectuar los mayores esfuerzos para que esto suceda. Pensamos que este Tratado junto a otros van a permitir el desarrollo de la innovación, el desarrollo tecnológico en nuestros países en pro de lograr aquellos productos y alimentos que el mundo está necesitando.

Durante este proceso, en estos seis años de trabajo, he aprendido bastante de recursos fitogenéticos, pero creo que aprendí bastante más, porque recibí clases magistrales de cómo negociar. Tuve la oportunidad y la suerte de ver trabajar a destacadas personas que supieron defender con gran altura sus intereses; y tuvimos la suerte, en los últimos cuatro años, de contar con la dirección del Embajador Fernando Gerbasi, quien realmente llevó adelante un trabajo impecable, un trabajo donde supo dirigir aquellos brillantes oradores, que supo ir llevando el hilo de esta negociación y lograr hoy la aprobación de este Tratado histórico.

No quiero dejar de recordar en esta oportunidad, en este momento en que se aprueba este Tratado, el trabajo de un gran hacedor en los recursos fitogenéticos hoy en el mundo y en el desarrollo de los mismos, para su conservación y para su uso. Me estoy refiriendo al Profesor José Esquinas-Alcázar quien indudablemente, durante estas últimas dos décadas, nos ha guiado a todos en el camino de cómo resolver las dificultades que nos ocasionaban las pérdidas de recursos fitogenéticos y cómo lograr el mejor uso de los mismos.

Creo que el Profesor Esquinas junto con Clive Stannard y todo su equipo aquí en la FAO han logrado apoyar la labor de la Comisión, la labor de todos los técnicos que encontraban en ellos el apoyo necesario para seguir adelante con sus acciones.

Pensamos que esta es una etapa y que ahora comienza una nueva donde deberemos trabajar en forma conjunta en el Comité Interino para lograr que, en una rápida entrada de vigor de este Tratado, podamos resolver aquellos puntos que requieren todavía de cierta negociación.

Mohammed Ahmed ALI DINGLE (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

My country's delegation is firmly convinced that the achievement scored today is a grandiose one, from all viewpoints. The adoption of such an instrument by FAO represents a decisive turning point in the history of this Organization, an achievement for which we would like to thank the Director-General and all the senior staff of FAO.

My country's delegation would also like to thank the Commission of Plant Genetic Resources as well as all those who, over the last seven years, have worked so hard for this outcome. We would like to thank all those who, far or near, have contributed to all of this. We would like to thank all those who financed the various meetings and sessions and consultations.

At the very head of the list, we would like to thank His Excellency, Ambassador Gerbasi, for the very arduous burden he took upon his shoulders and saw it through and he should know that his name shall always be linked to this achievement. Rights relative to plant genetic resources and Farmers' Rights in the future will be closely linked to his name.

We feel that the dispositions necessary so that all may benefit from the impact of this treaty is of capital importance.

My country is on the African continent and is known for the diversity of its plant genetic resources. It is important for us to underline, highlight, to underscore, just how we understand the pursuit of efforts to ensure benefits for all and to preserve farmers' rights within the framework of sustainable development and food self-sufficiency. We are convinced, and shall remain so, that the concretization of this agreement is closely linked to other rights, including intellectual property rights, since we are convinced that the success resides in the pooling of efforts in the application of this treaty text.

Krassimir KOSTOV (Bulgaria)

In addition to the statement of Norway, which was made also on our behalf, I would like, on this solemn occasion, to thank His Excellency, Ambassador Fernando Gerbasi, for his self-sacrifice, for so wisely guiding us in writing this treaty and writing history, and for bringing us to this emotional moment.

I would also like to say a special word of praise for the colleagues from the FAO Secretariat, and for all the negotiators who made this treaty possible. Thank you for reflecting the needs and the potential of the countries with economies in transition in this treaty so fully and adequately, as in no other multilateral, legal instrument. This is an excellent prerequisite for active and mutually beneficial participation in the multilateral system that we are all now confidently looking forward to.

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has just become the first major international treaty of the twenty-first century. How symbolic it is that this treaty combines, in itself, a common will to preserve nature and better the life of humankind through real efficient and mutually beneficial international cooperation. What a promise for the people of the world. So, let us make them know of this great achievement of the FAO family. The popular support, the support of the NGOs, of the numerous experts might turn out to be crucial for the ratification of this treaty. And, of course, let us hope that this new PGRFA treaty community, which emerged during the negotiations, will work together to make the implementation of this treaty a success.

Renato SALAZAR (Philippines)

On behalf of the Government of the Philippines, I would like to express our satisfaction at the conclusion of this negotiation for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. We would like to thank the leadership of Ambassador Gerbasi and the support provided by Dr Esquinas-Alcázar and Dr Stannard.

We do believe in the need for this internationally-binding agreement to cover plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as the need to conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, especially for food security. We have been negotiating since 1994 and it is about time this comes to a conclusion.

While we are not entirely happy with the outcome, suffice it to say that we can live with it. We do realize the increasing value of plant genetic resources, not only as seeds but also for the valuable information contained in the genes. Moreover the rise of life industries in general, and of seeds industries in particular, increase the need for this treaty for a legally-binding and balanced one to ensure participative exchange of plant genetic resources and especially benefit-sharing.

There are areas in the treaty that we would have wished had better provisions. Most important is on farmers' rights. Section 3 of Article 10 makes a neutral statement, stating that nothing in this article shall limit the right of farmers to save, use, exchange and sell seeds and subject to national legislation. I think we have failed to clearly and positively establish farmers' rights. It is subject to national law. Well, at the moment, we are comfortable with that. We hope that we can find better ways to improve and strengthen Farmers' Rights.

We would have wanted something stronger on the restriction for recipients from claiming restrictive intellectual property rights on materials accessed from the Multilateral System. Article 12.3(d) is a compromise. We need to monitor the implementation of this section to ensure that materials placed in the Multilateral System are not locked in IPRs.

Finally, we believe that this treaty should be at the same level as other international agreements, not subordinate.

I would also like to thank the Philippine Government for allowing me, a member of a Non-governmental Organization, to represent my country in many of the negotiations. It is sometimes lonely to be alone in the group of Governments. I also would like to thank the NGO community for supporting the negotiation of this Treaty and for supporting the Philippine delegation.

Finally, I would like to request that the Ambassador Gerbasi's introductory statement, in proposing the adoption of this treaty be included in the records of this Conference.

Ghebre-Medhin BELAY (Ethiopia)

First and foremost, my delegation wishes to extend their cheerful greetings to all distinguished delegates in the august Conference of FAO.

Let me congratulate you on your election to the Bureau of the Chairmanship as the Vice-Chairman for our Thirty-first Session of the Conference of FAO, and through you, Mr Chairman, to other Members of the Bureau. The Ethiopian delegation is confident on your ability in guiding us to a successful and resolute deliberations.

I also have the honour and privilege to congratulate the tireless efforts underway by the FAO Director-General His Excellency, Mr Jacques Diouf, and outgoing independent Chairman, His Excellency Dr Sjarifudin Baharsjah, in order to support and promote sustainable agricultural development, thereby improve the food insecurity problem of the people in our planet.

The quality of chairmanship displayed and exercised by His Excellency Ambassador Gerbasi during the course of the negotiation is sincerely very admirable. We thank him for everything he did. It was for a noble cause. God bless him.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat of the FAO Commission spear-headed by Professor Esquinas-Alcázar. The Commission has provided the negotiating team with well-written and comprehensive documents and information on relevant issues to the negotiation process.

Ethiopia has also been involved throughout the negotiation process with keen interest. We have been part of the contact group at the informal meetings and went wherever Mr Gerbasi and the negotiation team moved. We are delighted that the Treaty is concluded with the interest of all nations in the world on board. The Ethiopian delegation is pleased to note that it will push the ratification of the Treaty and is keen on the commencement of the effective implementation of the Treaty.

Ethiopia fully supports the African Group's position as reflected by statements by the Honourable delegate of Tanzania.

We are not saying it is a complete and perfect document addressing all our justifiable concerns; but, we believe this Treaty will serve as a basis for future undertakings and our concerns will be addressed adequately in the future, we hope.

Issues such as benefit-sharing, intellectual property rights, regarding materials accessed from the Multilateral Systems of access, funding mechanisms are not yet sufficiently addressed to our satisfaction. However, we are not at all unhappy about them, since understanding among countries is a process that gets better with time and gradually. We must add, the Treaty has many important elements that are useful for conservation of crop genetic resources and sustainable development by and large.

Finally, the Ethiopian delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Honourable delegate of Poland, on behalf of the European Region, with regards to the relationship of this Treaty with other international agreements.

TANG SHENGYAO (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation, as well as the Government of China, would like to congratulate the adoption of this Treaty. The Chinese delegation is satisfied with the adoption of this Treaty. At the same time, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the Negotiating Group because of its efforts. We now have adopted this Treaty.

We would like to thank Ms Fresco, the Committee's Secretary and other Secretariat staff for their contribution to the success of this Treaty.

I would like to give special thanks to Ambassador Gerbasi. It is because of his outstanding leadership, organization and coordination skills, that we have reached the conclusion today and have this Treaty with us, after four years of hard work. I am convinced without his efforts, today, we would not have what we have now. Just as was said by the Director-General, during these four years it is a good thing that Ambassador Gerbasi has not lost his family. My point is, just because we have had all these four years of negotiations, his family enjoys more happiness than before.

Here, I would also like to thank all the Member Nations who participated in the negotiation, as well as the negotiators. We all know, negotiating is a game of giving and taking. Here, we should strike a balance. Now, with all the efforts, the sleepless nights and with continued compromises, as well as good spirit of compromise and cooperation, finally, we have something which is in line with the interest of the Member Nations.

However, we should also remember, this Treaty is not one hundred percent perfect. There is something still out of balance, and for some places, we have already encountered commitments. In other areas there is still a lack of concrete commitments or there is not commitment at all. For instance, in the list of crops, all the names are very concrete and listed there. In the benefit-sharing and financing arrangements or other aspects, we regret to see there is no concrete commitment at all. Of course, we should take a positive point of view. Today, we have adopted this is a Treaty, but the adoption of this Treaty is only a good beginning. In China, there is a note saying, "well

begun half done". I believe the adoption of this Treaty, reflects the political willingness or sincerity of all these Member Nations. It also shows that countries are willing to effectively conserve and utilize plant genetic resources to make a contribution to world food security and to reduce poverty and hunger. So I believe today, the adoption of this Treaty symbolizes a historical moment.

The Chinese delegation does not want to see that this is only a history in the past. We hope this is a milestone in the future. Our main task is to implement this Treaty in terms of institutions, financial resources and human resources, as well as solve problems during implementation. We should try to improve this Treaty in the future so that it may be more attractive to all the Member Nations. We hope all countries will join this Treaty, then we can open a new chapter in the making of treaties in the world.

Finally, China has been taking an active part in these negotiations. China, actually, has taken part in every negotiation. China has also made its due contributions to such negotiations. The Chinese Government, in the days to come or as in the past, will continue to support FAO's work and together with other Member Nations, make contributions to the implementation of this Treaty. We are willing to cooperate with all parties concerned.

Ariel FERNÁNDEZ (Argentina)

Nuestra felicitación por verlo presidir los trabajos. Voy a tratar de ser breve, porque imagino que la lista todavía es larga y hay otros temas que tratar.

En nombre de mi Gobierno felicito a la FAO y su Director General, a la Sra. Fresco, Sr. Esquinas-Alcázar, Sr. Stannard por la contribución, el esfuerzo y el trabajo que han puesto en forma ininterrumpida para llegar a un resultado feliz.

Alguien, creo que ha sido el Presidente Gerbasi, hablaba de que el Sr. Esquinas-Alcázar y su compañero, eran compañeros de ilusiones. Pues esas ilusiones se han transformado en una realidad, por lo tanto, de ahora en más deberán ser compañeros de realidades.

Quisiéramos destacar que este es un ejercicio que culmina positivamente, donde han trabajado, además de la FAO y los funcionarios que hemos nombrado, todos los países, comunidades donantes, sociedad civil, países que detentan numerosos recursos fitogenéticos, y ha sido un ejercicio de interdependencia. Interdependencia positiva en este caso. Una utopía concretada en forma positiva, no una utopía negativa. Constructiva porque va a asociar, seguramente, a toda la sociedad. Es un excelente ejemplo de Tratado, por más que no todos estén satisfechos con su resultado final, pero es un excelente ejemplo de Tratado para que nos unamos cada vez más; para que estos recursos sean altamente útiles para acabar con el hambre en el mundo y para que tenga una dinámica que enriquezca realmente la sociedad. El Gobierno de mi país ofrece desde ya su incansable cooperación para que la implementación de este Acuerdo comience rápidamente, también su contribución a las futuras instancias ya sea del Comité Interino o a través del Cuadro de Expertos. Numerosos funcionarios argentinos han trabajado incansablemente también y en forma positiva para que se tenga un resultado feliz, por lo tanto invitamos a la FAO desde ya a lanzar el proceso. Seguramente el Sr. Esquinas-Alcázar y su compañero querrán descansar un poco; pero el plazo es corto, los necesitamos trabajando cuanto antes.

Por último, ya han sido muchos los elogios al Embajador Gerbasi, lo conocemos muy bien, aprendemos día a día de su tenacidad. No podía ser de otra manera viniendo de un país que ha tenido en Bolívar quien nos ha ilustrado el camino en forma señera y, la tenacidad es parte del alma venezolana; por lo tanto, sabíamos desde el principio que esa tenacidad, el Embajador Gerbasi, con la ayuda de todos, la iba a concretar.

Insisto, Argentina saluda la aprobación de este texto y promueve un ejercicio constante de la interdependencia entre todos los miembros de la FAO con el exclusivo beneficio de una sociedad que tiene que trabajar constructivamente y no en forma destructiva.

Anton KOHLER (Suisse)

La Suisse se félicite de l'adoption du Traité sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, et apprécie infiniment l'initiative et l'engagement persévérant de Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Fernando Gerbasi, les collaborateurs et collaboratrices du Secrétariat de la FAO, spécialement M. Esquinas-Alcázar et Mme Fresco. Elle estime que ce Traité répond à un compromis, une balance politique raisonnable, permettant de tenir compte de tous les intérêts en jeu.

La Suisse soutient la déclaration faite par la Norvège au nom du Groupe régional européen.

Nous partageons aussi pleinement la position exprimée par la délégation de l'Union européenne.

Notre délégation tient à préciser que, selon son interprétation, l'article 12.3 d du Traité n'impose pas de nouvelles obligations qui seraient contraires aux engagements internationaux que notre pays a contractés. Nous considérons que cet article ne vise pas à réduire la protection par brevets au plan international.

Pour la Suisse, la sécurité alimentaire en vue d'une alimentation équilibrée ne pourra être assurée que si toutes les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture font partie du système multilatéral. Conscients du fait que cette attente aura des conséquences financières, nous allons nous engager pleinement en la matière.

Jan BORRING (Norway)

This time I speak for Norway, but I am confident that I can speak on behalf of everyone in this room.

Now that we have adopted this International Treaty, I would like to request that the Conference, in this its Thirty-first Session, record a vote of thanks to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela which allowed Ambassador Fernando Gerbasi to guide our negotiations throughout these years, without whom I am certain that this Treaty would not have been possible.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

I would like to thank Norway. They have expressed the feeling of all the representatives of countries represented here in this Conference. We all back you, thank you very much and this is indeed accepted.

Shakeel BHATTI (Observer for the World Intellectual Property Organization, WIPO)

The World Intellectual Property Organization is the specialized United Nations Agency responsible for intellectual property.

WIPO has participated in the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and in the Contact Group of its Chairman as an Observer to the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

At the end of this laborious revision process, WIPO wishes to sincerely congratulate FAO, the outstanding Chairman of the Commission, Ambassador Gerbasi, and the Secretariat of the Commission, Professor Esquinas-Alcázar and Mr Clive Stannard, on the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.

As the specialized United Nations agency responsible for intellectual property, WIPO is undertaking a work programme on intellectual property issues related to genetic resources and has recently established an Intergovernmental Committee to facilitate discussions on such issues. One result of the first session of this Committee, which was held in April of this year, was a clear expression on the part of all WIPO Member States that WIPO should address intellectual property

issues related to genetic resources in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization and, in particular, its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Consequently, WIPO will continue to cooperate with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on issues related to intellectual property and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Cary FOWLER (Observer for the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute)

To begin on a personal note, I would like to pay tribute to the uncommon vision and leadership of Ambassador Gerbasi throughout these negotiations. I would like to recognize and thank the entire Secretariat, both the Professional and the General Service staff, of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for their truly outstanding service to the international community.

The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, and the other Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research holding gene-bank collections, welcome the adoption today of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources as a significant step in establishing legal framework for conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use. It is a framework that will contribute greatly to the goal of sustainable agriculture and food security.

As you know, it is over seven years since the conclusion of agreements between the CGIAR Centres and FAO placing collections of plant germplasm held by the Centres under the auspices of FAO; seven years that reflects also the process of the negotiation of the revision of the International Undertaking. In the 1994 agreements concluded under the guidance of the Commission, the Centres undertook to hold the germplasm collections, and I quote "...in trust for the benefit of the International Community." These collections consist of over half a million accessions covering the most important crops for world food security. They provide the basis for the conservation efforts of the Centres.

In addition, the Centres have used these materials to develop and improve seeds and planting materials, particularly for developing countries. In this regard, we believe our chief contribution to the objectives of this Treaty will be seen in farmers' fields and measured by increased food security at the grassroots level and the alleviation of poverty.

In the agreements with FAO, the Centres recognized the intergovernmental authority of the Commission in setting policies for the international network. Indeed, as you all know, this provision reflected perhaps the most important aspect of the Agreement, which was to bring the CGIAR's Centres' collections on board the process of revision on the International Undertaking, and, in this sense, to bring practical substance to any agreed new international framework. The new Treaty contains an article dealing specifically with the *ex situ* collections held by the Centres, and provides for the conclusion of agreements between the Governing Body and those Centres, bringing those collections within the framework of the new Treaty. We will be placing this matter before the boards of all the Centres concerned over the coming months for their consideration.

In the meantime, we look forward to continued close cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, acting as the Interim Committee for the Treaty in preparing for the practical implementation of the new legal framework.

Finally, I would like to reiterate our welcome to the adoption of the new Treaty as a significant step forward in the fight for world food security, a fight to which all our common efforts are and remain pledged.

Pat Ray MOONEY (Observer for Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration)

We would like to add our voice to many others who spoke this afternoon and evening in support of the Treaty and of the wonderful work that has been accomplished here by the Secretariat, by the Chairman of the Commission and by the delegations.

The comments that have been made already by many of the delegations in this room, especially the United Republic of Tanzania, the Philippines, Malaysia and India, regarding some of the limitations of the Treaty are views that we share very much. There are, in this Treaty, limitations but it is still the best Treaty that could have been achieved by mortals and great work has, in fact, been done by all parties. We especially would also agree with the statement made by Norway in responding to the text, in encouraging us to move on now to have the Treaty ratified, and to proceed with the work that needs to be done to make it operational. We have gone through seven lean years, seven hard years; now it is time for seven years or more of bounty. That work is ahead of us and must be proceeded with as quickly as possible.

In meetings like this and in negotiations like this, we often forget how important some individuals are. We would like to take this moment to acknowledge the incredible work of some of the individuals who have been involved in this negotiation. There have been villains and there have been heroes in every negotiation. In this case, the villains have really been the times around us, the changes that have taken place in technologies, the changes that have taken place in intellectual property and legal arrangements, the changes that have taken place in politics and in economics. Those were beyond our control in many ways, certainly beyond the control of those negotiating, but there were heroes and they really should be acknowledged. There are heroes from many countries, from Angola, the United Republic of Tanzania, from Ethiopia, from Malaysia, from the Philippines, from India, from Cuba, and many other countries, from Norway, from the Netherlands, from Sweden, who made a major contribution to the success. Most especially, we would like to in civil society identify Mr Lim in Malaysia, who did a spectacular job of leading the Group of 77 in China through these negotiations, with a dedication which is absolutely extraordinary. We have to also identify in particular the role of Mr Borring of Norway who I think kept us together many times when it seemed impossible to proceed, and who has managed to be a consolidator and a broker who has kept the negotiations on track. Beyond that, we have to identify especially, of course, our Chairman, Ambassador Gerbasi, who was absolutely incredible. There are just no words I can use to describe how important he has been to these negotiations.

In the negotiations in Spoleto a few months ago, we got into the habit, after he rescued us time and again from the pit of disaster, of referring to him among the civil society groups as San Fernando di Spoleto and, in the late hours of 2 and 3 in the morning, we were waiting for him to finally convene a Plenary so that we could go to bed. We began to draw cartoons of the negotiators and, for Ambassador Gerbasi, the cartoons always had him with a halo over his head. It was a very sharp halo and we were very careful not to show him any of the cartoons. But some day, maybe we will share some of those. In fact, we shared a few of them this evening with some of the delegations. I should go on to say that the rest will be on our website in a few days' time unless, of course, the subject of the cartoons wishes to make an increased donation to the benefit sharing under the Treaty, in which case we will take it off our website.

I have to go on to acknowledge, as others have, the quite remarkable work of the Secretariat of Pepe Esquinas-Alcázar and of Clive Stannard, and their supporters as well in the Secretariat. Many of us have taken the point of saying how remarkable they have been. In some cultures, I am told, in a situation like this, they would be declared national treasures or they would be declared national monuments – living national monuments, I presume. They should be, because their contribution to the standards of the International Civil Service, to the standards of meeting international public goods, is absolutely beyond any human expectations.

We look forward to their leadership with the rest of the FAO Secretariat in the years ahead as the Governing Body moves on and as we make this Treaty operational.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PART III - LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
TROISIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES ET ADMINISTRATIVES
PARTE III - ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

14. FAO Audited Accounts 1998-99 (Draft Resolution) (C 2001/5; C 2001/5-Corr.1 (Arabic, Chinese, English and French only); C 2001/LIM/7)

14. Comptes vérifiés de la FAO 1998-99 (Projet de résolution) (C 2001/5; C 2001/5-Corr.1 (anglais, arabe, chinois et français seulement); C 2001/LIM/7)

14. Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO 1998-99 (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2001/5; C 2001/5-Corr.1 (sólo en árabe, chino, francés e inglés); C 2001/LIM/7)

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

The document, as you say, is before the Members of the Conference. I would just like to make a few brief remarks for the benefit of the Members.

You will notice that the audit opinion, or the External Auditors' opinion, is an unqualified one on FAO's accounts and this demonstrates that, whilst undergoing a period of intensive change, including the replacement of financial systems, significant administrative reorganization and on-going decentralization of activities, the Organization has ensured the underlining integrity of financial record keeping and financial reporting. Moreover, as noted in several sections of the External Auditors' Long Form Report, this has also been achieved against a background of limited resources being available to the units closely involved in the administration and accounting activities of the Organization.

As for the Long Form Report, it should be noted that the Audited Accounts before you cover the 1998-99 biennium. Consequently, a number of the recommendations are in the process of being implemented; in fact, some have been implemented already. The procedure adopted by the Governing Bodies for the review of the Audited Accounts has been prescribed by the Finance Committee and it is quite a rigorous one. Thus, for example, the Finance Committee, at its Ninety-sixth Session, reviewed in great detail the Auditors' Report in the presence of the External Auditor who, together with the Secretariat, provided comments and clarifications to the Finance Committee. The Committee's Report illustrates the depth of its review. At its subsequent session, and in accordance with the Organization's standard practice, the Committee was given a detailed document setting out the status of implementation of each of the recommendations of the Auditor. This document also contained the comments of the External Auditor on the status of implementation. In addition, both the External Auditor and the Secretariat again participated in the discussion and provided clarifications to the Committee. This process will continue at every Session of the Finance Committee until all the recommendations have been implemented.

I may add that the Organization gives considerable importance to the comments of the Auditor, particularly to those comments from which we can draw lessons for the future.

Finally, the Audited Accounts have been reviewed by the Council at its Hundred and Twentieth Session and the Council is forwarding the Draft Resolution for adoption by the Conference.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you, Mr Mehboob, for this detailed explanation regarding the discussions that had taken place in the Committee and with the External Auditors. It was indeed very clear.

Michel PEETERMANS (Belgium)

The European Community and its Member States note with satisfaction that the External Auditor has given an unqualified opinion on the Accounts for 1998-99. His narrative report is long and thorough. We have studied it closely, together with a very full record of the Finance Committee's discussions with the External Auditor and the Secretariat in June and again in September.

We have noted that the Finance Committee is broadly satisfied with the action being taken by the Secretariat to follow up the External Auditor's recommendations.

Like the Committee, and as has been made clear in our comments on the Programme of Work and Budget, we are watching closely the progress with the Oracle project. We are concerned by the problems which are responsible for the late appearance of the Audited Accounts. We remain concerned by the opinion of the External Auditor, recorded in paragraph 55(g) of the Report, that the Finance Division no longer has adequate staff resources to do the work expected of it. This has implications for the allocation of resources in the Programme of Work and Budget, as we have made clear in the discussion. We look forward to working with the Controller and the Auditor General of India when he takes up his role as External Auditor next year. We hope and expect that the Finance Committee will have an early discussion with him about his audit regime, particularly as it relates to work on value for money issues.

We continue to support what we understand to be the Committee's wish to have private sessions from time to time with the External Auditor. As noted previously this is routine practice at IFAD and in New York where the Board of Auditors meets with ACABQ. The management of WFP is relaxed about this. It is our hope that the Director-General will facilitate this.

We welcome the Finance Committee's decision, in paragraph 53 of the September Report, that the future recommendations by the External Auditor should be prioritized, the timetable for implementing the agreed recommendations is settled between the Secretariat, the External Auditor and the Committee.

With those comments, we support the resolution inviting the Conference to adopt the Audited Accounts for 1998-99.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you, Belgium, for your observations.

As I see no request for the floor after Belgium on behalf of the European Union, I believe that the Conference adopts this Report.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

The meeting rose at 18.15 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2 – 13 November 2001 Rome, 2 – 13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2 – 13 de noviembre de 2001
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
5 November 2001

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours
Mr Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 9 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión a las 9.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. We will open this Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Thirty-first Session of the General Conference of the FAO. Before beginning discussions I would like to ask the Members of Committee II to move to the Red room for their meeting. We will now proceed to Item 5 on the Agenda which is a Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. I would like to ask the Assistant Director-General, Mr. De Haen, to present this item.

**PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS
PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE
PARTE I - ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS**

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2001/2; C 2001/INF/25)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2001/2; C 2001/INF/25)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2001/2; C 2001/INF/25)

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, it is a great pleasure for me to introduce to you a report on the state of food and agriculture. There is a document before you which is document C 2001/2 which presents recent developments as of September 2001. Updated information and illustrations can also be found in the leaflet that we have produced for this purpose entitled *The State of Food and Agriculture in Figures* which is available in the five official languages at the Documents Desk and I hope you will find it there. I will also make some further updates of recent developments in this presentation. I wish to refer to six issues: recent developments in world food security; the current agricultural situation; some remarks on the global trends for major commodities; food shortages and emergencies; fisheries and forestry developments; and I will conclude with a brief comment on resources for agriculture.

As regards recent developments in world food security, our recent estimates for the years 1997 to 1999 lead us to estimate that there were 815 million people undernourished in the world. Of these, nearly 780 million were in the developing countries. Also, we estimate that the number of undernourished children below the age of ten in the developing countries amounts to at least 180 million. As you can see from this graph, and here I refer to the blue line, the estimated number of undernourished people in the developing countries has been on a declining trend for some time. Since the early 1990s, which is the benchmark for the World Food Summit target, the number of undernourished people has declined by about 50 million in the 1990s. This corresponds to an average annual decline of 6 million people. However, as we have said at various occasions now, we changed the World Food Summit target of halving the number by no later than 2015, which would require an annual decline of 22 million. This is shown as the green line as compared with the red line on this graph. If the current trend continues, which is shown as the red line, it would take more than 60 years to achieve the World Food Summit target, rather than the 20 years envisaged by the Rome Declaration.

The next graphic shows the number of undernourished by region between 1992 and the latest figures for 1997-1999, which are the green bars. The earlier are in red. The highest number of undernourished people is found in Asia. However, it is also in Asia that we have seen the most significant reduction in the number of undernourished since the early 1990s. Increases can be observed in sub-Saharan Africa, and the Near East and North Africa, although only very slight increases in some of these regions. If we look at this by Sub-region, which the next slide does, it is important to know that the decline of 40 million that I have referred to in the total number of undernourished people during the 1990s is the next decline. The performance has differed strongly between Sub-regions and countries. If only the successful countries were counted, we would have seen a decline in the number of undernourished people by almost 120 million in the 1990s. The green bars on the left-hand side of this graphic, you can see, show Sub-regions where undernourishment declined over this period. Most of the decline was contributed by East Asia, in

particular China. But there were also successes in other Sub-Regions in South-East Asia, in South America and also in West Africa. At the same time, however, the majority of developing countries have either seen no decrease in the number of undernourished or even an increase, totalling to a number of almost 80 million people, additional undernourished, in these countries. Subregions with increasing numbers of undernourished are illustrated by the blue bars on the slide, the most substantial increases having been in Central and East Africa and in South Asia.

Turning now to the current agricultural situation, the state of global agriculture, I would like first to present some data on recent developments in agricultural production. The graphic you now see shows our estimates in the annual changes in percentage in world agricultural production, that is crop and livestock production of the past five years as well as the average annual changes for 1991 to 1995. Our provisional estimates put world agricultural output growth in the year 2000 at only around 1 percent. This is far below the almost 3 percent annual growth achieved in 1999 and it constitutes the lowest increase since the early 1990s. The next slide shows the same estimate for the two groups of developing and developed countries – the developed countries are shown in green and the developing in red. As you can see from this, annual output growth in agriculture has been consistently higher in the developing countries than in the group of the developed countries. However, agricultural output growth also in the developing country group has been slowing down in the course of the second half of the 1990s. Also, our projections towards 2015, that is the long-term projections, confirm the declining trend in agricultural output growth in the developing countries. I can of course not go into the details of that. This slide is a bit full of information. I would be very brief but it shows the changes in agricultural production and trends by region. In sub-Saharan Africa, agricultural production continues to stagnate in per caput terms with levels in the year 2000 being virtually identical to those of 1990.

The HIV/AIDS crisis is of increasing concern, among other factors here, and could exacerbate food and security in this region. In Asia and the Pacific, with the exception of 1999, overall agricultural production growth has been on a declining trend over recent years. The main factor behind this is the slow-down of output growth in China. Recent agricultural output performances in Latin America and the Caribbean have been mixed, owing also to unfavourable climate conditions and natural disasters. In the Near East and North Africa, drought was the dominant factor affecting agricultural production in both 1999 and 2000 leading to declines in output of 4 and 1 percent, respectively. And finally in the countries of transition, that is Central and Eastern European countries, levels of agricultural production have not followed the positive turnaround in GDP growth which began in 1999, and production has remained relatively volatile in recent years.

I would now like to turn to the global trend for major food commodities. I will first speak about cereals which provide more than half of the calories intake, in developing countries, at least. The graphic shows recent trends in global cereal production – this is the blue line - and in cereal utilization – which is the green line. For the second year in a row, as you can see, global cereal output is expected to fall short of utilization. In the marketing year 2001-2002 which will end mid next year, the shortfall is projected to around 90 million tonnes of cereals compared to 54 million tonnes in the marketing year 2000-2001. As the next slide shows, this could push the global end of season cereal stocks for the marketing year 2001-2002 to their lowest levels since 1983. Stock levels for the past few years are illustrated on the graphic which you now see. The bulk of the stock decline is expected to happen in China, with 50 million tonnes. Chinese stocks levels are shown at the bottom of this graphic in dark blue. The largest part of the remaining decline could occur, according to this forecast, in the United States with about 20 million tonnes. A major factor affecting global cereal markets is, in our view, the cereal inventories held by the major exporters. An important indicator in this regard are the stocks of these major exporting countries measured as a percentage of their utilization, which is the sum of their domestic demand as well as of their exports. And, as you can see, this ratio which is illustrated by the blue line on the graphic stood at 34 percent for the marketing year 2000-2001 and for the current marketing year 2001-2002, we forecast this ratio to fall to 28 percent, which is the same level as we observe during the period of the sharp price rise in 1995-1996. Cereal prices shown in pink on this graphic have fallen significantly since the peak of 1996-1997 and remained depressed, and I should add despite the

low levels of stocks to which I have just referred. But this leads us also to say that, given the further decline in the closing cereals stocks that we forecast until mid next year, the global cereal market in the following season could be the most vulnerable to unexpected shocks since 1995-1996.

The decline in international agricultural prices over the past five to six years has not been confined to cereals only but has affected numerous other agricultural commodities which is illustrated by the two commodity price indices that we show on this graph here. The red line shows FAO's price index for all commodities of basic foodstuffs excluding only sugar and the green line shows the similar index for prices of tropical beverages, and I do not need to explain further what this means. You see the lines on the declining trend. One aspect of the current world food situation which is a cause of serious concern is the persistence of numerous situations, more or less food shortages, worldwide. As of September 2001, the number of countries facing food emergencies stood at 33 and the number of people affected is estimated to be 62 million most of whom belong also to the chronically undernourished people whom I referred to earlier. The largest number of affected countries, 17, is in Africa. Civil strife, internal displaced persons and refugees are among the explanatory factors in the majority of these countries. Among the Asian countries we count eight such cases, determined largely by unfavourable climate events. Drought is an explanatory factory for the four cases in the Near East and two in Latin America. I refer in particular to the situation in Afghanistan. A majority of the population of around 23 million are facing food difficulties at this time, but some 7.5 million of them are most affected and are in desperate need for food assistance. In addition, the current adverse situation coincides with the planting season for wheat which accounts for 80 percent of the country's total cereal production. The current grave food situation is therefore likely to deteriorate further in 2002. The food and nutrition situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is another cause for concern for us and I should like to confirm that an FAO/WFP Assessment Mission is planned, but final steps are still to be taken in this regard.

I would now briefly turn to the fisheries and forestry situation. To complete the picture, I would just mention a few developments in these two sectors. As regards fishery, the world fish production shown by this slide continues to grow faster than world population. In 1999 global production reached 126 million tonnes, aquaculture contributing one-quarter to this volume, as can be seen in the dark-blue upper part of the graphs. According to the preliminary estimates for 2000, production increased further to 130 million tonnes. Capture fisheries production fell in 1998 as a result of the El Nino phenomenon that occurred in 1997-1998 but fortunately fish stocks in the southeast Pacific have now recovered and fisheries are back to normal. Aquaculture production has continued the strong upward trend in the past years. Most of the production takes place in Asia. With regard to fisheries I would like to mention specifically that at the beginning of October this year the Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem, jointly organized by Iceland, FAO and the co-sponsors of Norway, successfully adopted the so-called Reykjavik Declaration with a view to including ecosystem considerations in marine capture fisheries management. We hope that this Conference could give its full support and endorsement to this declaration.

Also for forestry production, 1999 was a year of renewed expansion of global markets for forest products. Recovered somewhat from the past, due to strong growth in developed countries and the beginning of economic recovery in Asia, the preliminary estimates for 2000 point to further growth in global roundwood production. I should add that tropical deforestation and degradation of forests in many parts of the world continue to be a problem. Forest area in developed countries has stabilized and is slightly increasing overall, but deforestation has continued in the developing countries. For the past decade, the net annual loss in forest area worldwide was estimated at 9.4 million hectares.

And finally some remarks on resources to agriculture. You will recall that resource mobilization was one of the subject matters that would have had major attention during the World Food Summit: *five years later*. I just relate to this issue for a moment and I would begin by referring to the trends in official development assistance (ODA) to agriculture, which is presented on this

graphic. The graphic covers a broad definition of agriculture including agriculture, forestry, fishery, land and water management, agro-industries, environment, manufacturing of agricultural inputs and machinery, river development and rural development. So it is a broad definition. But relative to the 1980s, the past decade has been characterized by a significant lower level of external assistance to agriculture measured in real terms, and this is shown here in the green bars. At the same time, the share of agriculture and total official development assistance illustrated by the red lines here has declined even more sharply. It is reason for further concern that the trend has been accompanied by declining levels of national expenditure towards agriculture, in particular, by very different levels of investment among countries. This is worrisome considering the fact that the majority of the world's poor live in rural areas.

In finishing this presentation I would like to turn to where we began, the trends in undernourishment in the 1990s. We saw that some countries have been very successful in reducing the number of undernourished people during the decade while others have seen the undernourished population increase. This last graphic shows and illustrates the strong relationship between resource mobilization for agriculture and success in reducing undernourishment. On the left-hand side of the graphic you see changes over the 1990s in levels of capital stock per agricultural worker for two groups of countries. Those who were successful in reducing the number of undernourished people over the 1990s, which is the green bars, and those on the other hand where undernourishment increased, which is the red bars. It is evident that countries which were more successful in reducing the number of undernourished were those which invested more in agriculture and thus increased their agricultural capital stock by more than US\$100 per caput, that means per agricultural worker. On the other hand, countries which saw numbers of undernourished people increase were those which saw even a disinvestment. The capital stock went down by more than \$50 per agricultural worker. A somewhat similar picture is seen on the right-hand side of the slide, which refers to official development assistance to agriculture. As we can see it worldwide, ODA per agricultural worker decreased over the period but not to the same extent for all countries. For the countries unsuccessful in terms of reducing the number of undernourished, again the red bar here, the decline in overall official development assistance per agricultural worker was much greater than in the group where the number of undernourished decreased which, *grosso modo*, concern levels of ODA per agricultural worker. We believe that this graphic clearly indicates a strong positive relationship between investments in agriculture and success in reducing undernourishment.

I would like to conclude by putting emphasis on the fact that there are costs involved in not investing to reduce hunger and undernourishment. Indeed not only does undernourishment involve human suffering, it also has high economic costs in terms of lost production, poor ability of children to benefit from education, increased susceptibility to illness, all of which translate into lower economic growth. In conclusion, hunger is both a consequence and a cause of poverty. Investments are required to break this cycle.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank the Assistant Director-General, Mr De Haen, for his excellent presentation. Now we will listen to the country declarations on this item.

**STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS
DÉCLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION
DECLARACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE DELEGACIONES**

Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Belgique, European Community, China, United States of America, Mauritius, Mexico, Libya, Malaysia, España, Sudan, República Dominicana, Kuwait, Slovakia, Nigeria, Indonesia, Iceland, Tunisie, Botswana, Australia

Ben Moammar ABDALLAH BEN ABDEL AZIZ (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic)

I have the great pleasure to join my colleagues in congratulating the Chairman of the Conference, Mr Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Raqabani and his deputies, for the trust conferred upon them by the members of the Conference. In the meantime I would like to confirm our complete cooperation and commitment towards the success of this conference to enable it to reach positive results and resolutions in order to lay down a firm basis for worldwide food security.

I would also like to seize the opportunity to convey, on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, our gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency, Mr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of FAO, and his colleagues for their great efforts in preparing for and organizing this Conference, wishing His Excellency and his staff all success.

It also gives me great pleasure on behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to welcome the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Nauru and the Principality of Monaco, as well as the Federation Republic of Yugoslavia to the membership of the Organization during this session. We hope that the positive results of the realization of food security and reduction of poverty and malnutrition in the world will be achieved by their membership.

It is evident that most of the economies of developing countries are still experiencing periods of low growth rate, as some of these economies have recorded negative growth rates and others have achieved modest ones. All these economic changes have led to increasing rates of inflation, unemployment and a high cost of living which the citizens of these countries cannot afford. The FAO reports show that the current situation indicates a slow growth of trade in farm products in developing countries and it is even most likely that these countries will very soon become net importers of agricultural commodities. From this very forum, the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has already called and will reiterate the call for solidarity among the international community to reform the economic policies of developing countries, render continuous support to free trade, and assist in removing barriers to trade. In addition, it is equally important to facilitate the transfer of technologies relevant to the improvement and intensification of agricultural production and the contribution to the increase in financial resources from all sources of public and private institutions in this field.

Moreover, the food aid provided by certain donor countries has hardly contributed to the solution of economic problems in developing countries. Such assistance is unlikely to eradicate famine unless support, subsidies and direct loans are taken into consideration. In this regard, and on that basis, the radical and sustainable solution would also necessitate the adoption of reform policies through plans and development programmes by the developing countries' governments to achieve an increase in food production and provide remunerable job opportunities for their citizens. Such measures would enable them to support their purchasing power and facilitate the necessary food needs for subsistence.

I would like briefly to highlight the achievement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in terms of food security. Through sound planning and utilization of modern technologies relating to agricultural development and training, the Kingdom has realized food security in most major food products, such as some kinds of grain, animal products, vegetables and fruits. As a result, the share of the agricultural sector in the gross domestic product of non-oil sectors amounted to 10.3 percent in the year 2000. The Kingdom is presently adopting balanced plans to increase food production

through the expansion of research and development in the fields of agriculture, water, animal production, fisheries and the intensification of agricultural training programmes. This is in addition to concentrating on the diversification of the farm products with emphasis on those which do not require consumption of large quantities of water.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia appreciates the present efforts to develop and modernize the various FAO organs to enable them to better perform their expected role in the development of agricultural sectors in developing countries, and least-developed countries, the objective being to eradicate the hunger and malnutrition from which some poor communities of rural areas are presently suffering. In this context, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia emphasizes the importance of the continuation of efforts by FAO to provide assistance to developing countries and to undertake a greater role in finding appropriate solutions to the smooth flow of their products to world markets. In addition, FAO is requested to provide the necessary technical assistance to these countries in areas relating to multilateral negotiations relevant to agriculture and to the accession to the World Trade Organization.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has carefully reviewed the Programme of Work and the suggested budget for the fiscal year 2002-03 and really appreciates the efforts exerted by the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, and his colleagues to prepare such an excellent work. I would also like to extend thanks and gratitude once more to Dr Diouf and the Organization's staff for the good preparation and organization of this Conference. And finally, I would like to thank you, dear colleagues, for your participation and attention, hoping that our discussions will reach reasonable conclusions and desirable resolutions.

Mme Annemie NEYTS-UYTTEBROECK (Belgique)

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, Comme vous le savez, la Belgique au cours de ce semestre assume la présidence du Conseil des Ministres de l'Union européenne. C'est donc à ce titre que je m'adresserai à cette 31^e session de la Conférence de la FAO

A cette occasion, il était prévu d'examiner les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondiale de l'alimentation et de réaffirmer au plus haut niveau politique l'engagement d'atteindre, dans les délais fixés, l'objectif d'une réduction de moitié du nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim ou de la malnutrition. Malheureusement, pour les raisons que vous connaissez, la réunion des chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement, qui était prévue pendant la Conférence, a dû être reportée au mois de juin prochain.

Mais malgré ce report, la sécurité alimentaire reste et doit rester au centre de nos débats. Il ne serait en effet pas admissible de se désintéresser de la situation dramatique que connaissent tant de nos semblables.

La faim comme vous l'avez vous-même souligné, Monsieur le Directeur Général, est à la fois une conséquence et une cause de la pauvreté. Elle affecte l'état de santé, l'accès à la formation et au travail; elle nuit au développement physique et intellectuel; elle freine le développement économique, elle constitue un facteur de conflits – conflits qui, eux-mêmes, par un cercle vicieux, entravent la production agricole, entraînent des déplacements de populations, sapent la confiance dans l'avenir et empêchent la planification et les investissements à long terme.

Comment alors aborder et affronter cette réalité complexe?

Certes, la première condition à remplir est d'assurer une production en quantité, en qualité et en diversité suffisantes pour répondre aux besoins mondiaux. Ce but n'est pas si éloigné. Encore faut-il que l'essor de la production agricole respecte les principes du développement durable. Inversement, il importe que l'application de ces principes prenne elle-même en considération les impératifs d'une politique de sécurité alimentaire à l'échelle mondiale. Cette dimension me paraissait devoir être soulignée, puisque d'ici quelques mois, en septembre prochain, se tiendra le Sommet mondial du Développement durable à Johannesburg.

Une autre dimension qui vient immédiatement à l'esprit est celle des inégalités de développement entre les différentes régions du monde. Il est extrêmement préoccupant de constater que, depuis le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, les indicateurs internationaux mettent en évidence une grave détérioration de la diversité des régimes alimentaires, dans plusieurs pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne. Certaines autres régions du monde sont tout autant également affectées par une évolution semblable. Les causes en sont variables, mais il est rare qu'elles échappent totalement à notre responsabilité collective. Il ne faut dès lors donc pas se résigner. Plusieurs initiatives récentes ont été prises sur le plan mondial afin de promouvoir une approche à la fois cohérente et volontariste des questions globales du développement. Je pense alors en particulier à la Déclaration du Millénaire. Cette Déclaration, de portée quasiment universelle, a donné lieu à un rapport que, dans notre jargon, nous appelons la "World Map", mais c'est un document très important, un rapport, un "World Map" donc, du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, rapport qui a été publié en septembre 2001, qui décrit les grandes lignes d'une stratégie commune destinée à permettre la mise en œuvre des engagements pris par les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement. D'autre part, la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les Pays les moins avancés, Conférence que l'Union européenne a accueillie en mai de cette année à Bruxelles, a rappelé l'objectif de réduire de moitié d'ici à 2015 le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées et elle a requis, de la part des pays les moins avancés, avec l'assistance de leurs partenaires du développement, la mise en œuvre de politiques visant à améliorer l'accès de tous, sur les plans matériel et financier, à une alimentation suffisante, saine et de qualité nutritive adéquate. Enfin, une Conférence sur le Financement du Développement, qui se tiendra en mars 2002 au Mexique, est entrée dans la dernière phase de sa préparation. Il me semble que l'une des clés de la sécurité alimentaire réside dans la cohérence de l'ensemble des politiques de développement, et dans la solidarité de tous leurs acteurs.

Cette politique que j'ai esquissée est donc axée sur le développement et sur son caractère durable; elle relève d'une approche volontariste de tous les acteurs publics et privés, des gouvernements nationaux, des institutions internationales et des donateurs d'aide publique au développement. Une telle politique ne peut se concevoir en faisant abstraction des règles du commerce international.

Ce n'est pas un hasard si l'un des sujets les plus difficiles à l'ordre du jour de la Quatrième Conférence ministérielle de l'OMC est précisément l'agriculture.

D'une manière générale, pour l'Union européenne, la croissance économique mondiale devrait aboutir à une répartition plus équitable des avantages de la mondialisation. La libéralisation des échanges et le renforcement des règles multilatérales doivent contribuer au développement durable, à la protection de l'environnement, au progrès social, à la diminution de la pauvreté et à la santé des consommateurs.

Plus spécifiquement, dans le domaine de l'agriculture, l'Union entend promouvoir activement le traitement spécial et différencié des pays en voie de développement, en particulier des pays les moins avancés. C'est d'ailleurs dans cet esprit qu'elle a pris récemment l'initiative "tout sauf les armes". Comme cette initiative est bien connue, je ne m'y attarderai pas.

Or il y a lieu d'être attentif au fait que selon une étude réalisée par la FAO et portant sur 14 pays en développement, la plupart d'entre eux ne disposent ni des ressources humaines, ni de l'expertise, ni des moyens financiers nécessaires pour mettre en œuvre le volet agricole des Accords de Marrakech. C'est une lacune à laquelle la communauté internationale doit porter remède, notamment en contribuant au renforcement de la capacité institutionnelle des pays concernés.

D'autre part, cet aspect ne doit pas faire perdre de vue que, pour de nombreux agriculteurs dans les pays en développement, l'agriculture reste et demeure une activité de subsistance. Les achats locaux et régionaux de produits traditionnels correspondant aux habitudes alimentaires contribuent à un environnement économique stable. Bien que souhaitable, la libéralisation des échanges internationaux ne doit donc pas être considérée comme la panacée. D'ailleurs, comme le montre le dernier rapport de la FAO sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, la chute des cours de certains produits agricoles originaires essentiellement de pays en développement, en particulier le café, illustre la nécessité d'une diversification des sources de

recettes d'exportation. Cette nécessité de favoriser la diversification de l'économie des pays en développement a été soulignée lors de la troisième Conférence sur les Pays les moins avancés.

Dans toutes ces questions que je viens d'aborder, la FAO conformément à son Acte constitutif, a un rôle de premier plan à jouer. Je me réjouis de constater que cette Organisation est largement reconnue et respectée pour la qualité de son travail et par la compétence des membres de son personnel. Je saisis cette occasion pour les remercier.

Le Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques qui vient d'être adopté samedi dernier est non seulement, mesdames et messieurs, l'aboutissement heureux d'efforts considérables qui se sont étendus sur 7 ans, mais aussi et surtout la base sur laquelle nous travaillerons, tous ensemble, au développement multilatéral efficace d'accès et de partage des avantages ainsi qu'à la mise en œuvre du Plan d'Action mondial de Leipzig pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Cette mise en œuvre devra veiller à ce que ce traité, ainsi que les autres accords internationaux dans les domaines du commerce, de l'agriculture et de l'environnement, se soutiennent mutuellement dans certains domaines comme la forêt, la pêche, la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, la protection de la diversité biologique. Je souhaite que les activités et moyens de la FAO soient renforcés et je suis convaincue que davantage de moyens financiers peuvent être dégagés en faveur de ces activités en poursuivant la politique entreprise en vue d'accroître l'efficacité de l'Organisation, de simplifier les méthodes de travail et d'associer davantage les comités techniques à l'élaboration du programme de travail et de budget. Il importe enfin que la FAO soit le cadre d'échanges de vues approfondies permettant à l'ensemble des membres de participer activement au fonctionnement de l'Organisation, participation que nous considérons comme une condition cruciale dans la recherche d'un consensus. La participation active des membres se manifeste dans les organes directeurs de cette Organisation et notamment de manière importante au niveau du Conseil et c'est dans ce contexte qu'un excellent candidat à la Présidence indépendante du Conseil est présenté par un Etat membre de l'Union Européenne et soutenu par l'ensemble de l'Union.

En conclusion, je voudrais réitérer notre appui à l'action de la FAO en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire dans toutes les acceptions de ce terme et je voudrais me féliciter que ces actions se placent dans le cadre d'une stratégie mondiale du développement dont la sécurité alimentaire constitue l'un des éléments indissociables.

Franz FISCHLER (European Community)

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to address the Conference of FAO on behalf of the European Commission. The European Union is a major sector in international cooperation and development assistance, in particular regarding food security and sustainable rural development which are amongst its key objectives. Promoting food security in the developing world depends among other things on coherence in trade aid, food aid and domestic policies. This coherence needs also to be reflected in the WTO negotiations to be launched later this week in Qatar. Any effective strategy to reduce hunger and increase food security must incorporate the reduction and eventual eradication of poverty.

One essential tool in this respect is to integrate developing countries, and in particular the poorest among them, much better into the global economy and into the world trade. This is a challenge, not least for us in the developed world to open up our markets to trade from the developing countries. Our trade policy is increasingly designed to foster this use and gradual integration of developing countries into the world trade system. In terms of agricultural trade, as you may know, we are frequently being accused of being protectionist and yet we are the world's largest importer of agricultural products, but more to the point we are by far the largest importer of agricultural goods from developing countries. The European Union alone imports more agricultural goods from the developing countries – over 35 billion Euro-worth every year – than the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand taken altogether. This record on trade is in large part due to the trade preferences we offer including through our channeled system of preferences, our agreement with the ACP countries and other bilateral agreements. This year we went further,

opening up full access to our market for the world's 49 least developed countries for all products except arms. We very much hope, and this we are asking internationally, that others will follow our example.

In terms of aid too, the European Community and its Member States lead the world, providing about 50 percent of total international official development assistance and two-thirds of all the world's development grants. Per head of population, the EU contributes some US\$70. As major contributors of technical assistance, we believe that when trade opportunities are offered to the developing world – and especially to the least developed countries – it is essential to provide technical assistance in order to ensure that the beneficiaries can take advantage of the trade possibilities offered. Food aid is no long-term solution to the problems of world hunger and can even be counter productive. It must not be used as a way to get rid of agricultural surpluses. We seek to provide direct food aid only in specific situations where it is requested to save lives and during emergencies to provide safety nets for vulnerable groups and to facilitate the transition from relief to rehabilitation and long-term development.

Our preferred option is to provide financial assistance and to promote regional and local purchases of food to provide food aid. I have mentioned in particular the importance of trade, the role of preferences in trade, the need for technical assistance in this respect and the aspect of food aid because they are very much on my mind at the moment, not only because correctly organized they are key elements in poverty alleviation and food security, but also because there can and should be improvements in all these elements in the contents of the World Trade Organization negotiations.

I and many others go to Doha this week, firmly committed to the launch of a new round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Those negotiations must, in the view of the European Community, have a strong development theme. The negotiations on agriculture are of particular importance in this context given the heavy dependence on agriculture of many developing countries. The fundamental objective must be a progressive establishment of a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system. This implies a gradual process of adaptation in which all WTO Members, and especially the developing countries, can better integrate their agriculture into the world trading system. However, it is clear that there must be special conditions for developing countries in order to help them adapt to the demands of further liberalization. Such conditions are part of the proposal favoured by the European Union in Geneva for the WTO negotiations.

We propose, in addition to multilateral liberalization and in order to increase market access to products originating in developing countries, that developed countries and the wealthiest developing countries provide significant trade preferences to developing countries. We propose that other developed countries open their markets to the least developed countries for all products as we have recently done. We propose that together we examine how to make trade preferences stable and predictable so that further investment in and development of agricultural and agrifood sectors in developing countries is encouraged. We propose that domestic support measures which promote the vitality of rural areas and seek to deal with the food security concerns of developing countries should be subject to more flexible rules than those applying to developing countries. And on food aid we recognize that, in spite of all efforts to the contrary, it will still be necessary in certain cases. We propose however that new disciplines be introduced so that food aid to the least-developed countries and to net food-importing developing countries be given in fully grown form and in ways which do not damage local food production.

Finally, as part of our general policy to promote the sustainable and economic development of developing countries we propose that developed countries should intensify all forms of assistance to developing countries. We believe that the process of integrating the developing countries into the world trading system is a key element in redressing the economic balance in the world today. However, we fully recognize that this process should not run faster than developing country members can manage. They must be able to make the necessary adaptations. For this reason different timetables may be needed in the programme of tariff adjustments.

The European Union is frequently criticized because of its Common Agricultural Policy. We recognize that our policy is not perfect, but we are progressively reforming it. In that process we have opened up our market to become the major market for exports of agricultural products from the developing world, and we are ready to go further. We have an ambitious programme in that respect for the agricultural negotiations in the WTO context. We hope that other developed countries will match our high ambitions.

To sum up, agriculture and food are key elements in all the ongoing steps which are being taken internationally to improve a situation which we all recognize is not acceptable. I am convinced that it is only if all players, developed and developing, work together that we can hope to bind together development objectives and trade policy to contribute towards a more equitable world order.

DU QINGLIN (China) (Original language Chinese)

Mr Chairman, Director-General, and distinguished delegates, I am very pleased to get together with friends from other countries in this ancient city of Rome to view the world food security situation since the World Food Summit and discuss the issues of food and agriculture in the world.

Food and agriculture are the very foundation for the existence and the development of mankind. Since the World Food Summit, the national governments and the international community, in accordance with the Action Plan adopted by the World Food Summit, have been implementing the commitments they had undertaken, and made further efforts in fighting against hunger and undernourishment. All this has achieved tangible results. However, some long existing problems in world food security have not yet been resolved. With a view to achieving the objectives set by the World Food Summit, national governments and the international community are required to intensify their cooperation and make further efforts.

The Chinese Government has been seriously implementing the relevant commitments made by the World Food Summit, and focused on grain production and consolidated the status of agriculture as the foundation of the national economy. Good harvests have been achieved over previous years. The supply and demand pattern for grain and other major agricultural products has undergone dramatic changes shifting from a long-term shortage to a basic balance, with even a surplus during good years. With less than 10 percent of the cultivated land in the world, China succeeds in supporting 22 percent, thus making significant contributions to world food security.

The main measures adopted by China in safeguarding food security are as follows:

Always making agricultural development a top priority, giving great attention to food production. We give top priority to the consolidation of agriculture as the foundation of the national economy, readjusting the income distribution pattern, inclining more towards agriculture, and establishing and improving the support and protecting system for agriculture.

Improving the social and economic environment for food security. The macro-economic environment in China has witnessed uninterrupted improvement. Various industries have enjoyed harmonious development with abundant supply and stable prices, while the income of both rural and urban residents has increased continuously. Consequently, reliable safeguards for the stable growth of agriculture and food production, as well as for the improvement of our domestic food security, have been established.

Protecting and enhancing food production, we have adhered to the policy of protecting and mobilizing farmers' enthusiasm for grain production, as well as attaching importance to the protection of farmland and water resources and perfecting the protection system of capital farmland. We have increased inputs for agriculture, strengthened agricultural and rural infrastructure, thus improving the conditions for agricultural production and marketing, promoting the scientific advancement of agriculture and continuously improving grain quality and food safety. We have reverted some farmland to forestry, aiming at reinforcing ecosystem development and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Giving full play to the fundamental role of the market mechanism in allocating resources, we have persevered in upholding the long-term policy of the household responsibility system so that farmers' long-term land tenure can remain secure, and their principal role in the market can be guaranteed. Efforts have been undertaken to deepen market reform in the grain distribution system.

Promoting development in poverty-stricken areas and safeguarding food security for people living in poverty, we have upheld the principle of poverty alleviation through development. We have increased financial inputs for poverty alleviation, improved production and living conditions in poor areas, and assisted poor farmers to develop crop and animal farming.

The Chinese Government will continue to attach great importance to agricultural development, and will persevere with the strategy of achieving primary self-sufficiency of food by relying on domestic resources. Through the deepening of reform, promoting development and integrated farming and comprehensive efficiency, people's living standards and the state of food security will be further improved.

The successful solution of this difficult issue with global implications relies on the joint efforts by the international community and the governments of all countries. The Chinese Government has always given priority to, and taken active part in, the international exchanges and cooperation activities in the field of food and agriculture. During our development of grain and agriculture production, China has also obtained assistance and support from international organizations and some other countries. For this, I would like to express my sincere appreciation. Meanwhile, the Chinese Government, through bilateral and multilateral channels, including FAO's South-South Programme, has strengthened cooperative relations with other developing countries. We have provided due assistance to some developing countries to promote food security.

The Chinese Government will, as always, support the work of FAO. We are prepared to work together with all the member countries to make greater contributions to the promotion of agricultural development and food security in the world.

Ms Ann M. VENEMAN (United States of America)

It is an honour to be here in Rome to join you at the Thirty-first Plenary Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization and I am proud to represent the United States of America as we review the state of food and agriculture and the mission of this Organization.

During the past two months, the United States has received an outpouring of support from countries all around the globe in response to the tragic events of September 11. On behalf of President Bush, thank you for your kind words and for your prayers.

While these barbaric events occurred on US soil, their impact reached around the world with the loss of innocent civilians from more than 80 countries who worked and conducted business in the World Trade Centre.

In the wake of September 11, President Bush has shown true leadership and is working with our allies around the world to build a strong coalition against terrorism. Together, we can rebuild and become stronger. And, together, we can make our world a safer and more secure place for all of our citizens.

Despite the new priorities we face in battling the ugly face of terrorism, we must not forget the other important challenges our world confronts, including those that bring us together in Rome today – ending poverty and hunger in the world.

We need to wage a war to eliminate world poverty and hunger, as with the war on terrorism, and success will require an international coalition united for collective action.

A few months ago at the G-8 Summit in Genoa, President Bush committed the United States of America to "walking alongside leaders and nations travelling the hard but rewarding path of political and economic reform".

I reiterate that pledge to you today. The United States of America is committed to the goal of ending world poverty and hunger and will walk alongside any country prepared to travel the same path. We have the means to achieve this ambitious goal. New technologies, including biotechnology, will help meet the challenge of feeding a growing world population with a limited resource base.

Global food security will be greatly enhanced by continued trade liberalization. And in emergency situations, food aid will remain an integral tool for providing humanitarian relief.

Technological innovation has played an important role in meeting human food needs since the dawn of agriculture. As we look forward to the new century, the benefits of technological innovations of the last century – mechanization, hybridization, chemical fertilizers and pesticides – are beginning to wane.

However, the technologies of the new century – biotechnology and information technology - will invigorate productivity growth in food and agriculture production to make agriculture more environmentally sustainable.

Agricultural biotechnology, in particular, also promises much much more, such as drought-resistant crop varieties for Africa. It offers the opportunity of economic self-sufficiency for subsistence farmers in developing countries as demonstrated by the farmers growing genetically- enhanced cotton on the flats of South Africa.

It promises nutrition and health benefits for the developing world, as demonstrated by the golden rice project, which could significantly reduce blindness related to vitamin A deficiencies.

In the not too distant future with biotechnology vaccines, against cholera for example, could be administered through dietary staples such as rice and bananas to overcome the many problems with mass inoculations.

And to take advantage of the potential benefits of biotechnology, developing countries face a challenge in establishing biosafety laws and regulations. Effective, science-based laws and regulations are still needed in many countries so field trials of products of particular interest to developing countries – such as cassava and sweet potatoes – can begin.

Another essential condition for adoption of biotechnology in developing countries is confidence that their products will not encounter unfair trade barriers in developed countries. Developed countries have an obligation to establish science-based regulations that are not disguised barriers to products produced through biotechnology.

Food security is an issue of global concern. However, approaches to food security vary widely among countries. Trade liberalization must be a key component of food security. Trade liberalization assures all countries of equal access to world food supplies.

FAO plays a crucial role in trade liberalization through the work of Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Commission which ensure the integrity of science-based decision-making on health and safety issues.

A new round of trade liberalization talks, which we hope to launch next week in Doha, will help to put all countries on an equal footing with respect to food security.

As we have in years past, the United States is taking an active role in Afghanistan by providing humanitarian relief to the many people fleeing the suppression and impoverished economy of the Taliban regime.

President Bush has made it extremely clear that the United States is not at war with the people of Afghanistan. We are one of the largest providers of food aid to that region. We are rather at war with those who harbour and support terrorism. And we must continue to provide strong leadership to these regions and provide humanitarian assistance to those people who are suffering.

In addition to our traditional role in providing emergency food aid to needy people wherever they are, we also provide food aid to help achieve the goal of reducing - by half - the number of hungry people by the year 2015.

One of the things that we have done to support that goal is to initiate the global Food for Education pilot programme. The goal of this programme is to feed children at school. This not only encourages children to attend school but of course it also provides the needed nutrition and children will learn better if they are not hungry. A better education will give them greater opportunities to succeed in life. We hope that more countries will soon join the US in helping these children through the global Food for Education programme.

In closing, I applaud the work of the members of FAO towards the goal of alleviating poverty and hunger. We need to continue to work together, both within FAO and in coordination with other international bodies. The world needs much greater and more effective collaboration among UN partners on critical cross-cutting food security issues.

Working together we can break the crushing cycle of poverty and win the war on hunger. That is the goal to which we must commit ourselves as a global coalition.

Pravind Kumar JUGNAUTH (Mauritius)

Mr Chairman, it gives me great pleasure on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference.

Five years ago, we gathered at the World Food Summit in Rome to reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. We pledged our political will, as well as our common and national commitment, to an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries with an immediate view to halving the number of food-insecure people not later than 2015.

This commitment is embodied in the World Food Summit Declaration and the Plan of Action.

While we recognize that the number of hungry people has declined significantly over the years, with an annual decrease of 8 million, it will take us well into the second half of the first century of this third millennium to reach the target set in 1996. This is unacceptable.

Follow-up actions were expected from us at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels. We were expected to develop our own strategy and agenda on the basis of our own resources, capacities and development priorities. We were expected to cooperate with one another both to achieve our own national goals and to address global issues.

We recognize, however, that attaining food security is a complex task. Constraints on access to food, instability of supply and demand, as well as natural and man-made disasters, require our immediate attention.

The primary responsibility to address these constraints resides in us. We have to develop the necessary enabling environment and policies which will ensure peace, as well as social, political and economic stability, equity and gender equality.

I should therefore like to express my sincere appreciation to the Director-General for having extended the scope of this Conference and given us the opportunity to discuss this issue fully.

Allow me now to share with you and our distinguished delegates to this 31st Session of the FAO Conference the path which my country has followed during the past decades to ensure that each and every household has adequate and safe food at all times.

Mauritius, with an average GDP per capita of over US\$ 3 500 and US\$ 10 500 in terms of purchasing power parity, is a middle-income and food-secure country. However, my country is a net food importer. Our food import bill is expected to continue to increase in view of the growing per capita income. The food import bill in the year 2000 was US\$ 260 million, representing 14 percent of total imports.

Mauritius does not possess adequate resources to produce all its food requirements. The country depends heavily on external sources for its two basic staple foods, namely rice and wheat.

The country's food security strategy has therefore been to generate sufficient foreign earnings from the major productive sectors of the economy and maintain a reserve to cover at least two months of imports. This reserve at present represents 20 weeks of imports. The country food security is therefore ensured through economic security.

However, with a view to promoting agricultural development, Mauritius has since the mid-1970s implemented various policies and strategies to attain a certain degree of self-sufficiency in selected strategic commodities. Self-sufficiency has been attained in many horticultural products. Food crop production has more than doubled since 1980. Production, which was 46 000 tonnes in 1981, increased to 114 000 tonnes in the year 2000.

This quantum leap in production has been made possible through the concerted and sustained efforts of all stakeholders. Mauritius utilizes its land resources intensively and efficiently. Food crops are grown mixed with sugar cane in between rows during the early stages of growth, and on a pure stand basis in between two cane crop cycles.

Food crop production is expected to increase significantly in the near future with the coming into operation of the Midlands Dam in December 2002. The present irrigation network is also being rehabilitated, improved and extended to provide irrigation facilities to new areas.

With regard to livestock production, self-sufficiency has been achieved in poultry, eggs, pig meat and venison. However, the country has still to depend on imports for other red meat and milk requirements.

The attention of policy-makers has been drawn to two major food-related problems. Mauritius has one of the highest rates of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. This is attributed, *inter alia*, to bad eating habits. The country shall have to review its food consumption patterns as well as the life style of its population. Health and nutrition education will have to be incorporated in the school curriculum, with a view to creating the necessary awareness among our school children.

The importance of food quality and food safety, recognized at the 1981 International Conference on Nutrition, was reaffirmed in the 1996 World Food Summit. In that respect Mauritius enacted the necessary legislation and is at present embarking on a comprehensive training programme for food operators. A national food technology laboratory is being set up later this year to ensure the safety of food production, exports and imports.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources is actively promoting the introduction of innovative technologies. The various measures provided to support the development of high-value crops include the provision of improved and selected seeds and planting materials, research, extension and credit facilities. Government has made provision in this year's budget for the creation of a national biotechnology institute. A feasibility study is well under way and it is my wish that this institute be operational by early 2003. A training programme in the field of biotechnology for our research staff is at present being worked out.

Mauritius, a small island state to the east of mainland Africa, has an immense exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of over 1.9 million square kilometres. The fishing industry is well developed, though marine resources in the lagoon have shown signs of depletion in recent years. Annual per capita consumption of fish stands at about 20 kilograms.

The declaration of a 200-nautical mile EEZ has placed great responsibility on my country to utilize the renewable marine resources for the economic sustainability and social upliftment of those involved in this activity. FAO funded the elaboration of a ten-year development plan for the fisheries sector in 1998. This plan stipulates the needs for the rational exploitation of marine resources, the protection and conservation of the marine environment. The nine programmes proposed in the plan are being implemented.

I shall now address the issue of development occurring in both the regional and the international fronts and which may have strong implications on the development in my country. On the one hand the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on agriculture with a view to achieving further trade liberalization and on the other hand the SADC and COMESA Free Trade Agreements will have significant impacts on the agricultural sector in Mauritius.

We shall be meeting later this week in Doha on trade issues. In the interest of agricultural and developing economies it is our wish that equal importance be given to non-trade issues like food security, environment protection and the welfare of the rural population.

With due consideration given to the above, we have in recent months paved the way for a new era in Mauritian agriculture. Currently our endeavours focus on producing more intelligently and efficiently on reduced surfaces. Whether in the sugar or in the non-sugar sector we are conscious of the fact that the adoption of modern production techniques, improved irrigation facilities, planned diversification and optimal utilization of resources are the keys to a successful agricultural strategy. We realize that higher productivity and competitiveness need to be the golden rules at all levels.

In view of the expected threats and challenges facing the sugar industry as a result of trade liberalization and globalization, a Sugar Sector Strategic Plan was worked out last June and the necessary legislation enacted.

My Ministry is presently preparing a strategic plan for the non-sugar sector. This five-year plan will be expected to create the appropriate environment to enable this important sector to reorient itself and intensify food crop and livestock production

At the regional level, Mauritius has pursued an outward-looking development strategy. Already the country has invested in sugar production in partnership with local entrepreneurs in Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire. Regional cooperation is a reality and Mauritius has the ambition to play a significant role in that direction. We want to emerge as a regional business, trade and financial hub.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to give my full support to the initiative of the Africa Group in the fight against the tsetse fly and trypanosomiasis.

Víctor Manuel VILLALOBOS ARÁMBULA (México)

Concurrimos con un espíritu renovado a esta conferencia, con el fin de atender los temas que la agenda internacional nos presenta en esta ocasión, convencidos como estamos de la importancia del diálogo y de la concertación internacional.

Reconocemos una vez más los problemas que se presentan en el escenario internacional para la agricultura y la alimentación y nos fortalecemos en el propósito de buscar alternativas de solución. El quehacer multilateral habrá de complementar, de manera muy importante el que ya realizamos a los niveles bilateral y nacional, en cada uno de nuestros países.

En mi país se ha reestructurado la Secretaría de Agricultura, en la que además de los temas sobre agricultura y ganadería, se están atendiendo los de desarrollo rural, pesca y alimentación.

En la Administración actual, esta Secretaría tiene como misión estratégica lograr el desarrollo de la nueva sociedad rural, basada en el crecimiento sostenido de los sectores agroalimentario y pesquero con un enfoque integral y sustentable que se mantenga con actividades productivas, rentables y competitivas, y con una orientación hacia el mercado.

Las líneas que consideramos estratégicas e importantes de nuestro trabajo son fundamentalmente cuatro. La primera es desarrollar el sector agroalimentario, en términos económicos y financieros, integrando al productor primario a la cadena productiva que termina con el consumidor. La segunda es desarrollar el capital humano del sector considerando la disponibilidad de alimentos sanos como uno de los muchos componentes. La tercera es la de desarrollar el capital social, buscando un desarrollo regional más equitativo y la cuarta es desarrollar el capital físico, promoviendo un uso racional de la biodiversidad y sus recursos naturales.

Con estas líneas de trabajo se pretende restituir el valor del sector agroalimentario y de su gente, así como lograr un desarrollo integral que tenga como eje central el desarrollo de las personas.

Con respecto a la política general de la investigación y la transferencia de tecnologías del Gobierno de México, consideramos las tecnologías disponibles y las tecnologías de avanzada como un fuerte factor para el desarrollo. En materia de tecnologías disponibles la Secretaría de Agricultura impulsa, un mayor enlace en los sistemas de extensión, de financiamiento y de comercialización. Se revisan los grados de adopción de las tecnologías generadas por la investigación nacional, seleccionando aquellas, que tienen posibilidades de impacto en la capacidad de la producción y en el mejoramiento de los ingresos, tanto de los campesinos como de los productores nacionales. Para tal fin, se están desarrollando las cadenas agroalimentarias más representativas a nivel nacional, a fin de identificar aquellos eslabones en los cuales se tiene posibilidad de incrementar el ingreso al productor y así retener mayor valor en la productividad primaria.

En materia de tecnologías avanzadas se busca una mayor coordinación con instituciones nacionales e internacionales de investigación agrícola. El financiamiento a la investigación proviene no solamente de la propia Secretaría de Agricultura, sino también del Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología. Este esfuerzo se ve complementado con los programas de cooperación internacional.

Los rubros prioritarios de la investigación agrícola en México son la inocuidad alimentaria, la sanidad vegetal, la salud animal, el manejo postcosecha, la biotecnología aplicada a la agricultura, los recursos fitogenéticos, la bioseguridad y los organismos genéticamente modificados, el manejo integrado de las cuencas y un uso y conservación razonable de los suelos.

El campo puede ser un gran aliado del hombre en su lucha por la sobrevivencia y el desarrollo, en un mundo que presenta permanentemente nuevos retos. Para ello es importante entender, aprovechar y mejorar las condiciones de la producción y de la productividad agrícolas, en beneficio del productor y en beneficio también de la agroindustria.

Los avances del conocimiento científico y el desarrollo de las innovaciones tecnológicas, tienen su trascendencia al trasladarlos y ser aplicados en el campo. Es ahí donde se hacen necesarios e indispensables, para producir y disponer de los alimentos que dispone la sociedad y la materia prima que demanda la agroindustria y otros procesos de transformación y procesamiento agroindustrial.

Tenemos la convicción de que la promoción del saber, el desarrollo de la investigación científica y la transferencia de la tecnología agrícola al productor, son la base del desarrollo agropecuario del país y un importante pilar del sector para cumplir sus objetivos de garantizar la producción de los alimentos.

México, al igual que otros países, enfrenta serios retos en materia de salud, en materia de vivienda y de alimentación, así como en materia de educación, capacitación y empleo. Entendemos que no es posible un desarrollo humano efectivo y sostenido cuando se vive en condiciones de insalubridad y de hambre; no es posible potenciar las capacidades de las personas que se encuentran en la pobreza extrema; no es posible pedir que sean autosuficientes a quienes luchan hoy por sobrevivir.

Por ello, el primer eje de nuestra política en el desarrollo social y humano, contenido en el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2001-2006 se refiere, precisamente, a los niveles de bienestar de los mexicanos y está orientado a evitar que existan grupos de población mexicana cuyas condiciones de vida, oportunidades de superación personal y participación social, se encuentren por debajo de ciertos umbrales.

El objetivo consiste en romper el círculo vicioso de la pobreza que existe en el país y, en particular, en las zonas indígenas geográficamente más aisladas.

Para lograrlo no sólo se busca un crecimiento económico sostenido sino una inversión en el desarrollo social y humano.

Por ello la política social permea y está presente en los programas sectoriales, inclusive en los que atañen a la agricultura y la alimentación.

Estos planteamientos de política hacen que nos identifiquemos con las actividades de la FAO.

Mi delegación reconoce la importancia de algunos de los temas que aborda la conferencia, como los relativos al plan de acción de la FAO para la paridad hombre-mujer, los progresos realizados en la revisión del código internacional de conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas y, de manera significativa, las negociaciones relativas a los compromisos internacionales para los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura.

Agradecemos las actividades propuestas y apreciamos los programas laborales y de presupuesto para el 2002-2003, particularmente las referidas a los recursos genéticos, la normalización y la sanidad agropecuarias, el diseño de las políticas y programas, así como las actividades relativas al fortalecimiento y a las capacidades de los países en materia de negociaciones comerciales multilaterales.

Al respecto apoyamos una política internacional de competencia justa, de acceso a los mercados para los productos agropecuarios, evitando subsidios exagerados que desplazan a los países pobres y limitan el desarrollo del sector.

Finalmente mi delegación quiere manifestar su sincero reconocimiento al Sr. Jacques Diouf, Director General de la FAO, por su incansable y tenaz labor al frente de esta Secretaría de la FAO. También expresamos nuestro aprecio al trabajo que ha realizado el Sr. Presidente Independiente del Consejo, cuyo mandato concluye en esta Conferencia.

En los trabajos de la Secretaría y del Consejo se localiza buena parte de la sabiduría y de la visión que esta Organización, cuyos esfuerzos se reflejan en los debates y resoluciones de la Conferencia de gran trascendencia para las actividades del campo.

Finalmente señores participantes, el próximo 18 al 22 de marzo y bajo los auspicios de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, se efectuará en la ciudad de Monterrey (México) la Conferencia Internacional sobre el Financiamiento del Desarrollo. Será oportunidad para que, al más alto nivel político, se analicen los desafíos del desarrollo bajo la perspectiva financiera y se identifiquen nuevas formas de promoción de la equidad económica y social a esa escala global, los grandes objetivos de cooperación internacional para reducir la malnutrición y para combatir la pobreza con gran relevancia en la medida que todos los países se orienten a sus reflexiones y voluntad para liberar a la Humanidad del hambre.

Mi delegación ve con gran optimismo la estrecha colaboración que existe entre la FAO, el FIDA y el Programa Mundial de Alimentación, para una participación comprometida en la Conferencia de Monterrey. La contribución de estas tres agencias especializadas y de todos los Estados Miembros de la organización, sería esencial para este momento histórico en el que el impulso, el financiamiento y el desarrollo es vital para la paz y la estabilidad internacional.

Ali Yusef GIUMA (Libya) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to congratulate you for your election to the Chairmanship of this Conference, the Thirty-First Session of the Conference. I wish you great success in your deliberations. I would also like to sincerely congratulate the friendly states that have become Members of this Organization and we are sure that this is going to make the Organization even more universal and we have to focus on the importance of international cooperation between the Member Nations of the Organization. I would also like to particularly congratulate the Director- General, Mr Jacques Diouf, and his associates in the Organization for the significant efforts they have devoted to preparing this Conference. I want to congratulate them for taking all the appropriate measures to ensure the the comfort of all delegations and for providing a favourable environment for the Conference.

We share the concern of all those who have talked about the issue of food safety in developing countries, especially countries that have had to deal with natural disasters, that have faced

drought, internal conflicts, civil war. We need to eradicate hunger in the world. We all must work in solidarity to reduce and eradicate hunger in the world. The reduction in the strategic reserves for grain requires significant efforts on the part of developing countries. They have to increase food production and because of this we need to take advantage of the significant level of technology available today in research centres. Farmers should also be involved in maintaining agricultural infrastructure, and should be involved in analysis of data on targeted populations. Of course this will have an impact on food safety and we all help to improve the situation. For a long time we in our country have felt that food safety was very important, both in our country and in Africa, and we have helped to improve the food situation in many countries in Africa that suffer from poverty and drought and we work hand in hand with FAO in the Special Programme for the Sahel and Sahara countries, involving some eleven countries. The programmes target farmers and people who live in villages in the rural areas, the goal being to improve their standard of living and to help provide for their food needs. The monopoly of seeds, especially hybrid seeds, is a problem some countries are suffering. Some countries are under pressure and they do not have access to these seeds. We have to do away with this monopoly on the production of seeds. It is absolutely urgent and is a very essential issue because the monopoly on seeds means that you have a monopoly on food. This is a very important aspect of human rights. All countries should develop cooperation mechanisms so that this monopoly does not continue.

We also need to disseminate information on technologies using cooperation programmes and this Organization will have a very important role to play and will help to promote food safety in the world and reduce poverty and hunger. My country in the month of March 2000 organized an International Conference on Seed Production with several organizations and research centres participating, FAO and others. My country is also working with FAO on developing projects, developing biotechnology centres that will be fully equipped to provide the appropriate instruments for research in food and agriculture production in Africa. We will also provide infrastructure and it will be a forum for development of agriculture biotechnologies. Another aim of the project is to develop scientific and technical research programmes to improve the production of harvesting, to improve harvest and help people to work in more favourable conditions and provide useful applications.

We are paying particular attention also to the problems, the health problems in the countries of the Sahel and the Sahara and we are working hand and hand with FAO in this area. We are also working on improving the food situation in Africa. Our country is one of those that is convinced that global agricultural development is extremely important for the food safety of the average Libyan. This is an essential human right and that is why the goal for us is to develop the agricultural sector and we also pay particular attention to human development, to the development of infrastructures. We have adopted the appropriate policies for boosting agricultural production. We are also working on a strategy related to the decisions taken by the Organization. There are problems in Africa and in the Middle East and they are of food safety and agricultural development and we are trying to deal with these problems. We would also like to adopt the right measures to so do.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to inform you that we have accepted to contribute to the voluntary fund FAO is going to set up to fund food safety worldwide, especially in Africa. We support the resolution of African countries on the eradication of the tsetse fly in Africa. I am sorry if I spoke for too long but I am very much attached to these issues in Africa.

Datuk Mohd Effendi Bin NORWAWI (Malaysia)

Allow me first and foremost to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, for being elected to chair this important meeting. I would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairpersons who will be assisting you in our deliberations during this Session. I am confident that under your able leadership, Mr Chairman, this meeting will achieve much success. I would like to take this opportunity to extend on behalf of the Malaysian Government our congratulations to the United Nations and to its Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan for being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2001 for the efforts to achieve peace and security in the world.

It is indeed a privilege for me to participate in this Conference, this being the first session for the millennium. The relevance of this Conference is never in doubt and it would be appropriate to say that the delegates gathered here are committed to addressing the varied and complex problems and challenges of agriculture and its related issues, poverty, hunger, food security, globalization, liberalization, environment, food quality and safety, investments and sustainable development. In this regard, I would like to fully endorse the Twenty-second McDougall Memorial Lecture given by Patricio Aylwin, former President of the Republic of Chile at the opening of this Conference. Indeed Malaysia, as expressed by our Prime Minister, shares the message in this memorial lecture that globalization, as it is being promoted and practised today, is not working for the common good and for our common development. Let me quote from the speech given by the Prime Minister at the APEC CEO Summit 2001 on 10 October in Shanghai, China. He said, "not long ago the message from the principal pulpits of capitalism and the free market, including the WTO, was clear; there can only be winners, just endure the pain a little longer and a little longer and a little longer and the gain must surely come. It is now clear beyond any doubt that in the process of globalization as it is promoted, practised and pressed upon us, there are big winners and big losers. The basic pattern of winners and losers is unchanging and unfair. For the winners are invariably the rich countries and the losers are the poor ones." Indeed, globalization as being pressed upon us is not working for the common good, for our common development. Many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America are experiencing the negative impacts of globalization, in particular from the world financial markets. Our economies are now exposed to greater risks, the risks arising from the actions of powerful financiers, speculators, hedge fund managers, investors and traders. In developing countries the process of globalization is not offering anything to the men, women and children ravaged by the violence of poverty. We are just leaving too many of the disempowered and disadvantaged behind. Eight hundred and fifteen million people who do not have access to sufficient food, including some 300 million children, left to their sad fate. This is totally unacceptable. It is very sad to note that food insecurity for the poor and hungry continues to affect many countries of the world. Malaysia remains committed to implementing earnestly in our own country our food security programmes through our Third National Agricultural Policy and we are fully committed to supporting within our means FAO global programmes on eradication of hunger and poverty.

We also acknowledge the critical role of women to fight hunger and poverty and their tangible contributions to national development. Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources including credit, land ownership and inheritance and their minimum participation in the decision-making process. Women's poverty is further intensified through gender inequality, which exists in all sectors. Our National Policy on Women and the National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women are intended to achieve gender equality. Towards this end, we have given greater focus to specific programmes for improving the quality of women's lives, particularly in rural areas, developing female entrepreneurs and eradicating gender bias.

While it is sad to note the world food security problem, it is sadder still as we hear again in this session that we have fallen far short of the target we have ourselves set to eradicate poverty and undernourishment. When we set the target five years ago, to reduce the number by 20 million people a year we gave them a ray of hope. Now, what do we tell them about our shortfall, these 815 million helpless people – that we are really sorry? Sorry that we could not summon enough political will and commitment? Sorry that we cannot gather enough resources and support? Sorry that we cannot get consensus, sorry we cannot get all the countries and leaders to work together and agree to make this their number one priority? Sorry, sorry, sorry. If these starving children, men and women were in front of us here today, can you imagine the look of despair and disbelief on their faces? How can something like this happen? How could the world be so indifferent, so insensitive, so uncaring? What could be more important, more urgent, more pressing, more wanting than 815 million people living without enough food every day on this planet? Why do we seem so helpless when it is all within our means and ability to make the change? Why can we not rise above our differences, our politics and our other mundane and narrow interests of trade, finance, protection and divisions amongst us, when it comes to dealing with giving equal access

to food for every human being? Why can we not exercise flexibility and compassion on this, as we are dealing with the most important basic right of mankind.

If we can raise such a large-scale world coalition against terrorism, why can we not raise a large-scale world coalition against hunger and starvation? Why can we not act with the same swiftness and determination?

Five years from now there will be another review and another report on how we have done in our pledge to reduce hunger. Ten years will have passed by then. What do we want this report to be? That we have fallen short again? That we are still unable to stand united on this issue? That we are still powerless? I hope not. I pray it will be a different report, I pray it will be a refreshing report of victory for the human race, a victory of our hearts and sincerity, and our deep sense for humanity to correct this world's greatest injustice today: hunger. I pray that we no longer have to say "sorry".

Manuel LAMELA FERNÁNDEZ (España)

Quisiera comenzar esta intervención manifestando, como no podía ser de otra forma en cuanto que España es miembro de la Unión Europea, el acuerdo y la coincidencia de criterios con la intervención de Bélgica, presidente de turno y de la Comisión, y recordando además una fecha importante desde nuestro punto de vista, para España en este caso, que es la del 19 de febrero del año 2001, cuando el presidente del Gobierno de España tuvo la ocasión y la oportunidad de recibir de manos del Director General de la FAO, la Medalla Agrícola de la FAO. En aquel momento, el Presidente del Gobierno español, estableció o determinó un lema que en síntesis decía: "desterrar el hambre en el mundo y cultivar la paz". Estos dos objetivos son dos objetivos prioritarios para mi país y para mi Gobierno y en ellos nos encontramos plenamente identificados e implicados, trabajando con ahínco y con tesón por lo que nunca escatimaremos ningún tipo de esfuerzo.

La Cumbre del Milenio que tuvo lugar hace apenas un año, tenía como objetivo principal que los responsables políticos de todos los países del mundo pudieran profundizar sobre el fenómeno de la globalización y en ese marco sobre la misión de las Naciones Unidas en el siglo XXI. Pues bien, los retos del siglo XXI en el que ya nos encontramos y en el que hemos empezado, exigen a nuestro juicio, a juicio del Gobierno de España, el respeto básico de los valores fundamentales para las relaciones internacionales que se aprobaron en la Cumbre del Milenio, y desde esta perspectiva quiero decir también que mi Gobierno, asiste y participa de manera activa en un escenario mundial complicado, en un escenario mundial cuajado y plagado de retos que todos tenemos la obligación de superar con el esfuerzo y la solidaridad de todos los países. Esfuerzos fundamentales para conseguir la paz, para luchar por el mantenimiento de la libertad, el progreso económico, la seguridad alimentaria y la inocuidad de los alimentos. Creemos que son objetivos que desde conseguirlos como comunes, tenemos todos la responsabilidad de trabajar para su consecución en el menor plazo posible.

Con la mirada puesta en la consecución de la paz, somos conscientes de que debemos abordar algo tan básico para la constitución de estos objetivos como es el desarrollo agrario, y un desarrollo agrario que sea además sostenible. Tender hacia la seguridad alimentaria para cumplir los compromisos asumidos en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación del año 1996 y como decía el lema del Presidente del Gobierno, del presidente Aznar, desterrar el hambre garantizando la inocuidad y la máxima calidad de los alimentos. De ahí el esfuerzo del Gobierno de España en la creación y en la puesta en marcha de una agencia de seguridad alimentaria en el marco de lo establecido por la Unión Europea, en la aprobación de una nueva ley de sanidad vegetal que garantice la inocuidad de nuestros elementos vegetales y en la aprobación inmediata también de una ley de sanidad animal. Ejemplos, todos ellos transferibles y exportables a otros países, y desde luego ejemplo indudable de ese compromiso histórico del Gobierno de España con la seguridad alimentaria y con la inocuidad de los alimentos.

El Plan Director de la Cooperación española aprobado para el proyecto 2001-2004, en cumplimiento de nuestra reciente ley de cooperación para el desarrollo, recoge la sensibilidad, la que yo me atrevería a decir que es una nueva sensibilidad de la sociedad española ante estos retos,

y desde luego facilita de manera muy importante la participación y el trabajo de todas las administraciones públicas del Estado y de los representantes del mundo empresarial y el voluntariado en la consecución de estos objetivos.

Pues bien, desde el año 96, dando cumplida respuesta a los compromisos adquiridos en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, la participación de España en la lucha contra la pobreza y el hambre, la participación de la administración pública española en estos objetivos y de la sociedad civil en un ámbito también importante y fundamental, como es el de la cooperación bilateral y multilateral, se ha incrementado de manera significativa, y de manera muy significativa con la FAO en un magnífico clima de entendimiento, de colaboración con sus instituciones y con su Director General Sr. Diouf.

Con la FAO se están realizando programas de cooperación de cinco departamentos donde mi Gobierno, en los ámbitos agrícolas, ganaderos, pesqueros, alimentarios y forestales, que se centran en objetivos tan importantes como son la transferencia de tecnología, la formación, la información a nuestros agricultores, a nuestros ganaderos y nuestra sociedad civil, así un amplio programa de apoyo a jóvenes profesionales asociados que tienen que ser necesariamente el vivero y la semilla de lo que serán las nuevas generaciones y las nuevas vocaciones de apoyo y de trabajo para objetivos comunes en el marco de Naciones Unidas y de la FAO.

Sr. Presidente, necesitamos avanzar con urgencia hacia un mundo sin exclusiones en un diálogo renovado entre las culturas, las regiones, los Países Miembros y en estrecha relación, indudable, con el sistema de Naciones Unidas y con la cooperación bilateral.

Necesitamos recuperar el espíritu del consenso para desterrar el hambre y para tender hacia un desarrollo sostenible. En esta tarea, España se ha implicado decididamente y consideramos indudablemente muy relevante, muy importante, el Tratado Internacional Sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura que constituye el primer tratado del siglo XXI y que creo que es un ejemplo de diálogo y de trabajo y de esfuerzo a lo largo de siete años, que hay que seguir en otros ámbitos y desde luego renovar y aplicar para su implementación futura.

Quiero desde esta tribuna dar un reconocimiento explícito a los que han trabajado de manera incansable para la consecución de este objetivo, especialmente para Don José Esquinas-Alcázar, y para el embajador Gerbasí, que en los últimos años ha sido responsable de su éxito. El éxito de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, va a ser un éxito seguro que se va a realizar durante la presidencia española de la Unión Europea, en el primer semestre.

Quiero terminar esta elocución diciendo a todos ustedes que pueden estar seguros que para mi Gobierno constituye una prioridad contribuir al éxito de esta Cumbre Mundial desde su responsabilidad de presidencia de turno de la Unión Europea, y desde luego desde su compromiso histórico renovado en este acto y en esta sesión con la FAO, con sus objetivos y con sus instituciones.

Majzoub AL-KHALIFA AHMAD (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I am pleased to address you on behalf of the Government and people of Sudan, and I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this Conference. I would also like to thank FAO and its Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf. My thanks also go to the Government and people of Italy for hosting this Organization and giving their every support.

Hunger and food insufficiency are not due to lack of resources. As you know we have plenty of them. But the deficit and the severe poverty in developing countries are due to lack of financial resources and, of course, also the heavy debts which are a burden on a number of countries. There is no clear vision for development and the efforts made by some countries are faced with lack of resources, and in some cases there is no stability, there are conflicts, droughts, desertification and floods in some parts of the world, especially in Africa. All this makes it important for the international community to combine its efforts in order to lead to stability in all the countries of the world. We all have to take part in resolving conflicts by peaceful means. Liberating human beings from hunger and malnutrition is the challenge facing humanity and this cannot be

undertaken unless we have the will and determination and we provide the solutions to this problem.

During the last three years, Sudan has achieved progress and political stability conducive to development and we have moved to a market economy in order to give the opportunity to all to contribute to economic activity. We have also implemented reforms in agriculture and trade that led to an increase in production and our Gross National Product has increased as a result. We have achieved self-sufficiency in some crops in spite of drought and floods in some years. We note with concern what is happening to the decline in our agricultural exports but our total exports have increased thanks to our oil exports. We devote a large part of this to support the infrastructure. We have seen our oil exports increase despite difficult conditions. We managed to restructure our economy and our economic performance has increased and we have achieved a growth rate of 7 percent. Inflation has gone down from 16 to 8 percent and our exchange rate is stable. My country is now receiving a number of foreign investors. This is, of course, a great challenge but at the same time it made us self-reliant and it also helped us to increase our capabilities and we are determined to continue along this path in order to provide a decent life for the people and to guarantee liberty and freedom for our citizens. We have managed to implement a federal system based on a multi-party system which has permitted us to achieve more and endeavour to reach peace in the south through negotiation with all those involved in the fighting. This will be done by dialogue and giving equal access to all citizens and giving more importance to the remote areas. We have managed to provide US\$35 million from oil exports in order to combat poverty in the south and in the areas where there is a food deficit in the east and in the west.

The changes which have taken place in the world pose new challenges and this, of course, calls for additional commitment. In order to achieve what has been said in the declaration to fight poverty and hunger, this Conference should try to locate the shortcomings of the last five years in order to overcome them by focusing on giving more assistance to developing countries in order to move forward to a market economy. We must call on the financial institutions to provide more assistance so that developing countries can receive more assistance and carry on implementing their programmes in order to achieve sustainable development through the assistance of international organizations which should also take steps to alleviate the burden on developing countries due to the heavy debts which they are facing. We should help developing countries diversify their productive base to be able to compete on the world markets. They should adopt trade liberalization measures. Also embargoes should be lifted on countries. This is a major hindrance in the face of their efforts.

This Organization is helping Africa to achieve development in addition to the support being given by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the framework of the long-term strategy to fight the food deficit and poverty and to increase production in Africa and especially in sub-Saharan African countries and the Horn of Africa. Importance should be given to building infrastructures and to improving transport and communication systems because this will help African countries improve trade between themselves. This would help them develop and provide more food for their citizens. In this Conference I would like to say that Sudan, thanks to its potential and the excellent policies in the field of investments, will provide more food for its citizens and other countries thanks to the efforts of the international organizations and we are committed to implementing these steps and we will do that, of course, with the help of others.

I would like to say that we agree with the decision taken by the African leaders regarding the Tsetse fly.

Eligio JÁQUEZ CRUZ (República Dominicana)

En nuestro país, la República Dominicana, es factible producir alimentos. No es grave el problema de suministrar comida a los mercados. Lo que resulta difícil y necesario es generar poder de compra para aquéllos que no pueden pagar esos alimentos.

Este concepto, expuesto por Wortman y Cummings, se ha convertido en una forma de enfoque racional para aliviar la desnutrición mundial.

Uno de los objetivos fundamentales del Gobierno de la República Dominicana es de fortalecer la capacidad adquisitiva de las clases empobrecidas del país. En las medidas adoptadas, no se incluye el tradicional paternalismo que se ha creado y recreado en nuestros países latinoamericanos. No hay dudas que la producción de riquezas sólo se logra con el trabajo, con mucho trabajo. Se hace necesario que se generen suficientes ingresos para reducir de manera significativa la dependencia de alimentos donados por los países más adelantados.

Es indispensable producir, y para producir, el incentivo primordial es una rentabilidad positiva. Es por esto imprescindible diseñar políticas internas que permitan a nuestros productores de alimentos una producción con calidad y en cantidades suficientes para lograr un desarrollo y mejoramiento de la calidad de vida. Pero también es importante que las relaciones comerciales con los países más desarrollados se puedan realizar tomando en consideración las condiciones de nuestras economías para promover un comercio de productos agroalimentarios más fluido y justo.

Se hace necesario revisar los programas que han distorsionado los mercados internacionales y que han afectado negativamente la producción y el acceso a los mercados internacionales de parte de los países menos desarrollados.

Paradójicamente, esta protección se ha convertido en uno de los factores que presionan para que estos mismos países desarrollados tengan que acudir con ayudas alimentarias a nuestros países, debido a la incapacidad de estos últimos de explotar el potencial productivo de sus bases de recursos.

Existen grandes debates sobre las nuevas tecnologías y la globalización. Unos las rechazan violentamente y otros las elogian como una panacea. Pero lo que no se discute es que tenemos que estudiarlas y adecuarlas a las condiciones propias de nuestras economías. Un enfoque proactivo nos permitirá aprovechar la disponibilidad de innovaciones tecnológicas baratas y adecuadas para los países menos desarrollados como el nuestro.

Se considera que el aumento poblacional es uno de los problemas más graves del siglo que comienza y que incide significativamente en los niveles de pobreza. Esto también ha resultado en un mayor flujo migratorio desde las zonas rurales hasta las zonas urbanas, así como hacia países con mayores niveles de desempeño económico. Las migraciones constituyen problemas tan serios como el hambre y la malnutrición. Todo está unido y mezclado con los grandes males de nuestra sociedad moderna. Es una cadena que se ha convertido en una espiral descomunal a la que deben buscar solución todos los países: los ricos y los pobres, los grandes y los pequeños.

La República Dominicana, a través de su más autorizada voz, el Presidente Don Hipólito Mejía, ha expresado su preocupación en varios foros internacionales, sobre el problema migratorio que se vive en la isla Hispaniola que compartimos con el hermano país de Haití y que erosiona significativamente la capacidad del país para planificar el buen desempeño económico, social y político de nuestra nación.

Debo apelar, no sólo a los distinguidos delegados de esta Conferencia, sino a toda la comunidad internacional, para unir esfuerzos y encontrar vías para enfrentar de manera permanente el problema migratorio en la Hispaniola. Una de estas sería la ejecución de actividades conjuntas de generación de ingresos y empleo, así como de desarrollo social en las áreas limítrofes de ambos países, que son las de mayor presión social y política y donde se manifiesta un mayor deterioro de la base de los recursos naturales.

Nuestro país también tiene dificultades, nuestra buena voluntad y nuestra ayuda no es suficiente para aliviar o resolver este gran problema. Por eso, esperamos que de esta Conferencia surja la voluntad de afrontar unidos los males por los que atraviesa nuestra isla Hispaniola.

La República Dominicana se compromete a reforzar y apoyar los acuerdos que se adopten en esta reunión, sobre la base de los derechos humanos, la democracia, la retribución justa por el trabajo y la igualdad entre el hombre y la mujer.

Deseamos expresar nuestra solidaridad y cooperación con las autoridades de la FAO en su lucha por hacer frente a los problemas de seguridad alimentaria, y afrontar los desafíos de la globalización mundial, con tecnologías agrícolas modernas y eficientes. Nuestra experiencia nos enseña que la aplicación de la ingeniería genética, la utilización científica de aguas de riego, el mejoramiento de variedades de alto rendimiento y el incremento de nuevos métodos biológicos, son factores que debemos adoptar en el futuro agrícola de nuestros campos.

En este sentido, hacemos un llamado a toda la comunidad internacional, países ricos y pobres, a trabajar unidos para forjar el éxito de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación pautada para junio del próximo año. Desde aquí hasta junio todos debemos esforzarnos para llegar a la Cumbre animados con la intención y disposición de apoyar la ejecución de programas que contribuyan a mitigar el hambre, a promover la equidad en la generación y distribución de la riqueza, a impulsar la paz del mundo, a estimular el progreso colectivo y reducir las razones que dividen a la humanidad.

Es una deshonra que la humanidad observe con indolencia las caras y los cuerpos de los niños acosados por el hambre. No podemos mantener indiferencia ante la situación de hombres y mujeres con las manos extendidas pidiendo comida. La historia nos juzgará, de no tomar medidas, por nuestra irresponsabilidad como dirigentes del mundo, en una sociedad que permite que la miseria y la pobreza se contemplen con resignación, como gobernantes paralizados por elocuentes discursos en foros internacionales. Asumamos el desafío, no mañana, no el año que viene, debemos actuar ahora.

Shaikh Fahad Salem al-Ali AL-SABBAH (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God the Merciful and Compassionate, it gives me great pleasure on behalf of Kuwait and on my own behalf to congratulate you on the holding of this Thirty-first Session of the general Conference of this great Organization which is considered one of the best UN Specialized Agencies. I would like to pay tribute to the efforts made by FAO and its management during recent years. I would also like to congratulate His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in the United Arab Emirates, Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Raqabani, on his election as Chairman. I would also like to congratulate the other members of the Council. I would also like to pay tribute to the outgoing Independent Chairman of the Council and I wish him every success and good health. I would also take this opportunity to welcome the countries that have joined FAO recently and hope that they will be able to meet the expectations of their people. I would also like to congratulate the individuals, the institutions and countries that have been awarded FAO prizes. I wish them every success in the service of humanity.

We wish this Conference, through its constructive dialogue, to reach decisions that will be beneficial to mankind and lead to a reduction in the suffering of the poor and those who are suffering from food insufficiency and malnutrition. As usual this Conference is dealing with the problems of hunger and poverty from which millions of people in developing countries suffer and we will also be dealing with the efforts being made in order to raise the incomes of households in poor societies. This calls for additional efforts in order to assist the developing countries, to help these countries overcome their difficulties and provide the basic necessities and needs of their citizens, especially in countries affected by natural disasters. Solving the problems of food and agriculture mentioned by His Excellency the former President of Chile in his statement, lies in the better management of financial resources and in reviewing the priorities in the light of the declining financial resources for FAO. There is more need to cooperate with the other UN Organizations, such as IFAD, WFP, UNEP, UNDP and the other regional, economic and social organizations.

I am confident that FAO will play a leading role in helping developing countries to benefit from the expected results of biotechnology in order to increase food supplies and reduce pollution and to contribute to the sustainability of food production and fight diseases, while also giving more advice to countries through the Special Programme for Africa and through marketing systems which are efficient, based on the availability of excellent data. Kuwait shares the orientations referred to by the Director-General in his inaugural speech and those regarding fraternity and

cooperation between countries, especially in regions where there is a concentration of poor developing countries. These countries should be helped in order to devote their efforts to providing the right conditions for a decent life for their people and we have to decrease the number of hungry people in the world from 815 to 300 million. I would also like to say that we condemn all forms of terrorism and we would like to make it quite clear that we, like the Chairman of the Conference, are working in order to bring peace and stability because these are the two most important elements leading to the achievement of food security. Kuwait, thanks to the instructions given by His Royal Highness Jaber Al-Sabah, and aware of its responsibilities and the importance it gives to development in the different countries of the world, had established financial institutions which give assistance, grants and soft loans. An example of these institutions is the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development which was established in 1961 and which provided funding services and credit facilities to a great number of countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, in addition to the Arab countries. The total number of soft loans made from 1962 to March 2001 amounted to US\$10.3 billion. The beneficiaries were 97 countries, without measuring of course the grants and technical assistance given to other countries. The Near East to which Kuwait belongs is suffering from drought, desertification, scarcity of fresh water and the problems of salt deposits in the soil, and this of course is a great danger for underground water. The countries of the region depend on irrigation so we have to make every effort possible in order to limit overgrazing and combat desertification. Kuwait calls for cooperation between different countries in the agricultural sector and the exchange of expertise. This of course would lead to achieving food security which we all seek. And finally, we do accept the Programme of Work and Budget made by FAO and we hope that the other countries will accept this Programme of Work and Budget and we hope that we will be successful in our efforts in the future.

Pavel KONCOS (Slovakia) (Original language Slovak)

It is my pleasure to congratulate you on behalf of the Slovak Republic on your appointment to the post of Chairman of the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference.

Our country, situated in the centre of Europe, wishes to continue pursuing FAO activities. The mandate of the Organization is, in fact, an appeal to present and future generations for multilateral cooperation in the fight against hunger and undernourishment on earth.

I highly appreciate that, according to continuous monitoring of the situation in the progress of the World Food Summit commitments in FAO, we are again returning, if only at conference level, to the analysis and formulating of FAO Member Nations opinions on this important issue.

Unfortunately, undernourishment and its social and economic consequences in population have become evident in our region and Central and Eastern Europe Sub-region as well. These symptoms sound a warning signal also for the Slovak Government, to devote increased attention the agricultural strategy implementation towards 2005.

In context with the Slovak commitments assumed at the World Food Summit Plan of Action in the Rome Declaration, the Slovak Government reviewed the Evaluation of the National Plan of Action in 2000, prepared by Slovak experts from ministries, research and academic institutions and the non-governmental sector.

Because hunger and undernourishment will pose a serious development threat in the third millennium, in the light of the upcoming FAO biennium programme I find it meaningful therefore to step up our attention to major programmes, such as the agricultural production and support systems, strategy for nutrition, agriculture and development.

The Slovak Republic professes international solidarity and support, as its contribution to the FAO Programme for 2002 and 2003, for sustainable development, forest and water resources preservation, and reduction and mitigation of human suffering in Low-Income and Food-Deficit Countries.

Let me pick up the opinion on the prepared FAO Programme and selected topics with respect to the World Food Summit by presenting some information on the current status in agriculture and food sectors in the Slovak Republic.

In 2000, the Slovak agriculture experienced a moderate revival of the national economic output. The Slovak agriculture produces 4.34 percent of the GDP (in fixed prices). The share of food-processing sector is 2.94 percent, and the overall employment rate in these sectors is 5.5 percent. These figures, together with multifunctional elements, environmental efforts, and tending the rural landscape on social and economic levels, move us closer to the regional conception.

The income parity of the agriculture employees, in comparison with the national average wage, was 76 percent. Low investments in food and agriculture are still a permanent problem.

In the course of 2000 and 2001, activities towards institutional and administrative transformation of the sector have accelerated, with the aim of adapting to the European Union. In June 2001, the European Commission opened negotiations on agriculture with Slovakia (together with Latvia and Lithuania).

The reality of the current status in the agriculture, food-processing and forestry sectors, along with the 1998 Slovak Republic Programme Declaration on food provision and availability of safe food to the population are all factors representing an impetus for our country to make use of international cooperation and to carry on effective cooperation as part of the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget 2002-03.

In this context, we find it useful to engage in a close regional and subregional cooperation with other Central and Eastern European countries, in solution of existing and new problems in agriculture within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme and the Agricultural Support Systems Programme.

It is important for the Slovak Republic, just as for other countries in transition, that the FAO Programme be based on building a wider partnership with international organizations, institutions and non-governmental organizations.

These partner relations can provide significant solutions to problems of food safety, animal and plant diseases, and also solutions to an impact of new civilization diseases, such as AIDS, with respect to the agriculture and food-processing sector.

With this cooperation in mind, I consider it appropriate to bring up commodity problems on the agenda, and to cooperate with the WTO in setting up and strengthening international principles, that would direct the agricultural and food markets towards an improved market access of all agriculture and food products, for the benefit of both developed and developing countries.

The Slovak Republic welcomes and supports future orientation of FAO programmes to: support development of national agricultural strategies, mechanisms and tools, and make them consistent with national incentives, in connection with the international community; provide follow-up analysis, monitoring and outlook on the state in nutrition and agriculture, and utilize any means available for prevention and warning; solve commodity problems in the context of trade, as well as genetic and environmental issues in the field of nutrition, agriculture, forestry and fisheries; and draw on the available sources of food aid, yet simultaneously exploit scientific research-based results, inventions and new technologies for the benefit of global food security.

In the first year of the third millennium, with the pending fight against hunger and undernourishment, I am convinced that the Thirty-first FAO Conference is a significant global forum that will be able to find a consensus between the FAO budget coverage and justified and necessary programme objectives.

It is an honour for me to share my opinions with you, thank you for giving me the floor and thank you for your attention.

Mallam Adamu BELLO (Nigeria)

Let me start my short address by joining the earlier speakers in congratulating you and the three Vice-Chairmen for your election to steer the proceedings of this august assembly. My delegation also wishes to commend the efforts of the Director-General and his staff for the impressive arrangements put in place to facilitate the deliberations of this Conference in spite of the obvious logistical difficulties arising from the current unfortunate global situation.

According to FAO estimates, 95 percent of the world's undernourished are in developing countries. The implication of this is that a large segment of the world's population is being denied the most fundamental of its fundamental human rights: the right to food. The report of the UN Secretary-General to the Fifty-fourth Session of the General Assembly last year stated, *inter alia*, and I quote: "Nowhere is the need for global commitment to poverty reduction as urgent as in Africa south of the Sahara". My delegation strongly shares the view that the most potent assault on poverty is the assault on hunger. The FAO, being the leading international and intergovernmental centre of excellence on agriculture, is expected to play a pivotal role in this noble struggle for agricultural transformation. It is in realization of this that my country has never wavered in its support for the work of FAO. I want, on behalf of the Government and people of Nigeria, to reaffirm this support and to call on FAO to work with us in Africa on the new partnership initiative for Africa's development.

It is no longer news to say that in spite of the aggressive international promotion of globalization, private capital flows to Africa remain only a tiny fraction of the global flows. To compound the problems of developing countries, especially those in the Africa region, the total external debts of many of these countries often exceed their entire National Gross Products. You therefore often find that the debt servicing requirements of some of these countries exceed well over 25 percent of export earnings.

Permit me to use this opportunity to emphasize yet again that the issue of debt overhang in the developing countries needs to be addressed in a realistic way by the creditor nations. Simply put, the need for debt relief and forgiveness is now. To insist on our paying these debts amounts to tying our hands behind our backs and then asking us to run. While our creditors may be legally justified in demanding their pound of flesh, we have no Judge Portia to intervene on our behalf that flesh cannot be taken without blood coming out. I am sure the good people of our creditor nations would not want to further aggravate or compound our problems. Steps must therefore be taken to demonstrate in practical terms that they indeed want to be part of the solution and herein lies the challenge to the international policy makers in particular and indeed the international community as a whole.

Concern about the declining international official development assistance (ODA) and the falling level of resources allocated to the agricultural sector by international and national institutions has been expressed by many in these fora. But the trends continue unabated. To further compound and aggravate the ever-mounting development constraints of the Third World countries, these countries have continued to suffer unpalatable and unintended consequences of trade liberalization. These pains have arisen from trade barriers that face their exports and the heavy export and agricultural support policies of the developing economies which lead to unacceptable market distortions. In this connection we urge the forthcoming WTO Conference at Doha to come up with a framework for progressively removing these barriers in order to allow fair and equitable market access to agricultural products from our countries and thus promote true globalization of the economy. What I am driving at is simply that the international community is continually paying lip-service to the issue of fundamental importance to the survival of humanity. The time to take concrete steps to match our rhetoric with more concrete action is now more opportune than ever before.

Lest I be misunderstood, let me hasten to say that I have been specifically directed by my President Chief Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, to use this medium to urge our fellow-developing countries of Africa to rise up to the occasion and to demonstrate in clear terms, the political will

and commitment to tackle, head-on, the twin problem of poverty and food insecurity in our respective countries. It is by such a clear demonstration of commitment and transparency that we can reasonably expect to attract genuine assistance from our friends. On our part, Nigeria has initiated a multinational programme of food security in collaboration with FAO which is funded by the Government of Nigeria to the tune of US\$45 million. The programme covers water management, livestock and pest control, agriculture and marketing of agricultural products.

I wish to now comment briefly and in a general way on the reports presented to this Conference on the activities of FAO and in particular the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

The Director-General has presented to us for consideration, a well-focused and comprehensive budget proposal for the 2001-03 biennium. My delegation is particularly gladdened by the fact that the Programme of Work and Budget is substantially in conformity with the Medium-Term Plan and especially the Strategic Framework approved by the Thirtieth Session of the Conference. The x-ray of the extra-budgetary resources in relation to their sources and projected deployment is commendable. My delegation has taken special note of the effort of cost reduction.

My delegation notes with delight and fully associates itself with the relative emphasis placed on technical and economic programmes, and particularly technical cooperation programmes.

Permit me to now comment on the budget itself. My delegation is a little worried that this important Organization has been operating on a declining budget in real terms for eight years and we suggest that we increase the budget substantially. My delegation hopes that the efficiency gained through the various work done should be channelled more towards other areas of importance.

On the arrangements for the World Food Summit: *five years later*, my delegation notes with regret, the circumstances that led to the postponement of this all-important event. But we are consoled by the fact that it has now been rescheduled for mid-2002.

My delegation considers the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as one of the high points of this Conference. Nigeria is delighted that the seven-year negotiation has finally been brought to a close, at least for now. We heartily congratulate the Director-General, the Secretariat and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for a splendid job. My delegation, of course, notes the concerns raised by some Member Nations regarding one or two provisions of Article 12 of the Treaty. My delegation fully appreciates these concerns. However, we want to place on record, a special plea to these highly respected countries in the spirit of international solidarity, to help facilitate the ratification of the Treaty by the international community for the ultimate benefit of mankind.

In concluding my statement permit me to lend my country's support to the Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC). The Tsetse problem is a major economic menace in sub-Saharan Africa.

Bungaran SARAGIH (Indonesia)

Honourable Chairman, Excellencies and distinguished delegates, allow me at the outset to convey the warm greetings of the Government of Indonesia and the Indonesian people, especially the farmers, to all of the Conference participants.

Food is a basic necessity. It is the last thing an individual can afford to give up, if he can afford nothing else. The Government of Indonesia has always put the highest priority on food development. Therefore, the Indonesian Government reaffirms its support to the commitment agreed in the Rome Declaration 1996.

To accelerate the implementation of the seven commitments of the World Food Summit's Plan of Action, the Government of Indonesia has undertaken follow-up actions. Among others through the enactment of a law on food. Furthermore, Indonesia has adopted the commitment in the Plan of Action as the national commitment contained in the Five-Year Development Plan, which states

"to develop a food security system based on the diversity of resources, institutions and culture in order to secure food and nutrition availability at affordable prices with high consideration to be given to farmers' and fishermen's incomes and domestic production". The Government has successfully completed the National Action Plan of Food and Nutrition, which describes the necessary actions for improvement of food security in the country.

To speed up implementation, the Government has recently established a National, Provincial and District Council for Food Security. The tasks of the Council are mainly coordinating, monitoring and evaluation of the state of food and to determine necessary action to be taken. At the national level, the Council is chaired by the President himself.

Efficiency, people-centred, environmental sustainability and decentralization are principles contained in the seven commitments of the World Food Summit 1996, and Indonesia adopts these principles as the main approach to improve and maintain good security in the country. These principles are implemented through two major interrelated development programmes, namely the Food Security Improvement Programme and the Agribusiness Development Programme.

As you may be aware, forest degradation can disturb food supply. It can also disturb the food production process through the occurrence of natural disasters, such as floods and landslides in the rainy season and drought in the dry season. Forest has a vital role in food security, since forest degradation can cause hunger. Therefore, it is our responsibility to maintain forest resources. The existence of forest resources have been under serious threat from illegal logging activities, forest fire and forestland encroachment and conversion. Therefore, it is our obligation to participate in combating illegal activities that caused forest degradation.

The Rome Declaration signed in 1996 was unfortunately followed by a climate anomaly, called *El Niño*, causing exceptionally long drought in several countries, including Indonesia, which resulted in lower food production. For Indonesia this situation was even worse, as it was coincidentally followed by a monetary crisis, and later on became an economic crisis. Decreasing food production, economic contraction, slowing down demand for good services simultaneously resulted in a negative impact on people's welfare.

Before the monetary crisis hit the country, Indonesia was reported by the World Bank to have achieved the highest annual average poverty reduction. Indonesia had 70 million people in absolute poverty in the 1970s. By 1990 the number of poor had dropped to about 27 million people and had been reduced to 22.5 million by 1996. Because of the economic crisis which started in mid-1997, the number of poor increased to 37.5 million in 1999.

Until now, the crisis is not over yet. It affects the capacity of the Government to fund its development. As the country is still committed to its debt repayment, the budget allocation for food development is limited. Therefore, my country needs the support of the international communities and agencies in restructuring our debt repayment because this is an important element of combatting poverty and hunger. We need support in the area of technology accessibility, opening developed countries agricultural markets, infrastructure development and rehabilitation and in sustainable forestry development.

Indonesia has tried to reduce the negative impact of the economic crisis by launching social safety net programmes and targeting the programmes to the poor. The programme attempted to prevent and reduce child malnutrition by improving feeding practices and implementing basic health services.

On this important occasion, I would like to extend our appreciation to the international community and agencies for their support in mitigating the negative impact to ease the burden of the poor and also of internally displaced people.

I also wish to express our appreciation to FAO for providing the opportunity to implement the Special Programme on Food Security (SPFS). This programme is directed to empower the community to be able to help themselves in assessing their own resources, potential and opportunities to develop their own sustainable food security.

The least-developing countries (LDCs) are left out of today's vast moving process of globalization and liberalization, while a handful of affluent countries continue to benefit from advantages of the globalized world economy. It would constitute a human tragedy if a minority of countries were to dominate the world economy, while the greater majority, in particular the LDCs, continue to be left behind.

Globalization of the world's economy now proceeds rapidly towards creation of a global society. A global market without a global society could be self-destructive. First, it may divide people between those who participate in the market and those who lack the means to do so. Second, the global market might involve the construction of international institutions that may claim the allegiance of only the small elite. Citizens in both developed and developing countries may therefore reject global markets, plunging the world into conflicts at the national and international levels.

In the case of developing food security in this world, my view is that resources mobilization is not the only means to tap the problem of food insecurity. Indeed, it may pose further problems if it is not followed by the international solidarity awareness. I therefore wish to appeal that we should direct our efforts towards a fair, just and prosperous global society.

Food security problems are not solely the problems of the agricultural sector. They cover multidimensional aspects. Therefore we strongly support the initiative taken by FAO to convene the Summit of the Heads of Governments to reaffirm their commitment to action already agreed in 1996.

Arni M. MATHIESEN (Iceland)

Half a decade has passed since Heads of States and Governments met in Rome to pledge their political will, before 2015, to reduce by half the number of undernourished people in the world. Accruing to the latest estimates, there are 792 million people in the developing countries undernourished. It has also been indicated that, with continuation of current trends we can not expect to achieve our goals since 1996. Having decided at the 119 Council to meet five years later to take stock of the situation, we regret now that unforeseen circumstances have made it unrealistic to meet as planned at this Conference, five years on, to revisit our commitments from the World Food Summit in 1996. After postponing the arrangements for World Food Summit: *five years later*, as proposed by the Director-General, Council last week decided by consensus to reschedule the event to next June 2002. By having reached this consensus, we have full reason to believe that we will have a successful meeting. The Government of Iceland is fully committed to the World Food Summit Plan of Action, and fully intends to do its best to ensure a successful meeting next June.

Iceland, together with the Nordic Group, has been a strong supporter of the normative mandate of FAO, and affirms that one of the core activities of the Organization should be to lead multilateral negotiations in the field of food and agriculture. It is therefore of great significance that the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has been completed within FAO. We therefore would like to join others in congratulating the secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and agriculture who, together with the members finalized, this revision under the wise chairmanship of Ambassador Gerbasi. Plant genetic resources have been exchanged between the regions of the world since time immemorial. All regions of the world today have a daily food supply that to a significant extent depends upon genetic resources that have originated in other countries. Facilitated access to and exchange of these resources is therefore crucial for global food security.

In a world of increasing international cooperation and globalization, all countries have been forced to participate. Iceland is no exception. In this context, reflecting our national dependence on fisheries, FAO becomes one of the important Organizations with whom we work. In addition to our attempt to increase our participation in the multilateral system, we have sought to allow others to benefit from our fisheries know-how. Aid to develop sustainable fisheries is one of the principal pillars of Iceland's development assistance programme. Here I would like to mention

specifically the Fisheries Training Programme of the United Nations University, which was established in Iceland in 1998. The programme provides post-graduate training for practising professionals from fisheries sectors in developing countries.

The Government of Iceland, jointly with FAO and co-sponsored by Norway, organized the Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem, 1 to 4 October 2001. I refer to Conference Information Document number 25. The initiative to have this conference was endorsed at the Twenty-fourth Session of COFI and at the Hundred and Twentieth Session of the FAO Council.

The aim of the Conference was to review experience in applying ecosystem considerations in fisheries management, and to identify the challenges and strategies implicit in including ecosystem considerations in fisheries management. This was achieved in Reykjavik, where we managed to create a unique forum that brought together leading scientists and other relevant stakeholders to discuss these important matters.

The Conference adopted the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem which confirms the fundamental importance of sustainable fisheries for food security and for economic well-being and development. It clarifies the nature and objective of ecosystem-based fisheries management and recognizes that ecosystem-based fisheries management entails taking into account the impacts of the marine ecosystem on fisheries as well as the impacts of fisheries on the marine ecosystem.

The Declaration commits states to work individually and collectively towards incorporating ecosystem considerations into fisheries management, with the aim of reinforcing responsible and sustainable fisheries.

The Declaration identifies key areas of action for incorporating ecosystem considerations in fisheries management, including:

- the need to introduce effective management plans with incentives that encourage responsible fisheries and that include mechanisms for reducing excessive fishing efforts;
- advancement of the scientific basis for incorporating ecosystem considerations;
- the need to support developing countries in building sustainable fisheries management and development by FAO of technical guidelines.

In the Reykjavik Declaration, the Members of FAO request that my Government convey the Declaration for their consideration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations; to the Director-General of FAO; to the Chair of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg in September 2001; and to relevant fisheries management organizations.

Last week the Council of FAO endorsed the Declaration and transmitted it to the Conference for further endorsement. On that basis, I propose that the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference endorse it. This will allow FAO in Rome to send to the Johannesburg Summit a strong message in support of Sustainable Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem.

Sadok RABEH (Tunisie) (Original language Arabic)

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président. Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs. Je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, à l'occasion de votre élection à la Présidence de la 31ème Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture qui me soit permis d'adresser mes vifs remerciements à Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur Général de l'Organisation et à tous ses collaborateurs pour tout ce qu'ils ont fait et continuent de faire afin de mettre en œuvre les programmes et les activités de l'Organisation.

Je voudrais également rendre hommage au rôle de l'Organisation, de chef de file, afin d'augmenter la production alimentaire dans le monde. Nous appuyons le programme d'action présenté par le Directeur Général et le projet de budget comme scénario, un scénario de croissance réelle. Depuis le sommet de 96 et en exécution des engagements et décisions prisent alors, la Tunisie prépare et

exécute des stratégies et des programmes divers dont l'objectif est de s'acquitter de ses engagements et d'améliorer la situation sur le plan de la sécurité alimentaire. J'en veux pour preuve l'éventail des réformes approuvées par le Président de la République, son Excellence Monsieur Zine El Abidine Ben Ali et la priorité qui a été donnée à l'intégration économique et sociale des couches pauvres de la société. Nombre de projets ont été élaborés dont des programmes spéciaux de développement régional, de projets de développement rural intégré, des projets de développement urbain intégré, des mécanismes de solidarité dont le Fond National de Solidarité, la Banque Tunisienne de Solidarité, le Fond National pour l'Emploi et le Fonds National pour le Développement de l'Artisanat a également été adopté et la Tunisie a œuvré pour créer un climat de stabilité de politique et de sécurité sociale, a établi un Etat de droit et d'institution consacrant ainsi la démocratie et le respect des droits de l'homme et s'assurant de la participation des citoyens pour définir les options sociales qui s'offrent à nous au niveau national et développer le rôle de la société civile. Une grande attention a été consacrée aux composants de la société tels que la famille, les jeunes, la femme, tous facteurs de cohésion de la société et ciment des générations ainsi que des diverses couches sociales.

Quant au domaine agricole on assume le développement de secteurs vitaux tels que la recherche, la vulgarisation, les organisations professionnelles, les investissements, les crédits et le contrôle de l'exploitation des ressources naturelles tout en accordant un soin particulier aux petits exploitants pour leurs rôles sur le plan de la production, de l'emploi, de l'équilibre urbain et du repeuplement des campagnes. La faim, la malnutrition sont des sources de conflits, d'instabilité, d'insécurité alimentaire.

La communauté internationale doit donc se sentir responsable et donc le Président Zine El Abidine Ben Ali a lancé un appel du haut de la tribune de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, le 20 décembre 2000, afin de vaincre la pauvreté par la création d'un fonds mondial de solidarité, afin d'aider les pays dans le besoin à se développer. La Tunisie n'épargne aucun effort pour contribuer au soutien de programmes de coopération Sud-Sud dans les limites de ses possibilités qu'il s'agisse de former les ressources humaines et d'offrir la technique, d'entreprendre des projets en commun. Un accord a donc été conclu avec l'Organisation pour faire appel à des experts pour la coopération technique, l'objet étant d'offrir l'aide technique et de transférer la technologie dans les domaines de l'agriculture, des pêcheries et des forêts aux pays en développement.

Nous sommes convaincus que la F.A.O. avec ses ressources et ses capacités, avec l'expérience qu'elle a acquise au plan de la planification, la programmation, l'exécution et le suivi, est à même de réaliser les objectifs pour la raison desquels nous œuvrons tous. Nous réitérons donc notre appel à tout un chacun pour que son action soit appuyée et ses programmes soutenus. En conclusion je voudrais appuyer le projet de résolutions du groupe africain pour mettre en œuvre un programme de lutte contre la mouche tsé-tsé. Je vous remercie .

Johnie K. SWARTZ (Botswana)

Let me join the others who have spoken before me to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election. I strongly believe that under your able leadership this Conference will be a success. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Mr Jacques Diouf, for his tireless effort to develop agriculture with a special focus on fighting poverty and food insecurity in developing countries in particular.

As we all know, hunger is not just an economic, social and political issue. It is also an ethical and moral issue. Poverty is the root cause of food insecurity and chronic hunger, and when poverty increases hunger also increases. That is why concerted effort is required from all of us to wage war against poverty. It has been amply said at this Conference that we are not yet achieving the target set by the World Food Summit of reducing by half the number of the hungry by 2015. The causes of this slow start are many. They range from climatic constraints, outbreaks of transboundary diseases of economic importance, such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), and socio-economic factors such as unfavourable trade environment, lack of credit for producers,

migration of labour to urban centres and technology transfer. We must therefore focus our efforts on the removal of these constraints in order to achieve our targets.

Botswana is semi-arid with climatic conditions that are not favourable for crop production and it experiences frequent drought and crop failures. As a result we are by and large a net food-importing country. This means that in order for us to address rural poverty and hunger we must be able to produce and export commodities for which we have a comparative advantage. Fortunately we are still able to cover our food import bill with earnings from beef exports, thanks to the Cotonou Agreement, which enables our beef to enter the European Union markets. Our fear is that this agreement will only take us as far as 2008. We are not very sure of what will happen after that time. If this agreement is discontinued, it will certainly have a negative impact on our efforts to eradicate hunger. This is why the oncoming WTO negotiations are important for agriculture, especially for developing countries. Our diamond trade, which is also important for food security, is tarnished by conflict, which also has a negative effect on our efforts to reduce poverty. The Botswana Government is doing everything possible to deal with the threats to the beef industry.

Lately, the tsetse fly has resurfaced, especially in the Okavango Delta area. We have had to divert resources from other priority areas to fight the tsetse fly. The eradication of this pest will continue into the next season. We are also exploring the sterile insect technique in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which we have recently joined. My delegation fully supports the draft resolution by the African Chairman regarding the Implementation of African Heads of State and Government Resolution for the Eradication of Tsetse in Africa. My government has demonstrated political will to ensure food security by investing in a number of programmes that are meant to promote food security at both household and national levels.

Despite efforts by the government to invest in agriculture, the performance of the sector (particularly the arable subsector), in terms of growth, output, employment creation and food security has not been impressive. However, in some areas, such as the poultry industry, there has been a good measure of success. Botswana is now 98 percent and 99 percent self-sufficient in chicken meat and eggs, respectively. I have to mention that the growth in the poultry industry has drastically reduced the importation of poultry meat and eggs from neighbouring countries and contributes immensely to the creation of jobs and empowerment of women.

My government has also developed the National Master Plan for Agricultural Development (NAMPAD) with a focus on the development of rainfed production, irrigated agriculture and dairy farming. It is hoped that these developments will improve food security, generate employment in the agricultural sector, promote exports, as well as diversification and competitiveness of the sector, and improve the standard of living for the majority of the rural poor.

To manage the limited water resources, Botswana has also developed a National Water Master Plan. The Master Plan considered various alternative sources of water supply aimed at meeting demand up to 2020. Beyond 2020, development of resources along the international river systems, such as the Limpopo, Chobo and Zambezi, will be considered. In this respect, it will be necessary to expedite consultations pertaining to international water use amongst all the concerned countries. While it is essential to develop water sources by constructing more dams and developing well fields, we realize that it is necessary to simultaneously conscientize our people to issues of water-use efficiency. Waste-water recycling is another issue that is actively receiving our attention. Botswana recognizes the critical role of land in agricultural development, particularly with respect to poverty alleviation and enhancement of food security, and has proposed a number of programmes for the next Medium-Term Plan to address issues of land degradation to ensure sustainable agricultural production. In spite of the achievements we have made and the initiatives we are undertaking there are areas in which further work is needed and assistance required. Accurate and timely information generated through the development of the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) is crucial for policy development and implementation for the realization of the World Food Summit goals.

However, it has been a major challenge to generate information about food insecure and vulnerable people in the country because of capacity problems. Botswana would therefore need assistance to develop capacity to generate and improve the quality of food security related data and analysis. To that effect, Botswana would like to be included in the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) initiative that FAO is piloting in other countries to enable us to build the required capacity.

Another area of serious concern is the HIV/AIDS pandemic which has escalated into the most severe socio-economic disaster Botswana has ever experienced. As we all know the HIV/AIDS pandemic has serious implications for agriculture because agricultural activities in developing countries are labour-based, dominated by women and provide the main source of livelihood for people in rural areas. The disease is undoing our efforts, as it tends to exacerbate poverty and food insecurity as families lose breadwinners. To that end, this is another area where capacity to develop coping strategies for communities affected by HIV/AIDS needs to be increased. In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that agricultural development is central to food security and food security is pivotal to sustainable development. To achieve sustainable development, we are all compelled to address the components of the food security equation, a task that is becoming increasingly complex and costly. It is for this reason that organizations such as the FAO need to be well provided for, so that they continue to render assistance to countries in need. However, with the collective wisdom and commitment of all governments represented here, we remain hopeful that we will have a world free from hunger and malnutrition in the next two decades.

Simon HEARN (Australia)

May I welcome and congratulate the new members who have joined us, with a special welcome to the new Southwest Pacific member, Nauru. It is an honour for me address this Conference on behalf of the Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, who is unable to participate here today, but has asked me to pass on his wish for a successful conference.

I also wish at the outset to welcome the consensus reached to reschedule the World Food Summit: *five years later* for June 2002. Australia has not forgotten the pledge we made at the World Food Summit and we will continue to work through practical measures, such as provision of food aid, long-term development assistance to projects, and facilitating an improved international environment for agriculture and food trade, towards achieving its goals. At the beginning of the new millennium there are many pressing issues which FAO and its member countries need to address in order to help further agricultural development and improve food security globally. FAO is in a unique position to deal with the full range of sustainable development, production and utilization issues that affect agriculture, fisheries and forestry. It is therefore crucial that FAO focuses clearly on where it can make a difference and that it strives to be a forward-looking and dynamic organization.

This year's annual report by FAO on the *State of Food and Agriculture* with its focus on the future of the agricultural trading environment is a timely and constructive contribution to the international debate. On the eve of the fourth WTO ministerial conference in Doha, it is a sad fact, as acknowledged by the Director-General in his foreword to the report, that barriers to agricultural trade still represent a significant obstacle for developing countries to fully engage in the world trading system. Indeed, it is an undeniable fact that one of the most important measures that will contribute to meeting the development and food security needs of developing countries is the reform of world agricultural trade. For only through efficiently functioning international markets can developing countries realize their comparative advantage in agriculture and achieve improved economic welfare and food security for their people. We all know the World Food Summit explicitly acknowledged the fundamental role of trade in achieving these goals. Recent analyses by the World Bank and by the Sterling Bureau of Agricultural Economics show that further reform of world agricultural trade will deliver real benefits to the agricultural and food sectors, and to developing countries in particular. I draw your attention to those reports. Further, these estimates in those reports do not take full account of additional gains that arise from greater competition, innovation, improved management and greater technological advances that are

known to result from reduced prediction. For many developing countries these flow-on gains are likely to substantially increase the gains resulting directly from trade liberalization. Sadly, however, support to agriculture in the major industrialized countries has now returned to the historically high levels of the mid-1980s despite implementation of the Uruguay Round reforms. Subsidy levels in developed countries as a whole exceed US\$1 billion a day. Therefore, substantial progress toward agricultural trade liberalization must be made by these major developed high-subsidizing countries. For this to occur, it is essential that the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference launch a new round and that this include an ambitious mandate on agriculture with full consideration of special and differential treatment for developing countries. Therefore this Conference should send a strong message of support for further agricultural trade reform to Doha. To accept anything less than an ambitious outcome on agriculture from Doha will be to yet again deny many developing countries from achieving their full potential and from more effectively addressing their food security needs. Until the long-standing discrimination against agriculture has been eliminated, FAO has a key role in assisting developing countries to capitalize on the benefits of agricultural trade reform through its capacity-building and technical assistance programmes.

As a developed but middle-sized economy, Australia recognizes its responsibility in this matter. Australia also recognizes that its experience with dryland and tropical agriculture is very relevant to many developing countries. Australia would therefore urge all members to actively support further development of FAO's important trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building activities, and particularly its assistance to developing countries focused on new multilateral trade negotiations. Australia would urge FAO to channel additional resources into these trade-related programmes to help developing countries participate in the WTO negotiations and to take full advantage of the benefits that will flow from a more open international trading environment.

I turn now to an important related area, the work of FAO's Standard Setting Bodies. As many of you would know and we have said already at this Conference, Australia is a strong supporter of, and actively involved in, FAO's important work associated with the global harmonization of plant quarantine and food standards. Australia believes that in this era of globalization, there are few more important areas of work for FAO than the work of the IPPC and CODEX. They are of fundamental importance to the entire membership and as such warrant increased resources. We have already mentioned a lot more is now being asked of CODEX with the increased importance attached to its standards setting work in supporting international trade rules. I would therefore urge all FAO members to recognize the unique role that CODEX has and to ensure its work is adequately resourced.

I would now like to make a few comments on Fisheries and Forestry, critical sectors for many members of FAO, not least many members of our own South West Regional Grouping. These are areas where FAO has made many valuable contributions over recent years and where we must continue to ensure that FAO is adequately resourced to pursue its important work. With regard to Fisheries, as many delegates will be aware, Australia has worked hard to assist the adoption by FAO of the International Plan of Action (IPOA). When implemented this will greatly contribute to sustainable management of the world's fishery resources.

Turning now to Forestry, and finally, Australia would wish to emphasize our support for the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). In particular, we support those activities aimed at facilitating implementation, at regional level, of the Intergovernmental Plan on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) proposals for action. To this end, Australia is cosponsoring two Regional Asia-Pacific Workshops to help countries identify national priority proposals for actions, funding sources and technical support to implement these proposals. In conclusion, I wish to say that I appreciate this opportunity to address the Conference. I hope and am confident that it will proceed in a constructive atmosphere and that we will be successful in progressing the important issues before us.

The meeting rose at 13.15 hours
La séance est levée à 13 h 15
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.15 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2 – 13 November 2001 Rome, 2 – 13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2 – 13 de noviembre de 2001
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
5 November 2001

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
Mr Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 14.50 h
sous la présidence de M. Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 14.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Presidente de la Conferencia

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS

(C 2001/2; C 2001/INF/25) (continued)

PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE

(C 2001/2; C 2001/INF/25) (suite)

PARTE I - ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS

(C 2001/2; C 2001/INF/25) (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)**STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS** (continued)**DÉCLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION** (suite)**DECLARACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE DELEGACIONES** (continuación)

Thailand, Hungary, Colombia, Netherlands, Viet Nam, Lesotho, Canada, Syrian Arab Republic, Cyprus, Angola, Israel, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Guinée-Bissau, Croatia, Germany, Bangladesh, Peru, Denmark, Myanmar

Prapat PANYACHATRAKSA (Thailand)

It is, indeed, an honour for me to represent the Government and the people of Thailand, especially the Thai farmers at this important forum. I wish to congratulate both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman upon their elections. My congratulations are extended to the new member countries of FAO. Since our last Conference in 1999, the Director-General has initiated several new programmes including the World Food Summit: *five years later* and the FAO Task Fund. Thailand strongly supports his initiatives and believes that in order successfully to enhance national, regional and world food security, the trading of agricultural products must be free, fair and equitable, for every country. Thailand further believes that trading of agricultural products should remain free from political interference. Furthermore, food cannot be secured while farmers' incomes remain insecure. Therefore, FAO members must pay special attention to the farmers themselves.

The world's population is increasing, but at the same time natural resources are becoming increasingly scarce. Technology is a crucial issue when planning to increase food production, particularly seed production, water management, soil improvement, post-harvest technologies, animal husbandry techniques and global information systems.

Please allow me to brief you on the new policies and objectives of my Government. We have declared war on poverty. We must immediately address the fundamental problems of the poor. That is why the thrust of our policy is geared towards reviving both farmers and the village economy. The government has prioritized urgent action programmes to resolve the plight of the poor, namely: firstly, the debt restructuring scheme for small-scale farmers, funded by the Government, allows rural farmers a grace period, on both interest and principle repayments, for three years, with the primary objective of giving farmers a chance to improve their production efficiency and emerge financially stronger and more self-reliant.

Simultaneously, farmers will participate in an occupational rehabilitation programme and a savings plan to assist their chances of increasing their income, and thus gaining access to sufficient food.

Secondly, the Thai Government has established the village fund of one million Baht, equal to US\$21 000 per village. The objective of the fund is to act as a revolving loan facility, available to individuals and households within the community, to borrow for local investment. The fund will be used to support the process of self-sufficient development at the community level, hence

stimulating the economy and strengthening the people's capacity to meet their subsistence requirements.

And, thirdly, is the community-based campaign for the "one village/one product" policy. This programme, based on His Majesty the King's "sufficiency economy" project, will enable each community to develop and market its own product or products, based on traditional expertise and local know-how. The objective of this programme, is to drive rural development and job creation, by supporting new business through financial, technical and marketing assistance.

Several FAO members have expressed their concern about the scale of contributions to FAO for the 2002-03 period. FAO cannot simply announce a scale of contributions as this is a decision of the UN General Assembly, but detailed explanation should also be provided. In the case of Thailand, this contribution does not reflect the reality of the Thai economy. Therefore, Zero Nominal Growth is our preference.

I feel obliged to share with FAO members the need to protect local knowledge of farmers. Indigenous plant and animal species are not only important assets of small farmers, but also the most valuable assets of our developing countries. Let me point out an example of an indigenous variety of Thai rice, so called Thai Jasmine rice, taken out of my country by some rice researchers, through inappropriate channels, for further breeding and potential patenting of this improved variety. This is a matter for serious concern to each and every Thai citizen, not only Thai farmers but also our national economy.

Thailand welcomes the adoption of the International Undertaking of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at this Conference. I strongly urge FAO to proceed quickly with the implementation of the International Treaty. The intellectual property rights of farmers need to be protected urgently. It is, indeed, an issue for FAO to take the leading role on this matter.

Finally, let me brief you on the vital role of rice to the world community. Rice is a staple food of more than 3 000 million people on this planet. Thailand, together with other countries, recognizes the hard work of the world's poor rice farmers. We therefore invite all members to request the Director-General of FAO to endorse the declaration of the year 2003 as the World Rice Year.

Balázs FODOR (Hungary) (Original language Hungarian)

It is my privilege to address the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Hungary. I would like to congratulate you Mr Chairman on your election, and also the Vice-Chairmen. The Hungarian delegation firmly believes that, with you in the Chair, this important meeting will be a success.

A number of excellent documents have been prepared for the Conference and we feel that the Secretariat should be commended for their quality as well as the concise presentation of the problems. The Hungarian delegation appreciates the publication of the summary of *The State of Food and Agriculture*, as this document gives an excellent picture of global trends in food economy.

Trying to keep within the short time available for the heads of delegations to make their contribution, allow me to give a brief account on the present situation of the Hungarian food economy.

Agro-industry is an economic sector of great importance to the Hungarian national economy. It plays a fundamental role in development of the rural economy and society, maintaining its position and securing its diverse growth. Hungary's climate and soil conditions, the configurations of its terrain, the relatively high – nearly 70 percent – proportion of farmland, our skilled labour force and farming traditions, as well as the well-established work culture, are all factors that may be promising for the future of our agro-industry. The above carry a potential competitive advantage in case of sufficient latitude of the Government, as well as consistent agricultural policy management. Therefore, exploiting the favourable potential of agricultural production has always been, and will remain, a key element in the agricultural production. It has always been, and will remain, a key element in the agricultural policy approach, ensuring a balanced growth in

the country, a reduction in the disparity between regions, smooth domestic supply, the maintenance of employment and an improvement in the balance of payments. Among the strategic objectives of our agricultural policy, priority is given to:

- achieving, or rather sustaining, a competitive production level in high potential areas;
- further encouraging the pursuance of environmentally benign farming practices in areas which are environmentally sensible;
- supplying a wide range of domestically produced, high-quality traditional products at an affordable price to the domestic market;
- securing the expected income level and creating the income security of producers;
- improving the population-retaining capacity of rural areas.

In the 1990s, the traditional set of agricultural policy targets has been complemented by tasks requiring interventions due to Hungary's transition into a free-market economy and the transformation of ownership structure, aimed at promoting the development of a new farm structure. Priority has been placed on preparation for our accession to the European Union, including harmonization of our agricultural policy, legislation and institutional system with those of the Community. The share of agro-industry in GDP shows a declining trend, consistently with international trends, as a result of a more rapid, dynamic growth of other sectors of the national economy. In the past three years, the typical GDP share varied between 4.9 percent and 4.2 percent, while the share of the food industry in GDP was 3.6 to 3 percent.

The crop prospects for 2001 are good (in spite of the unfavourable weather conditions) and the harvest yield of cereals (wheat, barley and rye) demonstrates that we can anticipate a quantity far exceeding our needs under average weather conditions and at a low level of subsidy. The production of cereals this year (7.1 million tonnes) exceeds by 2.1 million tonnes that in the previous year, whilst there is a significant positive shift in production standard. A record maize harvest is expected this year, thus the total production of grain, including (wheat, barley and rye) may exceed the 15.8 tonne performance recorded in 1991.

Besides traditional processing by the food industry, grain is mostly used for feeding purposes in Hungary. Our livestock production is, however, unfortunately stagnating rather than increasing. In the concentrate-consuming animal production branches, only the poultry stock shows an increase, therefore a considerable quantity of grain available for export is expected to be generated in 2001 which involves the possibility of development of tensions in the domestic market.

Owing to our good harvest prospects and, in particular, the market trends in animal products, our agricultural export has shown a considerable increase and, regarding some markets, a dynamic growth in the period elapsed so far in 2001. An especially welcome development is the dynamic increase in our exports, in particular the export of live animal and animal products, to the EU which is our largest market. Restructuring and adjustment to the EU's institutional system are under way. From the beginning of next year, family farms will have major development opportunities in Hungary. The Government wishes to provide a chance for these small-scale farms to catch up with larger farms and upgrade their production structure.

Hungary, similarly to other countries in our region, undergoes historic, political and economic changes. With the ending of the year 2000, the Hungarian economy, and in particular agriculture, left behind an extremely difficult decade. It is encouraging that the profitability of our agriculture has become stable, and the investment figures show that there is enough energy even for development. The strategy of our Ministry, which is based on the agricultural chapter of the Government policy, determines the tasks for agricultural, rural and regional development in a closely interrelated way.

A primary aspect is consolidating and increasing agricultural incomes and improving competitiveness. A prerequisite for the successful preparation for joining the European Union is reinforcing small-sized and family farms, speeding their technical development, which we assist by an incentive system of subsidies. This is served by the continued farmers' loan programme, new loan programmes to implement the reorganization projects of the producer groups, and the

assistance of development projects to make the processing and a uniform market appearance of small-scale producers' goods possible.

The Government is determined to develop an agro-industry in which the population of areas (regions, subregions) suitable for agricultural cultivation participate actively in generating incidental benefits from agriculture beyond production, while showing due consideration to environmental and ecological aspects.

Last, but not least, I would like 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 has been given to Hungary during the past through Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs). This assistance, modest in dollar terms though it might be, was of significant importance. These projects have all concluded. Now a TCP project on forestry and rural development is coming to an end. Two other project proposals are awaiting approval in FAO – these are: Integrated Water Management of the Carpathian Sub-basin of the Danube and Strategy for Improved Land Management in Areas with High Natural Disaster Risk.

In 1998 we signed with FAO the Cooperation Agreement on Hungary's contribution to FAO Trust Funds and agreement on cooperation with universities and national academic and research institutes. The possibilities gained by these agreements are utilized gradually. As 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. Here I would like to mention that the reconstruction of the first floor of the office building was completed at the beginning of this year. The office was considerably enlarged gaining a lot of space. Besides the comfortable and relevant location of the international expert staff, the office is suitable to organize workshops for 30 to 40 participants.

Finally, I would like to confirm Hungary's intention to go ahead with mutually active cooperation with FAO. Hungary supports the endeavours of the Organization; 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 realization of the objectives of the Organization, on one hand as a recipient country implementing high technology projects, and on the other hands as a donor country offering the experiences and knowledge in the field of agriculture, forestry, fish and food industry.

Rodrigo VILLALBA MOSQUERA (Colombia)

Para mí es un gran honor intervenir ante el máximo evento de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, FAO, una entidad que desde hace ya más de 56 años, ha asumido la noble tarea de trabajar y coordinar a nivel internacional los esfuerzos de la Humanidad por garantizar la seguridad alimentaria y combatir el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo. Es verdad que el desafío más serio, que enfrenta la mayoría de los países en vías de desarrollo, consiste en reducir la pobreza y el hambre. Sin embargo, a pesar de los ingentes esfuerzos emprendidos, los resultados no han sido los esperados. Nos queda mucho camino por recorrer, teniendo en cuenta que todavía hay en el mundo más de 826 millones de personas con problemas de inseguridad alimentaria. Avanzar en la solución de este problema es avanzar hacia un estado de mayor bienestar y crecimiento económico, dada la relación que existe entre nutrición, productividad y desarrollo. El sector agropecuario juega un papel estratégico en este propósito, pero sus acciones por sí solas no son suficientes. Se requiere el esfuerzo conjunto de todos los actores nacionales e internacionales para superar de manera efectiva el flagelo del hambre y la pobreza mundial.

Debemos pasar de las múltiples declaraciones de buenas intenciones para afrontar este problema a las acciones concretas y aplicadas. En este sentido la inversión pública, privada y de cooperación internacional que se oriente a este propósito debe ser asignada eficientemente de tal manera que tenga impacto positivo y sostenido sobre la producción agrícola, el empleo y el bienestar general de la población mundial. Por eso estoy seguro de que los países en desarrollo requieren mayores condiciones de acceso a los mercados internacionales, en un ambiente de sana competencia que

tenga en cuenta las disparidades productivas y que brinde un trato acorde con las realidades nacionales.

El ex-presidente de Chile, Patricio Alwyn, tiene razón en relación con las reglas de juego establecidas por la OMC que son unas normas niveladas para países con enormes desniveles productivos, resulta entonces un tratamiento igual a desiguales. Por tal razón quiero aprovechar esta trascendental Conferencia de la FAO para llamar la atención de la comunidad internacional y muy especialmente de los países desarrollados para que abran sus mercados y eliminen los altos subsidios a la agricultura, los cuales no nos permiten competir en igualdad de condiciones. Tenemos que evitar que los costos de la globalización sean asumidos por los países más pobres, y peor aún, por la población que padece los niveles más altos de pobreza. Debemos afrontar los problemas globales con responsabilidad para que podamos garantizar la estabilidad mundial y regional. Colombia, al igual que muchos países del mundo, recibió este impacto negativo en la década anterior, donde el sector agropecuario sufrió un duro golpe; década en la cual perdió su dinamismo, salieron de la producción alrededor de un millón de hectáreas, se dispararon las importaciones de alimentos y materias primas, con un efecto negativo sobre el empleo y, por consiguiente, sobre el nivel de ingreso de la población rural. Es así como el Gobierno del presidente Andrés Pastrana Arango, para evitar este colapso económico, recuperar el agro y enfrentar los problemas de pobreza y seguridad alimentaria, se propuso crear un entorno favorable para propiciar el desarrollo equitativo y eficiente en nuestra economía, promoviendo la inversión, las exportaciones y la demanda interna, mediante el ajuste de las finanzas públicas, el saneamiento del sector financiero, el logro de una tasa de cambio competitiva y la reducción de la tasa de interés de la inflación, estrategias que hoy muestran resultados altamente positivos y que se han convertido en el mejor aliciente para la inversión privada nacional y extranjera.

Dentro de este marco, estamos adelantando la política orientada a reactivar la producción agropecuaria, la cual está dotada de instrumentos idóneos integrados en el programa de oferta agropecuaria pro agro, dirigidos a garantizar a través de los encadenamientos productivos la competitividad de la producción agropecuaria en el concierto nacional e internacional, aprovechando las ventajas competitivas que presentan un sinnúmero de renglones productivos, desarrollando un esquema concertado de asignación de gasto público, a través de los acuerdos de competitividad, mecanismo mediante el cual se determinan las prioridades de inversión en cada una de las cadenas productivas, para optimizar su impacto y básicamente se focalizan en investigación, transferencia de tecnología e incentivo a la inversión de capital. Esta estrategia sirvió, entre otras cosas, porque evitamos que se empobrecieran los medianos y grandes productores que iban en esa dirección. Como resultado de la ejecución de esta política, desde el año pasado se evidencia un cambio en la tendencia que traía el sector agropecuario en la década pasada y que soporta la visión de un panorama alentador para el agro. Evidentemente, el PIB agropecuario creció en el año 2000 a una tasa del 5,22 por ciento en tanto que la economía en su conjunto lo hizo en un 3 por ciento. Esta tendencia se consolidó durante el primer semestre de este año, en el cual el crecimiento sectorial está alrededor del 4 por ciento superior al del total de la economía. Sin embargo, a pesar de estos positivos resultados, Colombia no ha logrado superar todavía los graves problemas de pobreza, hambre y desigualdades sociales que han afectado a nuestra población por años. Como complemento del pro agro este año, se ha puesto en marcha el programa de modernización de la economía campesina, el cual busca vincular a los pequeños productores de manera efectiva al aparato productivo moderno, fortaleciendo su capacidad empresarial y organizativa, apalancándoles el acceso a los instrumentos de política sectorial en búsqueda de competitividad. Los programas de referencia son: Alianzas productivas, Apoyo integral a pequeños productores de economía campesina, Programa para el desarrollo de la microempresa rural PADEMÉR financiado por el FIDA y el Programa de apoyo a la mujer rural.

Los apoyos internos o externos para los pobres no deben circunscribirse en programas para mitigar la pobreza sino para sacarlos del estado de postración en el que se encuentran, permitiéndoles un entorno productivo rentable que les genere empleo, ingresos y vida digna. El Gobierno colombiano está totalmente comprometido y no ahorrará esfuerzos en el propósito de lograr mejores condiciones de vida para su población. En esa dirección, con el apoyo de la FAO,

se está formulando un apoyo de desarrollo rural para la paz, dirigido a remover los factores que generan la iniquidad y la violencia en el campo, que contempla cuatro pilares: acceso y uso sostenible del recurso tierra y demás factores productivos; conservación, uso y aprovechamiento sostenible de los recursos naturales; desarrollo alternativo y seguridad alimentaria. Este programa nos va a permitir también acceder al programa bandera de esta organización, PESA, Programa Especial para la Seguridad Alimentaria. Este plan aportará elementos de apoyo a nuestro proceso de pacificación y de promoción de un entorno favorable de sostenibilidad económica y social, al proceso de sustitución de cultivos ilícitos. Estas acciones quedarán consignadas en un trascendental convenio que se firmará en el día de hoy entre la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO) y el Gobierno de Colombia. Celebro y recojo el trabajo adelantado por el GRULAT en el seno de la FAO cuando considera "para hacer frente a la inseguridad alimentaria y lograr avances sustantivos a nivel mundial, debemos también afrontar los problemas globales con responsabilidad". En este sentido América Latina y el Caribe se encuentran muy preocupados por el impacto de los conflictos del problema mundial de las drogas, en la seguridad alimentaria y en el desarrollo del sector rural y ambiental. El proceso de sustitución de cultivos requiere con urgencia sostenibilidad económica y social de tal forma que los campesinos de las naciones afectadas puedan obtener ingresos justos, por los sustitutos legales, la responsabilidad compartida y el enfoque integral y equilibrado sobre este problema debe reflejarse a través de una mayor cooperación hacia los programas de desarrollo alternativo, así como un acceso facilitado de los productos sustitutos en los mercados internacionales.

Celebro igualmente la aprobación del tratado internacional para los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura, realizado el sábado anterior en sesión plenaria de esta Conferencia, el cual permitirá el acceso a los recursos genéticos prioritarios para la seguridad alimentaria del mundo, así como una distribución justa y equitativa de los beneficios derivados del uso sostenible de dichos recursos.

Finalmente convoco a los países miembros de la FAO particularmente a los más industrializados para que apoyen y fortalezcan las acciones gubernamentales de los países en vías de desarrollo en pro de reducir el hambre y la pobreza, como estrategia segura para promover el crecimiento, el desarrollo equilibrado y la estabilidad mundial.

Laurens Jan BRINKHORST (Netherlands)

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentleman, this FAO Conference comes at a crucial moment in spite of the fact that the World Food Summit: *five years later*, was postponed in the wake of the September 11 attacks. Our concern for the issue of hunger must not slacken and the results of this Conference should be used as an input for the Summit near year.

Worldwide efforts are necessary, since global food security trends paint a bleak picture in spite of the continuing growth of the world economy and food production. The present trend is that the number of undernourished is falling but at a rate that is still far below the rate that is needed. The presentation this morning by the Assistant Director-General, Mr De Haen, was very illustrative indeed.

We should not accept the failure of the main goal of the World Food Summit Action Plan, that of halving the number of undernourished people by the year 2015.

We should agree to more far-reaching measures. We cannot be satisfied if the World Food Summit: *five years later* does not do more than confirm the extend of the problem. The meeting of Heads of States and Heads of Governments should make a difference.

Let us make use of the period of delay between now and June next year. We should make sure that there is a coherent investment plan in agriculture and rural development to which both national governments of the countries affected and international financial institutions should commit themselves.

We should also make sure that a concrete signal should be given by the WTO conference before June next year, that market access in agriculture remains essential for developing countries. The industrialized countries carry an important responsibility in this respect. They should support these countries in the area of institution and capacity-building. New initiatives should pave the way for new forms of cooperation between regions.

And in this respect of course we have to ensure also that more private investments are mobilized, for which conditions in the country should offer sufficient perspectives for the investors. Investments are particularly necessary for strengthening the food chain from production to consumption.

But, more generally, the World Food Summit: *five years later* should be an important opportunity to bring agriculture back on to the political agenda. We have seen a period of neglect by both developing and developed countries. Of course infrastructure, education and health are important issues, but we should not forget that no society can survive without agriculture. This is most certain for many developing countries.

At the end of the day, it is a question of vision and of political will. We have seen the agri-food sector too long as a sectoral issue and not enough as a key contributor to economic and social development.

This brings me more in general to the role of FAO. With the remarks I just made in mind, there is scope for strengthening FAO's position as a leading world organization in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food security and food safety. This can only be done with the support of both developing and developed countries. As a centre of excellence for all countries, I would like to underline the importance of finding the right balance between the issues relevant to developing countries and those relevant to industrialized countries. In this context, FAO should focus more on issues such as policy advice and standard setting.

If FAO is to fulfill its role as a truly global organization it should adopt a more comprehensive approach to transboundary problems. Food security and poverty reduction should certainly remain to receive prominent attention. But in addition, FAO should also look into new policy issues that are high on the political agenda, such as food safety, animal health and new technological developments like biotechnology. In this respect I welcome very much the adoption last Saturday of the new International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.

FAO should serve increasingly as a policy platform for a dialogue on key issues in the field of agriculture and food safety. Of course there have been interesting examples like the one on food safety which will be taking place in Hungary. An example: tomorrow, a number of colleagues will discuss foot-and-mouth-disease because, after all, we are here to dialogue and we are also here to listen to each other. And of course there are the Marine Ecosystem, the Reykjavik Conference. My country, the Netherlands, will be very happy to support FAO.

Also, I think that FAO should work actively towards strengthening its role in the UN System, especially in the field. At present, I believe it is operating too much in isolation. While recognizing that FAO works with other international organizations, such as the United Nations, WHO, WFP, IFAD and the World Bank, it should seek creative partnerships with civil society, i.e. NGOs and the private sector.

For instance, why shouldn't FAO, in partnership with them, take the initiative to develop a code of good agricultural practices, similar to the *Code of Responsible Fisheries*?

To sum up: FAO is of major strategic importance, both for the developing and for the developed world. FAO cannot fulfill its role effectively unless there is proper cooperation between FAO, its member nations and civil society.

I believe that a new role of FAO is to set the political agenda for agriculture for the coming decennium. This would also be a major objective for the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

Here lies an important role for the Governing Bodies of FAO, and especially the Council, for which the Conference will elect the Independent Chairman this week.

An independent chairman is an honest broker between FAO and its Member Nations and should be able to build bridges between the interests of the different developing regional groups, both industrialized and developing. FAO cannot take up its challenges if Member Nations are divided. Only if countries stand united, can FAO make the difference in worldwide sustainable agricultural development.

I therefore think it is strategically important that the important position of Independent Chairman of the FAO Council is properly rotated. I hope that Member Nations will recognize the value of this strategic consideration, and it is in this context that I put forward the Netherlands as a candidate for the Independent Chairmanship.

Ba Bong BUI (Viet Nam)

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, at the outset, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency, Mr Saeed Bin Mohammed Raqabani for your selection as Chairman of the Thirty-first Session of the Conference. I believe that your capable leadership will bring about a great success. I would like to extend my sincere greetings, on behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, to the new Members of FAO: the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Principality of Monaco, and share their good will in undertaking the membership obligation.

During the last two years, global agriculture has developed under difficult environments: socio-economic instability in some parts of the world, plant and animal epidemics and severe natural disasters. These evidently affected the growth rate of global agriculture. However, under these circumstances, FAO is still shown as a solid frontier organization in the battle against food insecurity, hunger and poverty. Many countries, including Viet Nam, continued to show the very beneficial impacts of FAO activities and directions. On this occasion, on behalf of the Government of Viet Nam, I would like to express our appreciation and recognition of the constant support of FAO to our country. I also would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Director-General, His Excellency Mr Jacques Diouf, and wish you all the best in your admirable endeavour.

During the last two years, Vietnamese agriculture has continued to sustain a relatively high growth rate of 4.5 percent per year, despite the country being affected severely by floods and droughts. Food production increased steadily, meeting the domestic demand for a population of 77 million. Moreover, Viet Nam continues to export rice; this year the quantity of milled rice exported is 4 million tonnes. Besides rice, Viet Nam exports other agriculture products, such as coffee, rubber, black pepper, cashew, fruits, meat and fish. The conversion of agriculture from production for self-sufficiency to market-oriented production has been continuing. Efforts in forest restoration obtained positive results, raising the area under forest to 33 percent compared with 28 percent in 1995. Infrastructure construction in the rural areas for irrigation, transportation, electricity, clean water, school and hospital obtained significant improvements. Hunger was basically eradicated and the poor household reduced to 11 percent from 20 percent in 1995.

In the coming years, Vietnamese agriculture will face several challenges. The trend of decreasing prices for some agricultural products in the international market certainly will affect the export potential of Viet Nam. The progress in agriculture is not fast enough to make the products more competitive in the market and production more economically environmentally beneficial. Income of farmers, particularly in the remote areas, is still very low. Some parts of the natural resources have not yet been utilized efficiently. The level of technology invention and adoption is far behind social needs. Huge investments will be needed for infrastructure construction in rural areas. The organization of production in most rural areas is based on individual households of small farm size and is not suitable for the market-oriented production.

Under these circumstances, the Government of Viet Nam continues to give agriculture development priorities. More investment will be allotted for infrastructure developments in rural

areas, particularly for irrigation and for protection from calamities of flood and typhoon. Science and technology activities will be upgraded to help invent more high-quality products for market. Some key R&D programmes, like seed improvement, post-harvest technology, biotechnology, food processing and forestation, will be promoted. Special development programmes will be implemented in around 3 000 of the poorest villages in remote areas. The restructuring of agricultural components will be made with more determination. The Government ensures policies to motivate and support parts involved in agricultural production and trade.

As targeted, the growth rate in Vietnamese agriculture is set to be 4.3 percent per year during the next five year period (2001 to 2005). National food security will be ensured. The export of agricultural products will increase by 20 percent in value. There will be a further step in poverty alleviation reducing poor households to below 10 percent. Efforts shall be pushed up for forest conservation and forestation to increase the land area covered by forest from 34 to 39 percent. It is expected to generate jobs for around 1 million in rural areas, through development of agricultural services and diversification of production activities. The farmers' welfare and livelihood will be improved; all villages will have electricity and 65 percent of the rural population will use clean water.

It is precise to say that the international support from various organizations and nations has contributed to the progress of Vietnamese agriculture and it is believed that this support also will help Viet Nam to overcome challenges in agriculture development in the coming years.

As a country member of FAO, Viet Nam has been receiving valuable support from FAO in various ways. Many projects funded by FAO have been implemented very successfully with expanding impacts. In this session of the Conference, the Edouard Saouma award has been presented to the Goat and Rabbit Center in Viet Nam for its excellent implementation of a project on improving the well-being of poor farmers by developing milk production. This is one example of the success of FAO assistance to Viet Nam. Besides implementing FAO activities and programmes within the country, Viet Nam undertakes sincerely its obligations of membership, and is particularly willing to contribute to the South-South collaboration. Under the assistance of FAO, Viet Nam is participating in the South-South collaborative programmes with the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Benin and Senegal. Viet Nam supports the idea of declaring 2003 as the International Year of Rice; such an event will certainly promote rice production in the world and stimulate public support of rice culture.

Vova B. BULANE (Lesotho)

Allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Conference. I am confident that under your able Chairmanship this Conference will achieve its objectives. The timing of the Conference could not have come at a more opportune time, when the developing world is struggling to reduce high levels of hunger, malnutrition and poverty. The worsening situation of food and agriculture in Africa, especially south of the Sahara, has been well documented. Despite efforts made by individual countries, in addition to regional and international interventions, improvements in food and agriculture productivity and nutrition are very moderate.

Investment in eradication of hunger and malnutrition, through increased food production and agriculture, is equally an investment in human capital. It is in this vein that the Lesotho Government introduced reforms in the key sectors of agriculture, health, education, local government and law. Important initiatives are being taken in all these sectors. Basic health care is being provided and the search for effective ways to fight AIDS continues. The country strategy has been prepared to deal with the disease and it is being disseminated, whilst counselling efforts to those living with the disease are being expanded. Free basic education is now being extended to all. Government decision-making is being decentralized and important reforms are being made in the law relating to gender equality, conservation, land tenure, food standards, commercial equity and other areas crucial to food security.

In the productive sectors of agriculture and industry, the decision by government to withdraw from productive activity and concentrate on providing a stable and enabling environment, which

will facilitate the realization of private initiatives, is being implemented. Many regulations have been relaxed and more liberalization activities are underway. Already many public enterprises have been privatized and the Government is adhering to its timetable for complete privatization and divestment by 2004. Incentives and facilitating packages for investment, both local and foreign, have been and are being established.

Most of the population in Lesotho is rural, and the stimulation of agricultural activity is fundamental for ensuring food security for all Lesotho. The Government is therefore making radical changes in the way it provides extension services. It is abandoning traditional top-down approaches to community and agricultural development in ensuring that the real needs of poor farmers are targeted. It is trying to provide appropriate solutions that can be realistically applied.

Whilst pushing forward with efforts to promote the development of an appropriate production structure, we must also face problems posed by the vulnerability of our country to different types of shock that can lead to periods of acute food insecurity and hunger.

Extreme weather conditions, especially cold and drought spells, are likely to pose threats in the foreseeable future. Whilst general efforts to enhance the productivity and practices of the rural poor will improve their capacity to cope with shocks over the longer term, in the short term our Disaster Management Authority (DMA) has been established to ensure that the country is fully prepared to deal with emergencies when they arise. Vulnerability assessments have been made and will be regularly updated so that disaster relief is properly targeted. A fully functioning early warning system, carried out with regional and international cooperation, ensures that the DMA has ample notice of impending problems and helps it deal with them more effectively.

In the meantime, there have also been disappointments. Despite our efforts, Lesotho has not escaped the dramatic increase in infection by HIV/AIDS that has affected the whole region. The scale of this problem continues to increase and its negative impact on labour productivity is significant. At the same time, awareness and understanding among those affected remain low.

Another disappointment is the persistence of falling productivity in the agricultural sector. Arable land continues to decline in quantity and quality as a result of urbanization, settlement, erosion resulting from land degradation, and decline in soil fertility. Poor farmers do not have the resources or access to inputs necessary to counter these problems. The generally poor level of education in rural areas and the low capacity of the population to absorb, adapt and apply modern agricultural methods to traditional farming systems is a huge obstacle. Success in overcoming these problems is likely to need much more than reforms in agricultural extension and other government services. At the same time, we must ensure that our efforts to assist farmers with their development problems, as well as with occasional emergency aid, do not lead to an attitude of dependency. On the contrary, aid of all types must enhance the natural will and capacity of the poor to help themselves.

Whilst we are expecting that the changes being put in place will help us to deal with these problems, there is a continuing fight to identify and mobilize the financial and other resources necessary to intensify the process of policy identification, planning and implementation at national, local and community levels.

Over the longer period, it is our responsibility to recognize areas which have potential in the country and identify the problems that are preventing us from achieving that potential. Only in this way can we work towards a situation where everyone is gainfully employed and no one has to fear the possibility that they may not have enough food to live. The processes in place may take a long time before they bear results, and those who are suffering cannot wait. We need help with funding and with expertise to deal both with the long term and the short term problems.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the commitment and dedication of the Government of Lesotho in fighting hunger and poverty by improving food production through agricultural productivity.

Ms Diane VINCENT (Canada)

I would like very much to thank you and FAO for the wonderful work in organizing the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Lyle Vanclief, I am honoured to present Canada's statement on the *Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*.

In his statement on Saturday, The Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, referred to the troubling times in which we live, and urged that we not forget the poor and the hungry whose already precarious existence is exacerbated by the current crisis.

Our Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, made a similar point a few days after the terrible events in New York and Washington when he said that Canadians must not allow this tragedy to cause us to abandon our fundamental values. And among these values, one of the foremost is our solidarity with all mankind, including in particular, the less fortunate.

In this light, my delegation looks forward to joining others in preparing the World Food Summit review conference in order to address the untenable situation of 815 million undernourished people in the world. As you may know, Canada will host the G-8 Summit next year. Our Prime Minister is committed to ensuring that the concerns of the developing countries, particularly in Africa, are addressed at this gathering. As the G8 will fall just two weeks after the World Food Summit review conference, we will need to explore how the message from Rome can most effectively be brought to the attention of the leaders' meeting in Canada.

Last Saturday, I was proud and truly excited to join other delegations in supporting the adoption of the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This is most gratifying, not only because of the important contribution that the agreement will make to world food security, but also because it is a much-needed demonstration of how countries with diverse interests and experiences can overcome important differences to realize common goals.

(continue en français)

Mesdames et messieurs, depuis le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, le Canada a émis un rapport d'étape qui renforce la nécessité d'une approche intégrée et à long terme. Le plan d'action du Canada pour la sécurité alimentaire reconnaît l'importance du rôle que joue la société civile, les universités et le secteur privé dans l'amélioration de la production et de l'accès à la nourriture. Il nous faut aussi appuyer nos agriculteurs qui font face à des défis en émergence. Ils doivent évoluer dans une économie de plus en plus complexe, axée sur le savoir, ils doivent posséder de nouvelles connaissances, utiliser de nouvelles technologies et pratiques de gestion. Ils doivent faire face au soutien intérieur excessif de pays concurrents, soutien qui perturbe la production et fait baisser sur les marchés internationaux des prix qui sont déjà bas. Pendant ce temps, le consommateur domine le marché comme jamais auparavant, il exige des aliments sains et de grandes qualités produits dans le respect de l'environnement.

Les innovations scientifiques nous offrent des possibilités exceptionnelles mais elles s'accompagnent aussi de défis. Nous devons continuer à baser nos décisions sur ce que nous enseigne la science mais aussi comment allons-nous gérer la science et les progrès qui en découlent? Au Canada, pour relever ces défis, nous avons adopté un nouveau cadre de politique agricole, axé sur le consommateur. La nouvelle politique agricole canadienne comporte cinq éléments intégrés. Le premier: le maintien des programmes de sécurité de revenus à la ferme, ce qui ne perturbe pas le marché. Deuxièmement, la mise en œuvre de systèmes de salubrité des aliments, sur toute la chaîne alimentaire. Ainsi, au Canada, il s'agit de déployer un système de salubrité des aliments à la ferme, de type aseptique ainsi que de mettre en place la traçabilité et la protection de l'identité tout au long de la chaîne alimentaire. Troisièmement, l'accélération des mesures de protection de l'environnement. Quatrièmement, un recours plus important à la science et à la recherche. Et enfin, cinquièmement, le renouveau du secteur agricole canadien.

Nous sommes convaincus que la communauté internationale fait face aux mêmes défis et peut tirer partie d'une approche intégrée en matière de politique agricole. Et la FAO joue un rôle très

important en ce sens, en permettant aux pays développés et aux pays en voie de développement de travailler ensemble pour faire face aux questions de la sécurité alimentaire, de la salubrité des aliments et de la préservation de nos ressources. C'est pourquoi nous croyons que le travail de la FAO et du Codex Alimentarius, en collaboration avec l'Organisation mondiale du commerce, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, l'Organisation internationale des épizooties, est si important. De plus, le Canada est prêt à collaborer avec les pays en développement pour permettre le transfert de connaissances et de capacités dans différents secteurs clef incluant celui du développement rural, de la politique agricole et alimentaire et celui des négociations internationales.

Le Canada estime qu'au niveau international, nous pouvons adopter un certain nombre de mesures. Ainsi, nous croyons que le commerce est un système commercial multilatéral accessible et qui fonctionne bien, pouvant jouer un rôle clef dans l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire. Dans quelques jours, lors de la Quatrième réunion ministérielle de l'OMC à Doha, au Qatar, nous allons réitérer notre position en faveur d'une plus grande libéralisation des échanges et, notamment, en faveur de l'élimination des subventions à l'exportation, d'une réduction maximale des subventions qui perturbent le marché et la production et du renforcement des provisions de traitements, spéciales et différentielles, pour les pays en voie de développement. Par ailleurs, nous assistons à une croissance du nombre de litiges commerciaux, liés aux questions techniques qui sont soumis à l'OMC. Afin de pallier à cette situation la FAO a un rôle important à jouer, notamment via le Codex Alimentarius, et via la diffusion de la connaissance et de statistiques et autres informations de base concernant les besoins alimentaires et la production agricole de divers pays. De plus, il existe un besoin croissant de coopération et collaboration dans le secteur de la biotechnologie.

Le Canada continuera d'appuyer la FAO par l'entremise de notre travail au sein du Comité traitant de l'étiquetage alimentaire, pour les produits issus de la biotechnologie. Finalement, il est essentiel que tous les pays puissent participer pleinement au système commercial. A cet égard, nous reconnaissons le rôle que joue la FAO auprès des pays les moins développés et des pays en voie de développement importateurs nets d'aliments afin de renforcer leurs capacités à participer pleinement et efficacement aux négociations de l'OMC. Quant au secteur des pêches et des forêts, le Canada apprécie que le budget, proposé pour le présent exercice biennal, comprend une augmentation des ressources destinées à ces secteurs, notamment dans le contexte de la prochaine Conférence sur le développement durable à Johannesburg. Egalement, il nous faut reconnaître, à l'instar de la FAO, les incidences particulières quant à l'insécurité alimentaire sur les femmes et les enfants. Nous appuyons de tout cœur la recommandation de la FAO, visant l'adoption du Plan d'action sur les rapports sociaux hommes-femmes et la participation au développement. Mesdames et Messieurs, il est essentiel d'instiller une plus grande volonté politique en matière de sécurité alimentaire. Le Canada remercie la FAO pour sa détermination et son rôle de rassembleur en faveur de cet objectif mondial.

Asaad MUSTAFA (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I should like to express to you, Mr Chairman and your Vice-Chairmen, sincere congratulations on the confidence placed in you by the Conference to conduct its deliberations, being certain of your ability and wisdom to achieve the objective of this meeting. I should also like to express appreciation and gratitude to the Director-General, His Excellency Jacques Diouf, for his incessant efforts to shoulder the great responsibilities of the Organization in combatting hunger and changing the lot of the poor throughout the world. At a time when the problem of hunger is aggravating and when drought is sweeping over vast areas of the world, the results have not been up to the expectations and commitments of the world during the World Food Summit in 1996, since the results were far less than what was agreed upon. Therefore, the Director-General addressed an invitation once more to the leaders to meet five years later to confront the challenge in practical terms, for it is not acceptable that the world does nothing at all to rectify the situation where one-fifth of its inhabitants suffer hunger and that international organizations and institutions do not mobilize the efforts of those capable to save other brethren from poverty and hunger.

The Director-General and FAO have placed this problem among the priorities of the concerns of various countries. At a time when globalization, its markets, investments and management overtakes the world we have to realize that structural and economic transformations have to be appraised – a price has to be paid to those who do not possess the ability to participate in these changes and are only preoccupied with securing their livelihood. These are as much a part of societies as others, and things will not be rectified by overlooking their suffering. It seems most urgent at the international level, and it is inevitable, to effect cooperation among peoples at such a time. Programmes have to be channelled to support the poor in developing countries in order to change the current local situation and to implement successful activities, and this depends on the transfer of technology and training. Here I should like to stress support to what was put forward by the Representative of the EU in terms of the necessity of extending support to developing countries to enable them to be involved within world trade and to give them the opportunity to adjust with such moves. The situation of agriculture, the deterioration of the environment at a grave pace and the continued attention throughout the world are real challenges which can only be confronted on the basis of cooperation. We fully support the Programme of Action adopted by the Council, realizing the necessity of changing the basis of the budget from zero nominal growth in order to be able to effect something concrete and achieve certain accomplishments.

The Syrian Arab Republic, which has been committed to large-scale programmes for food production and combatting poverty, has achieved important strides and still faces other challenges, viz. the vast areas suffering arid conditions and climatic changes and the increasing demand on marine resources which are already limited. Attention has been given by the Syrian Arab Republic to poor rural areas on a basis of priority and Syria seeks to modify its economic policy and to develop its infrastructure. This is the approach which has been adopted by President Bashar El Asad.

At the same time, the Syrian Arab Republic seeks to restore Arab territories, occupied since 1967, in accordance with the UN Resolutions which are relevant to the subject and on the basis of their Madrid Principles, and Syria has opted for a just peace as a strategic approach while there are occupation forces perpetrating massacres and destruction against the populations, inhabitants, homes and land in occupied Palestinian Territories' Lebanon Golan. The Syrian Arab Republic cooperates and collaborates with all international organizations, such as IFAD and the World Food Programme, in order to achieve joint and common objectives.

Once more I should like to express appreciation and gratitude to FAO and the Director-General for his invaluable efforts to mobilize international efforts to combat poverty and to realize security to the hungry. I should also like to express gratitude to the independent Chairman, Mr Baharsjah, for his important observations on his own experience regarding successful international cooperation in order to achieve peace, sufficiency and justice. I should likewise like to express gratitude to the Italian Government for its invaluable assistance and efforts and the help it extends to my country and to other developing countries. I should finally like to express gratitude to all the donor countries and all international funds and organizations which extend their concrete support through programmes and through the development of activities, and through training to developing countries. Financial aid and assistance is not sufficient for these countries because our countries are in need of retraining, rehabilitation and the development of abilities and capacities so that all members of the international community can be brought closer together.

Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)

Ladies and gentlemen, it is widely accepted that the right to adequate nutrition is as fundamental as the right to life itself. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes freedom from hunger as one of the inalienable rights of all members of the human family. The creation of this Organization in 1945 has, as its mandate, to act in such a way that everyone on this planet should secure the physical access to food it needs and to have a normal and productive life. For more than half a century this noble goal has remained the major objective of the activities of this Organization.

Through the provision of technical and financial assistance, the analysis and dissemination of information and the provision of policy and planning assistance, FAO has contributed to the improvement of the world food situation. Despite the unprecedented population growth in recent years, the access to food by all people has improved in certain regions, mainly owing to substantial progress in food production. Available statistics indicate that, over the past 30 years, world agriculture production has doubled and world agricultural trade has trebled. A further positive indicator is food availability, which at the global level has increased from 2 300 calories per day per person in the early 1960s to about 2 700 calories per person today.

These remarkable developments, however, have not led to the elimination of hunger and malnutrition. Even though enough food is produced to feed the entire population of the planet, food is not reaching everyone. The coexistence of hunger, vis a vis the capacity to end it, is one of the gravest contradictions of our times. Several FAO publications mention that as many as 800 million people are still chronically undernourished, of whom nearly 200 million are children under the age of five suffering from acute or chronic protein and energy deficiencies. Even though the world produces enough food to feed its population, it does not reach many millions of people. Most of these people live in poor countries which are unable to import the extra supplies they need.

Therefore, the problem of hunger and malnutrition is not technical; it is political and social. It is a problem of access to food supplies and of distribution. Above all, it is a problem of political will. To overcome this problem, the collective wisdom of humanity is required. Poor people who mainly suffer from hunger and malnutrition do not require the support of international terrorism. I emphasize this because we have seen the attempt of international terrorists to justify their crimes in the name of their fight to protect the poor and the hungry. International terrorism cannot be a supportive factor in the effort to eliminate inequalities and bring social justice in the world. Terrorism is a factor of instability, a factor of insecurity, and therefore it cannot have any role in the effort to solve the serious problems of the world. Cyprus reaffirms its commitment to join forces with all other governments in the struggle to eliminate the scourge of terrorism.

Following a decision to postpone the World Food Summit: *five years later*, a call was made to devote some time during our intervention on national policies to overcoming the problem faced by our agricultural sector. Let me therefore briefly refer to the agricultural sector and the economy of Cyprus, whose basic characteristics are the small size of the domestic market, labour force and business units. The tertiary sector of services is considered as the backbone of the island's economy. This reflects the gradual evolution of Cyprus's economy, from an exporter of minerals in the 1950s and early 1960s to an exporter of agricultural products during the 1960s and early 1970s – as a result of rapid expansion of irrigated agriculture – to an exporter of manufacturing products at the end of 1970s and during the early 1980s, and to what it is today, an international tourist and regional service centre since the early 1980s.

The agricultural sector has exhibited a downward trend, relative to the other sectors of the economy. Its contribution to gross domestic product (GDP), from 10 percent 20 years ago, is now about 4 percent. This downward trend is attributed to the low elasticity of demand for agricultural products, the movement of population from the rural to the urban areas and the relocation of productive resources from agriculture to more profitable economic activities, i.e. in the service sector. The performance of the agricultural sector was also negatively affected by the loss of the most fertile Mesaoria plain to foreign occupation, the scarcity of water, and land fragmentation into small units.

Despite its gradually reduced contribution to GDP, the agricultural sector continues to be an important one, providing employment to about 9 percent of the population, a significant part of domestic exports, a considerable amount of raw materials to industry for the production of processed food products and food items for the tourist areas. We continue to ascribe a great deal of importance to agriculture, not only because it continues to be an important sector of our economy but also because we believe in its multifunctional role in other aspects of our life, that is, the social development of our people, the preservation of our cultural identity and civilization, and

the conservation and improvement of our natural environment. More specifically, Cyprus is implementing policies which aim at the following:

- the alignment with the European Union through the harmonization of policies and laws with those of the Union;
- the structural adjustment of the modernization of farm units in order to improve productivity and the competitiveness of agricultural products;
- the introduction of new technologies and the promotion of agricultural research, the education of farmers and incentives to farmers to accept these technologies;
- emphasis of the relevant advantages of Cypriot agriculture and the selection of relevant products;
- the proper use of natural resources;
- the protection of the environment by promoting sustainable development.

And finally, we are certain that, as a result of the implementation of these measures, our farmers will be in a position to benefit from the new situation and properly use the new opportunities.

Francis Montanaro Mifsud, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the Chair
Francis Montanaro Mifsud, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia, Francis Montanaro Mifsud, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN

I would like to seize this occasion to express my thanks and appreciation for the honour you have accorded to me personally, and for the signal honour accorded to my country in your electing me one of your Vice-Chairmen.

Gilberto Buta LUTUKUTA (Angola) (Original language Portuguese)

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais avant tout joindre ma voix à celle des illustres délégués qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président ainsi que les autres membres du Bureau pour votre brillante élection.

Je suis convaincu, Monsieur le Président, que votre riche expérience dans ce domaine permettra que nos travaux soient couronnés de succès. De la même façon, je profite de cette occasion pour saluer et pour remercier au nom de mon gouvernement Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO et ses collaborateurs pour l'appui continu qu'ils apportent à mon pays afin d'améliorer le bien être de la population.

Monsieur le Président, en ce moment mon Pays est affecté par une crise alimentaire aiguë caractérisée par un déficit alimentaire évalué à environ 773 mille tonnes de céréales et avec 4 millions de personnes déplacées qui ont besoin d'une assistance humanitaire urgente.

Je saisis cette opportunité pour remercier pour l'aide qui nous a été apportée et pour lancer un appel à la communauté internationale pour qu'elle continue cette assistance qu'elle a toujours accordée à mon pays.

Monsieur le Président, illustres délégués, mon pays vit une situation de populations déplacées de leurs zones d'origine à cause de l'insécurité qui règne dans certaines zones, enregistrant par conséquent des niveaux d'insuffisance alimentaire, de pauvreté qui ne se sont jamais vérifiés dans notre histoire.

Malgré cette situation difficile que le pays traverse mon gouvernement est engagé dans la mise en œuvre d'un programme de réhabilitation du secteur agricole, qui prétend entre autres objectifs de réussir la réhabilitation de l'agriculture paysanne, les infrastructures rurales pour appuyer la production, de stimuler aussi l'investissement privé incluant la recherche scientifique. Le rétablissement du réseau du commerce rural et l'exploitation rationnelle des ressources naturelles visant le développement rural rapide et durable.

A cet effet, une stratégie interne visant à développer des projets qui puissent concourir à la lutte contre les principales causes est également en train d'être élaborée. Entre-temps des efforts

complémentaires sont en train d'être développés afin d'assister environ 4 millions de personnes déplacées et d'autres populations qui se traduisent par l'accès à la terre.

La fourniture des intrants et autres agricoles visant leur engagement immédiat dans le processus productif.

Monsieur le Président, compte tenu de la quantité, de la diversité des ressources halieutiques que possède la côte angolaise, mon Gouvernement attribue une grande importance à ce secteur en particulier la pêche nationale aussi bien que maritime, aussi bien continentale car elle donne un emploi à des milliers de personnes et contribue à la satisfaction des besoins alimentaires. Nous reconnaissons le rôle joué par la FAO dans la préparation d'importants documents tels que le Code de Conduite pour une pêche responsable et récemment le Plan d'Action International visant à prévenir et éliminer la pêche illicite non déclarée et non réglementée.

Nous pensons qu'un grand appui doit être donné par la FAO dans l'application de cet instrument pour qu'on puisse en retirer les effets attendus. Je profite de cette occasion pour féliciter la FAO et le Gouvernement de l'Islande pour l'initiative qui a consisté à réaliser la Conférence sur la Pêche responsable dans l'écosystème marin duquel la déclaration finale dont l'application nous sommes convaincus contribuera à une gestion durable des pêches et la sécurité alimentaire à long terme.

Monsieur le Président, en plus de l'endémie du Sida, qui affecte le monde entier et qui constitue notre préoccupation pour le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, l'Angola et les autres régions du monde sont toutes affectées par une infirmité qui préoccupe beaucoup mon Gouvernement: il s'agit de la trépanosomyase également, une maladie qui est provoquée par la mouche tsé-tsé dont le taux d'incidence connaît un degré effrayant.

Je voudrais lancer un appel à la Communauté Internationale et aux Institutions compétentes pour accorder une attention particulière à cette situation qui est en train de décimer des vies dans plusieurs régions de notre Pays. Mon Gouvernement désire que ce point soit inscrit parmi les recommandations qui seront approuvées par cette auguste Conférence d'ailleurs comme l'a proposé le Président du Groupe Africain et qui est contenu dans le rapport de la 121^e Session du Conseil soumis à cette Conférence.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, en ce qui concerne l'ordre du jour de cette Conférence je voudrais faire les considérations suivantes.

Malgré la croissance de l'économie mondiale et des disponibilités alimentaires dans les principaux pays exportateurs la situation alimentaire mondiale et de l'agriculture est préoccupante à cause de l'aggravation de la crise alimentaire qui sévit en particulier sur le continent africain et dans les Caraïbes. Malgré le compromis pris au Sommet Mondial de l'alimentation en 1976 par les chefs d'état et les gouvernements pour réduire la pauvreté et la malnutrition des populations de moitié jusqu'en 2015, on constate que le nombre des personnes malnutries et dans les pays en développement n'a pas diminué, au contraire il a augmenté. Le monde se globalise, mais l'inégalité entre les pays augmente. Situation qui a été bien soulignée par l'ex-Président du Chili, son Excellence Monsieur Patricio Aylwin. La situation est alarmante et exige une action urgente de nos gouvernements. Nous espérons que le Sommet Mondial de l'alimentation 5 ans après, qui aura lieu donc fin 2002 arrive à mobiliser les volontés politiques et les ressources financières nécessaires pour changer vraiment la situation.

Monsieur le Président, nous avons pris connaissance de la préoccupante situation financière dans laquelle se trouve notre Organisation pour des raisons de plusieurs ordres, face aux besoins et à la dimension des problèmes à résoudre par la FAO pour garantir la réponse face aux besoins sans cesse croissants des États Membres en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation nous pensons que l'option de la Croissance réelle zéro du programme de travail et budget est la meilleure alternative.

Monsieur le Président, l'Angola a participé avec un grand intérêt aux difficiles et longues négociations de la Commission de la FAO sur les ressources phytogénétiques sagement conduites par M. l'Ambassadeur Fernando Garbasi pour revoir l'engagement international et produire un instrument en harmonie avec la Convention sur la diversité biologique, qui reconnaît les droits

souverains des états sur leurs ressources et le besoin d'une distribution juste des bénéfices qui proviennent de leur utilisation.

Mon pays a une grande variété de ressources génétiques, de cultures alimentaires, tant d'espèces d'origine endémique comme les espèces introduites dans le pays durant les 5 siècles de contact entre l'Afrique, l'Europe et l'Amérique du sud et nous sommes disposés, dans l'intérêt de la sécurité mondiale, de participer avec les parties contractantes du traité.

L'Angola se félicite en constatant qu'enfin un nouveau traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques a été approuvé. Nous sommes convaincus que ce traité contribuera à la conservation de ces ressources. La sécurité alimentaire, la formation, le transfert de technologies et la distribution des informations.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais féliciter et adresser la bienvenue aux Républiques de Nauru, de la Fédération de Yougoslavie, Ouzbékistan et la Principauté de Monaco qui sont de nouveaux membres de notre Organisation.

Yitzhak LIDOR (Israel)

On behalf of the Israeli delegation, allow me to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to chair this Conference. I wish to extend our best wishes to all the participants, and to congratulate the new Member States that joined FAO. We also wish the Director-General, His Excellency Mr Jacques Diouf, and the staff of the Organization success with achieving the goals of this Conference.

The State of Israel highly regards the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Israel is part of the world effort to reach the goal of combating hunger. The State of Israel is ready to assist and cooperate in this endeavour sharing its experience in research and extension expertise as well as in practical commercialization of this know-how in order to improve and enhance economic growth.

Israel's agriculture, with its worldwide achievements, constituted the economic base for its agricultural development 120 years ago. This endeavour contributed to making the desert bloom, and was significant in the development of additional segments of Israel's economy.

Located on the edge of the desert, Israel's water balance depends on a moderate and unstable rainfall. Following several consecutive years of drought, Israel's agriculture sector has been forced to make drastic cuts in the amount of allocated water. We are attempting to grapple with this new reality by replanning agricultural activities, exploiting the know-how and entrepreneurship of Israel's farmers, and by taking advantage of advanced irrigation technology and water management systems.

The constraints resulting from the lack of water must be overcome by rapidly developing alternative sources of water, such as marginal water, recycled brackish water, saline water, floodwater, and other available water resources. To this end, it has been decided to invest and intensively develop desalinization facilities for exploiting alternative water sources. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is doing so with the close support and cooperation together with the public and private sectors.

Being part of world modern economy and society, Israel's agriculture must co-exist while protecting the environment, preserving the landscape and fulfilling international treaties as part of the international community's effort in this regard.

The State of Israel and its Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development and Foreign Affairs, as well as other public entities, NGOs and the public sector, have been involved for more than four decades in technical assistance programmes with many countries around the world, focusing on transfer of agricultural know-how, technology, extension, training and scientific development.

As a member of the international community, Israel set for itself the goal of sharing its achievements in agriculture with developing countries. Israel thus became a full partner in the

struggle against hunger and poverty, the promotion of more efficient production techniques, halting the spread of desertification, and contributing to the prosperity of the rural communities.

Thousands of Israeli experts have been assigned and sent to different regions of the world, partaking in the international agenda for development. Appropriate agro-technologies have been demonstrated and applied in Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and the Mediterranean region to support agricultural development. Tens of thousands of agricultural experts from countries in those continents have come to Israel for training and courses. Many others have participated in "in-country", "on-the-spot" training courses and workshops. In many countries, Israel has developed concepts and modalities of demonstration farms, introducing relevant agrotechnologies, production and post-harvest practices.

Israel cooperates also with many international organizations in the field of agriculture, the first and largest of them being FAO. Since the mid-1950s, Israeli experts have joined the ranks of the Organization, both in positions at the Headquarters in Rome and in professional missions in the field around the world.

For the last decade, the broad experience gained by Israel in the field of agriculture has been put to the service of promoting the peace process in the region. This incorporates a wide range of professional and development programmes and exchange of know-how between the State of Israel and its neighbours, including Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. We hope that this collaboration will further serve as a bridge to a final and lasting peace in our region.

On behalf of myself and the Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to Mr Menachem Lourie, an Israeli expert who serves as the Deputy Representative of FAO in the Philippines, who received this year's annual B.R. Sen Award. This is the first time that FAO has granted this prestigious award to an Israeli expert.

I would like to close my remarks by noting that we are willing to further contribute from our ongoing experiences to the activities of FAO. We look forward to cooperating with the Organization in the efforts to eradicate poverty and malnutrition and to increase food security throughout the world by participating in the framework of the FAO Plan of Action.

KIM CHANG SIK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

Allow me, first of all, to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of this Conference and to express my belief that the meeting, under your able chairmanship, would register a due success.

On behalf of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea delegation, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Director-General, Secretariat staff and the Italian Government for their sincere efforts to ensure that this Conference is a success.

It draws all the more attention of mankind in the Twenty-first century to eliminate hunger and poverty and to establish food security.

The two years following the Thirtieth Session of the Conference have been a historical period which witnessed the turn of a new century and, during the same period FAO has made accomplishments in its activities.

Due to the energetic activities of FAO, the attention of the international community on food security has increased and efforts of the Member Nations to attain food self-sufficiency have further strengthened.

The enhanced early warning and global information activities of FAO made it possible for the Member States to acquaint themselves with the world state of food production, demand and supply and natural disasters that entailed emergency situations in the world and efficiently to cope with them.

Great advances have also been made in keeping worldwide balance between conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources and in efficiently introducing new techniques including those of bioengineering into agricultural production.

The Organization's efforts to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development among developing countries brought about the smooth progress of assistance activities in conformity with the Member Nations' detailed conditions through the Special Programme for Food Security and Technical Cooperation Programme.

The Committees of the Organization have enhanced their roles to promote cooperation and technical transfers amongst member countries to a higher level to increase agricultural production through better management of soil, water, plant nutrition and pests.

The monitoring and coordinating functions of the Food Security Committee have been adequately fulfilled in implementing the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action for world food security adopted at the World Food Summit in 1996 and, accordingly, investments in agriculture have been on the increase in Member States and common measures of action have been taken in dealing with the trade negotiations on agriculture under the principles of food security.

It is an important policy of the DPRK Government to consistently develop agriculture and to solve the food problem by itself. It directs every effort to carry that out.

General Kim Jon Il, the great leader of the Korean people, wisely leads our people to increase food production of the country, always paying deep attention to improving people's diets.

Under the wise leadership of General Kim Jon Il and correct agricultural policy of the Government, a vigorous struggle has been waged against all challenges including natural calamities that have continued to hit the country over the years, based on the experiences of food self-sufficiency once attained long ago.

With limited arable land in the country, we give priority to seed improvement and adhere to the principles of planting the right crops on the right soil at the right time, widely practising double-cropping and potato cultivation to put agricultural production onto the normal level.

For the past two years when everything was in short supply in the country, we increased the government expenditure in agriculture to carry out large-scale land rezoning projects and a gravity irrigation project in the western part of the country.

Diversification of agriculture has been drawing due attention, natural pastureland being secured to raise more ruminant animals and fishponds being built to breed more fish wherever possible.

Our struggle has enjoyed active support and cooperation from many international organizations including FAO.

In the past two years alone, FAO has rendered every possible assistance to the country, fielding crop and food supply assessment missions every year to assess the food situation in the country and inform the international community of its conclusion, supplying a large amount of fertilizers needed for double-cropping programme, implementing the Special Programme for Food Security and Technical Cooperation Programmes.

I would take this opportunity to thank all of the FAO staff for rendering sincere assistance to our people in our efforts to remove the aftermath of the continued natural disasters to increase the agricultural production in our country and we acknowledge the efforts of the FAO to accomplish worldwide food security.

We have tried to increase agricultural production as much as possible this year during the severe drought that has been unprecedented in 1 000 years and in addition to that floods. Consequently the agricultural sector has begun showing gradual improvements. However, the food situation in our country is still tense.

With the fighting spirit we have against all difficulties based on the firm unity of the leader and people, we will before long restore a normal level of agricultural production reached before natural disasters.

To realize the long cherished desire of mankind to live in a world free from hunger and poverty is a historical task that permits no delay.

I take this opportunity to refer to the target of halving the number of the malnourished people by the year 2015 put forward at the World Food Summit in 1996.

To hit the target of world food security we regard it as imperative for all Member Nations to work out a correct agricultural policy and strategy taking their detailed conditions into account and to attach priority to food self-sufficiency, mobilizing all resources both manpower and material. We have to increase the expenditure on agriculture and rural development and bring about the qualitative challenges in seed improvement, use of water resources and management of soil and plant nutrition and pests, the important components for increasing production. Simultaneously, due attention should be given to securing socio-economic conditions through attaining a balanced distribution of food in the world bearing in mind the principle of food for all.

The functions and role of FAO are very important in improving the world state of food and agriculture befitting in the new century. We believe that the Special Programme for Food Security and technical cooperation programmes should be further strengthened in order to facilitate the development of agriculture in developing countries. We support the recent initiative to establish the FAO Trust Fund and believe that US\$500 million could be raised soon with the active cooperation of all Member Nations. We support the 2002-03 FAO plan and budgets submitted by the Director-General, believing that it is a realistic and well-balanced proposal that has considered the world state of food and agriculture and the demands of all Member Nations. I would take this opportunity to confirm that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will cooperate closely with all Member Nations to actively endeavour to fulfill the Rome Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted at the World Food Summit.

Finally, I believe this Conference will be a turning point in realizing world food security, successfully concluding the debates on all agenda items with the active and sincere efforts of all participants.

Joaquim NAMONI (Guinée-Bissau) (Original language Portuguese)

Chers collègues, Monsieur le ministre, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est pour moi un grand honneur et un réel plaisir de prendre la parole à cet important forum qui, une fois de plus, nous amène à une prise de conscience des différents problèmes de nos différents pays, dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, la participation populaire dans la lutte contre la pauvreté en Guinée-Bissau est considérée comme une condition indispensable au succès du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, réalisé en 1996. C'est pourquoi les menaces qui pèsent sur l'agriculture ne peuvent être réduites de manière significative, aux plans local et régional, si nous n'avons conscience de relations essentielles qui existent entre la qualité et la quantité de la production agricole pour la satisfaction des besoins continus de l'être humain. L'économie de Guinée-Bissau est fortement tributaire de l'agriculture qui représente plus de 50 pourcent du PIB. Et il faut remarquer que plus de 85 pourcent des populations vivent essentiellement de l'agriculture. C'est pourquoi la garantie de la sécurité alimentaire constitue un des objectifs principaux du Gouvernement de Guinée-Bissau et en particulier du Ministère de l'agriculture, des forêts et de l'élevage. De cette façon, et l'ensemble des pays qui ont adopté la Déclaration de principe de la FAO et ses sept engagements dans le cadre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de 1996, nous pouvons considérer la Guinée-Bissau comme un cas particulier dans le cadre de cet engagement universel, si l'on tient compte de la crise politico-militaire survenue dans le pays durant onze mois, ce qui a réellement contribué de manière significative au retard et à la paralysie des activités du Plan d'action.

Monsieur le Président, mesdames et messieurs, permettez-moi de féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO de sa collaboration et de l'appui conjoint du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies qui a entériné l'organisation en Guinée-Bissau, au premier trimestre 2002, d'une Table ronde internationale, sectorielle, portant sur le développement rural avec l'assistance technique de la FAO. Cette Table ronde revêt une importance capitale pour nos agriculteurs et, en particulier, pour le Gouvernement car elle permet également d'actualiser la Charte de politique de développement agricole et de prévenir ou enrayer l'augmentation de l'insécurité alimentaire et de la pauvreté dans les zones rurales où résident les couches les plus vulnérables de la société.

Mesdames et Messieurs, avec la réalisation de cette Table ronde, la Guinée-Bissau va pouvoir assumer pleinement la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action, de façon à concrétiser les objectifs pour lesquels il est conçu. La situation d'insécurité alimentaire dans mon pays ne peut pas être considérée des meilleures. Il est donc urgent que nous ayons des appuis pour que nous puissions nous engager sérieusement dans la mise en œuvre d'actions déterminantes d'appui à la production agricole, avec l'objectif de garantir les meilleurs résultats de la production et la mobilisation des ressources et des investissements suffisants, pour appuyer la sécurité durable dans l'optique d'une agriculture et d'un développement rural diversifié. Ce sont là autant de conditions indispensables à la garantie de la sécurité alimentaire, permettant d'assurer un excédent qui permettrait d'éviter, d'une certaine manière, la dépendance alimentaire et les effets de la malnutrition et de la faim. Ce qui suppose aussi, d'une certaine façon, une meilleure intégration des marchés des pays voisins. Pour réduire cette dépendance et lutter contre la faim et la pauvreté, la Guinée-Bissau devra mettre en œuvre une croissance rapide du secteur agricole, croissance et développement social et accès aux services de base, en se fondant essentiellement sur la gestion rationnelle de ses ressources en terre et en eau, mais aussi en assurant les moyens pour la préservation de ses ressources naturelles essentielles.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi de relever qu'en dépit des efforts déployés par le Gouvernement de la Guinée-Bissau, dans la préparation de la campagne 2000-2001, le pays a souffert durant les dernières semaines du mois de septembre 2001 d'une forte invasion d'insectes, à titre d'exemple le *Spodoptera*, touchant ainsi plus de 3 000 hectares de riz d'eau salée, et autres cultures, affectant de cette façon plus de 2 650 familles, ce qui, en termes techniques, pourrait réduire drastiquement la production agricole. Situation qui, à son tour, pourrait affecter sérieusement la campagne agricole et, par conséquent, la sécurité alimentaire dans mon pays. Afin d'éviter de telles surprises, il est urgent de créer un réseau de surveillance épidémiologique en Guinée-Bissau, non seulement pour la prévention de la fièvre aphteuse mais aussi pour les autres épizooties qui pourraient causer des préjudices économiques, notamment la peste bovine, la péripneumonie contagieuse bovine, la peste ovine, entre autres. Pour atteindre tous ces objectifs, il est d'une importance cruciale que les pays amis de la Guinée-Bissau, les donateurs et la Communauté internationale, appuient la matérialisation de mécanismes appropriés pour atténuer ces calamités et pour aider les familles à avoir une alimentation suffisante, ce qui est le droit fondamental de chaque être humain – se libérer de la faim – conformément aux Résolutions sur le droit à l'alimentation, adoptées à la Conférence de la FAO, à sa vingt-neuvième session. Monsieur le Président, Chers collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs, il serait injuste de conclure cette intervention, dans ce forum très important, sans adresser mes remerciements les plus profonds au Directeur général de la FAO, à qui nous devons énormément pour avoir pu participer à cet événement et remercier également le Représentant de la FAO dans notre pays de la collaboration effective qu'il a toujours apportée au Gouvernement actuel de la Guinée-Bissau et, en particulier, à mon ministère, dans la mise en œuvre de son Programme d'action et de lutte contre la pauvreté et l'insécurité alimentaire.

Miroslav BOZIC (Croatia)

I have the honour to greet you at this Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference. Please allow me in the first place to extend my thanks to our host who has been faced with difficulties in the organization of this Conference.

In spite of the priority mission of the United Nations and its Member Nations to fight against poverty, to eradicate hunger and to disseminate a policy of peaceful means throughout the world, we still have a great job to do. The cancellation of the World Food Summit: *five years later* cannot prevent us from pursuing these activities. In the scope of our field of activity, which is agriculture and food production, the Heads of State throughout the world have signed the Rome Declaration on World Food Security in 1996, and at that time they had already identified the problem of the violation of human rights in the world. To ensure access to safe and quality food supplies constitutes the basis of the well-being of individuals as well as of national, economic and social development. Every country in the world has disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals, households and groups, which cannot meet their own needs. The problems of hunger and food insecurity have a global dimension. It is necessary to take determined and concerted action, and we have the responsibility to create the institutional mechanisms through legislation, national, regional and world strategies, in order to overcome the obstacles that prevent access to food for individuals.

Croatia belongs to the group of the newest members of the world community; it is, however, a country with a rich experience and tradition in agricultural development, both in scientific research activities and education and in practical food production. Although it is wrapped up in solving the problems with which a majority of countries in transition are faced when switching from planned to market economy, as a responsible member of the international community, the Republic of Croatia shares the concern about the slowness in solving the global problems in the field of food security and it is determined to pursue the solving thereof at all levels.

As a signatory to the Rome Declaration, the Republic of Croatia has also pledged the commitments made in the World Food Summit Plan of Action, and it organized in Zagreb, in July 2000, a national workshop which discussed the status of agricultural production, food-processing industry and the issue of nutrition in Croatia.

On this occasion we would like to extend our thanks to FAO for its technical and financial support to the organization of this workshop, which gathered 150 participants: the representatives of the political authorities, governmental and scientific institutions, local community, NGOs, professional bodies, farmers and others.

The workshop resulted in the document entitled "Strategy of Croatian Agricultural Development – Horizon 2010". This document presents a brief outline of the current status of Croatian agriculture, and the measures to be taken. After the parliamentary elections conducted early in 2000, the new Government of the Republic of Croatia launched a project to draw up the Strategy of Development of the Republic of Croatia – Croatia in the Twenty-first Century. The conclusions, guidelines and recommendations of the national workshop have been used in the title relating to agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has defined the objectives and the guidelines for action as well as the response to the challenges and difficulties arising out of international integration, which refer in particular to the commitments of the Republic of Croatia to the World Trade Organization and the trends of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union. Our current agricultural policy is based upon strengthening competitiveness of the agricultural sector; however, it does not neglect the environment in which production is taking place, but it is paying more and more attention to the overall sustainable development of rural areas while protecting the natural and cultural heritage.

As a country rich in diversity, Croatia has all the preconditions required for a development of agriculture, which will make an active contribution to the sustainable growth of the whole economy. The process aimed at integrating Croatian agriculture into world flows has already started with the recent admission of Croatia to the membership of the World Trade Organization but also with many free trade agreements, which have been entered into in record-breaking time and which will have a considerable impact not only on increasing our competitiveness and on shifting to production (presenting comparable advantages), but also on facilitating the export of our products to much larger markets with lower customs barriers.

In order to achieve these ambitious objectives on time, we need to improve the agricultural structure and the market of agricultural products; develop the agricultural financing system and market infrastructure, in order to create business connections in agriculture and strengthen the institutional support to agriculture; and place a particular emphasis on rural development and environmental protection. The recently-adopted Agricultural Act, which regulates the overall agricultural sector in a systematic way, integrates the existing regulations and fills the gap of the non-existent ones. The Act defines the competencies, rights and duties of existing, as well as future, institutes in agriculture, and it sets forth that agricultural policy shall be implemented according to the National Programme for Agriculture and Rural Areas.

Considering the openness of the market and the export orientation of our country as a food producer, it is necessary to care for the protection of the quality of domestic products by implementing the solutions set forth by the law with respect to the supervision of the quality of products in food production and trade, and to ensure strict control of each link in the chain of food production. The consistent application of the existing regulations should ensure the quality of wholesomeness of food on a secure quality-acceptability basis, together with the application of HACCP, GAP and GMP for the purpose of reducing the harmful components in food and of improving its wholesomeness.

The adoption of the Food Act, which is being prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Town Planning, will contribute to the achievement of harmonized mechanisms to protect people's life and health, to protect the environment, to ensure the safety and protection of consumers as well as the free trade of products on both domestic and foreign markets. The Food Act will regulate the fields of production and trade of foodstuffs in the Republic of Croatia fully and thoroughly.

Aware of the position of Croatian agriculture on the international market, the current structure of agricultural farming units and the commitments made by joining the World Trade Organization, Croatian agriculture seeks to produce higher-quality products. The climate, the long tradition of production on family farming units and a proportionally preserved environment converted into products of protected geographical origin and environmentally-sound products should produce positive effects on today's demanding international market, which is saturated with conventional products.

Considering that association with the European Union as one of the strategic objects of our Government, as has recently been confirmed by the signature of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union – which is of the utmost economic and political importance for Croatia as it is the first time that the relations between Croatia and the European Union are being institutionalized – I am deeply convinced that, regardless of the formal course of the EU enlargement process, our own unilateral activity and determination will represent a decisive factor in the implementation of our harmonization programme. As a matter of fact, although we are aware of the fact that in this process we do not need to compete with other candidate countries but with ourselves in developing our own skills in order to achieve the required harmonization level, we have set ourselves a quite ambitious but realistic objective to achieve the required level to be ready to become a full member of the European Union by the year 2006.

Considering the interdependence of agriculture and the remaining sectors of activity, as well as its multifunctionality, Croatian agriculture is following the world's trends in sustainable development, and is ready to cooperate with other countries for a better management of natural resources and to solve the problem of hunger in the world.

Ms Renate KÜNST (Germany) (Original language German)

Over the last ten months, there has been a change in agricultural policy in Germany. The centre stage of that new policy is consumer protection, health protection and production which is environmentally friendly, and also sustainable development for coming generations. We are basing this on safe foodstuffs. We want to have high health and veterinary standards and we

believe that we have to put the consumer at the centre of this. Here we have to look at the various functions of agriculture.

These are all the hallmarks of Germany's new policy.

We will also be making efforts to push for new policies at international level. What we particularly want to do is fight hunger and undernourishment throughout the world. This is going to involve ODA and technical support, but we also have to look at creating the correct conditions in the countries themselves. In the past, Germany has had a number of international conferences and, at those conferences, we have exchanged experiences and strategies. We have offered fora and hosted fora; for example, we have had the International Conference on the Future and Development of Rural Areas, Rural 21; we have had conferences on access to land; We have had the UN Climate Conference; we have also been looking at benefit-sharing and genetic resources; and, finally, we have hosted the International Food Policy Research Institute for Food Security for All by 2020.

All of these events were very much linked to sustainable development and the development of rural areas.

Here, Germany wishes to provide more support to FAO in the future. We believe that FAO has to be involved in all international processes which serve to strengthen food production.

When developing international standards, especially over the last two years, FAO has set the pace, particularly the CODEX on Use of Pesticides and for Responsible Fisheries. We look forward to arrangements for Forestry; that is, working together with the Forestry Forum of the United Nations.

FAO has also been involved with dealing properly with resources in favour of fair world trade. We would advocate a sustainable way of doing this to take account of ecological considerations, bringing them into conformity with WTO standards. We believe that, within world trade, we have to make sure that developing countries can get access, particularly small-scale farmers.

We also think it important that we look at this in connection with genetic technology. Here, we have to check very critically what the effect of GMOs will be in developing countries, because we have to ensure that farmers will not be dependent on just a few transnational agribusinesses. People have to be able to choose their seeds and it is also important for consumers. John F. Kennedy once spoke about the basic rights of the consumer and said that this also involves freedom of choice relating to the sourcing of what one consumes. I think that the same has to stand for GMOs; there has to be clear labelling and there has to be a clear trail-back.

Here, I would like to refer to the work done by FAO on the sustainable use of genetic resources. We would welcome this work; we think it is an important contribution for ensuring food production in the world and it will give farmers access to the seeds of important crop plants. The first International Agreement has just been reached on that and we believe that this is a milestone, not only for farmers but also for FAO's work. We will make real efforts when we implement this, as we have in the past, for example, as a host of the Leipzig Conference in 1996. We are particularly happy and proud that we were able to give support to this matter when we see the important priority that has been attached to it by FAO. We will continue to be active and we shall certainly work very actively in the implementation of this Treaty.

What we believe is important is that we increase the will to fight against hunger and malnourishment. We have to develop ways to really deal with poverty and we have to make sure that resources are used in a sustainable manner for the benefit of our populations. We believe that development of the rural area is something that has to be given a high priority in all our work, also in development aid. Over 70 percent of the people actually live in these rural areas and it is they who are responsible for producing food. Therefore, public opinion, both north and south, has to be aware that everybody in this world has a right to sufficient and nourishing food; that is to say, they have to have access to enough food and it has to be good food. Every country's first duty is to

feed its people. This is also a call to the richer countries – we still have to work hard to achieve the objective of halving the number of hungry in the world by 2015.

We are also considering the possibility of setting up a *Code of Conduct for the Right to Food*. We need to define exactly what responsibilities should be shouldered by governments, and I would see this as a real opportunity. This would give us a new tool to mobilize political will so that we can really act on hunger and undernourishment. It is important for us to make sure that we can attain food security throughout the world. We believe that such a voluntary Code of Conduct has to be drawn up with FAO and the UN High Commission of Human Rights. Germany will give its unstinting support to the drafting of this Code. We have already started doing it and, within the EU, early talks have already been held. There is a degree of support for this notion from the EU, which was originally put forward by Norway in 1996. At this juncture, this is something that we are going to build on. We will be looking at the right of every individual to food. We will be discussing this further and next year Germany will be extending an invitation to an International Workshop on this issue, together with NGOs and FAO. We will be dealing with the question of how we can codify the right of access to sufficient food.

Mohammad ZIAUDDIN (Bangladesh)

Mr Chairman, at the outset, let me on behalf of the Bangladesh delegation, and myself, extend to you our warmest congratulations on your election as Chairperson of this important Conference. We are confident that under your wise guidance and skilled stewardship, the Conference will succeed in fulfilling its targeted goals. We also express our heartiest felicitations to the members of the Bureau on their elections and we are assured that their combined experience and skill will assist you in the successful completion of your noble task.

It is a matter of immense satisfaction to my delegation to witness the successful adoption by this Conference of the very important agreement on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This landmark agreement will enable, in the long run, sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources and in improving food security in the world. The agreement will hopefully redress some of the injustices so long suffered by the poor but resource-rich developing countries, and their farmers. Indeed, we congratulate all who were involved in realizing this great achievement.

We also express our deep appreciation and thanks to all members of FAO for reaching a consensus on rescheduling the World Food Summit: *five years later* to 10 to 13 June 2002 in Rome.

The information available reveals that we are wide of the World Food Summit target of reducing the number of hungry to 420 million by 2015, and this is indeed alarming and of great concern to all, including Bangladesh. Although the 1996 World Food Summit was able to steer the issue of food security to the centre-stage of the international arena, decline in investment resources for agriculture and rural development, lack of strong political commitments to undertake pro-poor policies and reformation of institutions making them accountable to the poor, did not unfortunately materialize the commitments of that Summit.

Nevertheless, it is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction that the world has, in the last 50 years, been able to produce enough food to feed the people. However, I share the disappointment and despondence of others who see a world, superabundant with food production yet unable to feed 800 million people, with 500 million people in Asia living in malnourishment and hunger. Moreover, there are still 1.5 billion people surviving with less than a dollar a day and unable to eke out a decent living with that meagre income. This state of affairs is to all minds unacceptable, unethical and, indeed, immoral.

In our view, the current food security situation is being exacerbated by the following conditions: high population growth; poor physical and social infrastructures; natural disasters; technical constraints to crop diversification and lack of income opportunities from non-farm sources; backward technology resulting in less than optimal utilization of productive and human resources in agriculture; a widening gap between the potential and the actual growth in agricultural and food

production, resulting mainly from technical and financial constraints to the expansion of irrigation facilities and the use of other productivity-enhancing inputs such as fertilizers and seeds; in some irrigated areas, there has been a decline in the total factor productivity, meaning that the rate of growth of yields has become slower than the rate of growth in the inputs needed to attain those increased yields. As a consequence, in some countries, the gap between the technical potential of the green revolution and farmers' productivity has diminished significantly; lack of sufficient resources, domestic and foreign, for much required investment in agriculture and rural development; market access constraints faced by these countries in exporting their agricultural products to developed countries, and a continuing trade deterioration trend of major agricultural products of developing countries.

Production intensification of food crops is of phenomenal importance in terms of its impact on food security in many countries, including Bangladesh. This is where FAO can play a major role. This esteemed Organization's role should not remain confined to only assisting countries in increasing production of food crops through technological improvements. It should also actively engage itself to see that the increase of food production and improved productivity benefits all segments of society, ensuring food security for all.

Moreover FAO's assistance will be desirable more specifically in the development of appropriate technology for improving production in rainfed areas where severe constraints to irrigation expansion exist; in biotechnology research; crop diversification programmes; promotion of off-farm income-earning opportunities, through development of aquaculture, horticulture and livestock production. FAO's assistance in improving the productivity of organic agriculture would also provide ample income opportunities from export of these products.

I take this opportunity to renew, once again, Bangladesh's full commitment to implement the world Food Summit's Plan of Action. Bangladesh has already placed a number of measures commensurate with the commitments made in 1996 in Rome. As a consequence of an enabling economic, social and political environment in the country, Bangladesh has been successful in achieving a sustained average growth of 5 percent over the last eight years, with the agriculture sector in particular showing robust growth. The Human Poverty Index that was as high as 61.3 percent in 1981-83 has fallen to 34.8 percent in 1998-2000, owing to targeted poverty alleviation programmes. Bangladesh has successfully also placed gender issues in the mainstream of all development programmes and activities. Empowerment of women in Bangladesh through economic, social and political means and measures is well known and acclaimed worldwide. Gender balance has been achieved with regard to access to education for children. Bangladesh has moderated growth-oriented policies by provision of special development support measures for poor farmers and labourers, along with "safety-net" programmes for the disabled and ultrapoor. In accordance with the World Food Summit's Plan of Action, Bangladesh has also implemented a number of other measures that have assisted us to produce 25.27 million tonnes of cereals in 1999/2000 compared with 21.91 million tonnes in 1998-99, that is an increase of 31 percent.

The challenge to food security is fundamentally twofold. The principal one involves addressing issues of hunger and poverty, of which the main one is the current level of food insecurity despite low domestic and international prices and abundant supplies. The second one involves ensuring an increase in agricultural productivity keeping pace with growing demands from population and income growth. To reach these objectives is difficult but surely not impossible. All that we need is a determined international coalition to fight hunger and poverty in the world. And to bring about such a coalition we require strong and undeterred political commitment from all members of this esteemed Organization.

Much has been achieved in the past in fighting hunger and poverty, but to eliminate this malaise from our world much more needs to be done with utmost sincerity and determination. At this point, I record the Bangladesh Government's appreciation and full support for the trust fund created by the Director-General of FAO with an initial funding level of US\$500 million for assisting countries in improving their food security situation. And, as the challenge of fighting poverty and hunger is a global issue, I fervently call upon all countries, especially the developed

ones, to contribute generously to this fund. In this context, I also urge all members of this esteemed and important Organization to consider a great growth budget level for FAO for the coming biennium.

Eduardo ZEGARRA MÉNDEZ (Perú)

Gracias Sr. Presidente, deseo en primer lugar hacer llegar a esta conferencia el saludo del nuevo Gobierno peruano presidido por el Dr. Alejandro Toledo.

Sr. Presidente, el Perú tuvo avances importantes en materia de lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza en la primera mitad de la década pasada, estas mejoras se asociaron a la eliminación de la violencia terrorista y a la mayor estabilidad de la economía peruana, luego de un severo proceso de ajuste macroeconómico. Lamentablemente estos avances se detuvieron, e incluso se revirtieron, durante la segunda mitad de la década en medio del creciente aislamiento y corrupción de un régimen autoritario hoy felizmente fenecido.

En el Perú de hoy, todavía uno de cada cuatro niños menores de cinco años sufre de desnutrición crónica, tasa que resulta superior a la del promedio latinoamericano que es del 17 por ciento. Así mismo, este promedio esconde diferencias importantes por zonas geográficas. En las zonas urbanas la desnutrición asciende al 13 por ciento, mientras que en las zonas rurales la desnutrición es del 40 por ciento. Más preocupante aún es la tendencia decreciente de la desnutrición infantil, que se estancó en el período 1996-2000, cuando sólo alcanzó el 2 por ciento, en contraste con la reducción del 27 por ciento que habíamos tenido en el período 1991-96, y es que pese a tener un creciente gasto social, el país, se manejó con graves interferencias políticas e inequidades sociales. Cabe concluir que en el Perú las políticas aplicadas en los últimos cinco años desde la última Cumbre Mundial, no han sido efectivas para mejorar la seguridad alimentaria de nuestros ciudadanos, sobre todo en las zonas rurales que es donde se concentran los grupos poblacionales más pobres y más vulnerables.

Sr. Presidente, hoy tenemos un Gobierno plenamente democrático y dispuesto a enfrentar frontalmente la pobreza y el hambre de nuestros ciudadanos. Nuestra concepción es que la seguridad alimentaria debe lograrse mejorando los ingresos de la población y desarrollando de manera sostenible los sectores productivos como la agricultura, agro-industria y pesca, principales proveedores de alimentos. La lucha contra el hambre implica erradicar la pobreza extrema y reducir las desigualdades entre las zonas rurales y las zonas urbanas.

La conexión del hambre y la pobreza es una realidad palpable, su solución depende de una estrategia que trascienda las diversas actividades productivas así como la participación concertada de las entidades locales y de los beneficiarios. En ese sentido, el nuevo Gobierno del Perú ha dispuesto las siguientes medidas orientadas a revertir los escasos avances obtenidos hasta este momento en materia de seguridad alimentaria.

En primer lugar, se destinará el 40 por ciento de los recursos provenientes de los procesos de privatización de empresas públicas a la construcción y/o reconstrucción de caminos, y el 10 por ciento a desarrollar proyectos de electricidad y agua potable en las zonas rurales. En segundo lugar, se impulsarán las mesas de concertación de la lucha contra la pobreza con la activa participación de la sociedad civil como un espacio para priorizar y focalizar el gasto social con transparencia y eficiencia. En tercer lugar, se incrementará el presupuesto para los programas sociales, consolidando los actuales programas, hoy dispersos, bajo un solo objetivo claro y criterios de transparencia y control ciudadano sobre los recursos públicos que deben ser recibidos por los beneficiarios. Y en cuarto lugar, se ejecutará el programa social productivo: "A trabajar", el cual promueve la generación de empleo cambiando el enfoque asistencial hacia un enfoque de obtención de un ingreso digno a través del trabajo.

Este programa, se ha visto reforzado por el apoyo de la mesa de cooperación internacional mediante la cual se han conseguido importantes aportes de los países y organismos cooperantes, los cuales agradecemos. En el Perú somos conscientes de la importancia del factor internacional en la seguridad alimentaria, éste tiene un efecto directo en los esfuerzos nacionales para mejorar la disponibilidad y el acceso a los alimentos. Es por esto que debe ser prioritario en la agenda

mundial la eliminación de los subsidios y de las prácticas proteccionistas de los países industrializados, si es que se desea realmente erradicar la pobreza y el hambre en el mundo, compromiso central de la Cumbre de 1996 y que aún no tiene visos de poderse cumplir.

Igualmente importante para el Perú, es la implementación de un sistema multilateral de protección y acceso equitativo a los recursos fitogenéticos que implique beneficios concretos para los países poseedores de estos recursos como el nuestro. Consideramos por esto un avance muy importante el Tratado recién aprobado por esta Conferencia.

Al ratificar los compromisos adquiridos en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996 y la alta prioridad que le otorga mi Gobierno a la lucha contra el hambre y en este contexto a la lucha contra la pobreza, deseo reiterar nuestro apoyo a la realización de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después* entre los días 10 y 13 de junio próximos. Tengo esperanza de que dicha reunión contribuya eficazmente a renovar la voluntad política y la movilización de recursos para cumplir con los objetivos que asumió la Comunidad Internacional en 1996.

Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

In 1996 leaders from 186 countries including my own – Denmark – committed themselves to intensify the combat against hunger. Here we are five years later. And it is clear that a lot of hard work lies ahead of us if we want to fulfill our pledge from 1996.

Denmark is fully committed to work for the achievement of the goal set forth in the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action. We therefore support the decision by the FAO Council to convene the member countries of FAO in June next year with the aim of examining the progress in the fight against hunger and determining the measures necessary to reinforce our efforts.

The issue at stake was clearly outlined by the Director-General in his opening speech and the complex causes of hunger were also underlined in the Frank McDougall Memorial Lecture given by his excellency Mr Patricio Aylwin Azocar on Friday.

Wars, regional instability, climate changes and inadequate infrastructure are just a few examples of situations that may cause hunger. But no matter the reason the result is the same for hundreds of millions, children, men, women, old and young alike. They are deprived of the most basic and vital requirement to live and stay alive: food.

Hunger is not an acceptable condition of man.

It is a paradox in today's world that millions suffer from hunger and malnutrition when the overall food production is big enough to feed everybody.

Have we done enough so far? The number of people still suffering from hunger and food insecurity speaks for itself. The expected rise in the world population will worsen the situation.

It is obvious that we need to strengthen our common efforts.

Food insecurity must be addressed as part of a broader framework comprising both long-term sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Furthermore, cooperation between all the stakeholders involved in fighting food insecurity is necessary whether it is governments, private sector and NGOs, international organizations or financial institutions.

But the primary responsibility for tackling food insecurity lies with national governments. Food security is largely determined by the domestic political and economic environment. Good governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights are essential preconditions for food security.

In this respect, the treatment of women is of particular concern. Women are discriminated against in several countries. At the same time women constitute the majority of the workforce in the agricultural sector in many countries. It must be stressed that improving conditions for rural women is essential to achieve food security.

Domestic economic policies and institutions are another fundamental factor to ensure food security. In short, clear policies for food security must be put on the agenda by national governments. Action must be taken to improve the food-producing sectors and governments must ensure that these sectors are developed in a sustainable manner.

Sustainable production methods are necessary to achieve food security in the long term. In this connection we would like to stress our support to the Reykjavik Resolution on Responsible Fisheries.

Although the responsibility to ensure food security lies with national governments it is clear that developing countries and especially the least developed countries are not likely to succeed without international assistance.

Therefore the general decrease in ODA as well as the general decrease of resources allocated to the agricultural sector is a cause for worry.

Denmark spends more than one percent of the Gross National Product (GNP) on Official Development Assistance (ODA). And a substantial part of the ODA is allocated to the agricultural sector. We strongly encourage all industrialized countries to meet the United Nations target of 0.7 percent of GNP as a level for Official Development Assistance.

Trade is another crucial element of food security. Developed countries must ensure further market access for developing countries, especially for the least developed countries. This is why Denmark, and the European Union, in the upcoming WTO negotiations will work to further liberalize the international trade relations. Special provisions to meet the specific needs of developing countries are an essential part of this agenda.

Debt relief initiatives is another area that deserves our attention in the broader framework to ensure food security.

Denmark would like to stress the need for a broad based, comprehensive and common effort. A precondition for such an effort is political will.

Denmark has that will.

U Kyar Nyo Chit PE (Myanmar)

First of all, may I convey my personal as well as my delegation's warm and sincere congratulations to the esteemed Chairperson on being unanimously elected to preside over this august assembly. We are gathered here once again at a time of escalating challenges. In view of the recent world developments related to globalization and economic liberalization, the international community as a whole is now passing through a critical historical stage. Of all sectors, the agriculture sector would be the most vulnerable to the challenges emanating from such events. Today, technological advances have provided the means to supply the world not only with safe food, but better food. All the same, the need to produce enough food to feed an ever-growing population also escalates with every passing day and currently about 800 million people are still undernourished.

Over the next 25 years, demand for cereals and meat is expected to grow over 40 percent and 70 percent respectively, and to achieve the necessary production increases without harming the environment remains a daunting challenge. Regrettably, the need for funds to further enhance agricultural research and development activities, that had generated astounding increase in food production during the second half of the past century, grows more pressing. The commitment made by the donors to developing countries as ODA for agricultural development in 1999 has declined by 12 percent in real terms relative to 1998. About 76 percent of this decrease in external commitments to agriculture is attributable to declining assistance from multilateral donors. The situation of world trade in principal, primary, agricultural commodities in recent years is also not very encouraging.

The ongoing WTO negotiations in agriculture were still relatively general in nature and evinced considerable differences, given the multiple national interests and complexity involved. And to

overcome basic developmental issues, such as poverty and food security, it remains essential to provide certain leeways for agriculture to remain competitive in the international trading environments. Myanmar has not only achieved self-sufficiency but has also managed to increase the volume of food and agricultural commodity exports, raising the real incomes of the farming communities. New irrigation facilities enable farmers to engage in two to three crops a year, thus generating additional production and incomes from the land. Since 1988, 125 irrigation projects covering an effective area of about 1.7 million hectares were completed almost entirely with the available financial and technical resources of Myanmar. This enabled the irrigation ratio to increase from 12.5 to 19 percent during the past decade. Coincidentally, the five-year period after the World Food Summit comprised Myanmar's Second Five-Year Plan.

The average annual agriculture sector growth rate for the period was 6 percent. During the period land utilization and irrigation made tangible advances. The production of cereals and other cash crops also progressed appreciably. Within the overall agricultural sector, the crop sub-sector is by far the most important and accounted for 34 percent of real GDP in 1999 to year 2000. The total annual cultivated area of about 11 million hectares is farmed by 4.6 million peasant families and 50 percent is used for paddy. During the last five-year period, the area under paddy increased by about half a million hectares and with production reaching 20.8 million tonnes, that is an increase of over 3 million tonnes. Cropwise, however, the most dramatic increases were in food legumes, with production reaching over 2 million tonnes. Consequently, the export of pulses from Myanmar has risen from 595 000 to 711 000 tonnes during the last five years. Similarly, the livestock and fisheries sector performance during this period was highly contributory in meeting domestic demand and exports. In particular, fisheries production from marine and aquaculture increased very rapidly. Likewise, the forestry sector during this period had ensured that its plans for coverage of reserved forests, parks and sanctuaries and commercial forest plantations, remained on target. We are all here today, not just to draw attention to the seriousness of the main challenges that we are facing in eliminating world hunger and poverty.

We all are also here to re-affirm our commitment to the programmes of the World Food Summit, to take decisive and accelerated action and to make a concerted effort to achieve the goals. Myanmar remains committed to its pledge made at the World Food Summit. Its resolve has not slackened but remains vibrant and strengthened. Myanmar will continue to meet its obligations and commitment in achieving food security for all.

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-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2 – 13 November 2001 Rome, 2 – 13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2 – 13 de noviembre de 2001
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
6 November 2001

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.50 hours
Mr. Francis Montanaro Mifsud
Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Francis Montanaro Mifsud,
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 09.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Francis Montanaro Mifsud,
Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS

(C2001/2; C2001/INF/25) (continued)

PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE

(C2001/2; C2001/INF/25) (suite)

PARTE I - ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS

(C2001/2; C2001/INF/25) (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)**STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS** (continued)**DÉCLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION** (suite)**DECLARACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE DELEGACIONES** (continuación)

Korea (Republic of), Ghana, Portugal, Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Tonga, Djibouti, Tanzania (United Republic of), Mongolia, Madagascar, Qatar, Brazil, Cambodia, Samoa, Liban, Cameroun, Italie, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Argentina, New Zealand, Egypt

KIM DONG-TAE (Korea, Republic of)

On behalf of the Korean Government, it is my great honour to express our views in this important Conference. Despite our honest efforts to fight hunger, 800 million people worldwide are still suffering from malnutrition and more than 60 million people are facing a food crisis. Inadequate access to food, poverty, and an imbalance in the global food supply and demand all contribute to food insecurity. However, poverty remains the root cause of hunger and undernourishment. Poverty not only restricts access to food but hinders the sale of food products, contributing to greater food insecurity. Hunger should be overcome and can be overcome. Success stories of some countries show that this can be achieved. The Republic of Korea is one of those countries. This accomplishment is a result of the people's concerted efforts and their yearning for prosperity.

Along with rapid industrial development, we focused on rural development and on increasing agricultural productivity. The agricultural infrastructure, such as reservoirs and rural roads, has been upgraded and farm mechanization has been promoted under government programmes. Without agricultural development, we could neither eradicate hunger nor alleviate rural poverty. Agricultural development must be given top priority in alleviating poverty and hunger. From its own experience, the Republic of Korea has learned how painful poverty is. We have committed ourselves to fighting hunger and achieving sustainable food security for all through the FAO Trust Fund and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KICA), in collaboration with bilateral and multilateral partners.

We look forward to opportunities to show the experience of our own struggle to overcome hunger and poverty. Food security is not confined solely to countries currently experiencing shortage of food. Considering the uncertain future of the world food supply, it is necessary for all countries to retain their potential for food production for sustainable food security. The financial crisis that hit Korea in 1997 showed the vulnerability of food supplies in net food-importing countries. The lack of foreign currency caused a sharp drop in the import of raw materials and exhausted the stock of imported products, like flour and feed. Fortunately, we had no problems with the provision of rice which is the country's staple crop, because of adequate domestic production capacity. Sufficient amount of domestic production and stockholdings in rice, greatly helped us avoid possible social unrest. Therefore, we are convinced that maintaining an adequate level of domestic food production is essential for ensuring food security in any situation. In addition to the primary function of producing food, agriculture provides us with positive external effects, such as environmental protection, economic viability of rural communities and food security.

The multifunctionality of agriculture is an important agenda, regardless of whether a country is an exporting or an importing one. This feature should not be misunderstood as an instruction for import restriction. Rather it should be given due consideration within the framework of promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development. As stressed at the World Food Summit in 1996 and in the FAO Strategic Framework, FAO must play a central role in developing sustainable agricultural practices and policies that fully embrace the multifunctional role of agriculture. As we all know, global efforts to launch a new WTO round are under way and the agricultural trade negotiations are expected to gain further momentum. At this moment, I stress that FAO should step up its supportive role in safeguarding food security of food-importing countries in the WTO agricultural negotiations. I believe that the production and supply of safe food is essential in order to obtain food security. The recent outbreaks of BSE and FMD in many countries have increased consumer concern about food safety. To address these concerns and ensure consumer protection, more efforts should be made to establish internationally-agreed rules as early as possible.

Turning now to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, it is encouraging that FAO has made considerable progress in its revision. I would like to emphasize that, in order to improve the current world food situation, we should also work hard on the follow-up actions to promote better access to plant genetic resources at reasonable costs. Against this background, I would also like to urge FAO, as the centre of excellence in genetic resources for food and agriculture, to strengthen its role in effective use of genetic resources at the global level.

To conclude, it is my hope that the Conference will generate substantive recommendations to overcome poverty and achieve food security for all.

Courage E.K. QUASHIGAH (Ghana)

On behalf of my delegation and myself, may I start by congratulating the Chairman and the entire Bureau on their nomination. May I also congratulate the entire staff of FAO for their tireless service to the Member Nations. It is my wish that the august session, under your leadership will arrive at decisions and conclusions that will enhance the attainment of FAO's mission of ensuring food for all. It is my greatest pleasure and honour to convey to this Conference the greetings and best wishes of the Government and people of Ghana, the majority of whom are small-scale farmers. These farmers are appreciative of the work of FAO and other international organizations for their financial, technical and material support to enhance their individual and collective efforts in agriculture.

Coming from different parts of the world, we who are gathered here share one common aspiration: that is to find practical solutions to the problems of poverty and hunger besetting our countries and, in so doing, better the lives of our people. We believe that FAO will continue to support our efforts that will make farming a profitable venture for the benefit of our farmers, processors and consumers alike.

Ghana over the years has benefited from FAO's assistance through its provision of technical backstopping to various development projects. We will continue to support and adopt policies and programmes that will promote the well-being of our farmers, especially our women farmers, and take into consideration their full developmental needs, as well as strengthening and building domestic institutions with appropriate emphasis on the private sector.

In reviewing the progress of the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, my delegation believes that, if food security is to be guaranteed, developing nations must be assisted in their economic recovery efforts. However, as we all know, the external economic environment at the moment does not favour economic take-off in many countries. International prices of primary commodities such as cocoa and gold, the main foreign exchange earners for Ghana, are slumping while those of oil and other manufactured products are on the increase. In this way, Ghana and many developing countries are beset with high balance of trade deficits and are unable to finance the imports needed for the growth of agriculture and their economy as a whole. The overall result is a net transfer of financial resources from developing countries, thus making them even poorer.

All efforts to solve the problem of world food insecurity will be in vain if the debt problem is not tackled in a very programmatic way by rescheduling payments, reducing the principal amount and the service and even, where possible, wholesale cancellation of these debts.

In addition to a more sustainable debt situation, another way out of aid dependency is through trade and investment. While some assessments of the multilateral trade negotiation under the World Trade Organization (WTO) indicate that developing countries' long-term gains will offset their short-term losses, we believe that, at least in the short run, our trade prospects will suffer and that we are likely to be further marginalized as a result of its implementation.

Ghana's exports, like most African countries, have remained stagnant and, by 1990, real commodity prices were virtually less than half their 1978-81 average levels. Export diversification is a key prerequisite if commodity-dependent African countries are to succeed in moving towards sustainable developments. For a large number of African primary commodity-producing countries, both vertical and horizontal diversification into manufacturing to take advantage of the potential expansion of trade in manufactures will be a slow process. Those countries will probably gain only little from trade liberation. My delegation supports the proposal to establish a revolving fund to support Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (NFADs). This fund should, among others, provide technical and financial assistance for specific projects linked to improving agricultural productivity and related infrastructure.

Despite the importance of the debt, and market problems, the food security problem will be alleviated only if national governments focus attention on domestic food production as well as regional opportunities to secure food and to ensure equal and equitable access to it.

In this context, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Ghana has set itself three main specific functions. To ensure food security for the nation; facilitate the production of agricultural raw materials for industry; and facilitate the production of agriculture commodities for export.

To make it possible for us to measure and assess our progress in ensuring food security on a yearly basis, we have compartmentalized its definition into good-quality food, available in sufficient quantity all the year round with a national buffer stock, hygienically-packaged and attractively presented, located at the right places and at affordable prices.

We must ensure that it is not just any type of food to fill the stomach, but good and nutritious food, which must be handled with special care from its production to consumption. With modern technology for processing and storage, we must also not give excuses anymore for insufficiency of food at certain times of the year. This obviously will take care of the fluctuations in the food price index and ensure that our people do not spend more than 40 percent of their earnings on food alone.

The production of raw materials for industry is targeting small-, medium- and large-scale ones which have comparative advantage. Such industries include sugar, textiles, rubber, chocolate, processed horticultural beverages and other products.

The function of facilitating the production of agricultural commodities for export requires accurate market information to determine levels of demand, standard requirements for production, processing, packaging and marketing. These will be addressed through the commodity approach being adopted under a new development programme in the food and agriculture sub-sector.

I strongly believe that food for all is achievable. Let this great gathering provide the means and the political will to make it a reality.

Luis Manuel CAPOULAS SANTOS (Portugal) (Original language Portuguese)

The holding of the World Food Summit in this city in 1996 under the auspices of FAO was an important forum aimed at raising the awareness of everyone, politicians and ordinary citizens alike, of the persistence - in a world of plenty and waste - of hundreds of millions of people who go hungry or who suffer from malnutrition. Portugal, which has always recognized the important role of FAO in fighting hunger and undernourishment, supported fully this initiative and

cooperated in the preparatory work. Five years on and, unfortunately, we all have to recognize that the measures taken have not lived up to our expectations and we feel it is now very important. Hence we support the proposal of the Director-General to conduct an early review of the implementation of the action plan so as to be able to make the adjustments necessary with a view to achieving the results we are all looking to. The very difficult times we are living through internationally and the context of negotiating agreements within WTO mean that it is increasingly urgent to hold a debate in which we can find coherent and proper political responses to severe problems, like what countries are suffering from such as health and hunger.

Let me briefly refer to the appeal Angola made so that sleeping sickness assistance can be properly formulated - because in some areas in Africa this is spreading very seriously and in particular it is hitting hard Angola. There is, we believe, a common feature of poverty and malnutrition, it is that it is widespread in rural areas. This is where you find the most acute cases. Agriculture in many developing countries is the main driving force behind the economy and rural development, in fact, it accounts for 60 to 70 percent - or even more - of the total jobs available. The development of agriculture and the policies are therefore of crucial importance in economic development, political and social stability and in obtaining food security, as well as reducing poverty. Ironically we have gradually been reducing the focus as well as the resources going to rural and agricultural development. This is true of international organizations as well as of bilateral donors. It is essential that we reverse this situation and we recognize just how important the rural and farming sectors are and how important it is that we can expand sustainable activities in this area able to produce a steady supply of foodstuffs. This means that the production methods and the working conditions uphold workers' rights and they are suited to the environment and natural conditions and that there is also a need to promote suitable markets where products can be sold at fair prices, and conditions whereby farm products from developing countries can reach the developed markets, according to rules which will guarantee the endurance of farming models which have grown out of history and ecological conditions.

As a representative of a Member State of the European Union, I have to say that we are the biggest importers of foodstuffs from developing countries and that, as from the year 2008, they will not have to face customs barriers under the initiative "Everything but arms". In the development of CAP, as well as the proposals the European Union has put before the World Trade Organization, we will again have an opportunity to show our resolve to facilitate to developing countries access to the benefits of a fair and multilateral trading system and special and differentiated treatment in this area. My country, which under its cooperation programme does more for cooperation than its GDP would call for, has put in place a number of measures which are completely in keeping with the Declaration of Rome. We are aware that there is still a lot to be done and that we need to inject some new life and some new political commitment nationally and internationally. My country cannot live with this very unacceptable situation in which millions of human beings who are our fellow men and women live. So we will do everything we can within our possibilities to see to it that five years on we are able to make more of a success and able to deal with this matter as it deserves.

Mahesh ACHARYA (Nepal)

I feel greatly honoured to be here with you today extending views on several issues related to food and agriculture. This Thirty-first Session of the Conference bears an added significance for my country as it marks the fiftieth year of its joining FAO as a member.

For the last several decades, we have been affirming and reaffirming our commitment to eradicate poverty and ensure every human being the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition. When we sit together and share our experiences, one big question always looms large in our minds. How much have we been able to meet our promises to humanity? The answer has always been frustrating.

The scourge of hunger and poverty has unfortunately persisted as part of human civilization for long. That it has co-existed with an abundance of production at global level is all the more disappointing. The continued asymmetry among nations and population groups in terms of access

to the plentiful production and enormous productive capacity of world agriculture needs to be corrected as we vie for a just world order. While scientists and governments in the developed world have been seeking new heights of production frontiers through scientific breakthroughs, many parts of the world have not been successful in attaining the productivity plateau set by green revolution technology. This has yet to run its full course in these regions. It is also highly likely that the lagging regions get bypassed by the rapidly unfolding biotechnology revolution. In such a situation, the daunting challenge ahead is to work towards the direction of connecting the needy people to progress so as to make a lasting difference in the lives of millions. This can be ensured only if we adequately back-up our promises with real action and resources.

Even as the target of Official Development Assistance has always remained unfulfilled by a large margin, new challenges have been emerging forcefully in way of the promised peace dividend. Notwithstanding, we would like to recall with appreciation the concern expressed by the Genoa Summit of the G8 countries over the issues of food security and food safety. We pin high hopes on their emphasis on making food security and food safety key elements of ODA. This implies channelling more resources towards the cause of agriculture and rural development in less developed countries. We welcome this commitment as sensibly relevant. We look forward to seeing it to be practically real to help least developed countries leapfrog into new opportunities.

At the national level, I would like to share our experiences briefly on some of the critical issues facing a least developed and mountainous country like ours. We had set poverty alleviation as the focused objective for the current Ninth Plan, the implementation of which is close to completion. We had identified agriculture growth as the key to achieving poverty alleviation in cognisance of its potential for broad-based growth. However, we were able to achieve only limited success in this front thereby limiting our ability to reduce poverty significantly. With as many as 38 percent of the population living below the poverty line even today, we are set to lay further emphasis on the strategy of growth in agriculture and rural development as a primary vehicle for reducing poverty further during the forthcoming Tenth Five Year Plan being presently formulated.

In Nepal, as many as 55 out of 75 districts lie in the hills and highland region. The majority of these districts are chronically food-deficit while diverse culture, indigenous knowledge, rich natural resources and dense biodiversity thrive in the fragile ecosystems there. As we strive for harnessing every potential of our agricultural resources for productive purposes, we need equally to be mindful of our responsibility to conserve rich biodiversity. The challenge facing such mountain agriculture is to harness several advantageous attributes of mountain environment particularly in terms of amazing diversity and associated commercial niches. The promotion of agricultural products and practices with mountain specific comparative advantages can go a long way in solving the problem of raising living standards and environmental sustainability.

We realize that this calls for a multi-pronged approach that addresses all related questions such as increasing productivity, instituting an efficient distribution system, conserving natural resources and enhancing the income of the poor. For the poverty-stricken nation to be able to address these interlocking issues an atmosphere of generous international cooperation is vital.

Similarly, as we are preparing to join WTO, we are finding our conventional comparative advantages being rapidly lost. FAO in its recent report on the State of Food and Agriculture has rightly pointed out that the increasing concern on food safety and its high standards limits the ability of least developed countries to benefit from surplus production. The complexity of import regimes and the cost of complying with sanitary and phytosanitary standards and technical barriers to trade can be insurmountable obstacles, particularly for small developing countries. To make matters worse, the recent events and the consequent changes in the global security systems has the effect of raising the cost owing to high safety requirements. In this context, building the capacities of the least developed countries to meet the WTO requirements cannot be overemphasized. We hope for greater cooperation in this regard from developed trade partners as initially promised.

These, in our view, are some of the areas which outline the broad framework for the cooperation between us, FAO and the cooperating member countries.

We have had enough of proclaimed war against hunger. Let us strike against it. Let us affirm that human hunger, environmental horror and mindless terror have been the three most alarming frustrations of our time. They have interlocking causalities; and we have also seen that their repercussions transcend the boundaries of societies and nations. Let us fight human hunger, natural horror and manmade terror together. Building a global coalition against hunger and environmental disaster is just as important as our endeavours to build a global coalition against international terror.

Finally, may I conclude with best wishes for the grand success of this Conference.

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

In the name of God, merciful and compassionate, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen may the peace and blessing of God be upon you all.

At the outset I should like to pay tribute to the former President of Chile and to the Director-General and also the Representative of His Holiness Pope John Paul and also the Vice President of Guatemala for all their statements. We believe that their statements represent a beacon for us and are landmarks on our path towards achieving the eradication of poverty and hunger and malnutrition. I should like to join the previous speakers in welcoming the new members to this Organization wishing them every success hoping that their joining our Organization will positively contribute to the achievement of our goals. We are meeting here in the Thirty-first Session of our General Conference while the tragedy of hunger is still affecting millions of people despite the fact that the world has an abundance of food and is suffering at the same time from waste.

According to the statement of the Director-General the number of hungry people and those suffering from malnutrition has reached 815 million, and 300 million of them are children. It is disappointing to see this situation despite the fact that the leaders of the world in the World Food Summit pledged their support for achieving the eradication of poverty and hunger. That pledge was made in 1996 and consequently we believe that the objectives of the World Food Summit have not been achieved. We should like to endorse the initiative of the Director-General to convene the second World Food Summit in the year 2002 in June in order to mobilize more support for the goals of eradicating poverty and hunger from the world. I should like to stress that it is with pleasure that we listen to the various statements delivered here, stressing the commitment of the developed countries towards the achievements of the goals of the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

Within a few days, a Ministerial Conference of the WHO will be held in Qatar and from this rostrum we should like to call upon all taking part in this Conference to give special treatment to developing countries, to help them be integrated in the world economy and give them facilitated access to the developed countries market. The United Arab Emirates, under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of our State, is making every effort to alleviate poverty and hunger from the world and achieve agricultural development in the affected countries. We are doing this through food aid concessionary loans and this is fully in line with the approach of FAO, with the approach of eliminating hunger, malnutrition and poverty. At national level, the UAE is making every effort to promote the agricultural infrastructure, and the conservation of natural resources, biodiversity and wildlife. All this within an integrated management of our resources including maritime resources. The State of the United Arab Emirates is making every effort to achieve these goals through the establishment of dams and the use of irrigation systems and the rational use of water. We are also embarking on a land reclamation process and in two decades the cultivated land area has increased by 145 percent. Dates and vegetables are the main products at present. Date production has increased by 68 percent, vegetable production by 328 percent, and forestation projects cover 309 636 hectares in order to expand the vegetation cover. One of the most prominent features of our achievements in food security is the fact that we have achieved self-sufficiency: in dates 98 percent, in fish products 97 percent, 87 percent in fresh milk, 67 percent for vegetables and 47 percent for eggs.

We support the approach adopted by FAO in gender mainstreaming and we also support the treaty on Plant Genetic Resources and we believe that this is an important achievement for the Organization. Finally, we should like to stress the importance of FAO's work and we are looking forward to a world where peace, security and stability prevail.

May the almighty God guide our efforts down this road.

Lavaka Ata 'ULUKALALA (Tonga)

I am mindful that this meeting of the Conference was also to be an opportunity to take stock of our commitment undertaken at the World Food Summit five years ago to eradicate hunger, and in the process tackle its source, abject poverty.

The Council, in its wisdom has directed that the review of progress should await a more opportune time when the attention of those that could make the most contribution to the greatest and perhaps, the most urgent challenge of our times might better address the task at hand.

It is perhaps the enormity of the fatal events and the loss of so many innocent lives on 11 September that force us, out of compassion, to accept and justify a delay in our assessment of the hunger that stalks the earth at a time when science and modern technology should dictate otherwise.

Nevertheless, the theme of my intervention is to share with the Conference the steps that we in our island kingdom of Tonga have taken to assist those that exist at a level of poverty that can only give rise to hunger, malnutrition, the loss of dignity and with that, the sense of one's worth.

We have come to accept that there is no single cause of poverty and that neglect, weak and often well-meaning but misguided policies have all contributed to some of our people falling out of the safety net of community security onto hard times. Solutions to problems arising out of rapid social and cultural change have often fallen short, perhaps because we have stuck too long to old and tried methods that worked in earlier times when populations were much smaller and the demands on resources not so insistent.

Government reform could be identified as the first step we took to ensure the major challenges to our well-being would be addressed at a national level and would engage all of civil society, including women and youth, a growing private sector, churches and non-governmental organizations and village communities.

Ensuring that the Government focused on those matters for which it rightfully had responsibility with a slimmer, more responsive civil service, and allowing appropriate resources to flow to a stronger private sector to grow and take wing has already begun to show results. It has seen the growth of our export fishing industry by over 200 percent in the last twelve months and the revival of our export squash industry at a crucial time. Tropical ground crops of yams, taro and manioc now have ready markets in New Zealand and Australia as well as the United States. More importantly, it is providing a sense of national purpose, of a people and their institutions moving together towards a common objective and common goals. It has relieved the Government of matters it had to struggle with in the past. For which it had little appetite and much less skill.

Land reform that would allow youth access to uncultivated land continues to be a challenge. Raising a greater awareness of the environment and the fragility of our small islands, not only with regards to land use and cultivation practices, including the uncontrolled use of fertilizers, but also of the growing challenge of marine pollution has had to be addressed. The establishment of a new Department of the Environment at a time when the civil service is being pared to core responsibilities has not been easy but has been widely accepted as essential.

The nature of the problem of nutrition and food that is common to a number of Pacific states is not so much the lack of food, but the over-consumption of inappropriate imported fatty foods. The end result however is still as deadly as starvation and non-communicable diseases are now the greatest health risk and threat to the people of Tonga. The change in lifestyle and diet has seriously affected the health of the nation with less physical activity and fewer people actively

working on farms which have become much more mechanized. Major education programmes have been launched to promote the benefits of local foods including fish and all that our marine resources have to offer; and the introduction of a national weight loss programme has also proved very popular. Under the reform programme the three sectors identified for priority development are agriculture, fisheries and tourism.

A number of initiatives on which Tonga and indeed the South Pacific Region have worked closely together with FAO include: meetings to promote better understanding of the World Trade Organization and the opportunities that it might provide for agricultural imports and exports, including fisheries; the promotion of Codex Alimentarius and national Codex committees; setting up of authorization bodies, quality assurance, inspection and certification systems to facilitate trade and fisheries products; support to all small farmers in the form of a farm-centred development approach; maintaining sound quarantine and biosecurity systems in order to protect domestic food production and facilitate trade; identifying new crops and marine species for local consumption and trade; and not least drawing attention to the vital role that forestry contributes towards food security.

In the development strategies to strengthen our national food programme and to contribute to our demand, FAO has played a major role not only in developing objectives and guidelines and providing valuable technical assistance and support, but also in giving us the confidence to tackle what at times has seemed to be an impossible task. The skills that have been imparted to local staff through interaction and through appropriate training programmes and attachments have already had an impact on how we see our role in the fight against hunger and poverty.

Our membership of FAO is greatly valued and I would like to express my thanks and that of my Government to the Director-General and through him to the many people of this Organization who continue to work tirelessly so that life somewhere on this planet is a little bit better. The road to Rome took me through Yokohama last year where I had the benefit of discussing with my colleagues from the Asia and Pacific Region the challenge of world food security. I also had the privilege of attending our smaller Sub-Regional Meeting of the Southwest Pacific Ministers of Agriculture in Port Villa, Vanuatu. I arrived here with a distinct feeling that our region, which counts the richest, largest and most populated nations, as well as the smallest and poorest amongst its members, were all of a positive mind that the challenge we have set ourselves could be met. There were many inspiring examples of successful policies, programmes and innovations that worked, and worked very well. Regional institutions had been established to carry out valuable research and to disseminate the results as well as to share knowledge and experiences. It is therefore discouraging to note the constant erosion of resources that we allocate to FAO and ourselves to do the job. Perhaps all of us could usefully ponder between now and June next year when we meet again to review our progress whether we really expect the Director-General, his dedicated staff and the many agencies who have linked hands with us in common cause to achieve more with less.

My eldest son attends a poor college, a rural school established 150 years ago in Tonga by Methodist missionaries. It has a solid agricultural background and the students are responsible for planting their own food and raising their own livestock including pigs and chickens. He once confided to me that the young plants as well as the animals responded extremely well to kind treatment. Today I ask myself whether the farmer also would respond in a like manner to kind treatment. Would he blossom and grow in an environment that also treated him kindly where he went about his business in peace without fear for his life and where the fruits of his labours were his to dispose of as he pleased and according to the dictates of the market? If we could promise the farmer such an environment how much sooner might we all be able to achieve our targets.

Dini Abdallah BILILIS (Djibouti)

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et chers Collègues, Excellences Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter le Président pour son élection. Qu'il me soit également permis de remercier vivement le

Directeur général et ses collaborateurs pour les efforts inlassables qu'ils déploient dans la mise en application des programmes et la mise en œuvre des activités de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, le 16 octobre dernier, la République de Djibouti, à l'instar des pays du monde entier, a célébré dignement la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation dont le thème, comme vous le savez, était: "Lutter contre la faim pour réduire la pauvreté". En septembre 2000, les dirigeants du monde, réunis au Sommet du Millénaire à New-York, ont pris un engagement historique en décidant de réduire de moitié d'ici 2015, le nombre de ceux qui vivent dans des conditions d'extrême pauvreté. Déjà, en décembre 1989, constatant les disparités entre les nations et à l'intérieur des nations ainsi qu'une aggravation de la pauvreté et de la faim, couplée d'une détérioration rapide des écosystèmes, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies avait adopté une résolution en faveur d'une approche équilibrée et intégrée aux problèmes de l'environnement et du développement afin de mieux combattre la pauvreté, la faim, l'analphabétisme, les problèmes de la santé et la dégradation de l'environnement.

Force est de constater que, malgré ces résolutions prises au plus haut niveau, la faim et la pauvreté persistent dans la plupart des pays en voie de développement avec une aggravation certaine dans les pays les moins avancés. Ce n'est point un constat d'échec, mais ceci constitue une sonnette d'alarme qui doit nous mobiliser davantage et nous alerter pour revoir nos stratégies en vue d'atteindre les nobles objectifs définis lors de ces conférences et sommets afin de réduire la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde. C'est dans ce contexte que mon pays ainsi que mon gouvernement, avec l'ensemble des parties concernées, élabore une stratégie nationale de lutte contre la pauvreté ainsi qu'une stratégie de développement durable. Toute la conception de cette nouvelle approche se fait en étroite collaboration avec nos partenaires traditionnels et en particulier la FAO.

Le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire, initié par la FAO, entre dans sa phase pilote, notamment dans l'exécution de la composante "Maîtrise de l'eau", sachant l'extrême sévérité du climat avec une pluviométrie annuelle comprise entre zéro et 250 millimètres. Dans le domaine de la mobilisation des eaux de pluie, nous élaborons avec la FAO, un projet de réalisation de petits ouvrages hydrauliques de surface (c'est-à-dire des retenues collinaires, des excavations, de petits barrages) qui seront réalisés avec le concours des populations rurales concernées, lesquelles pourront bénéficier du programme Vivres-contre-travail du PAM durant l'exécution des travaux. Par ailleurs, jusqu'à ce jour, l'accès au crédit était difficile, voire impossible, pour un agriculteur, un éleveur, un pêcheur en République de Djibouti, compte tenu des conditions exigées par les banques commerciales de la place. Il m'est agréable d'annoncer que cette situation ne saurait perdurer, du fait de la mise en œuvre prochaine d'un projet de micro-crédits en faveur des acteurs déshérités du secteur primaire. Ce projet sera exécuté avec l'appui du Fonds international de développement agricole et ce dès le début de l'année prochaine. Ainsi se mettra en place un système financier rural, capable de répondre aux besoins réels des agriculteurs, des éleveurs et des pêcheurs. Dans la mise en œuvre et pour la réussite de ce projet, il ressort qu'une importance capitale est accordée, de plus en plus, au rôle des organisations non gouvernementales et de la société civile.

Mesdames et Messieurs, parallèlement à ces programmes, le Gouvernement de Djibouti a entrepris de profondes réformes institutionnelles pour soutenir les projets de développement. Parmi celles-ci, je citerai brièvement: la récente réorganisation du Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la mer, chargé des ressources hydrauliques, se caractérisant notamment par la déconcentration des services centraux créant ainsi des structures de proximité dans les districts de l'intérieur, pour la vulgarisation agricole et la maintenance des équipements hydrauliques onéreux. L'adoption d'un décret portant création du Fonds national de l'eau, permettant ainsi de générer les ressources financières au plan national, en vue d'assurer la maintenance des équipements et des ouvrages hydrauliques sur l'ensemble du territoire. Ceci illustre parfaitement cette nouvelle stratégie recherchant des solutions innovantes aux problèmes de la faim et de la pauvreté rurale dans le cadre général de l'action gouvernementale, en comptant en priorité sur les ressources nationales.

Mesdames et Messieurs, comme vous le savez, le domaine agricole est l'un des secteurs les plus sensibles, surtout en cette période critique historique où s'engagent de profondes mutations sous l'effet de la mondialisation et des nouvelles technologies de l'information. Ces mutations affectent considérablement les relations internationales en matière de commerce, notamment de produits agricoles et ce, semble-t-il, au détriment des agriculteurs dans les pays les moins avancés. C'est dans ce contexte que des négociations difficiles se poursuivent au sein de l'OMC et ne devraient pas pénaliser davantage le commerce de produits agricoles en provenance des pays en voie de développement. D'autant plus que ces pays dont la République de Djibouti, mon pays, n'ayant plus les ressources nécessaires, se désengagent peu à peu de services qu'ils assuraient auparavant en subventionnant des produits tels que les semences, les pesticides, les matériels et équipements agricoles.

Mesdames et Messieurs, malgré une conjoncture économique difficile, aggravée par des mesures dans une période d'ajustement structurel, mon pays, siège de l'Autorité intergouvernementale pour le développement, plus connu sous le sigle IGAD, met à la disposition de la Communauté internationale et notamment au projet du PAM et du HCR, toutes ses infrastructures aéroportuaires, routières et hospitalières pour venir en aide aux réfugiés et sinistrés dans la région de la Corne de l'Afrique où sévissent régulièrement des conflits et des catastrophes naturelles. Dans le cadre du renforcement de la Coopération avec la FAO, la République de Djibouti, malgré ses moyens modestes, vient de régler un montant très important pour épouger ces arriérés. Par ailleurs, mon pays vient d'adhérer à la Commission de la FAO de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région Centre. Toutes ces mesures témoignent de l'importance qu'accorde la République de Djibouti à la Coopération internationale. Pour conclure, notre délégation appuie fermement les projets de résolution soumis par le Président du Groupe africain, concernant le suivi du Sommet des Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement relatif à l'éradication de la mouche tsé-tsé et de la trypanosomiase africaine.

Charles KEENJA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this Session of the Conference on behalf of the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania and my delegation which comprises the Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Environment and Co-operatives of Zanzibar, the Hon. Mussa A. Silima. I would like to congratulate you for being elected to Chair this Session. I would also like to congratulate the Director-General of FAO for successfully organizing this Conference at a very difficult time.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, agriculture occupies a central position in the economy. It accounts for approximately 50 percent of the GDP, 60 percent of foreign exchange earnings and employs over 80 percent of the population. Crop production contributes about 4 percent to the GDP while the livestock subsector contributes 5 percent to the GDP or 30 percent of the agricultural GDP. Forestry contributes 3 percent, fisheries 2.9 percent and hunting a further 2.6 percent. Approximately 95 percent of the food consumed in the country is locally produced by smallholder farmers. However, food security at family level remains precarious. It is estimated that 40 percent of families do not get enough food, either due to the fact that they do not produce enough or because they cannot afford to buy enough food for the family. It is important to emphasize here that food security at family level can only be achieved through increased local production of food or through enhanced family incomes because our ability to import large quantities of food is limited.

Over the last decade food production has been increasing at a rate of approximately 3.1 percent per year as compared to population growth estimated at 2.8 percent per year. If post-harvest losses are taken into consideration, and these are estimated at about 30 to 40 percent, the net increase in agricultural production will be negative. The country therefore faces frequent food shortages, mainly due to the vagaries of weather. On average the country experiences shortages of food of approximately 500 000 tonnes of cereal equivalent per year.

The country has a great unexploited agricultural potential. We have 43 million hectares of arable land of which only 16 percent is cultivated. We also have over 1 million hectares of land suitable

for irrigation of which only 160 000 hectares are irrigated. The United Republic of Tanzania is endowed with considerable livestock resources. It has the third largest cattle population in Africa, estimated at 15.6 million. We also have 10.6 million goats, 3.5 million sheep and 40 million poultry. Despite the large population of livestock, per caput meat consumption is very low, estimated at only 8 kg per year, while milk consumption is also low and estimated at 23 litres per person per year. The fisheries subsector contributes about 30 percent of the total animal protein intake and provides a source of employment to over 800 000 people. The present potential yield of fish is estimated at 730 000 tonnes: 630 000 tonnes is from inland waters and 100 000 tonnes from the ocean. Fish exports account for about 10 percent of foreign exchange earnings. Small-scale fish farming integrated with agriculture and animal husbandry is also on the increase and presently there are about 10 000 ponds, which produce a total of about 2 000 tonnes per year.

The United Republic of Tanzania has 33.5 million hectares of forestry and woodlands. Forestry is an important sub-sector for food security, conservation of the environment and water resources, habitat for wildlife and acts as a pool of genetic resources. Forests are also the main source of wood fuel for the rural population and accounts for 92 percent of total energy consumption in the country. Forests also provide employment opportunities and income generation for the rural populations.

The agricultural sector in the United Republic of Tanzania is dwarfed by a large number of problems including low productivity due to inappropriate crop husbandry practices among the peasant farmers, substantial pre- and post-harvest losses, inadequate research and development and ineffective extension services in crop and livestock production. Other problems include the poor access of farmers to agricultural inputs including credit, fertilizers, insecticides, improved seeds, farm implements and the extremely weak inputs and outputs markets. The agricultural sector is also affected by inadequate and declining public and private investments, low and declining export crops, as stated by my colleague from Ghana, poor rural infrastructure and inadequate incentives to farmers. All of these factors combine to reduce production and to perpetuate food insecurity and poverty among our people.

The problems of malaria and the HIV/AIDS pandemic threaten to wipe out any successes, which have been recorded over the last years. The major constraints to the livestock subsector include disease epidemics, tick-borne diseases and trypanosomiasis. About 60 percent of the United Republic of Tanzania rangeland is infected with the tsetse fly which is a limiting factor to improved animal and crop production. In tsetse fly infested areas, trypanosomiasis for cattle and sleeping sickness in humans abound and the most affected are the rural poor. Interventions against the tsetse fly will require efforts beyond a single country, as the tsetse fly is a transboundary problem. The successful campaign of eradicating the tsetse fly in Zanzibar assisted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) can be considered a model for tsetse eradication for the rest of the African continent. Our agriculture is also adversely affected by migratory pests including quelea quelea, armyworms and locusts.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the commendable work being done by the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa and the Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa, in combating these pests. Rodents are also responsible for substantial destruction of crops both on-farm and in storage. This year the country has witnessed a particularly severe outbreak of rodents in 14 out of the 20 mainland regions.

Major policy changes with significant bearing to the agricultural and rural sectors have been undertaken by the Government. These include liberalization of the crop and input marketing, divestiture of public corporations, removal of all Central Government taxes on agricultural inputs and crops, devolution of extension services to local authorities and macro-economic reforms which have produced favourable results in the agricultural sector. Since most of the poor live in rural areas and they depend on agriculture, such policies have very positive effects. Finally, for the last four days that we have been here we all agree that we must wage war against hunger which is a manifestation of the causes of poverty. I think we have the means, I am not sure we

have the will. I request everybody to please take measures that will make sure that we address ourselves to hunger and poverty eradication.

Darjaa NASANJARGAL (Mongolia) (Original language Mongolian)

Let me join others who have spoken before me to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election. I strongly believe that under your leadership this Conference will be successful. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, for his efforts to develop the agriculture of the world with a special focus on fighting poverty and food insecurity in developing countries. I am very glad to take this opportunity to present, briefly, the current situation of our country's food and agricultural production, further tendency, policy of the Government and cooperation with the international community in this sector.

We have experienced one year of activity since the new Government started to implement its action programme. The food and agriculture sector policy of the Government has aimed at rehabilitating and developing national production and creating a favorable human environment, through the reduction of unemployment and poverty and the enhancement of living standards, which have been considered the most challenging social issues in Mongolia.

It is not possible to imagine Mongolia without its national, traditional livestock production. Agricultural sector production accounts for 33.4 percent of Mongolia's GDP, of which 87.6 percent is produced by the livestock sector. A policy pursued by the Government in the livestock sector has focused on protecting livestock health and increasing productivity per animal, through the improvement of breed quality and the intensification of animal husbandry

In connection with these activities, our Government has implemented several projects and programmes. Unfortunately, because our country's extensive livestock production is very dependent on nature and the environment, in many cases barriers have been faced in achieving the planned objectives. A considerable amount of damage was caused to the livestock sector by drought and a dry climate in 70 percent of the total territory of the country in the summer, while heavy snow has fallen in winter for the last two years. As a consequence of last year's natural disaster (called Dzud), 4.2 million head of animals died and around 10 000 households, or 5 percent, of herding families lost all their animals. In terms of finance, damage of US\$130 million was caused to the Government of Mongolia. I would also like to note that there were several cases of loss to human life. There were also several outbreaks of animal disease in some part of Mongolia, which caused damage to the country's economy. US\$23.2 million of assistance has been extended by donor countries and international organizations, supporting the joint appeal launched by the Government of Mongolia and the United Nations last March with the objective of overcoming natural disaster and mitigating the loss. Among this assistance, FAO has made a considerable contribution by implementing US\$600 000 for the Natural Disaster Responding System Strengthening and Animal Input Supply and the Pastoral Risk Management Strategy projects.

I would like to express, on behalf of myself and the Mongolian Government, sincere gratitude to the governments of countries, the international organizations and the individual persons who extended generous assistance and support, standing together with us during this difficult period. Having gained experience of natural disasters over the last two years, and with the objective of strengthening national capacity to overcome and respond to other natural disasters that may take place in the future, our Government approved and has implemented the national programme on Protecting Livestock from Natural Disaster - Dzud and Drought. Under this programme, such measures as increasing livestock feed reserves, strengthening pasture management and improving water supply have been taken in order to build a preventive condition for protecting animals from disaster.

The second main subsector of Mongolia's agriculture is crop production. Because of some difficulties during the transitional period to new social and economic conditions, the crop production development level - which was fully meeting the country's needs - declined sharply, and currently only 27 to 45 percent of domestic needs are supplied through local production. It is

impossible to reduce unemployment and poverty without rehabilitating crop production in those areas where development of small and medium enterprise is poor. Therefore, we have pursued a policy of promoting crop production, supplying cereals seed adapted for the country's nature and climate, improving machinery and equipment procurement and updating technology. For these purposes, the Government has developed and implemented projects and programmes designed for seed multiplication, soil cultivation and technology improvement.

As a result of these measures, some positive progress has been achieved. Around 270 000 ha of arable land, which is 69.7 percent more than last year, has been cultivated for next year's planting. I am glad to mention that the FAO Crop Production Technology Improvement technical cooperation project (TCP) has contributed significantly to the above activity. It is clear to everybody that it a long time and requires funds and efforts to return crop production to its pre-1990s level. As well as social and economic impacts, natural and climatic changes and a trend toward more dry conditions every year have negatively influenced crop production. Owing to these factors, the wheat harvest of this year is expected to meet only 22.0 percent of domestic flour needs. Therefore our country needs to import 70 percent of its needs in flour from abroad. We are grateful that the governments of France, the United States and Japan have pledged to provide food wheat as a grant to Mongolia. Along with the efforts taken by our Government, FAO, UN, TACIS EU and USAID have implemented bigger projects jointly with the Government. We have also planned to obtain a large loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and its feasibility study has already commenced.

The weakness of our country's banking system in terms of its ability to promote and assist a privatized food industry, and declines in main raw material production caused food sector production to decrease sharply in the transitional period. In the framework of food production policy, our Government pays more attention to the issue of ensuring food security and supplying food of high nutrition to the population. Under implementation of the newly-amended Food Law, a Food Safety and Agricultural Inspection Agency was established in order to ensure food quality and hygienic aspects. Our Government has just approved a National Plan of Action for Food Security, Safety and Nutrition before this Conference. I would like to thank FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) for helping the Government develop this action. I believe that, as a result of implementation of this action plan, a certain progress will be made in improving food nutrition and ensuring food security.

With regard to poverty alleviation issues, the Government of Mongolia has pursued the strategy of developing our social sector and improving service through ensuring economic growth. Jointly with the World Bank, the Government developed an interim poverty reduction strategy paper which was appreciated and approved by the Directors' Board of the World Bank in October 2001. Mongolia became the 38th country to have a World Bank-approved Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. In addition, a partnership agreement for poverty reduction was concluded between the Government of Mongolia and ADB. We attach significant importance to these documents for enhancing the impact of macroeconomic and social sector policy that are being implemented by the Government.

We are very pleased with the fact that our cooperation with the international community has been expanded, particularly with FAO in the agricultural sector. More importance has been given to the Special Programme on Food Security, and the Telefood programme has started to be implemented over the last several years. Based on the concept and objectives of these programmes, the Government of Mongolia has been developing its National Strategy for Development for Agriculture - Horizon 2010 in cooperation with FAO. This document will be the basis for our cooperation up to 2010. The Government of Mongolia intends to expand its cooperation with FAO in reducing poverty through an increase in agricultural production, ensuring food security through strengthening our food inspection system. Finally I would like to express, once again, gratitude to FAO for its effective cooperation and assistance. I believe that our cooperation will be more fruitful and expanded in the future.

Marcel Théophile RAVELOARIJONA (Madagascar)

Monsieur le Président, Honorables Délégués, la délégation de Madagascar à la présente Session de la FAO, à l'instar d'autres Délégations qui l'ont précédée, se félicite, Monsieur le Président, de votre élection à la Présidence de cette 31^{ème} Conférence, ainsi que des autres membres du bureau et espère que, sous votre sage direction, nos travaux seront couronnés de succès. Je voudrais à cette occasion adresser mes remerciements au Directeur Général et à l'ensemble du Secrétariat pour la clarté et la richesse des documents qui nous sont présentés et des efforts inlassables qu'ils ne cessent de déployer pour réaliser les nobles idéaux de notre Organisation. Madagascar est sensible aux événements tragiques de ces derniers mois et s'associe à la lutte contre le terrorisme que la Communauté Internationale mène aujourd'hui. Nous en appelons toutefois à la compréhension de tous, que cette situation ne devrait pas nous détourner des priorités qui nous interpellent chaque jour en faveur de 800 millions de personnes qui souffrent de la faim dans le monde.

Monsieur le Président, ma Délégation note avec satisfaction l'importance particulière que la FAO accorde aux enjeux sur la problématique de sous-alimentation, en organisant cette Conférence, en vue d'examiner les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre des plans d'action qui ont été adoptés par chaque pays, par rapport aux engagements pris au Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation de 1996. Madagascar, comme bon nombre de pays en développement, 80% de la population vivent en milieu rural, là où la pauvreté est très accentuée. Cette situation conjuguée avec la présence de phénomènes naturels tels que les cyclones tropicaux, la sécheresse et l'invasion acridienne, sont des contraintes aggravantes à la situation alimentaire de l'agriculture. Ces dernières années, d'autres défis à la politique agricole et alimentaire du pays se trouvent aux premières loges des autorités gouvernementales. On a assisté dans les années 91 - 95 à une chute de l'alimentation de base des Malgaches. La consommation en riz a diminué de 140kg à 130kg par an, par personne et la viande bovine de 12,4kg à 9,4kg pour la période de 91 à 95. Puisque nous sommes déjà à l'heure du bilan et que tous les aspects et la complexité du problème ont fait l'objet d'analyse, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de souligner brièvement que Madagascar a déployé ses efforts pour relever le défi d'assurer une alimentation convenable à la population, selon les engagements pris au Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation de 1996, de réduire de moitié le nombre de populations sous-alimentées avant 2015. C'est ainsi que le Gouvernement Malgache a mis en place le Plan d'action pour le Développement Rural (PADR), qui est le cadre du référentiel national en matière de développement rural, mettant en priorité parmi ses orientations d'assurer une disponibilité alimentaire suffisante dans toutes les régions de l'île. En outre, le document de stratégie pour la réduction de la pauvreté intérimaire (DSPR), élaboré en novembre 2000 et accepté par les Instances Internationales, vise comme objectifs une croissance économique forte et l'amélioration de la qualité de vie de la population, et nous a permis de bénéficier de l'IPPTE (Initiative des pays pauvres très endettés). C'est au niveau du PADR que les modalités de planification des interventions et le rôle des différents acteurs sont définis. Ce plan d'action doit permettre à l'ensemble du secteur rural de progresser significativement vers les objectifs de sécurité alimentaire et de réduction de pauvreté rurale. Parmi les programmes et projets en cours d'exécution s'inscrivant dans le cadre du PADR, je cite d'abord le PNSAE ou Programme national de Sécurité alimentaire élargie, financé par le PNUD, avec comme agence d'exécution la FAO qui est chargée de traduire les grands principes, les axes stratégiques, les programmes d'actions figurant dans la stratégie nationale de Sécurité Alimentaire, en terme de politique ainsi que d'objectifs et de programmes d'actions concrètes. Ensuite, le Projet de soutien au développement rural (PSDR), un projet d'appui de la Banque Mondiale au Plan d'action pour le développement rural qui a pour objectifs entre autres d'accroître les revenus des petits agriculteurs de manière durable dans 20 régions agro-écologiques du pays, et d'appuyer le développement des producteurs et groupes communautaires. Il y a lieu de noter également le dispositif permettant de faire face au cataclysme naturel qui a été mis en place avec le Conseil National de Secours en collaboration avec le PAM. A tout cela s'ajoutent plusieurs programmes ou projets tels que le SEECALINE (Surveillance et éducation des écoles et des communautés en matière d'alimentation et nutrition

élargie), la NAC (Nutrition à assise communautaire) et des différents projets pour le secteur pêches, élevage, eaux et forêts.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de souligner ici, les impacts positifs du Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire (PSSA). En effet, dans les sites où l'on a mené ce programme, des résultats significatifs de l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire ont été constatés. Il démontre en plus l'efficacité de la coopération Sud-Sud avec le Vietnam et cela nous encourage davantage à étendre ce programme au niveau national. J'aimerais souligner que la mise en place des Provinces Autonomes a favorisé le rapprochement de l'administration à la population ce qui rend facile la responsabilisation des différents acteurs de développement dans les actions à entreprendre. Monsieur le Président, Honorables Délégués, aujourd'hui la Délégation Malgache est à Rome pour réaffirmer qu'au rythme actuel de la mise en œuvre des différentes mesures précitées la grande Ile s'achemine véritablement vers la réduction de moitié en 2015 du nombre de Malgaches sous-alimentés et peut espérer de dégager un surplus. Certes, par ces quelques exemples j'ai tenu à partager les expériences de mon pays en matière de développement agricole pour la Sécurité Alimentaire, mais aussi et surtout pour souligner l'importance de l'aide internationale pour le développement agricole. A ce titre, je voudrais attirer l'attention des délégations sur la nécessité d'accorder un soutien sans faille à une croissance réelle du budget alloué à la FAO au cours du biennium 2002-2003 condition *sine qua non* pour réaliser le Programme de Travail établi au cours de cette période.

Je tiens à renouveler ici notre engagement, Monsieur le Président, pour la tenue du Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation: 5 ans après, pour réaffirmer la volonté politique des plus hautes instances internationales et la nécessité de mobilisation de ressources conséquentes à la réalisation du Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation de 1996.

Ali Bin Mohammed AL-KHATIR (Qatar) (Original language Arabic)

I am pleased to congratulate His Excellency the Minister of the United Arab Emirates for chairing the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference. The State of Qatar welcomes the new members, Yugoslavia, Monaco, Uzbekistan and Nauro. We are fully confident that their joining this Organization will be an additional support to the efforts of the Organization in these hard and complex circumstances suffered by a number of countries in the world.

The indicators and statistics reveal that agricultural output has decreased, while the volume of world trade is below the expectations. The developing countries' imports are well below the FAO expected increases and the world cereal prices are also low. The number of countries suffering from malnutrition has reached 36. In western Africa, 20 million people are suffering from malnutrition – the majority of them live in the Horn of Africa – and they are in need of urgent food assistance. Agricultural output is stored in a number of African countries because of the turbulent security situation caused by drought and floods in Asia which led to the exodus of thousands of people to other places and the destruction of tonnes of food crops. In addition to that, drought and malnutrition led to the destruction and loss of livestock, as well as to other economic problems in a number of countries. All these factors and others led to the decrease in world food aid and the increase in the prices of basic foodstuffs.

This is a bleak picture of the world situation, and we are faced with a major challenge. This is not the first time that we talk about the need for international solidarity and, indeed, the challenges facing us need a common action in order to eradicate poverty and hunger from the world and to promote the nutrition status of many countries in the world. The document submitted by the Council of FAO at last year's Session gave us a bleak picture of the world nutrition situation and its nefarious effect on world food security. The Council urged the international community to take daring, political decisions to face this issue, however this recommendation has not led to drastic decisions to deal with this painful situation. We would like to reaffirm once again that the State of Qatar stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the countries of this Organization to achieve the goals of food security in order to alleviate the suffering of millions of people in the world and to support their needs and give them assistance in kind and in cash so that they can face natural and other catastrophies. The State of Qatar considers that it is the responsibility of all countries in the world,

within the framework of international humanitarian assistance. It is our responsibility to implement a well-coordinated programme which would help the poor countries and would give them material and technical assistance to enhance their agricultural production, in order to increase and promote their living standards, particularly those countries in need. Fighting and combatting hunger in the world should be given top political priority at the international and regional levels, and the necessary international resources should be supplied and mobilized in order to achieve food security. These efforts should not rank second in terms of importance, after the world's efforts to fight against terrorism. Furthermore the world is looking forward to the outcome of the World Trade Organization meeting in Qatar, and we hope that this meeting will contribute to the solution of the economic and food problems of the world. In order to convene this meeting the State of Qatar has provided all the necessary facilities and arrangements, and this will undoubtedly have a positive impact on its deliberations.

In the last few years, the State of Qatar has achieved a great deal in the field of agriculture under the leadership of our Sheikh, Mr Al Zaid, and His Royal Highness and we have expanded the land surface under cultivation. We have also promoted the use of land and water resources, while in the field of crop desertification, we have given direct assistance to the farmers. In addition, we have increased fishing activities and agricultural production of dates and other products. All these are modest activities, and we are faced with tremendous challenges. Nevertheless we in the State of Qatar, like other countries in our region, suffer from acute agricultural problems related to drought, desertification and the scarcity of water resources. We believe that FAO and its regional and specialized bureaus specialized in agricultural and water research work give us the necessary assistance to promote our agricultural production and irrigation systems, to deal with agricultural pests and other problems related to soil and crop diversity. FAO also gives assistance in the field of extension and training activities. We have informed the Director-General at previous meetings that we are ready to provide the necessary facilities to host an FAO bureau in Qatar at which to follow up the activities of this Organization. We are also making every effort to take part in the regional activities of FAO in the field of water and land resources.

We wish this Conference every success and would like to pay tribute to the Director-General and his collaborators for their genuine efforts to achieve the goals of this Organization. Before concluding this statement, I would like to express my deep regret at seeing that a number of staff and voluntary workers have died in implementing the activities of this Organization. They have sacrificed their lives in shouldering the humanitarian role and I hope that their sacrifice will be an encouragement to us all to continue efforts to achieve the goals of eradicating poverty and malnutrition from the world.

Raul BELÉNS JUNNGMAN PINTO (Brazil) (Original language Portuguese)

Five years ago in this city the international community made an ambitious pledge to halve hunger in the world by the year 2015. Brazil wishes to reassert its resolve to meet the goals of the World Food Summit and its support to FAO's work in combating hunger and promoting food security. The presence of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso at the last session of this Conference inequitably testified to the high priority Brazil ascribes to the quest for solutions in international fora to change the lives of the 800 million individuals who currently suffer from malnutrition. We will come back to Rome next June to assess in depth at the World Food Summit: *five years later* how far we have come since 1966 and ways and means of meeting the undertakings we took then. Brazil is doing its share in implementing the Action Plan adopted at the Summit.

The State and society have acted in a coordinated manner to promote policies of sustainable social development whose overriding aim is to eradicate poverty in Brazil. Since the currency stabilization plan came into being more than 10 million individuals have been lifted out of abject poverty in our country. I would like briefly to mention a few of our success stories as regards social endeavour and more particular as regards food and farming. Just over a month ago the President of the Republic met the representative of FAO in Brazil. The object of the exercise was to submit to the Head of the Brazilian Government the conclusions of the report entitled. The State of Agriculture and Food 2001.

This was an extensive report drawn up by FAO and which is extremely helpful to people in charge of policy formulation and implementing agricultural and food security policies. We learned with satisfaction that the report this year contains important information on Brazil's agrarian reform which is indeed the biggest programme of its kind currently underway. This is the biggest agrarian reform in the world and probably one of the biggest ever undertaken against a climate of democratic stability and with full acceptance of the institutions. Brazil's challenge nonetheless goes far beyond this. We have to secure land ownership and a living for tenant and family-owned farms.

We have to break with the perverse logic of hunger and poverty and this means fostering conditions that enable human development as well as economic development. In the last six years more than 550 000 families were given a plot of land and loans to set up and go into production. More than 20 million hectares were expropriated or bought up by the Government. In Brazil today there are 4.1 million farm settlements in family production, of which 600 000 were created by the agrarian reform. This means that we have created about 14 million jobs throughout the country. Family farming in our country produces the bulk of the foodstuffs Brazilians eat and it contributes significantly to supplying agricultural products which are inputs into agribusiness without mentioning agritourism, crafts and other non-agricultural products. The demarcation of access to land is the first step in securing a prosperous and peaceful future for Brazilian rural populations. However this effort needs to be supported by other political, economic and legal instruments which will secure a living for small rural producers and which factor in the settlements of these farmers into local development plans.

Amongst these instruments I would like to focus on the national programme for the strengthening of family farms (PRONAF). Set up in 1995 with a budget of US\$100 million, it has given out a vast number of cheap loans to small family farmer cooperatives and associations made up of small producers. These resources can be used to pay for harvesting, cattle, purchasing machinery or other agricultural equipment or infrastructure required. With PRONAF, for the first time in the history of our country family farmers have had access to bank loans and this was extended in 1999 to those families which were settled through agrarian reform. Over the past five years the programme has catered for one and a half million families in promoting rural development and social justice. At the same time PRONAF is giving new hope to millions of small rural owners. It is generating jobs and income and it is fostering a spirit of citizenship, a civic spirit in the countryside and contributing to enhancing competitiveness in Brazilian agriculture.

Another programme aimed at financing the purchasing of land and structures is run by a board on which rural workers serve. This is called the Banco della Terra, the Land Bank. Under this model, rather than having direct intervention from the State, the community itself goes into the market, chooses the land, negotiates the loans and works out its own development projects. With this programme we want to promote the economic prosperity of these new owners who like any businessman need to seek efficiency and become competitive. This is a really important step in ensuring that the agrarian reform does not crystalize poverty in the rural areas. We recently entered into an agreement with the World Bank for a loan standing at US\$200 million with national counterpart funds of the same value to finance a programme for reducing rural poverty. Here again, it is Banco della Terra, which I referred to earlier. It works with social movements and the national confederation of agricultural workers and so far 50 000 families are beneficiaries. They are agrarian reformers fighting the legal sale of land and this has meant that fraudulent registration of property concerning 53 million hectares has been cancelled. This has led to a fall in the price of rural properties. This again has been sustained by economic stability and the new rural territorial tax so this has meant we have less concentration of land in the hands of few. The GINI index went down from 0.848 to 0.802 which means that Brazil has gone from the fifteenth to the ninth position of the 22 countries in terms of deconcentrating agricultural landownership. We are in a position to say today that very shortly these mega properties will be a thing of the past. These huge landowners will be a thing of the past.

Poverty is related to a lack of economic opportunity, land ownership, loans, access to education and basic services of health and hygiene. The Minister of Agricultural Development created a

programme for affirmative action with two sides to it: gender equality and other forms of equality. Training people to work in harmony with the environment and getting communities involved, particularly the descendants of Africans involved in this operation is important and we hope this will recover 30 percent in their agricultural reform of people from these areas serving in the governing authority.

We want 30 percent of these jobs in these institutes to go to women and large amounts of the micro loans from the various banks I have referred to, so now also land ownership is in the name of both spouses and when there are two unmarried people it is in the name of the woman. We want in all these ways to fight malnutrition. It cannot be the state alone doing this. All government sectors and civil society and copartnerships have to join in the effort as do non-governmental organizations. Against this backdrop we have been developing committee programmes and solidarities and we have got a number of local authorities amongst the poorest taking part in this, the premise being that to fight poverty should not turn people into a dependency culture. We do not want these villagers to become dependent, what we want to do is capacity build, strengthen their own ability to meet their own needs and improve their own quality of life.

When it comes to overcoming malnutrition we have 36 000 afternoon snacks served to children in schools. This is another effort to improve food security. These are efforts to fight lack of food security and to fight malnutrition. In a globalized world we have to do other things because external factors impinge upon our efforts and they do so in a decisive way, so amongst these factors there is international trade which impinges on us greatly.

In Doha in a few days the international community will be moving into a new phase in the negotiations of the World Trade Organization and the world's eyes will this time be on farm produce. We would hope that these negotiations will adjust the very serious distortions which affect trading in those commodities that are terribly important to the Brazilian economy and to jobs. They stand at 27 percent of our GDP and there are areas where we are highly competitive. We are going to be harvesting a 100 million tonnes of cereals in an area where a few years ago the figure was much lower. We are top producers of sugar and oranges and second for soybeans. We have got rid of classic swine fever, we have got rid of foot-and-mouth disease from our herd which is the biggest in the world. All in all, Brazil cannot benefit from all this efficiency and these yield gains if it does not get proper access to world backers. It is unacceptable that developed nations with economies based totally on industry and on the service industry can curb us. They want bigger and bigger access for their industrial products with no risk because they do not want to open the gates to our produce. Brazil cannot accept that these countries give subsidies of hundreds of million dollars to the production to their own farm produce.

Only last year the industrialized world invested US\$360 billion in agricultural subsidies, bringing severe distortions in the market and grave consequences for very efficient countries who are much poorer than they are and who cannot do the same for their farmers in terms of subsidies. So, in conclusion, this is a matter of justice which would lead to the improvement and the quality of life of more than 5 billion human beings. This is one of the most important items. We want the Treaty adopted. We want to promote mega diversity of grains. We are, indeed, great producers of grains. So phytogenetic resources and the Treaty thereon really needs to be properly negotiated and adapted. We feel that it is important that the provisions of the Biological Diversity Convention be upheld. We always try to be constructive in these negotiations which required six years of intensive diplomatic effort on the part of the international community. We feel rewarded by the conclusion that we need to frame this instrument which will strike an acceptable balance for all those concerned between access to genetic resources and the sharing out of the benefits derived therefrom. We do hope that the governments of all the countries involved in these negotiations will very shortly confirm their support for this Agreement that has recently been set up to make sure that it is put in place very rapidly.

Tao SENG HUOR (Cambodge)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous transmettre les plus sincères excuses et de vous exprimer tous les regrets de notre Premier Ministre, son Excellence Sandech Hun Sen, de ne pouvoir être présent avec vous aujourd'hui à l'occasion de cette importante Conférence pour l'évolution de la Sécurité Alimentaire dans le monde. A cette occasion, le Premier Ministre m'a chargé de transmettre à l'ensemble de la communauté internationale, les plus chaleureux remerciements de la part du peuple Cambodgien, pour les efforts qu'elle a consentis depuis les élections générales en mai 1993 et presque, jour pour jour, depuis la signature des accords de Paris, qui ont permis au Cambodge de reprendre sa place dans le concert des nations du monde. Ma délégation saisit cette même occasion pour présenter au nom du Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge, nos vifs remerciements à son Excellence Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur Général de la FAO, qui n'a cessé d'aider la population Cambodgienne, dont les programmes reflètent en faveur du développement agricole au Cambodge en particulier le programme spécial pour la Sécurité Alimentaire et l'assistance en matière de statistique agricole qui est financé par la Banque Mondiale.

Monsieur le Président, la sécurité intérieure et la stabilité acquise le Gouvernement Royal est en mesure de concentrer ses efforts sur la lutte contre la malnutrition et la recherche de la sécurité alimentaire pour l'ensemble de la population. Le Cambodge compte approximativement 13 millions d'habitants avec un accroissement de 2.8 pour cent par an. L'agriculture est le secteur dominant de l'économie nationale. Elle contribue à peu près 47 pour cent du produit intérieur brut et elle représente plus de 80 pour cent de la population active. Au cœur de la production agricole se trouve celle de riz représentant à elle seule 43 pour cent de la valeur ajoutée en 1999 les autres productions prenant une part de 29 pour cent et l'élevage de 28 pour cent. Cette production est caractérisée par un certain nombre de facteurs qui constituent autant d'entraves au développement, à savoir: pauvreté et manque de pouvoir d'achat de la population rurale, important taux de croissance de la population, difficulté de transport et de l'accès aux marchés, faible taux d'irrigation de cultures, manque de services de santé de base, ressources halieutiques et forestières abondantes mais menacées par une exploitation anarchique.

Malgré d'indéniables progrès et même l'existence de certains excédents de production, des progrès restent à faire. De récentes études font apparaître que 4 personnes sur 10 vivent sous le seuil de pauvreté et la malnutrition frappant les femmes et les enfants est toujours aussi sévère. Le manque de nourriture est la principale cause de déficit en vitamine A, Fer et Iode. Dès le Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation en novembre 1996, le Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge s'est déclaré intéressé à participer au programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire et a demandé l'aide de la FAO pour jeter les bases du programme et définir les modalités de ses composantes. Les premières missions commencées en décembre 1996 ont permis le démarrage du programme en novembre 1997. Les conclusions de ce premier projet sont chargées d'optimisme et les résultats sont très encourageants. Par ordre d'importance et selon les agriculteurs eux-mêmes, les bénéfices apportés par le projet à leur niveau sont de trois ordres: meilleure connaissance technique, grâce à la formation dispensée par le projet au travers d'un cursus spécialisé et adapté, introduction de nouvelles techniques de production, amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire à l'échelle familiale.

En parallèle de telles réussites, le Cambodge a eu malheureusement à faire face à plusieurs crises exceptionnelles du Mékong ces dernières années, et particulièrement celles de l'an 2000 et de cette année. Les deux piliers des objectifs du Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge en terme de développement sont la croissance et la sécurisation de la propriété foncière. La croissance, c'est avant tout l'amélioration des rendements et la productivité qui apparaîtra en concentrant les efforts du Gouvernement sur la mise à disposition d'infrastructures adaptées comme les routes, les systèmes d'irrigation, l'accès à l'électricité, l'apparition de la formation agricole de base et de nouvelles technologies. Ensuite la sécurisation foncière, encore un fois, est au cœur du dispositif. Le monde rural doit être en mesure d'avoir accès à la terre, à l'eau, à toutes les facilités foncières lui permettant d'investir son temps et ses ressources en toute sécurité. Il est impensable de parler de développement agricole sans garantie de long terme et de pérennité sur le travail des agriculteurs.

Monsieur le Président, en ce qui concerne la Sécurité Alimentaire, à proprement parler, le Gouvernement Royal a choisi une stratégie globale reposant sur trois niveaux d'intervention: - au niveau national, le développement socio-économique se fait au travers en intégrant les objectifs alimentaires nationaux des divers environnements politiques, légaux et institutionnels, - deuxièmement niveau communautaire, le gouvernement doit s'assurer la pérennité des actions en organisant la participation des communautés aux différentes actions entreprises dans le domaine de la santé, de l'éducation, de l'agriculture et du développement rural. - Au niveau familial, concentration des actions sur l'éducation pour le changement de comportement, notamment dans le secteur sanitaire et de la gestion dans l'utilisation des aliments. En conclusion il apparaît évident qu'après de longues années de guerre et de privation, le peuple Cambodgien a besoin, avant toute chose, d'acquérir la sécurité alimentaire et la qualité nutritionnelle indispensables à son développement. Le Gouvernement Royal a fait sienne cette préoccupation fondamentale et s'attache à prendre toutes les mesures pour atteindre cet objectif. Les moyens nécessaires à l'accomplissement de cette tâche se trouvent dans les aides bilatérales, multilatérales, avec les ONG. Il reste encore à coordonner toutes les actions entreprises. C'est un travail considérable qui repose sur les institutions et administrations cambodgiennes.

Avec la forte détermination des plus hautes autorités de l'État et en particulier du Premier Ministre, Samdech Hun Sen, les obstacles seront surmontés et la marche en avant entreprise ne pourra plus être arrêtée. Il est maintenant certain que nous sommes sur la bonne voie et que le peuple cambodgien soutenu par la communauté internationale retrouvera rapidement un niveau alimentaire lui permettant d'apprendre avec le même succès son avancée en assurant une gestion harmonieuse des ressources naturelles pour parvenir à une croissance économique forte et durable. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

Tuisugaletaua A. Sofara AVEAU (Samoa)

It is an honour for me to be able to accept, on behalf of the Samoan Government, the Director-General, Jacques Diouf's invitation to the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference. Samoa also wishes to congratulate Dr Diouf on your very successful reign as Director-General and to continue to offer our support throughout your new term in office for this millennium.

We are delighted to welcome to FAO a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) from the Pacific and our own neighbour, Nauru, as well as the European Members.

Firstly, Samoa would like to make reference to the Communiqué on the Fourth Meeting of the Southwest Pacific Ministers of Agriculture in July this year. We particularly note the ministers' support for the Director-General's call for mobilization of adequate resources, which may include voluntary contributions to serve as a catalyst for enhancing food production and improving access to food. Samoa also noted that the priorities and activities discussed would be instrumental for and consistent with the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and acknowledge the role of women in pursuing these objectives. The identified opportunities where increased cooperation was likely to produce mutual benefits include: first, the Agriculture Policy Five Years after the World Food Summit, for which Samoa noted with appreciation FAO's assistance for the WTO accession process; second, Responsible Fisheries and Food Security, the importance of sound management and sustainable use of fisheries resources and the need for conservation of fisheries resources; third, Food and Nutrition challenges, where Samoa notes the role of Codex Alimentarius and the National Codex Committees and the importance of consistent availability of affordable quality local food; fourth, Small Farmers' Contribution to National Food Security; Plant Protection and Food Security, where Samoa notes the value of establishing and maintaining sound quarantine and biosecurity systems in order to protect domestic food production and to facilitate trade; and sixth, Enhancing Food Security through Forestry, integrating environmental and sustainable management of forest resources.

The Report of the Council of FAO in June this year has reflected on most of these issues. Samoa generally concurs with the Council's analysis of the world food situation. We particularly note the concerns raised in paragraphs 8 to 15 of the Report of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Committee on Fisheries in March 2001, and Samoa also concurs with the Report of the Sixteenth

Session of the Committee on Agriculture in March 2001 and notes an important section in that report which refers to the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) and its contribution to sustainable agriculture and rural development. Samoa notes our request within the context of the SPFS, the draft which places value on small pilot and agricultural projects in the rural areas.

In the report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security in June this year, Samoa notes the Council's appreciation that the livelihood and security of the rural poor, linked to rural development, particularly SIDS, deserved particular attention in the context of trade liberalization and WTO Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

Samoa encourages FAO's contribution in furthering the move to achieve this objective. Samoa would also like to reflect on the expression of her keen interest in the initiative of the Regional CFS-Project which is the Meat Commodity Diversification and Upgrading of Meat Processing Technologies in Asia and the Pacific, to establish a satellite centre of the project in Samoa. We would also like to reflect on the status of the FIVIMS pilot project set up in Samoa.

I refer to two of the major issues for Samoa's state of food and agriculture. These are the Small Island Developing States and the impact of accession to the WTO. Although trade liberalization is stated to improve access to food, the concerns on quality, health and nutrition aspects and rural agriculture development impacts have to be addressed carefully. The availability of cheaper, low quality food imports has raised great concern about the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases, particularly heart-related diseases. The lean towards cheaper imports may have an impact on the stability of local food production and the ability to access readily available markets. The small farmer, who comprises over 50 percent of households, may be particularly vulnerable to such a shift and we therefore need to proceed with caution and much care.

For the latter, Samoa supports the endorsement of the Council for the Report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security in May to June this year, the FAO-led initiative to convene, jointly with WHO, a Global Forum on Food Safety Regulations in October this year. We also note the proposal by Council for the Report of the Sixteenth Session of the COAG in March also of this year, that SARD and related programmes should also address broader rural development issues, such as agribusiness and entrepreneurship, capacity building, better extension-research linkages, market access and other related services.

The recovery of Samoa from Taro Leaf Blight disease, with the availability of resistant varieties from its breeding programme, is slow but progressive. FAO and other regional institutions have, since the devastation by cyclones earlier this decade, contributed to rehabilitative initiatives in agricultural food production.

Cocoa exports have not recovered since the last devastation by cyclones. The vulnerability of Samoa, being an AOSIS/SIDS, to economic recovery from external shocks, has made the recovery of the cocoa industry more difficult.

Coconut products for export, although fluctuating at times, continue to recover. The international downward trend in market prices is not helping the recovery process. Most of the subsistence farmers continue to rely on coconut and coconut products for their livelihood.

Kava exports have also experienced a steady market for pharmaceutical purposes but low prices being offered present problems for farmers.

Fisheries exports continue to dominate export earnings and much care is taken to manage this resource to sustainable harvest levels. The recent events in the United States of America of 11 September has however had an impact on freight costs and market access, mainly to US markets.

World Food Day, which was commemorated with the Coconut Day in Samoa in a combined theme on "Fight Hunger to Reduce Poverty", was a success, very well represented with participants from all sectors of the country. This was followed by a special week of fasting and prayers for world events and the approach of the cyclone season.

Again, we would like to thank the Director-General and through you the staff of FAO for their untiring efforts in pursuing this most noble cause "Fighting hunger and poverty" and the objectives of FAO.

We wish you the very best in chairing this important Conference Session and to all other delegations participating in this Conference success. Thank you specifically for the opportunity to make Samoa's statement.

Ali ABDALLAH (Liban) (Langue originale arabe)

Pour commencer je souhaiterais féliciter au nom de mon Gouvernement notre frère le Président de la Conférence, mais j'aimerais aussi féliciter le Vice-Président de la Conférence. J'aimerais aussi exprimer notre reconnaissance au Directeur Général de l'Organisation pour ses efforts, qui ont permis de mettre en œuvre le slogan adopté dans le cadre de notre dernière Conférence: "rêver d'un monde libre de la faim et de la pauvreté", alors que des millions de gens dans le monde souffrent de ce problème.

Notre situation, notre rôle en matière de lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté, nous poussent à choisir une façon de prendre des décisions, nous poussant tout d'abord à connaître les raisons principales, puis de trouver les moyens de les régler, afin que notre plan exécutif soit un instrument empêchant de retomber dans la pauvreté. Et ça à nouveau c'est le slogan de l'Organisation qui doit se concentrer sur l'aspect global du développement, impliquant tous les secteurs, toutes les activités permettant aux sociétés de se développer. Afin de comprendre pourquoi il y a eu une dégradation des conditions de vie et des conditions sociales et comment nous pourrions assurer un développement agricole et agricole durable, étant donné que c'est le secteur qui a besoin le plus de soins et que c'est la pierre angulaire du développement économique, lorsqu'il y a intégration de tous les secteurs. Afin que nous puissions véritablement assurer le bien-être de tous, que nous appelons de nos vœux.

Je dirais que la FAO accomplit une tâche fondamentale. En fait, l'on produit plus que ce dont les gens ont besoin, mais la distribution, la répartition des richesses, divise l'humanité en deux mondes: un monde de riches, un monde de pauvres, un monde d'affamés un monde de démunis, qui n'a pas les capacités et qui souffre de cette condition.

Au Liban nous faisons tous les efforts possibles pour revenir au niveau économique d'avant la guerre; nous nous concentrons sur le secteur agricole, nous avons répété à plusieurs reprises que tous les pays, tous les secteurs, toutes les organisations doivent s'intéresser au secteur agricole, afin de soutenir l'économie nationale.

Le Ministère de l'agriculture a un plan agricole qui concrétisera ses principes, qui sera intégré dans le cadre de la politique économique à tous les secteurs, afin que nous puissions avoir un développement global. Cet objectif est d'accroître les terres agricoles et d'utiliser pleinement les ressources naturelles. L'une de nos priorités est que le secteur agricole soit considéré comme prioritaire dans le cadre du développement du pays. Le dernier recensement agricole a montré que nous pouvons, en fait, avoir plus de terres exploitables. Nous voulons renforcer le rôle des populations agricoles, notamment celui des femmes. Nous devons encourager les coopératives agricoles. Il nous faut encourager l'agriculture de substitution, l'agriculture alternative, et là nous nous concentrons sur certaines régions du pays qui devraient être exploitées selon ces principes et en collaboration avec la FAO afin que nos voisins puissent profiter de ces évolutions. La rationalisation de l'utilisation de l'eau est aussi fondamentale. Il faut également encourager l'industrie agro-alimentaire à adopter toutes les mesures en vigueur dans le monde.

Avoir de nouvelles règles agricoles; que toute la main d'œuvre du secteur agricole, puisse avoir des informations sur les investissements, sur les crédits et les types de commercialisation de leurs produits. Assurer une plus grande coopération aussi avec les organisations internationales, les pays amicaux et profiter de leurs expériences. Echanger aussi les expériences réciproques et encourager l'entraide et la collaboration.

Et là je voudrais remercier tous les pays, toutes les organisations internationales qui ont aidé mon pays. Mais il y a encore de nombreux problèmes que le Liban doit relever, pour arriver à un véritable développement dans mon pays et il me faut mentionner les guerres qui accroissent le fardeau, fardeau qui est sans solution, tant qu'il n'y aura pas d'efforts accomplis par la communauté internationale, pour comprendre pourquoi cette situation a pu se produire et pour s'assurer qu'elle ne se reproduise plus.

Ce que témoigne le monde aujourd'hui, les tensions des suites de la guerre en Afghanistan, il nous faut y penser: c'est un devoir, car il y a des résultats extrêmement néfastes qui nous touchent tous. Cela concerne aussi le peuple américain. Les actes de terrorisme doivent être condamnés, nous ne pouvons pas les accepter, indépendamment de leurs sources, de leurs nationalités, de leurs religions, de leurs attaches. Par conséquent, la réponse devrait être de sanctionner les coupables, lutter contre le terrorisme. Conformément à des principes que nous partageons tous, sous l'égide des Nations Unies, nous permettant de distinguer entre les actes de terrorisme, qu'ils soient commis par des personnes, par des communautés, par des pays et le concept de résistance, qui est le droit des peuples qui souffrent de l'occupation. Et cela a été reconnu par toutes les lois internationales: la résistance est non seulement un droit, c'est aussi une responsabilité, une responsabilité qui revient à ceux dont les terres sont occupées. Le Liban, pays qui a été occupé pendant plus de 25 ans par Israël, Chebaa farms souffre toujours de cette situation. Il y a des prisonniers libanais qui souffrent toujours dans les prisons israéliennes.

Ce que je dis, Monsieur le Président, n'est pas hors contexte dans le cadre de cette Conférence. Cela touche de plein fouet notre Conférence, car il ne peut pas y avoir de développement sans liberté et sans paix il ne peut pas y avoir de développement sans que la sécurité économique et sociale prévale. Comment pouvons-nous imaginer un pays qui occupe des terres et se développe? Comment les agriculteurs palestiniens peuvent-ils investir dans leurs terres alors que leurs vies sont menacées tous les jours, toute action est entravée tous les jours par les armées d'occupation et cela veut dire aussi arracher les plantes et les arbres. Comment les agriculteurs libanais peuvent-ils investir dans des terres alors qu'il y a des centaines de mines et Israël refuse de nous donner une carte de ces mines, même aux Nations Unies? Comment pouvons-nous arriver à un développement agricole alors que nos eaux sont détournées par Israël. Comment peut-on assurer le développement d'un pays? Comment le peuple irakien peut-il produire son alimentation et nourrir les enfants affamés dans cette situation? Comment des milliers d'Africains, d'Asiatiques, de pauvres pays, souffrent de la sous-alimentation alors que dans d'autres pays l'on souffre de l'obésité?

Nous demandons qu'il y ait une paix juste, que l'on rende la terre arabe à ses justes propriétaires, que la paix soit respectée.

Et là, la communauté internationale doit être consciente de ne pas mesurer les choses selon deux normes. Nous reconnaissons ce que fait la FAO mais il faut qu'elle assure cette passerelle, ce lien, afin que les pays riches puissent participer et garantir la sécurité alimentaire des communautés pauvres et démunies et que tout cela signifiera lutter contre l'incidence négative.

Nous avons les mêmes objectifs, les objectifs pour lesquels lutte la FAO. Il est très difficile d'améliorer la nutrition, d'améliorer le niveau de vie, d'assurer l'autosuffisance, l'égalité et une bonne production agricole durable, améliorer le sort de ceux qui vivent du secteur agricole.

Nous souhaitons et sommes prêts à collaborer avec la FAO pour développer des projets sur le terrain mais malheureusement le nombre des projets sur le terrain a baissé au fil des ans.

Dans toutes les conférences nous avons des résolutions, nous avons des directives afin que l'humanité puisse avoir un avenir meilleur, mais aujourd'hui, à la lumière de la crise qui nous concerne tous et contre laquelle nous nous débattons, cette Conférence a une responsabilité énorme pour assurer la sécurité globale en général et dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire en particulier.

Zacharie PÉRÉVET (Cameroun)

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord, au nom de la Délégation camerounaise, de vous féliciter, ainsi que les autres membres du bureau pour votre brillante élection pour conduire nos travaux. Nous sommes convaincus que vous mènerez à bien cette lourde tâche et vous assurons de notre soutien total. Permettez-moi ensuite d'adresser au Directeur Général, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, nos remerciements pour l'action qu'il mène avec détermination et courage à la tête de notre Organisation. Ma délégation remercie les autorités italiennes pour leur hospitalité. Mes remerciements vont également à Sa Sainteté le Pape Jean-Paul II pour la profondeur et l'opportunité de son message à l'endroit de tous les pays du monde pour que le droit inviolable de tout être humain d'avoir une nourriture correcte soit reconnu et respecté. En effet, des millions d'individus, dans le monde et particulièrement en Afrique au sud du Sahara continuent de souffrir de la faim et de la malnutrition en dépit des efforts déployés par la communauté internationale.

Monsieur le Président, le ralentissement de la croissance de la production agricole mondiale dans son ensemble, depuis l'adoption du plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996, alors que la population mondiale ne cesse d'augmenter, constitue un sujet d'inquiétude. Au Cameroun, la sécurité alimentaire reste précaire et variable suivant les différentes zones agro-écologiques. Les principales contraintes restent entre autres: l'insuffisance des investissements publics et privés qui limitent l'accès aux technologies modernes de production, en vue d'améliorer la productivité des systèmes de production et de transformation des produits agricoles, le poids de la dette, les catastrophes naturelles, la détérioration des termes de l'échange, la pression démographique et surtout, la propagation du virus du VIH/SID, la réduction drastique des espaces pâturables due à l'extension des terres cultivables et des réserves naturelles ou aires protégées, la forte prévalence de la trypanosomiase due à l'invasion des pâturages par les glossines et dans le secteur de la production forestière et de l'environnement, la dégradation des ressources naturelles dans les zones à écologie fragile.

Face à tous ces problèmes, en plus des mesures courageuses concernant l'assainissement des finances publiques et la bonne gouvernance, le Gouvernement a entrepris l'élaboration d'une stratégie de développement du secteur rural et de réduction de la pauvreté dans le but d'assurer une meilleure rationalisation des efforts nationaux et internationaux dans ce secteur. Il y a lieu de remercier la FAO ainsi que les autres organisations internationales et bailleurs de fonds qui apportent leur soutien à cet important travail. Des mesures d'intervention d'urgence ont parfois été nécessaires pour faire face à des graves pénuries alimentaires. Cela a été le cas tout récemment à la suite de la grande sécheresse qui a sévi dans la partie septentrionale du pays.

Au nom du Chef de l'état, son Excellence Monsieur Paul Biya et de son Gouvernement, je remercie les pays donateurs qui ont permis au Programme alimentaire mondial d'apporter un soutien aux efforts nationaux en vue de réduire la souffrance des victimes de cette catastrophe.

Au nom de ces pays, nous tenons à remercier sincèrement les États Unis d'Amérique pour la précieuse aide accordée à mon pays dans le cadre du Programme alimentaire mondial pour l'éducation de nos enfants. Nous voudrions les rassurer sur l'appropriation, par le gouvernement, de ce Programme qui est conforme à la nouvelle stratégie de l'éducation qui vient d'être adoptée.

Mon pays remercie également la FAO et son Directeur Général pour les divers programmes dont bénéficie le Cameroun, en particulier le PSSA qui démarrera dans toutes ses composantes dans les prochains jours ainsi que le projet de forêts communautaires. Ces initiatives louables à l'intention des pauvres contribuent à l'amélioration de leurs revenus, à la préservation de l'environnement en même temps qu'ils donnent un élan particulier à la coopération Sud-Sud.

Le Cameroun, en adhérant à plusieurs conventions internationales en matière de sécurité alimentaire et de préservation de l'environnement compte beaucoup sur la coopération internationale.

Aussi souhaite-t-il, Monsieur le Président, faire partie du programme EMPRES et le voir étendre aux autres fléaux migratoires des écologies ciblées, notamment, le criquet migrateur. Le

Cameroun souhaite également que le problème des trypanosomiasés africaines considéré comme handicap majeur à la production bovine retienne particulièrement l'attention de l'Organisation.

S'agissant du Plan sur la Parité homme-femme et le développement 2002-2007, le Cameroun réaffirme que l'élimination du fossé entre l'homme et la femme et le renforcement de la participation des femmes au développement sont essentiels non seulement pour réaliser la justice sociale, mais aussi pour réduire la pauvreté. A cet égard, des mesures et actions ont été entreprises depuis la Conférence mondiale sur les femmes, Beijing, 1995, dans plusieurs domaines. Ces efforts doivent être renforcés dans le cadre du Plan d'action FAO sur la parité homme-femme et le développement, auquel le Cameroun adhère entièrement.

Je voudrais rappeler l'engagement de mon pays, le Cameroun à œuvrer en collaboration avec tous les États de bonne volonté à la recherche des solutions aux problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde en général et au Cameroun en particulier.

Nous croyons au rôle prépondérant que la FAO doit continuer à jouer dans ce sens et encourageons le Directeur Général et le personnel de cette Institution à aller de l'avant et à insister sur le fait que la lutte contre la pauvreté dans les pays en voie de développement passe par le développement agricole.

Giovanni ALEMANNI (Italie) (Langue originale italienne)

Monsieur le Président de l'Assemblée, Chers Collègues, Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, la Trente-et-unième Conférence de la FAO se tient à un moment de tension politique internationale extrêmement grave. Les terribles attentats du 11 septembre à New York et à Washington et leurs conséquences dramatiques auxquelles on a assisté ont bouleversé le système des relations internationales. On pensait pouvoir laisser au XXe siècle l'époque des guerres mondiales, des conflits mondiaux, des assassinats, des bombardements.

Malheureusement, ce rêve d'un troisième millénaire de paix a été brusquement interrompu par une action criminelle catastrophique dont les conséquences, ne serait-ce que grâce à l'information mondiale, se font ressentir dans tout le monde, même dans ses coins les plus éloignés. Avec la destruction des deux tours, les criminels terroristes ont voulu toucher un symbole pour déclencher une série de réactions en chaîne qui devraient déboucher sur une guerre de civilisations et de religions.

Nous sommes tous convaincus qu'il faut repousser cette tentative odieuse d'entraîner le monde dans ce piège terrible. Il faut aussi reconnaître le sens de nos responsabilités et avoir une attitude catégorique, conscients que la lutte implacable contre le terrorisme doit être accompagnée d'une action politique forte. Une action politique globale, visant le développement équilibré et écordable, qui élimine progressivement les zones pauvres et en retard de développement dans le monde. Tout raisonnement concernant le développement mondial ne peut se passer des deux grands piliers à la base de tout système économique: l'agriculture et le commerce.

De l'agriculture et des échanges commerciaux découlent les principales réponses aux besoins alimentaires de tout pays. Dans les jours à venir, dans le cadre du cycle de négociations de l'OMC à Doha, nous parlerons des questions complexes concernant le commerce international et par conséquent des règles pour la libéralisation des échanges, de façon équitable et équilibrée, soutenant les économies les plus faibles sans déclencher de déséquilibres. Dans cette conférence, il est juste de parler du rôle que l'agriculture devra exercer dans les années à venir. L'activité agricole est non seulement le facteur essentiel du développement et de l'alimentation, elle est aussi un facteur économique de production et un créateur d'emploi fondamental.

Cette réflexion confirme la politique du Gouvernement italien, favorisant les interventions structurelles sur la situation locale, afin de déclencher un processus virtuel de production, d'alimentation et de développement. Il nous faut aussi rappeler combien il est nécessaire d'assurer la tutelle de la biodiversité qui constitue une réserve de variétés génétiques des plantes qu'il faut protéger et valoriser. Je souhaiterais dire combien je me félicite pour la conclusion d'une négociation concernant une réglementation des échanges des ressources génétiques, à laquelle nous sommes arrivés samedi dernier. C'est une réussite pour cette Conférence, même s'il s'agit

d'un accord partiel sur un nombre limité d'espèces, c'est une affirmation de principe importante sur la voie d'une libéralisation contrôlée et équitable des ressources génétiques et de la valorisation de ces ressources génétiques.

L'Italie, avec le ministère dont je m'occupe, a soutenu pleinement et assuré une collaboration pour arriver à ce résultat. Une autre question importante en ce qui concerne les relations internationales sur l'agriculture est la sécurité alimentaire. Pour les pays industrialisés, il faut répondre aux exigences des consommateurs, que ce soit au niveau de la qualité, sécurité sanitaire et sécurité des aliments. C'est pourquoi, dans des enceintes internationales, et déjà à Doha dans le prochain cycle de l'OMC, il faudra envisager une négociation qui permettra de fixer des procédures rigoureuses pour définir la qualité et la traçabilité de la filière agroalimentaire. Mais la sécurité alimentaire pour les Pays en développement et les Pays les moins avancés signifie avoir accès à la nourriture. Huit cents millions de personnes dans le monde souffrent de la faim ou vivent dans des conditions de sous-alimentation graves.

Avec la Déclaration de Rome sur la sécurité alimentaire, adoptée dans le cadre du Sommet mondial de 1996, les chefs d'États et de Gouvernements ont souscrit à l'engagement visant à assurer la sécurité alimentaire à tous et de diminuer de moitié le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition d'ici 2015. Le Sommet mondial qui aurait dû se tenir ces jours-ci et qui sera renvoyé à 2002 pour les raisons que nous connaissons tous, aurait dû passer en revue l'état d'avancement du Plan d'action adopté à Rome en 1996. C'est grâce aux documentations et aux statistiques déjà élaborées par la FAO que nous savons être en retard par rapport au programme. Le Sommet de 2002 devra adopter des résolutions plus contraignantes et diversifier toutes les mesures d'intervention. Dans une telle situation, l'Italie entend jouer un rôle de premier plan, non seulement car elle a l'honneur d'être le pays hôte de la FAO depuis plus de 50 ans mais elle est mûe aussi par une conviction morale et politique très forte.

J'ai pu déjà déclarer dans le cadre de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation qu'après le 11 septembre, on a assisté à une grande coalition internationale contre le terrorisme, il est nécessaire maintenant d'assurer une grande coalition internationale contre la faim et la pauvreté. Nous sommes convaincus que la libéralisation sauvage qui répondrait à la seule logique du profit, ne paie pas mais détermine une mondialisation injuste et déséquilibrée. Il faut assurer la coopération et la solidarité pour construire des bases de coexistence et de paix entre les peuples, conscients que la pauvreté et la faim créent des tensions sociales et la frustration chez ceux qui en souffrent et peuvent créer l'alibi absurde de la violence terroriste.

Dans le cas de cette ligne, le Ministère dont je m'occupe, a élaboré, en collaboration avec le Ministère italien des affaires étrangères, un programme qui se fonde sur trois directives. La première directive, de caractère général, découle d'une réflexion sur les retards dans l'objectif fixé à Rome en 1996. Les résultats obtenus sont le fruit des efforts menés par la FAO et l'Organisation peut bénéficier de la collaboration des différents États Membres. Outre la disponibilité des États Membres, il faut mettre en œuvre et renforcer la base juridique du droit à l'alimentation, en passant à une élaboration successive du concept. Il est évident que, pour remporter cette bataille contre la faim, on ne peut pas penser qu'il suffit d'efforts humanitaires de distribution charitable de ressources alimentaires mondiales.

Nous nous demandons si le temps n'est pas venu de commencer à débattre d'un code de conduite internationale pour la lutte contre la famine et pour le droit à l'alimentation. Débat qui viserait à définir d'une façon plus adéquate les contenus du droit à une alimentation adaptée et donc d'identifier des critères de base pour un standard de comportement des institutions. L'autre ligne d'action est une action d'intervention du Gouvernement italien ayant une portée régionale.

Tout en soutenant pleinement l'engagement de la FAO, nous pensons que l'Italie doit concentrer davantage ses efforts sur le Bassin régional de la Méditerranée. Non seulement pour des raisons liées à des intérêts plus immédiats de notre pays qui est en plein dans la région méditerranéenne mais ces zones sont touchées par les tensions politiques internationales les plus fortes. La situation de la Méditerranée a atteint des niveaux extrêmement préoccupants car cette zone de passerelle entre l'Occident et le Tiers Monde souffre des contradictions les plus brûlantes de la

confrontation géopolitique, culturelle et économique. C'est pourquoi l'Italie veut intervenir au niveau des relations entre Israël et la Palestine, en matière de coopération et de développement.

Dans le cadre des actions sur le terrain, je souhaiterais dire que sous peu il devrait y avoir un accord entre le Gouvernement italien et l'Organisation pour assurer la collaboration et la programmation des actions des Nations Unies en ce qui concerne l'Université, les centres de recherche, les études expérimentales. En ce qui concerne les compétences de ces structures italiennes, l'accord permettra de déterminer les zones de collaboration entre l'ONU et l'Italie, voir les programmes en matière de secteur agro-alimentaire, agro-environnement et agro-industriel. Pour conclure, je dirai que l'Italie a toujours accordé un intérêt particulier aux activités de la FAO. Notre gouvernement est conscient qu'il faut soutenir pleinement la FAO non seulement parce que nous sommes le pays hôte mais parce que nous partageons pleinement ses objectifs. C'est pourquoi, au sein du Parlement, un débat qui devrait permettre d'affecter des ressources supplémentaires à la FAO pour lutter contre la faim dans le monde est actuellement en cours. Dans le cadre de ce débat parlementaire, nous voudrions atteindre cent millions d'euro, comme contribution de l'Italie cette année. Convaincus que la question des rapports entre le Sud et le Nord dans le monde ne peut pas simplement être réglée par des mesures d'urgence.

Le Gouvernement italien est conscient du fait qu'il faut développer une politique d'intervention directe, permettant d'éliminer les causes structurelles de la pauvreté et de la faim, une politique au cas par cas où tous les États Membres pourraient concentrer leurs énergies dans les zones qui les intéressent plus particulièrement et pour lesquelles les échanges structurels sont plus importants. Nous structurerons notre action de la sorte en tenant compte de la situation internationale. C'est une action en collaboration avec le Ministère des affaires étrangères, en harmonie avec le programme dont s'inspire le Gouvernement italien. Combattre à la base les causes profondes de la pauvreté est la seule garantie pour assurer une paix durable. Aujourd'hui en Europe et dans le monde occidental, les organisations de la société civile sont en fait impliquées dans cette responsabilité et l'Italie se considère comme un acteur de premier plan dans cet engagement.

Lyonpo Kinzang DORJI (Bhutan)

Allow me first of all to congratulate you most warmly on your assumption of the post of the Chairman of the Thirty-first session of the FAO Conference. My delegation is confident that under your wise and able leadership our deliberations will proceed smoothly and successfully.

My delegation takes pleasure in welcoming the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Principality of Monaco as they assume rightful places in the Committee of nations. We look forward to the valuable contribution they will make to our Organization, FAO.

As I stated in the Thirtieth FAO Conference and at the Regional Meeting last year, a large majority of our population still lives in the rural areas and practises subsistence farming. However, abject poverty is almost non-existent in Bhutan. Owing to the wise and farsighted policies of His Majesty the King and in view of our ultimate development goal being the achievement of gross national happiness, most Bhutanese enjoy a comfortable way of life with adequate access to food, water, shelter and clothing.

Social amenities such as health and education are accessible to all people. Unemployment is minimal and the gap between the haves and the have nots is not significant. My country is about to embark on the implementation of the ninth five-year plan, beginning on 1 July 2002. During that coming plan, the policy objectives of the Ministry of Agriculture will continue to focus on achieving food self-sufficiency and food security, to increase rural income through cash crop and livestock development and to improve forest productivity through scientific management and conservation principles. More emphasis will be given to investments in on-farm economic opportunities, generating rural employment and income, and to rural infrastructure development, namely farm roads to improve access for inputs as well as access to markets.

By following and implementing the above policy objectives we hope that we will be able to achieve our goals and aspirations. However, there are also factors which are beyond our control

and which could impede our progress. My apprehension is mostly due to the events and experiences that my country and the world have had since the last Conference. As some of you may have heard, Bhutan had a major flooding problem last year affecting 12 out of 20 of the administrative districts: lives were lost, many homes were affected, agriculture fields and orchards, irrigation channels, extension facilities, roads and livestock herds were washed away by the floods.

The unprecedented rains disrupted the communication services and movement of essential commodities all over the country for almost a month. Unlike last year, this year we had pockets of drought in the eastern part of the country. Hundreds of acres of agricultural land had to be left uncultivated. In addition to natural disasters, the world has also been challenged by manmade ones. Here the principal victims are, unfortunately, innocent people – particularly the elderly, women and children. The increasing incidences of natural as well as manmade calamities add hundreds of thousands to the existing large number of hungry and poor people around the globe. Such unfortunate events make our task to reduce the number of hungry by half by 2015 very difficult indeed. These tragic events remind us why we need to implement all the relevant action plans recommended by the World Food Summit.

It is not only about supplies and production on the side of food but also about availability, storage and distribution, employment, income, etc. on the demand side of food. We need to build a conducive, political, economic and social environment to fight hunger. We therefore extend full support to the Director-General's initiative to hold the World Food Summit: *five years later*. FAO publications project that the goal that we have set to reduce hunger can only be achieved by 2030. By 2015, the undernourished in the world would fall to only about 580 million which is short of the World Food Summit goal of 400 million. The goal of achieving sustainable food security in the decade ahead therefore emerges as one of the greatest challenges that we have ever faced. If the commitment goals are to be achieved, the implementation of the action plans have to be accelerated in most of the countries. Therefore, international support in terms of adequate and reliable flow of capital and technology are necessary to induce acceleration.

Food security issues must also be re-examined in the context of emerging challenges like the natural and manmade disasters which affect us all. In spite of the apprehension regarding the achieving of the global targets by 2015, Bhutan is actively pursuing the strategies to attain food security and freedom from hunger. Fight hunger to reduce poverty, the theme of the World Food Day this year was also marked in Bhutan, particularly in the capital city to highlight the crucial issues related to food and poverty – the two very real problems of the world. We have started to rehabilitate the areas that were affected by floods last year. In this connection I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General of FAO for the very prompt and generous assistance in our rehabilitation efforts.

Finally, may I briefly report on the progress my country has made in the implementation of the World Food Summit commitments and action plans. I am pleased to inform you that we are making satisfactory progress in the implementation of the action plans on all the major commitments reflected in the World Food Summit as also our own comprehensive food security programme. The strategies and actions are reflected in all the agricultural development projects and programmes supported by various donors. We are confident that our development partners will not fail us and that we will be able to achieve the food security targets that we have set for ourselves, in the near future.

Mehmed DIKME (Bulgaria) (Original language Bulgarian)

The changes in the political and social environment in our country following 1989 have lead to re-orienting our national economy from a centrally-planned to a market system. This transition has affected all sectors of the economy, including farming which has a strategic importance for our country. Over the last few years, Bulgaria has been looking to adopt an effective policy setting up favourable conditions for developing the agrarian sector under the rules of the free market economy which demands a rather flexible structure and good organization of operations. The foundations were laid for some of the crucial and laborious - from both a social and an economic

point of view - tasks, like title restoration, privatization of state-owned companies and liberalizing trade in farm commodities.

The sustainable development of the Bulgarian economy went on in the years 2000 and 2001, in conditions of stable macro-economic indicators. Farming policies are carried out according to the National Plan for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas in 2000-06 prepared at the Ministry of Agriculture and coordinated with the National Plan for Economic Development in Bulgaria. This policy is targeted at achieving low-inflation economic growth as a prerequisite for income growth and improving living standards in view of further integration into the European economic and social environment as well as in agreement with the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis. Arable crops have seen a trend towards sustainable growth of areas under autumn and winter crops on the account of spring crops due to unfavourable weather conditions. The major cereals in the country are wheat, barley and maize. Areas under wheat saw an increase in 2001, with an estimated output of 3.5 million tonnes. Areas under maize however have suffered a downward trend, with output also going down. This has mainly been due to the drought. The problem also refers to sunflower and all spring crops grown on non-irrigated areas over recent years. In general, however, constraints in meeting the cereals national demand are not expected. Tobacco is a vital crop in Bulgarian farm product mix. Unfortunately its output has suffered a decline in recent years. Amounts contracted under quotas allocated to growers have not been fully delivered. We have therefore provided a range of incentives, like advance payments to growers, premiums etc. Bulgaria has fully adopted and will be implementing the EU acquis under Chapter 7-Agriculture, particularly the legal provisions in the Raw Tobacco section.

As regards livestock breeding, over the last few years government policy has been designed to stabilize the sector, to stimulate output and align it with European standards. The overall objective was an updated and competitive industry. Hence among the pivotal tasks were the enlargement of farms, improving the opportunities for market orientation, introducing machinery and automated technologies, optimizing breeds and ages across the species. A priority in livestock farming is attracting fresh investment and thus renewing the technology and maintaining the national gene pool. In foreign trade Bulgaria has focused on radical restructuring of its policies aimed at adopting and upholding the WTO rules, at the overall liberalization of trade and delivering of the country's commitments under European as well as other bilateral and multilateral agreements. The reforms are tailored to boost the country's farm exports by producing internationally-competitive goods and the effective accession to European and world structures and markets. According to data of the National Statistical Institute, trade in farm commodities slumped in 2000. One of the reasons for the declining agrarian exports is the unstable political environment in the Balkans as well as the financial instability in some of our major markets in Russia and the countries of Eastern Asia. On the other hand, the weather conditions have caused a decrease in the output of some export-oriented products. The outlook for 2001 is for the export product mix to broaden gradually, with cereals and oil crops, wine, tobacco, live animals, poultry and sheep and goat meat preserving their larger share.

Over recent years, Bulgaria's export product mix has been dominated (53 percent of overall exports) by arable or livestock products of low added value. This has mainly been due to the financial constraints and shortages in investment for modernizing the food industry and employing active marketing and advertising strategies. On the other hand, the sector was the subject of strong competition in traditional foreign markets due to enhancing quality and sanitary requirements. The Ministry policy in the period 2001-02 will be targeted at further strengthening the right economic conditions encouraging farmers in producing and marketing their output, as well as at improving the law in agreement with market economy principles.

I would like to highlight the outstanding FAO contribution in preparing a strategy for the development of Bulgarian farming through implementing national and regional projects in fisheries, livestock and forestry. We appreciate the FAO policies in solving famine problems throughout the world by means of a broad range of programmes and projects and the establishment of special funds in fulfilling the objectives of the World Food Summit. The

research and analysis in food security, together with all current action in achieving it and the upgrading of FAO's regional organizations demonstrate the course has taken the right direction.

We believe an actual increase in the FAO budget would contribute further to achieving the goals of the World Food Summit and warranting food for everyone. I would like to express our overall support to the proposals and decisions related to the issues on the agenda of the FAO Conference's Thirty-first Session. We hereby propose policies to be prepared reflecting the specific conditions in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Finally we would like to suggest that the FAO action be continued in providing aid to the Central and East European countries aimed at further developing the agricultural sector and overcoming the constraints of the transition. Taking into account the large scope of the activities as well as the complex nature of this transition, we suggest that FAO support is carried further, by means of regional programmes and work with individual Member States. We regard the FAO practice of attracting other organizations, donors and financial institutions in formulating and implementing projects has proved fruitful and ought to be carried on.

Sra. Elsa Diana Rosa KELLY (Argentina)

Muchas gracias señor presidente. Deseo, en primer término, felicitarlo personalmente a usted, señor, y a los demás miembros de la Mesa de esta Trigésimaprimera Conferencia de la FAO, y muy especialmente a nuestro presidente el señor Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Raqabani, por vuestra brillante elección para estas importantes funciones. Nuestro agradecimiento también al señor Director General por su infatigable tarea en esta Organización con el fin de terminar con el flagelo del hambre y de la pobreza a través del desarrollo de la agricultura, de su permanente insistencia en obtener a nivel global una alimentación sana y nutritiva para todos sin excepción.

Deseo, señor presidente, expresar mi beneplácito por participar en este vigésimoprimer período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO y tener la oportunidad de presentar la visión de la Argentina con respecto al contexto que rodea a la actividad agroalimentaria en la actualidad.

El mercado agrícola mundial se caracteriza en la actualidad por su gran dinamismo, expresado fundamentalmente a través de los nuevos acuerdos multilaterales y regionales, los grandes avances tecnológicos y las diferencias sustanciales existentes entre las políticas de los países consumidores y productores. Se observan cambios significativos en la demanda, que impactan directamente sobre los mercados. Es de destacar la aparición de los países en desarrollo como actores fundamentales en las importaciones mundiales de alimentos.

Con el objetivo de afianzar la participación argentina en el mercado mundial de alimentos, la presencia de nuestro país en todos los foros de negociación internacional resulta permanente. En ellos, Argentina se ha destacado por defender firmemente el libre comercio, una actitud claramente opuesta a todos aquellos que, bajo cualquier pretexto, pretenden seguir con la aplicación de prácticas comerciales distorsivas que lo único que consiguen es perjudicar a países que, como el nuestro, consideran a la transparencia de los mercados como el medio idóneo para desarrollar su potencialidad.

El enorme esfuerzo de nuestros agricultores, esta demostración de eficiencia que el sector agropecuario de mi país está realizando con el objetivo de mantener su participación activa en el mercado internacional, adaptándose a las exigencias de los consumidores, debe enfrentar todavía injustificables barreras comerciales y desiguales condiciones de competencia resultantes del mantenimiento de prácticas poco compatibles con la vigencia de un mercado libre y desregulado que muchos países, líderes en cuanto a su desarrollo, dicen defender, pero que no practican.

Si bien a partir de los acuerdos logrados tras la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, se ha iniciado un nuevo orden internacional en lo relativo al comercio que pretende orientarse hacia un mercado mundial menos restrictivo, se nos hace muy difícil competir en un plano de igualdad con los productores y exportadores de aquellos países que mantienen prácticas comerciales, que distorsionan los mercados y donde los subsidios, expresos o encubiertos, continúan vigentes.

Observamos con gran preocupación como se insiste en la aplicación de estas medidas. Los subsidios a la exportación, el otorgamiento de créditos subsidiados y las innumerables barreras arancelarias y para-arancelarias, implican todavía un fuerte impedimento a la posibilidad de exportar de aquellos países, que pretenden ser exportadores eficientes de agroalimentos.

Contrariamente a la teoría que considera que los exportadores de productos subsidiados contribuyen a mejorar el nivel de seguridad alimentaria, la evidencia demuestra que tales productos desalientan a la producción local, desvían exportaciones de países vecinos y limitan la capacidad de los países supuestamente beneficiados de aumentar su producción de alimentos.

Por ello Argentina y los países del Mercosur sostenemos que la primera preocupación no comercial es combatir la pobreza y la segunda debe ser el desarrollo rural. Mi Gobierno, aún en un período de restricciones presupuestarias no ha reducido la asistencia técnica para el desarrollo agrícola, a través del Fondo Argentino de Cooperación Horizontal.

Adherimos a lo expresado en este foro por el Comisario Agrícola de la Unión Europea, Doctor Fischler, cuando manifestó que "la ayuda alimentaria no es la solución para los problemas del hambre en el mundo y puede aún ser contraproducente" y damos la bienvenida a su propuesta de privilegiar la asistencia financiera para promover las compras regionales y locales de alimentos como instrumento para implementar la ayuda alimentaria.

Señor presidente: permítanme recordar lo citado por el presidente Alwyn en su magnífica disertación del pasado viernes: "la seguridad alimentaria se expresa mejor en términos de millones de trabajos creados que en millones de toneladas de alimentos producidos". De la misma forma, la ayuda alimentaria bien entendida debería permitir transformar las ventajas comparativas existentes en verdaderas ventajas competitivas que posibiliten un desarrollo sustentable de los eventuales países receptores.

Siempre se habla de los posibles efectos negativos que podrían experimentar los países menos adelantados y los países en desarrollo importadores netos de alimentos a partir de las reformas originadas en los acuerdos de la Ronda Uruguay, pero nunca se habla de los beneficios que pudieran derivarse de los mismos, tales como las mejoras en las condiciones de acceso a los mercados o las posibilidades de desarrollo de la agricultura local en virtud del correspondiente aumento de los precios.

Como expresara anteriormente, el desarrollo del sector agropecuario constituye un aspecto clave, tanto para la adecuada provisión de alimentos, como para la generación de divisas necesarias para la compra de aquéllos que no se puedan producir eficazmente. En este último caso, la competitividad del sector agroexportador será una pieza clave para alcanzar niveles adecuados de desarrollo rural y social. Hay que recordar que la pobreza rural es una de las causas de la degradación del medio ambiente, como también de los flujos migratorios, dentro de un mismo país, hacia las grandes ciudades, con el correspondiente aumento del desempleo y tensión social.

Los avances alcanzados por la Argentina en el uso de la biotecnología, son un buen ejemplo de herramientas útiles para el incremento de la competitividad que impactan positivamente sobre el desarrollo rural a través de la reducción de costos, del logro de un menor impacto ambiental y de un uso más eficiente de los recursos, del agua y del suelo. Esto ha permitido a la Argentina incrementar su oferta de alimentos con una relación genuina de precio/calidad que se encuentra entre las mejores del mundo.

Seguridad alimentaria también significa cooperación orientada a la producción de más y mejores alimentos. Argentina está en condiciones de ofrecer diferentes herramientas tecnológicas, tanto en el ámbito zoo y fitosanitario como en el de la producción agrícola, que podrían ser de utilidad para colaborar con el desarrollo rural de otros países miembros de la FAO. Nuestro país está abierto a cooperar con los países en desarrollo en todo aquello que pudiera resultarles de interés.

A pesar de las numerosas restricciones que ha enfrentado nuestro sector agropecuario, éste no ha dejado de crecer durante la última década, alcanzando una vital importancia en cuanto a la generación de divisas de nuestro país. Cabe recordar que el total de las exportaciones argentinas

de productos primarios y de productos manufacturados de origen agropecuario, representa más del 50 por ciento del total exportado. Para nosotros, la caída en los ingresos y las eventuales pérdidas de mercados tienen un alto costo, que es asumido, principalmente, por los productores y termina beneficiando sólo a los agricultores de los países industrializados. Reclamamos condiciones comerciales más equitativas. Mi país y sus socios, tanto en el Mercosur como en el Grupo Cairns, entendemos que la única opción para que ello ocurra consiste en la apertura definitiva de los mercados y la liberalización del comercio agrícola, así como también la implementación de mecanismos no distorsivos de ayuda alimentaria que generen más desarrollo y menos dependencia. Esta será la postura que continuaremos defendiendo en las próximas ruedas de negociaciones en el marco de la Organización Mundial del Comercio.

El sector agrícola no puede quedar fuera de ningún tipo de acuerdo sobre comercio, tal como algunos han pretendido y ha venido ocurriendo hasta ahora. Precisamente, a partir de esas negociaciones, se nos presenta una gran oportunidad para emprender un esfuerzo conjunto entre los actores del comercio mundial a fin de profundizar los logros alcanzados tras la Ronda Uruguay del GATT hacia una mayor apertura y liberalización en el comercio agrícola mundial. La próxima alternativa para avanzar en este sentido será la Reunión Ministerial en el ámbito de la OMC que comienza esta semana en Doha, Qatar.

Ante este nuevo desafío que presenta el mercado internacional y afianzándose en las ventajas comparativas de nuestras tierras, Argentina ha respondido en las últimas temporadas con un continuo crecimiento de su producción granaria, la que alcanzó un nivel récord en el pasado ciclo 2000-01 con 67.5 millones de toneladas. Hoy en día el nivel productivo de granos en la Argentina se encuentra en el orden de los 65 millones de toneladas, mientras que diez años atrás nuestras producciones no superaban los 40 millones de toneladas. Nuestras proyecciones indican que durante el próximo ciclo 2001-02 superaremos el umbral de los 70 millones de toneladas.

No tenemos miedo a competir pues estamos seguros de la capacidad de nuestros agricultores, pero también sabemos que el libre comercio es la mejor manera para paliar el hambre mundial, fomentar el desarrollo agropecuario e incrementar los ingresos de los agricultores. Por eso seguiremos luchando por un comercio más justo que posibilite que cada habitante del planeta pueda acceder a uno de los derechos humanos fundamentales, como lo es, el de disponer de los alimentos que necesita.

Señor presidente: No puedo concluir esta intervención sin hacer referencia al histórico momento que viviera la FAO al adoptar, el sábado último, el Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación. Y digo histórico porque se trata del primer tratado que la FAO adopta en el siglo recién comenzado.

Mi delegación, que participó durante todos los años que duró la negociación con el mismo espíritu constructivo, no puede menos que congratularse con dicha adopción y felicitar calurosamente al presidente de dicha negociación, Embajador Fernando Gerbasí, así como a los funcionarios de la Secretaría que colaboraron con él, el señor José Esquinas-Alcázar.

Creemos que este tratado, al facilitar el acceso a los recursos genéticos del Sistema Multilateral permitirá a los mejoradores continuar con el desarrollo de nuevas variedades, aumentando su base genética. Asimismo, permitirá el acceso de las pequeñas y medianas compañías semilleras, contribuyendo a su desarrollo económico y permitiéndoles competir.

Peter R. BENNETT (New Zealand)

I should like to start with the issue that has dominated your work Mr Director-General for the last few months: the World Food Summit: *five years later*. The Council decision to postpone the Summit was the right one in our view. New Zealand will be continuing our work on preparations for June 2002 so that you can be assured Director-General that New Zealand will play its part in contributing to the success of this event.

The Fourth Ministerial meeting of the WTO in Doha is about to start. Trade is a key element in achieving world food security, so a few words on this topic are very appropriate. A fair and open

market system is a vital component of an equitable and efficient world food system. Certainly, policies, which encourage sustainable domestic production and improve food distribution and other parts of the infrastructure within developing countries will go a long way to improving real food security for those countries. But a less protected and distorted market will give all countries access to a dependable food supply. We know from recent experience that in times of conflict, access to domestically-produced food is one of the first casualties. More liberal policies enable countries to increase their incomes from specialization in areas where they have a comparative advantage. The developed world has, we believe, failed the developing countries on this issue. Indeed, agriculture support is higher now than it was five years ago. It is rather depressing to read the latest annual OECD study on agricultural policies. It concludes that support to agriculture in the developed world has now returned to the levels of a decade ago.

A total of US\$327 billion was paid in the year 2000 to OECD farmers – enough to pay for each of the OECD's 41 million dairy cows to fly first class around the world, one and a half times. Not cattle class, not economy class. But first class ! This is an outrage. The developing world has a robust case to make on this. And they should do so. Barriers, distortions and subsidies to trade in agricultural products remain unacceptably high. This Organization makes a significant contribution to trade issues through its normative work. It is crucial and core to the reputation and influence of FAO.

As a practical example, we would like to compliment FAO for its recent publication of the *State of Food and Agriculture*. It is required reading. It annually provides an authoritative and comprehensive review of the agricultural situation globally and regionally. We are particularly pleased to see two very important topics picked out by this year's publication: issues in the current round of agricultural trade negotiations, and economic impacts of transboundary plant pest and animal diseases.

These topics may sound rather arcane – and frankly they are. But the reality is that people (farmers, consumers, traders, rural communities) need and rely on this information. And FAO has the reach to provide it to a global audience. IPPC. In this vein we would be remiss if we did not point out the vital work being done by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. New Zealand is pleased to have been very closely associated with this work. However, if this body is to do its work properly it needs proper funding. As a minimum, the Interim Commission needs to have a full-time secretary and more permanent scientific staff. New Zealand has helped with the technical assistance programme of the Interim Commission by funding regional technical consultations on draft phytosanitary standards. Experts from Asian developing countries are funded to attend meetings where standards for their countries' products are developed. The value of their presence cannot be overstated.

We are proud to have also helped with the development of a Phytosanitary Evaluation Questionnaire. This work leads on to sound strategic planning and builds real capacity. Capacity that protects the health and welfare of developing countries' own agricultural industries and environment, as well as assisting the development of market access opportunities. In the rules-based trading system we have, such projects enable developing countries to raise incomes and export earnings.

Another area is the increasingly important work FAO is doing in fisheries, and specifically in the fish subsidies area. Fishing is an important industry in New Zealand and indeed vital for the entire region we come from. It is also a fundamental part of the whole sustainable development paradigm. We encourage the Organization to intensify its interaction with Member Nations and delegations. As a number of the Member Nations interested in this key issue are small, we urge FAO to look at innovative ways to ensure as full participation in fisheries issues as possible. In the region we are part of, the subregional office in Apia has a crucial role to play.

New Zealand especially welcomes the development of the new FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action. There is no dispute that women are critical players in our efforts to reduce rural poverty and achieve food security. We are pleased to see the emphasis FAO is giving to the

promotion of gender equality in all relevant policy and decision-making processes, including the crucial question of family planning.

At the last Conference we appreciated the Strategic Framework for FAO. We expected that it would lead to better focused planning and governance processes. This is happening. We congratulate the Organization on producing the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget enabling members to transparently follow all FAO's activities. This information is absolutely vital for members. Confidence in the integrity and credibility of the planning process has made great strides. This confidence will grow as the system beds in and members get to grips with the details.

The Member Nations here own FAO. This is a big responsibility. As members we need to continually consult, talk and try to reach agreement. New Zealand firmly believes that we need to reach across the too-easily-established division (North/South, OECD/G77). If we do not, we risk missing key messages and creating misunderstandings. The example set just last week during the Council meeting when regional chairs, ably assisted by the Secretariat, met to discuss issues related to the postponement of the World Food Summit: *five years later*, is a good one. It enabled broad representation, where all voices could be heard, in a manageable, transparent and participatory way. We believe as owners of this Organization we have to "own" the decisions.

Finally, we want to finish on another positive note. And we can. We would like to close by welcoming our Pacific Island neighbour Nauru to the membership of FAO and the Southwest Pacific Regional Group. We now tally 14. Again, here we must pay tribute to the excellent work being done in the Apia subregional office. It is held in high esteem throughout the region, which is reflected in increased membership from the Southwest Pacific in the last few years.

For FAO, you can take heart: an organization is in good health when countries keep wanting to join it.

Nehad Ibrahim ABDEL-LATIF (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

First of all let me express my heartiest congratulations to the Minister of Agriculture of the United Arab Emirates on his election to the presidency of this Conference. I would like to congratulate him on the exemplary leadership he has shown. I would also like to express my congratulations to the Vice-President Representative of Malta, and I would like to thank all of the members of the bureau and wishing them full success in their work during this Conference. Let me also express my heartiest thanks to Jacques Diouf, Director-General of this Organization, and all those who work in this Organization for the success of this Conference. They have done excellent preparatory work.

On behalf of the delegation of my country I would like to share our interest in the activities of this Organization and, in particular, in its aim at alleviating hunger in the world and fighting poverty. This Conference takes place five years after the World Food Summit which led to the Rome Declaration on Food Security in 1996 and my country, Egypt, reiterates its commitment to help achieve the goals of that Summit. The Egyptian agricultural sector receives important support from our government, it is indeed the keystone of this sector, the keystone of our economy contributing to the tune of 20 percent of our GDP, 20 percent of our exports are accounted for by it, and 20 percent of our active population works in the agricultural sector which provides of course the basic materials for food in our country.

The Egyptian agricultural sector has, thanks to a successful strategy applied in the 1980s and 1990s, benefited from this, in particular from the economic modernization of this sector. Farmers are quite free to cultivate any crop they wish. The Ministry of Agricultural Reform solely provides technical support to Egyptian farmers. This sector, thanks to our strategy and to the good reaction of farmers in the wake of new technology, has been able to make important progress in the field of rural development and agricultural development, whether we are talking about cattle breeding or plant crops. We have been able to undertake a reform of nearly 2 million feddans, new soil, new lands over the last three years. As was clearly expressed by His Excellency, President Mubarak, when speaking before the Board of IFAD, the agricultural sector in Egypt has

been able to boost its grain production by 8 million tonnes in 1982, bringing it up to 17.5 million in 2000. This sector also has been able to improve its revenues, we have achieved self-sufficiency here, in other sectors as well, such as egg production. We have been able to carry out improvements in export crop production, in particular cotton, vegetables and cut flowers.

This strategy has allowed us to achieve annual growth rates of about 4 percent and hence we have been able to profit from our comparative advantage, and also create jobs and improve revenues for farmers and rural inhabitants. Let me just say that this strategy is based on the following pillars: to continue our agricultural extension programme horizontally reforming 150 000 feddans a year in the Tushkay region, Shoakla, Awainat, Tablah Al Braim, Watanatasalam, and this programme also aims to reform and put into production 450-500 feddans in a period of 30 years. Now, what about our extension programmes. Our very good extension programmes we feel are turning more towards high quality high yield varieties. Also better use of irrigation water, rationalization and better use of pesticides and fertilizers in order to protect man and animals and in order to protect the environment, boosting agricultural exports in those areas where we have products that give us a competitive advantage and allow us to participate in the Arab Free Trade Zone (KOMISAR). Also research efforts in the field of agriculture.

In general, support is also given to NGOs in order to strengthen the role of women in agricultural development and entirely to ensure the innovation of women in world development, indeed facilitating the access to credit for women allows them to play an important role and an efficient role in agricultural production as well as encouraging investment, both domestic and foreign, in the agricultural sector.

Egypt is pleased to see the initiative taken by FAO in terms of food security. We believe that this, thanks to the help of national and international experts, will allow us to achieve the food security objectives of FAO. Our participation follows the decisions made between 10 and 13 June, measures aimed at reducing hunger in the world, ensuring food security. We would also like to express our support to the Action Plan and Budget presented by the Director-General on the basis of real growth. Without real growth indeed the budget of our Organization will not be able to face the tasks, the most urgent tasks that await it.

Let me just mention three fields that we attach top priority to. First, preserving peace and stability as an essential element of achieving food security and development, looking particularly at rural development, developing human resources, capacity building. We believe that food security will only be achieved if we join efforts to achieve peace, a durable and just peace. Without this, development will not be in our grasp. Egypt appreciates the efforts deployed by FAO in the field of development in the agricultural and rural world and we would like to express our full support to this Organization and to the Regional Office of the Organization in Cairo and all of its projects dealing with rural development. The holding of a meeting soon in Egypt is further proof of the commitment of Egypt and its awareness of the importance of this Organization that I wish full success to.

The meeting rose at 13.20 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.20 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2 – 13 November 2001 Rome, 2 – 13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2 – 13 de noviembre de 2001
EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA
6 November 2001

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
Mr Francis Montanaro Mifsud,
Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Francis Montanaro Mifsud,
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria las 14.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Francis Montanaro Mifsud,
Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

PART III - LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
TROISIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES ET ADMINISTRATIVES (suite)
PARTE III - ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

15. Scale of Contributions 2002-2003 (Draft Resolution)
15. Barème des contributions 2002-2003 (Projet de résolution)
15. Escala de cuotas para 2002-2003 (Proyecto de resolución)

CHAIRMAN

I call the eighth meeting of the Thirty-first Session of the Conference to order.

We will in due course resume our list of speakers on the *State of Food and Agriculture*. But before that we have another issue to deal with. I would like to recall that the Council at its Hundred and Twenty-first Session made a recommendation to the effect that a Working Group be set up to study ways of alleviating the burden on members as a result of changes in the Scale of Contributions. You may wish to refer to document C 2001/LIM/8-Rev.1 which contains this recommendation. I understand that there have been informal consultations in the meantime among the various regional groups, and following these consultations I would like to suggest that such a Working Group be established now by the Conference and that it be constituted by not more than three representatives from each region. I would also ask that if this working group proposes any transitional arrangements regarding the Scale of Contributions, it should at the same time propose the source of funding for these arrangements. Can I have your reaction to this suggestion?

Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)

It is indeed a pleasure to see you on the podium and we congratulate you on your election. We are very happy about the decision to set up this Working Group. Actually, my delegation has spoken in favour of this proposal. My only remark is that we do not propose that this group be constituted by representatives of three members per each region but by other countries which also wish to attend this working group and are not prevented in doing so. I say this because in my region we have a number of countries which would be very interested in following the works of this group and we don't believe that the participation of more than three countries would undermine or be damaging to the progress in the works of this Group.

Juán NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Íbamos a pedir la palabra para plantear exactamente lo que acaba de manifestar la delegación de Brasil, así que esto me ahorra tener que repetir, por lo tanto apoyo totalmente lo que acaba de manifestar.

Dag BRISEID (Norway)

I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group. This proposal is acceptable to us and we will be represented in a group with three persons, three countries, and as has been the case with many working groups over the last week's meetings we do not see why countries that would like to be there, present and listen, should not participate.

CHAIRMAN

I see there are no other requests for the floor. So I take it that the proposal to set up a working group which would not exclude countries in excess of three per region to be present is hereby established. Agreed. Thank you. In that case I would like to inform you that arrangements have been made for the First Meeting of the Working Group to be held at 15:30 hours in the Malaysia Room. So, the Terms of Reference are for the Working Group to study ways of alleviating the burden on members as a result of changes in the Scale of Contributions. This Group will meet in the Malaysia Room from 15:30 hours onwards.

Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)

Just for the sake of clarification, when are the results of this Working Group scheduled to be reported?

CHAIRMAN

The item on the Scale of Contributions is scheduled for Monday, if I am not mistaken. Has the Secretariat anything to say on this? It is confirmed that there is a scheduled item on the Scale of Contributions for Monday. We can take it that this business is settled for the moment and can resume our Speakers' List for the *State of Food and Agriculture*.

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)**PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE (suite)****PARTE I - ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS (continuación)****5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture**

(C 2001/2; C 2001/INF/25) (continued)

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

(C 2001/2; C 2001/INF/25) (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura alimentación)

(C 2001/2; C 2001/INF/25) (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)**DÉCLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION (suite)****DECLARACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE DELEGACIONES (continuación)**

Chile, Japan, Suisse, Cuba, Kenya, Ireland, Jamaica, India, Iraq, Austria, Algérie, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sweden, Burkina Faso, Poland, Sénégal, Turkey, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Costa Rica, Saint Lucia, International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)

Jaime CAMPOS QUIROGA (Chile)

En primer lugar permítame felicitarle por su elección como presidente de esta Conferencia y estamos ciertos que bajo su conducción alcanzaremos resultados exitosos en nuestras deliberaciones.

A la conclusión que podemos llegar en estos días, es sin lugar a dudas a la necesidad de cooperar contra la amenaza común del terrorismo. Nadie es hoy invulnerable y todos necesitamos del sistema internacional de la diplomacia y de la cooperación entre los estados. Los actos terroristas que estremecieron a la humanidad nos pusieron frente a una amenaza difusa y no estatal. De ahí que hoy las Naciones Unidas tengan una nueva oportunidad, similar, quizás, a la ocurrida durante la II Guerra Mundial y al término de la Guerra Fría para dar respuestas concretas a las amenazas, a la paz y a la seguridad internacional y retomar la agenda económico social con más vigor. La FAO, siendo la principal agencia especializada del sistema de Naciones Unidas en la agricultura y la alimentación, tiene hoy más que nunca que ser eficaz en la eliminación de la pobreza y el hambre en el mundo. Tal y como se preguntaba el ex-presidente de Chile, Don Patricio Alwyn, en la disertación efectuada en esta misma sala el pasado viernes, es importante volver a recordar su quemante pregunta: ¿Qué dirían los padres fundadores de esta Organización si vieran que no hemos podido cumplir sus sueños de eliminar el hambre, no obstante que existen los recursos, los medios tecnológicos y una sobreabundancia de alimentos? Y a ello nosotros agregamos, cómo potenciar la fuerza positiva de la globalización y convertirla en un proyecto compartido y legitimado y que no sea simplemente la globalización de la pobreza. El Presidente de Chile, Ricardo Lagos, decía, hace algunas semanas, que debíamos comenzar por las tareas nacionales y también por las regionales. Más justicia social, cuyos resultados dependen de la calidad de nuestras políticas públicas, y del apoyo que estas conciten en las sociedades. Son entonces

esenciales los equilibrios macroeconómicos, pero también lo son los equilibrios sociales. Los unos sin los otros no nos permiten avanzar.

El trigésimo primer período de sesiones al que nos ha convocado la FAO es, sin lugar a dudas, una instancia de reflexión acerca del estado de la agricultura en el mundo. Es un escenario particularmente complejo y de grandes desafíos. La gran mayoría de los países nos encontramos enfrentados al reto común de consolidar nuestras agriculturas, mejorar nuestra competitividad y lograr una adaptación al proceso de apertura e inserción en la economía internacional.

El sector silvoagropecuario de Chile presenta una gran heterogeneidad social y económica, fruto de la desigual extensión de sus explotaciones, dispersión en las escalas de producción, distintos niveles de capitalización, de rendimientos físicos y de resultados económicos. Las variadas condiciones agroecológicas que presenta el agro nacional, también explican esta heterogeneidad y han implicado fuertes procesos de diferenciación regional. En las áreas regadas del centro y norte de mi país, se ha consolidado una agricultura moderna orientada a la exportación, mientras que en las regiones del sur, se ha desarrollado una agricultura que sustituye importaciones, y que a pesar de experimentar un genuino proceso de modernización y de cambio tecnológico, ha debido soportar una fuerte baja de los precios internacionales. A ello se suman los problemas estructurales originados por la existencia de fuertes subsidios de los países desarrollados que distorsionan el comercio mundial. En las áreas del secano interior y costero, finalmente esta agricultura coexiste con un sector forestal fuerte y dinámico, que se originó gracias a la existencia de ventajas competitivas y de una política forestal implementada durante años.

Todos los factores antes enunciados se han conjugado para generar un sector silvoagropecuario que, a pesar de sus problemas estructurales, de su apertura al exterior y de la competencia externa, ha sido capaz de crecer a una tasa anual del 3,4 por ciento durante la última década - tasa comparativamente alta a nivel mundial - ocupando el 14 por ciento de la fuerza de trabajo total, incrementando en forma sostenida su productividad.

Como efecto del crecimiento económico de Chile, el sector agrícola, como producción primaria, pasó de un 8 por ciento del PIB en 1990, a sólo un 5,9 por ciento en el año 2000, siguiendo entonces la tendencia internacional de otras economías que han evolucionado en forma similar. No obstante ello, la agricultura y silvicultura representan del 25 al 35 por ciento del PIB de muchas regiones del país. A nivel global exportó en el año 2000, un valor récord de dólares EE UU 4 957 millones, lo que, confrontado a un nivel de importación de 1 200 millones, significó un crecimiento de la balanza comercial de productos silvoagropecuarios de un 5,4 por ciento.

No cabe duda que nuestra agricultura ha tenido grandes logros. Uno de los principales éxitos ha sido el establecimiento de lazos de confianza entre el Gobierno y las entidades más representativas del mundo agrícola y forestal privado, cuyo trabajo conjunto ha permitido definir una política de Estado para la agricultura chilena, que apunta al desarrollo global del sector, incluidos todos los rubros y regiones productivas y la totalidad de los agentes involucrados. Éste ha sido el sello característico del Gobierno del presidente Lagos en el ámbito silvoagropecuario.

Nuestro objetivo es llegar al año 2010 con una agricultura rentable, eficiente y competitiva, con todos sus rubros productivos plenamente desarrollados y con una sociedad rural fuerte e integrada desde el punto de vista social, capaz de utilizar el espacio rural de manera sustentable. Ello supone la consolidación de aquellas industrias que ya compiten con éxito en los mercados mundiales, como las frutas, los vinos, los productos agroindustriales, las carnes blancas, las semillas y los productos forestales. Al mismo tiempo, dicha visión supone el desarrollo exportador de muchos otros rubros que todavía están orientados al mercado interno, pero que presentan un gran potencial, como es el caso de la leche, la carne bovina, las flores, hortalizas, aceite de oliva, cereales, nuevas especies frutícolas y ganaderas, productos forestales elaborados, agroturismo, etc.

En esta estrategia de desarrollo subyacen variados aspectos de la política agrícola. Uno de ellos, de particular importancia, ha sido el adecuado y eficiente manejo de los diversos problemas fito y zoonosanitarios, como el desafío, con éxito, del control de la mosca de la fruta, como también el

control de la fiebre aftosa. Chile es el único país sudamericano libre de aftosa sin vacunación. También hemos adoptado todos los resguardos necesarios para mantener a Chile fuera del circuito de riesgo del llamado mal de las "vacas locas". Con similar diligencia se ha procedido en el caso de la amenaza de ingreso al país del Sirex noctilius, avispa que podría afectar a nuestras plantaciones forestales.

Muy ligado a lo anterior, constituye el avance en la aplicación de un Programa de buenas prácticas agrícolas, orientado a mejorar en los procesos productivos los estándares ambientales, laborales, de inocuidad y calidad de los productos que conforman la oferta exportable nacional. La calidad, inocuidad y sanidad de los alimentos que producimos, es otro de los ejes estratégicos de nuestra política agrícola, constituye una exigencia del consumidor nacional y de los mercados internacionales en que participamos.

En una economía tan abierta como la chilena y con un mercado interno reducido, cobra especial relevancia la apertura de mercados. A los esfuerzos realizados en las negociaciones ya culminadas y que se han traducido en un comercio abierto con una gran cantidad de países, estamos trabajando para generar un tratado de libre comercio con Estados Unidos y la Unión Europea, así como también con Corea del Sur, y queremos que nuestros productos adquieran una posición relevante en China, en la India y en los países de la Europa del Este.

Entre las acciones emprendidas para abrir mercados, queremos también compartir con ustedes, los esfuerzos que estamos desarrollando para implementar un Programa de mejoramiento de la calidad, tendiente a dar coherencia a las iniciativas públicas y privadas que permitan, asegurar la inocuidad de los alimentos, la rotulación y certificación de los procesos productivos que agreguen valor a los productos. Se está fomentado la incorporación de tecnologías en todas las etapas del proceso que va entre el uso de los recursos hasta el consumo de los alimentos, potenciando la utilización de tecnologías informáticas y financieras modernas.

Para alcanzar los objetivos de desarrollo planteados, los procesos productivos necesitan un marco de estabilidad. Es por ello que estamos creando condiciones para otorgar seguridad y confianza a los agricultores con instrumentos como el Seguro agrícola, la Bolsa de productos agrícolas, la banca especializada y otros mecanismo que no distorsionen la producción y el comercio.

Finalmente quiero destacar Sr. Presidente, que Chile está realizando una profunda revisión de la estructura institucional del sector público, de su organización y de su funcionamiento para orientar a las instituciones hacia el servicio de los usuarios y para mejorar la calidad de la gestión pública.

Estamos convencidos que los efectos de la globalización en las economías traen también dificultades y desafíos en el sector agrícola. Hoy pertenecemos a un mundo relacionado y los procesos se vinculan a los recursos con el consumo, a los insumos con los alimentos, a los alimentos con la nutrición y la salud humana. Estos efectos sobre otros sectores otorgan el carácter multifuncional del sector agropecuario pero exigiendo definiciones claras y determinantes sobre el proceso agrícola.

En el año 1990 Chile recuperó la democracia, un conjunto de partidos políticos se unieron en una propuesta que tomó la tarea de devolver al país los valores de libertad y respetabilidad de la persona, en un momento en que la situación de la población pobre de Chile se había convertido en un gran problema de índole nacional, fue necesario entonces diseñar estrategias y políticas para la superación de la pobreza. En los últimos 11 años transcurridos desde entonces, la pobreza se ha reducido en Chile desde un 38,6 por ciento a un 20 por ciento, mientras los niveles de indigencia se redujeron de un 12,9 por ciento a un 5,7 por ciento.

Destacamos lo logros alcanzados en este orden de consideraciones, sin embargo, nuestras consciencias ilustradas, día a día son golpeadas ante las tasas de pobreza y de indigencia que aún subsisten y es por ello que redoblamos nuestros esfuerzos y capacidades en la lucha permanente en contra de este fragelo.

Recientemente y en el marco de los Acuerdos firmados en la exitosa experiencia alcanzada en la Mesa del diálogo agrícola en la que participaron representantes de la producción de la docencia, de los gremios y del sector público, se ha puesto en marcha en mi país mediante el esfuerzo público y privado, una Mesa para el desarrollo de la agricultura familiar campesina, que ha permitido intercambiar información e indicar las bases de lo que es la política agraria chilena.

Chile ha demostrado con hechos su voluntad política de luchar contra el hambre y de generar las condiciones de seguridad alimentaria para sus habitantes, impulsando la producción, dando a la gente acceso a los recursos o reduciendo las limitaciones para producir y alimentarse. El país, este año, hizo un aporte al Programa Mundial de Alimentos con una contribución extraordinaria para las emergencias causadas por el hambre que afectan al mundo, y también para aliviar las condiciones de hambre y desnutrición de los niños de Afganistán.

Sres. delegados, el Gobierno de Chile está convencido que el futuro, a pesar de la inestabilidad por los sucesos mundiales de todos conocidos, presenta para mi país perspectivas promisorias en el sector agropecuario.

Se nos avecinan nuevos desafíos, que pueden parecer debilidades, pero que estamos obligados a convertir en fortalezas, con nuestras capacidades, nuestros recursos, nuestros sueños y nuestras inteligencias.

Mi país, además de la vocación agropecuaria, del empuje de su gente de campo y de los recursos humanos y productivos con que cuenta, tiene la voluntad política de llevar adelante los apoyos a procesos de producción que entreguen alimentos de calidad y en condiciones sanitarias óptimas para nuestra población y para los mercados internacionales; queremos seguir cuidando y potenciando nuestros recursos y reducir los grados de pobreza rural.

Finalizo recordando la advertencia expresada recientemente por el Presidente del Banco Mundial, quien señaló que "Si no tendemos una mano a la gente viviendo en la pobreza y si no se crea una mejor distribución de la riqueza, no habrá paz en el mundo". Y nosotros podemos agregar que sin paz, no hay confianza en producir, se restringe el comercio por lo cual nuestro sector agrícola requiere de este estado de tranquilidad para producir aquello que nuestros consumidores están demandando y de ese modo poder seguir contribuyendo al bienestar y a la felicidad de todos los seres humanos.

Mineichi IWANAGA (Japan) (Original language Japanese)

It is a great honour for me to attend this Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference and to make this statement on behalf of the Japanese Government here today. I would like to sincerely pay my respects to Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, and the FAO Secretariat for organizing this Conference.

I would also like to pay tribute to the many lives sacrificed in the appalling terrorist attack on 11 September in New York and take the opportunity to reach out to all present and ask them to offer their cooperation to overcome this terrible moment and rediscover peace for the good of mankind. In this regard, the Government of Japan will make its utmost effort through the UN Organizations to alleviate vulnerable people's difficulties caused by the recent unpredictable events.

Five years have passed since the World Food Summit. It is a matter of grave concern that we are now unlikely to meet the target of halving the number of undernourished people in the world by the year 2025. It is important to review and learn lessons from the past.

Experience of implementing the agreements of Uruguay Round negotiations: The last five years have also been the period for implementing the agreements made during the Uruguay Round negotiations. In terms of the global supply and demand for cereals, production tends to exceed demand in exporting developed countries and the gap between production and demand is widening. As a result, exports from these countries continue to expand. In developing countries, conversely, both production and demand are increasing, but production tends to lag behind demand and the gap between the two is widening. For this reason, dependence on imports for food supply is growing ever stronger in these countries. In this regard, there is inequitable benefit

sharing in that food insecurity is becoming protracted and increasingly serious in developing countries, while the major exporting countries are benefiting from an expansion of exports. Moreover, with the decline in agricultural product prices over the last few years, new problems are emerging. For example, some countries are being forced to seek additional support for agriculture.

Achieving food security: Given that the international food supply and demand might be tight in the future, not to mention the problems of hunger and malnutrition in developing countries and elsewhere, we must try to achieve sustainable improvements in food productivity in each country, rather than increasing their food dependency on exporting developed countries. In other words, it is important to ensure food security based on domestic production in each country, while appropriately combining imports and public stockholding.

Ensuring food security is a task of the utmost priority, not only for developing countries but for the whole of humanity, including industrialized countries. I think we need to establish trade rules that would allow us to place domestic agricultural production as the basis of the food supply.

Sustainable agricultural and rural development: Sustainable agricultural and rural developments play a fundamental role in improving the lives of people in rural areas (home to some 75 percent of people below the poverty line) and securing employment. At the same time, they create various tangible and intangible values over and beyond those of agricultural products. For example, sustained agricultural production, conservation of land and natural environments through lifestyle activities in harmony with those environments, and so on. Certainly, these values could not be substituted by imports.

International food stockholding: Japan has proposed a framework for international food stockholding to WTO, aiming at strengthening support schemes for food security in developing countries, especially NFIDCs and LDCs, through alleviating temporary and large-scale food shortage problems caused by natural or manmade disasters. The proposed scheme would ensure the international food stockholdings of basic foodstuffs and contribute to the more effective implementation of food aid. Many countries, including developing countries, have shown great interest in our proposal.

In the future, we would like to elaborate our proposal towards the realization of international stockholding.

Forestry, fisheries: We are fully aware of the important role played by forests and forestry in food security, such as through the conservation and sustainable use of soil and water resources, and we would like to stress the need to further promote sustainable forest management. In Japan, basic laws on forests and forestry have been enacted recently, and we are making efforts to promote sustainable forest management.

With respect to fisheries, the Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem, was a good opportunity to promote the ecosystem considerations in fisheries management. I wish to stress that sustainable use of living marine resources, including marine mammals, would contribute to world food security, given the very fact that marine mammals consume three to five times as much of the world marine capture production.

Food safety, food labelling, biotechnology, genetically modified foods: These days, consumers and civil society are showing growing concern over food labelling and food safety and quality. It is therefore ever more important to ensure the safety of food products and provide relevant information to consumers with appropriate approaches based on science.

Since biotechnology, in particular, harbours the potential to solve the world's malnutrition problems, in order to ensure the safety of biotechnology food, provide accurate information and more, gain the consumers' understanding and confidence in biotechnology products, FAO is expected to prioritize activities in this direction, similar to those of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Initiatives and cooperation from Japan: Japan is the top donor of ODA in the world. Particularly in the sectors of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. We implemented bilateral governmental development aid amounting to US\$ 6.573 million between 1996 and 1999. The aim was to support sustainable agricultural and rural development, self-help efforts by developing countries to increase their own food production, and so on. We have also cooperated in the follow-up of the World Food Summit through the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), the Food Insecurity Vulnerability Mapping System (FIVIMS), and voluntarily contributed to many other FAO projects. Furthermore, we are planning to study new support for FAO activities making use of the Human Security Fund, in support of efforts to eradicate hunger via FAO.

Coexistence of diversity forms of agriculture: FAO's role in the Twenty-first century, in which we are faced with accelerating globalization and various issues on a global scale, is becoming increasingly important.

In particular, the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference is fast approaching. There, the hope is to start off a new round for deciding trade rules in the Twenty-first century. We will rigorously verify the situation of agriculture and agricultural policies, including the status of the world food supply and demand, malnutrition, and poverty since the completion of the Uruguay Round negotiation, and will strongly request that FAO correctly evaluates and analyses these as well as taking appropriate actions based on its findings. Finally, we hope that each country will pay greater attention to the importance of ensuring food security, which the coexistence of various types of agriculture amongst countries will realize in various countries and regions in the Twenty-first century, and that eradication of hunger and food security for all can be achieved through increasing food production.

Manfred BÖTSCH (Suisse)

Pendant que nous menons ce débat nécessaire et substantiel sur le problème de l'alimentation dans le monde, 25 000 personnes meurent chaque jour de faim et des suites de malnutrition. Il est donc indispensable que des actions résolues justifient notre présence ici. Nous sommes tous appelés à endiguer cette tragédie et à y mettre fin dans un avenir prévisible. Même les plus belles paroles ne nous exemptent pas de tenir l'engagement que nous avons pris en 1996. Depuis lors, nul n'est besoin d'être prophète pour connaître l'ampleur du drame; nous en sommes tous témoins. L'absence de volonté politique tant au Sud qu'au Nord et le manque de prise de responsabilité sont les deux principaux obstacles à la réussite de la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté et à la mise en œuvre des sept engagements de la Déclaration de Rome. Aujourd'hui, cinq ans après, force est de constater que le monde est loin d'avoir atteint l'objectif de réduire de 22 millions par an le nombre de personnes qui souffrent de la faim. Non seulement, ce nombre n'a reculé que de 6 millions par an mais - ce qui est pire encore - selon la FAO, son taux de diminution a ralenti. Au rythme des années passées, il faudrait 60 ans au lieu de 15 pour atteindre l'objectif du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. En dépit des sept engagements pris par les gouvernements, nous risquons de ne pas y parvenir. La réalisation du plan d'action ne progresse en effet pas à la vitesse souhaitée. La faim, grave affront à la dignité humaine et aux droits de l'homme, est un obstacle fondamental au développement de la société et des individus, tant sur le plan matériel que moral et spirituel. La faim alimente les conflits, l'extrémisme et la délinquance; elle réduit la productivité des affamés et des nations, elle diminue l'espérance de vie et elle est un obstacle à la santé familiale. La Suisse estime que l'évolution décevante de ces dernières années s'explique par les raisons suivantes: - La pauvreté entraîne la faim, qui à son tour renforce la pauvreté. La faim est ainsi à la fois la cause et la conséquence de la pauvreté. On ne saurait donc combattre celle-ci sans éradiquer la faim, qui en est la pire manifestation. Il faut par conséquent se concentrer davantage sur la faim et le développement rural, pour atténuer la pauvreté et pour sortir de ce cercle vicieux.

La globalisation, qui a produit des effets inégaux en ce qui concerne la prospérité et la libéralisation n'a pas apporté les résultats escomptés aux plus pauvres dans les pays en développement. La croissance économique, le commerce international et une économie fondée sur les lois du marché sont, certes, nécessaires, mais ils ne suffisent pas à éliminer la faim et la pauvreté. - Les catastrophes naturelles et celle provoquées par l'homme ont encore augmenté ces

dernières années. Les guerres et les conflits armés touchent une bonne moitié des populations sous-alimentées. A cela s'ajoutent les changements climatiques et les catastrophes écologiques avec leurs incidences imprévisibles sur les rendements agricoles.

Les moyens mis à disposition par les principales institutions de financement dans le secteur agricole sont en baisse depuis cinq ans. La croissance de la production agricole mondiale s'est ralentie. – La pandémie du SIDA s'est rapidement propagée dans les pays en développement depuis 1996. Cette maladie affecte la génération la plus importante du point de vue économique.

Enfin, mentionnons la raison principale: les gouvernements des pays concernés et des pays donateurs ne se sont pas assez engagés dans la lutte contre la faim et contre ses causes. La volonté politique fait défaut; l'agriculture et le développement rural ne sont pas considérés comme des priorités et sont par conséquent négligés. Il convient cependant d'accorder la priorité au développement rural car 70 pour cent des pauvres vivent dans des régions agricoles. Malgré l'évolution peu encourageante, nous devons continuer à lutter et ne pas perdre courage! La FAO de même que la Suisse avec son aide publique au développement et ses ONG accordent la priorité à une approche participative de lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde et s'efforcent de concevoir des stratégies adaptées aux divers pays. En ce qui concerne l'offre de denrées alimentaires, la majorité des pays en développement devra veiller en premier lieu à promouvoir une agriculture durable et à accroître la productivité. Du côté de la demande, la croissance économique atténue la pauvreté, fait augmenter le pouvoir d'achat, facilite l'accès à la nourriture et renforce la sécurité alimentaire à plusieurs niveaux. Il importe de créer un contexte propice et stable pour le développement durable de l'agriculture et de l'économie ("Good Policy, Good Governance") et de mener une politique agricole accordant un poids accru aux fonctions écologique et sociale ainsi qu'aux prestations d'intérêt général. Pour la Suisse, les champs d'action prioritaires sont les suivants: - La paix et sa sauvegarde sont des fondements nécessaires de la sécurité alimentaire: la Suisse participe activement aux missions de paix.

La bonne gestion des affaires publiques se concrétise par de bonnes conditions-cadre politiques, institutionnelles, juridiques, sociales et économiques qui sont indispensables à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et d'une politique agricole cohérente. – Les réformes axées sur l'économie de marché doivent s'accompagner de mesures sociales destinées à améliorer la situation alimentaire des groupes les plus pauvres de la population. – Une politique agricole cohérente est nécessaire pour décourager une urbanisation excessive et rétablir l'équilibre en faveur du développement rural décentralisé, afin que les investissements dans les régions marginales augmentent. – Sur le plan des échanges, les pays de l'OCDE doivent réduire encore, dans le cadre de l'OMC, les entraves au commerce des produits agricoles tout en prenant en considération les objectifs non commerciaux de l'agriculture. A cet égard, la Suisse soutient l'initiative de l'Union européenne en faveur des pays les moins développés visant à accorder à ces derniers un meilleur accès au marché européen. – Production durable. A long terme, seule une production durable peut assurer une base d'approvisionnement suffisante en ménageant les ressources, telles que le sol, la forêt, l'eau et la biodiversité. Une politique orientée vers la durabilité vise plusieurs objectifs. Elle favorise la compensation sociale par une occupation décentralisée du territoire et l'engagement d'une main-d'œuvre nombreuse. Elle permet de ménager les ressources naturelles et incite à fournir des prestations dans l'intérêt d'une sécurité alimentaire durable. Elle accorde donc une grande importance aux fonctions écologique et sociale de l'agriculture. Permettez-moi dans ce contexte d'annoncer que la Suisse organisera l'année prochaine en liaison avec le processus Rio +10 et pour célébrer l'Année internationale de la montagne une conférence sur le thème: "Agriculture et développement durable dans les régions de montagne".

On ne parviendra à un développement durable qu'à la condition d'associer la population concernée à l'identification, l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre des programmes destinés à promouvoir le développement agricole et rural. Il importe tout particulièrement d'y associer les femmes afin de les rendre plus autonomes dans le sens de l'*empowerment*. Il ne faudra pas non plus oublier les personnes âgées et les orphelins du SIDA. Ces générations sont souvent menacées de famine. Elles ont donc besoin d'un soutien ciblé sous la forme de programmes, d'une part et l'encouragement de l'intégration sociale, d'autre part. Dans le contexte de la lutte contre la faim, le

droit à la nourriture doit être imposé dans le cadre du droit international. Il fait partie des droits économiques, sociaux et culturels. Or, il n'est pas encore justiciable et les personnes concernées ne peuvent pas porter plainte. Cependant, en rapport avec le développement des droits de l'homme, on a commencé, ces dernières années, à accorder davantage d'importance à ce droit et à son application. L'élaboration d'un code de conduite serait une évolution encourageante que la Suisse soutient.

Permettez-moi maintenant d'arriver à la conclusion. Ce qui compte, c'est la volonté politique de tous les partenaires et la nécessité de fixer les priorités en matière de pauvreté pour lutter contre la faim. Pour atteindre la sécurité alimentaire, j'aimerais souligner que la Suisse se félicite de l'adoption du Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture au cours de cette Conférence, et pour terminer je veux souligner sur une autre note positive. Je tiens à vous annoncer que la Suisse entend augmenter de 0.3 pour cent actuellement à 0,4 pour cent du produit national brut sa contribution à l'aide au développement au cours des prochaines dix années. Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

Juán NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Con mucho placer le vemos presidiendo esta importante reunión, estimado colega y admirado embajador, Francis Montanaro, también, con plena confianza, le deseamos éxito en su conducción.

Distinguidos delegados y participantes en esta Conferencia, este 31 período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO tiene lugar en momentos controvertidos para la humanidad. El nuevo siglo, al tiempo que arrastró dificultades del anterior, incorporó otras insospechadas que agravan y complican la situación internacional.

Criminales acciones terroristas, como las ocurridas en ciudades norteamericanas –que Cuba condenó de inmediato- se mezclan con conflictos bélicos. Ambas con pérdida de vidas humanas, bombardeos que golpean a poblaciones civiles. La incertidumbre prevalece. Circunstancias que gravitan en general a nivel global, y en particular en la esferas de acción de todos nosotros: la seguridad alimentaria.

Precisamente en esta fecha, estaba fijada la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, la que vio afectada su realización por las circunstancias descritas, ajenas a la voluntad de la Organización. Primero el cambio de lugar que, por primera vez, en la historia de la FAO se le planteó realizar este magno evento fuera de su sede, después agudizada por la inseguridad internacional. Debido a ello se pospuso el evento a las fechas propuestas.

En el 121° Consejo de la FAO fue aprobado, como resultado de un impostergable y necesario examen a realizar de verificación de lo acordado, realizar la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, en Roma, del 10 al 13 de junio del 2002, producto de un importante compromiso de consenso que fortalece el espíritu de la cita internacional a su más alto nivel.

Para los países en vías de desarrollo la realización de este evento es de vital importancia, el hambre no puede esperar.

Cuba asistió a la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación celebrada en Roma en noviembre de 1996, identificada con los propósitos y aspiraciones de la convocatoria de la FAO, buscando que la comunidad internacional se comprometiera con la necesidad de erradicar la pobreza, el hambre y la malnutrición.

Un aspecto fundamental de estos acuerdos fue su credibilidad.

Todos recordamos como en esta misma sala del presidente de Cuba, Fidel Castro, comenzara su inolvidable alocución, y cito: "El hambre, inseparable compañera de los pobres, es hija de la desigual distribución de las riquezas y de las injusticias de este mundo."

Los valores proclamados en la Declaración de Roma y el Plan de Acción, coinciden en el plano general con las políticas y acciones que Cuba asumió hace ya cuatro décadas, sobre la base de los más elevados valores éticos difundidos por la obra de la Revolución.

El tiempo transcurrido no perfila que los imperativos de erradicar el flagelo del hambre, así como el compromiso de voluntad política, acordado en la Cumbre, se hayan cumplido.

Lejos de ellos, hay más pobres y la brecha entre ricos y pobres es mayor, lo que no es casual, sino resultante de un orden internacional profundamente injusto que es insostenible, pues destruye, degrada y arrastra al exterminio el 95 por ciento de los habitantes del mundo, de lo que muy cerca está hoy el 25 por ciento de su población.

Si para los países pobres del planeta, el desarrollo sostenible es una meta difícil, en las circunstancias actuales, para Cuba resulta un camino aún más complejo. No basta la voluntad de trabajar y coronar a un pueblo con lo que merece, es trabajar con más esfuerzo cuando en paralelo se libra una guerra económica, política y hasta biológica.

En este sentido, todos recordamos que en noviembre del pasado año se reiteró la resolución en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, por abrumadora mayoría, casi un consenso, sobre la necesidad de poner fin al bloqueo comercial y financiero contra Cuba y la necesidad de eliminar la aplicación unilateral de medidas por parte de un Estado sobre otro, que no es más que aplicar lo acordado en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996, que señala en su Declaración Política: "Los alimentos no deberían utilizarse como instrumento de presión política y económica". Acuerdo que reiteradamente ha solicitado su aplicación en sus distintas instancias, las reuniones de la FAO.

Además de lo señalado, que Cuba enfrenta con valentía y con dignidad, también tenemos que sufrir las furias de la naturaleza, precisamente en estos momentos que estamos haciendo uso de la palabra. Me refiero al paso del Huracán *Michelle* de categoría 4 en la escala Zafir-Simpson, caracterizado como el más intenso que ha azotado a Cuba en 50 años. Fueron evacuadas más de 600.000 personas a lo largo de toda la isla y se han reportado hasta el momento cinco muertes. Los daños a infraestructuras y a la agricultura son incalculables y se evaluarán tan pronto vuelvan a la normalidad todos los sistemas.

Nuestra intención, cuando iniciamos los preparativos de nuestra intervención como representante de la delegación de Cuba en este foro, era el de ofrecer un resumen de indicadores comparativos de los progresos del país en cuanto a los compromisos del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, pero preferimos dejar el análisis de esos indicadores para el interesado en el Informe de país. El momento demanda otro análisis urgente que debe centrar toda nuestra atención.

Según fuentes estadísticas de la FAO, el día 11 de septiembre de este año 2001 murieron de hambre en el mundo 35.615 niños. Detengámonos un momento ante esta cifra, sin más comentario que lo manifestado, sólo agregando que son niños. Los cuales murieron, por supuesto, en los países pobres del planeta, pero no tuvieron la cobertura especial de televisión en ningún caso, ni artículos de prensa, ni mensajes, ni convocatoria de gabinetes de crisis, ni manifestaciones de solidaridad. Por ellos las bolsas no sufrieron.

Nuestra delegación aboga por el liderazgo de los organismos internacionales, por la necesidad de priorizar nuestro espacio que es el trabajar por la eliminación del flagelo del hambre y para tal empeño son necesarios la paz y el cese de las acciones bélicas que impiden realizar nuestra tarea.

Ningún país por si solo puede salir de la pobreza sin la cooperación y la colaboración internacionales y la pobreza engendra hambre.

Aunque es peligrosa la síntesis, el desafío está ahí: perfilar un camino para llegar a soluciones, mejorar los mecanismos de distribución de la riqueza, en fin buscar lo que de hecho es nuestro compromiso, descartando el infantilismo de que el hambre es tan solo una fatalidad. Tal empeño no podría realizarse sin tener presente: la erradicación de la deuda externa, sin suscribir acuerdos sobre el deterioro del medio ambiente, sin cumplir los compromisos de la ayuda al desarrollo, la

eliminación del intercambio desigual, el tener acceso a los alimentos, sin olvidar, entre otros factores, una más correcta política de género.

Hoy hay tiempo aún de revertir el caos que se avizora, eliminemos las causas de la pobreza y el hambre de las enfermedades. Eliminemos la brecha cada vez mayor entre los ricos y los pobres, demos un punto final al hegemonismo y estaremos dando fin a estas causas. Las bombas no matan el hambre, la pobreza y las enfermedades y mucho menos los lamentables hechos ocurridos recientemente.

Con la experiencia de la construcción de nuestra sociedad y los justos valores que defendemos, así como con la solidaridad internacional, Cuba continuará trabajando, tanto dentro de la FAO, cuyos vínculos se fortalecen, como en toda tribuna, forum o evento que se convoque en el mundo, hasta lograr el despertar de las conciencias por una real voluntad política y la ejecución de medidas conducentes a un nuevo orden internacional y por el fortalecimiento de la política multilateral, que lleven a la verdadera solución de los grandes problemas que afectan a la humanidad. Esto constituye, con proa hacia el futuro, nuestro verdadero reto.

Bonaya Adhi GODANA (Kenya)

On behalf of the Kenyan delegation, I would like to thank you Mr Chairman for giving me this opportunity to address this important FAO forum. I wish to join my fellow delegates in congratulating you on your election to chair the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference. We are confident that you will steer the deliberations to a successful conclusion.

Since the last conference in 1999, Kenya has experienced a very contrasting state of food and agriculture. At the time of the last Conference, the country was experiencing a serious drought that necessitated a delegation, through this forum, to request food aid to the tune of 100 000 tonnes from the World Food Programme and the international donor community. During the year 2000, the drought situation worsened and the country experienced one of the longest and severest droughts in 40 years. Consequently, production of maize, the major staple grain, dropped by over 20 percent.

A similar decline in production occurred in other food crops such as wheat, beans, sorghum, pulses, root and tubers. The drought also negatively affected production of cash crops such as tea, coffee, pyrethrum and horticulture. These cash crops contribute immensely to food security by enhancing the purchasing power of those who mainly grow them and practise very little or no food crop production.

The drought also impacted negatively on livestock production, particularly in the arid and semi-arid zones of our country, which constitute over 75 percent of the total land area. Livestock losses in these zones were over 20 percent.

By the end of the year 2000, nearly 4 million Kenyans, mainly in those arid and semi arid zones, were relying mainly if not entirely on famine relief support. During the year we received food amounting to approximately 200 000 tonnes of grains, legumes and vegetable oils.

On behalf of the people of Kenya I wish to hereby thank the World Food Programme and the international donor community for coming to our assistance during that difficult period.

I am happy to inform this forum that, during the current year 2001, above-normal rains have been received in most parts of the country, particularly in the major grain-producing regions, and it is estimated that reasonable production of major food crops will be realized.

Yet it is important to note that some Kenyans residing in semi-arid and arid parts of the country have not fully recovered from the previous drought and still rely on famine food support.

Kenya is also currently experiencing a temporary marketable maize surplus because of harvests of the main crop from different parts of the country starting to flow into the market at the same time. We would therefore like to request the World Food Programme to explore the possibilities of local procurement of some of the country's food aid maize, as well as the sending of such aid to

some neighbouring countries where the Programme is engaged in food aid, such as in Somalia and southern Sudan.

Turning to the World Food Summit: *five years later*, I would like to state that Kenya has made significant headway as far as the seven commitments made during the Summit are concerned, especially as regards food security issues. Kenya is one of the first 15 countries to implement the Special Programme on Food Security funded by FAO. Drawing on experiences from this programme, we adopted the farmer field schools approach, whereby pilot farmers are used to educate fellow farmers on agricultural production practices.

Where it has been implemented this approach has proved useful in supporting our extension service and has greatly enhanced food security.

Poverty was identified at the Summit as a major contributor to food insecurity and in this regard I am happy to state that we have developed a master plan for poverty reduction for the current period, running to the year 2015.

Market access, which was also identified as one of the ways of increasing food security, has also received our attention. My country has been in the forefront of promoting regional cooperation and trading blocks; we now have a free market economy of a twenty-member Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), as well as the three-member East African Community. This has greatly enhanced the physical free flow of food, and therefore food security in our region. We are also harmonizing other regional activities such as the control of transboundary diseases and migratory pests, as well as other phytosanitary measures.

We are also aware that we are part of a global village. As a country which exports a range of commodities to other countries, such as tea, coffee, pyrethrum, vegetables, fruits, flowers, fish and livestock products (among others) we have to take into account environmental issues. Consequently, we have mounted serious educational campaigns for our farmers regarding the safe use of agrochemicals in order to avoid excess residues in the export produce.

Concerning rural development issues, Kenya has adopted a master plan known as the Kenya Rural Development Strategy, which recommends collaboration and partnership among the relevant stakeholders in the process of rural development. Whereas, in the past, the country relied principally on the Government as the sole provider of services, the new approach recognizes the crucial role of all other service providers including development issues. Kenya has adapted a master plan known as the Kenya Rural Development Strategy which recommends collaboration and partnership among the relevant stakeholders in the process of rural development. While in the past the country relied principally on the Government as the sole provider of services, the new approach recognizes the crucial role of all other service providers including the civil society and NGOs. Our efforts to implement the various recommendations of the 1996 World Summit continue to face challenges, such as weak farmer organizations, the high cost of production, frequent and long-lasting droughts, influx of refugees, conflicts, transboundary livestock diseases and the pandemic HIV and AIDS. We expect to tackle these challenges through a variety of strategies and appeal to our development partners to help us fund some of these. As we meet here in this Conference, most of the challenges that made us meet in 1996 are still with us. This is indeed the reason why the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Kofi Annan, challenged the group of countries in the Horn of Africa, Kenya included, to take the lead in self-evaluation as to why the region has been perpetually vulnerable to food shortages. The Horn of Africa remains the most food-insecure region in the world with nearly 14 million people out of a total population of 160 million being food insecure. The nations of the Horn of Africa met in Nairobi, Kenya, in July this year, under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization and came up with proposals on how food insecurity problems in the region could be tackled in a sustainable manner. It is expected that the proposals will form part of the recommendations to the World Food Summit: *five years later*, later this year or early next year. Kenya has already gone a step further to initiate programmes aimed at improving food security in some of the areas in the country where our poverty levels are at their highest.

Noel DAVERN (Ireland)

I am pleased and honoured to represent Ireland on the important occasion of the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference. We come together at a time of increased international tension and uncertainty but, regardless of difficulties, we meet together, here in Rome, with a common purpose. We are all committed to the realization of the goals set out in the 1996 World Food Summit.

Ireland has recently enjoyed rapid economic growth. Throughout the changes which this growth has brought, agriculture has remained a sector which is hugely significant for Ireland. The Irish agrifood sector is an important industry, based on local resources, which accounts for over 10 percent of GDP and employment, and around one-quarter of total net foreign earnings from trade. We are committed to the development of a dynamic and competitive agrifood sector and a vibrant, sustainable rural economy and society.

We have always been committed to our development aid programme. We have publicly declared that we will commit the UN target of spending 0.7 percent of GNP on official development assistance by the end of 2007. We expect to reach our interim target of 0.45 percent by the end of 2002.

Ireland is proud to have one of the fastest growing aid programmes of the OECD countries. This increased budgetary commitment demands that we carefully target our programmes to ensure the optimum use of funding. We are therefore currently undertaking a major review of our entire aid programme to endeavour to improve its effectiveness. However, we will always remain focused on poverty alleviation and continue to emphasize the essential connection between human rights and human development. Ireland supports the work undertaken with FAO in seeking to achieve food security for all. We are pleased to see the changes being implemented, with FAO starting the Strategic Framework initiative followed by the new programme of work and budget, the first to be presented under the new framework. These changes, which promote a greater strategic focus, can only benefit the Organization in its invaluable work. Of course, more needs to be done and we hope, therefore, that the process of internal reform will be pursued with vigour over the coming two years.

It can be clearly seen from the State of Food and Agriculture document prepared for this Conference that food security is a multifaceted issue. There are many problems preventing the achievement of food security, including wars and conflicts, natural disasters and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. There are also questions regarding trading practices. Of vital interest to production, security and trade will be the outcome of the World Trade Organization negotiations. We are all aware of the importance of the forthcoming Ministerial Conference in Doha. The EU mandate for the negotiations includes the provision for special and differential treatment for developing countries, as well as for certain "non-trade" concerns in the interests of developing countries such as poverty alleviation, food security and food aid.

Ireland believes that these issues are an important part of the WTO negotiations and should compliment the EU initiative known as "Everything but Arms", which significantly improves market access for the least-developed countries.

We must continue to move forward and make genuine progress on the many issues surrounding food security in a spirit of openness and in true partnership. We need to continue to work, in a practical way, in every forum and at every opportunity to deliver the goals we committed ourselves to in 1996. Ireland has the role of EU President at the World Food Summit and was deeply involved in the negotiation of the Plan of Action. By meeting the UN target for official development aid in 2007 we will show, in a very concrete fashion, that we are committed to meeting the World Food Summit targets and making a real difference to the lives of the poorest people in the world. We are also looking forward to working with FAO and our partners in this vital task.

Roger CLARKE (Jamaica)

It is my distinct privilege as Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica to be able once again to visit Rome and to attend this Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference.

For me this is a great moment which provides an opportunity to reflect on the fact that there are still some 815 million undernourished people in the world, the majority being in the developing world. And to observe that even greater effort is needed at this stage to ensure a stable and predictable environment for food production if global food security is to be achieved.

In small developing countries such as Jamaica, with limited financial resources, we continue to face mounting pressures and a growing challenge to make our agricultural sector viable.

The effects of population growth, mounting pressure on existing arable agricultural land, lack of adequate and efficient irrigation systems, the vagaries of the weather, and the need to preserve biodiversity and to safeguard the environment make it mandatory that we focus more on new developmental strategies, technological innovations, infrastructural and institutional improvements in order to increase agricultural productivity.

It is against this background that my Government, in recognition of the critical importance of food security in the fight against poverty, has targeted the agricultural sector for special treatment in our overall economic development plan.

This seriousness of purpose is evident in existing plans for irrigation expansion, increased food crops and animal production, fisheries expansion, forestry development and conservation, improvements to our agricultural research infrastructure, and other support institutions with special emphasis on agricultural health and food safety.

While we observe that the global target for reducing hunger as set by the World Food Summit in 1996 has not met our expectations, I am pleased to announce that in Jamaica the situation is much more positive.

The FAO estimate of 10 percent of the population, or 250 000 people, undernourished for the period 1996-1998 compares favourably with the 783 000 persons estimated to be undernourished by the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) in 1994.

This significant reduction in the number of persons undernourished is concomitant with the reduction in the poverty levels from 22.9 percent in 1994 to 15.9 percent in 1998 and speaks of the concerted efforts made by government to implement policies and programmes aimed at reducing significantly the level of poverty in Jamaica.

This reduction is also underpinned by an increase in mean per capita consumption in Jamaica (J\$32 713 in current prices in 1994 compared with J\$66 931 in current prices in 1998), growth in per capita energy supplies, reduction in malnutrition in children under five years old and longer life expectancy.

Despite this positive trend, however, we have not become complacent as we still face the formidable challenge of inequity of consumption patterns in society.

We continue in our efforts to increase food production and productivity in the country through the development and implementation of projects which target production, as well as the support services in order to foster sustainable growth and increasing self-reliance.

In addition, our social safety net and social investment programmes have been reorganized to target the poor and vulnerable and have been making significant inroads in providing much needed support to this most deserving segment of our population.

FAO continues to play an important supportive role, and we have been the beneficiary of several technical cooperation projects that are contributing significantly to our achievements.

I must therefore extend sincere congratulations from the Government and people of Jamaica to the Director-General – a great friend of Jamaica and the Caribbean – and to the excellent staff of the

Organization for the leadership provided and support given in the fight against poverty and malnutrition and for the positive contribution towards our region's development.

Jamaica overwhelmingly endorses the sentiments expressed by the Director-General: that considerably more resources are necessary if the global target of reducing poverty and malnutrition is to be achieved. Jamaica is committed to playing its role in that regard.

Jamaica is pleased to have hosted the 1999 TeleFood concert, which not only made a modest contribution to the fight against malnutrition but also provided a window of opportunity to expose to the rest of the world our unique charm, beauty and culture.

We executed our duties with panache, diligence and efficiency in mounting an international event of that magnitude. It was particularly pleasing that the Director-General was able to attend and enjoy true Jamaican hospitality, which we always so generously offer.

Jamaica is an avowed supporter of FAO and its work. Through our active participation in many of its governing and technical bodies we have been able, despite our limited size and resources, to make an effective contribution and to have a voice in international affairs of critical importance to our economic and social development.

We also have first-hand experience of FAO's expertise. The Organization has over the years provided technical assistance to many important sectors of Jamaica's agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Like many other small developing countries faced with the risks and opportunities of an increasingly globalized economy, we deem it to be in our national interest to strengthen and better equip UN organizations such as FAO to deal with the overarching issues including those of hunger, poverty and trade liberalization.

Jamaica also prides itself on being a founding and active member of the Group of 77 (G-77).

Our foreign policy has as one of its cornerstones an unswerving commitment to the principles enshrined in the Charter of G-77 of solidarity and close cooperation among developing countries in the pursuit of the shared objectives of international peace and security, fair, equitable and sustainable development.

We firmly believe that only a united effort between all countries of the world will allow us to eradicate the scourge of poverty and hunger.

For these reasons Jamaica has proudly put forward its candidacy for the important position of Independent Chairman of the Council and accordingly seeks the support of this Conference.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment and for the excellent manner in which you have conducted this conference.

Let me wish for the Director-General continued blessings as he continues this gallant effort of leading this great Organization in the fight against hunger and to overcome the challenge of food insecurity which is a direct result of poverty.

Jamaica fully endorses the programme of work and budget for the next biennium and believes that the many interventions planned therein will go far in building self-reliance in our various countries.

Ajit SINGH (India)

On behalf of the Government of India, I extend my warmest greetings to you and to this distinguished assembly of delegates.

Let me also place on record our appreciation of FAO's continued efforts in addressing issues of rural poverty and food insecurity. The recently concluded International Treaty on Plant Genetic resources is one more illustration of the commitment of the international community to promote food security. But commitments in various fora, both national and international, often do not translate into action, with the result that the twentieth century has ended as a century of great

inequities. The figures quoted in the *State of Food and Agriculture 2001* of FAO show that the rate of reduction in the number of undernourished has slowed down and agricultural growth has slackened since 1996, falling to 1 percent in 2000. Recurring natural calamities and diseases like HIV/AIDS have taken a huge toll of rural livelihoods in many developing countries. National governments and international agencies to ensure the livelihood security of the people and to translate commitments into concrete action need sustained and continuous efforts. India has consistently held the view that enhancing agricultural productivity is one of the effective ways to combat rural poverty. In this context, we see a strong role for FAO in hunger reduction and are looking forward to the successful outcome of the proposed World Food Summit review in June 2002.

The Asian region is home to two-thirds of the world's malnourished and poor people. The region has to feed 57 percent of the world's population from only 33 percent of the world's arable land, which has been shrinking at a much faster rate than it has in the rest of the world. Overexploitation of marginal lands, water depletion and contamination, loss of biodiversity, all need to be monitored and curtailed. Agricultural practices must be reoriented in such a way that they yield the best returns per unit of land, water, money and time.

In India, as in other developing countries, the performance of the economy is closely dependent upon that of agriculture. Agriculture engages 60 percent of the workforce and contributes 25 percent to GDP, but 80 percent of our farmers own less than 2 hectares of land. It is a matter of pride that these resource-poor farmers have been able to increase our food production to over 200 million tonnes from a mere 50 million tonnes in 1947 at the time the country became Independent.

Food security in India, as in other developing countries, is becoming increasingly more vulnerable to the dynamics of trade liberalization. During the last six years or so, international prices of agricultural commodities have been steadily declining, and FAO studies have shown that agricultural exports have decreased since 1996 in all the regions. This has adversely impacted on the farming sector in these countries, and farmers have suffered on account of both production losses due to vagaries of weather and low prices. It is indeed an irony that, while developed countries extend subsidies worth US\$300 billion to their comparatively small, and already affluent, farming communities, barriers are raised to developing countries doing the same. The skewed nature of the present dispensation needs urgent attention.

The majority of the farmers in India and several other developing countries are engaged in subsistence farming, and are in need of continued government support. We have, therefore, proposed creation of a Food Security Box in the ongoing negotiations for the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. Farmers of developing countries urgently need a special safeguard mechanism as protection from surge in imports and to enhance their competitiveness in the world market.

We continue to support initiatives taken by FAO to consolidate and disseminate information for wider utility of member countries. The scope and coverage of information collection can be extended to cover agribusiness statistics so that the countries can frame their policies in the context of emerging market environment.

Climate changes and variability, global warming and environmental devastation have an impact directly on agricultural production. FAO should highlight the immense harm that global warming and other ecological threats can cause to poor nations. Studies by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have shown that a rise in temperature of 1° Celsius in northern India would reduce the duration of the wheat crop by one week, thereby depleting yield by 500 to 600 kilograms per hectare. We see a role for FAO in sensitizing the industrialized countries, which are responsible for more than 80 percent of greenhouse emissions.

There is emergent need to stimulate public investment in agriculture, particularly in irrigation and in research and development for diversification of agriculture, improving cropping patterns and increasing productivity. Sustaining and enlarging farm productivity through a sustainable green revolution based on principles of ecology, economics, social and gender equity and employment

generation is the need of the hour. This will call for a shift from a commodity-centred approach to farming systems based on technology generation and dissemination. Productivity improvement should be built on the foundation of an integrated natural resource management strategy, planned and implemented by local communities. We would therefore urge FAO to support country strategies which promote holistic and integrated watershed development and the efficient and equitable management of water resources. This would not only help in raising production levels, but also help greatly in stabilization of production, and thus strengthen the objective of food security.

While we recognize the importance of biotechnology in feeding the world in future decades, the impact of genetically modified crops on health and environment, food security, bio-safety and agricultural sustainability is a matter of widespread public debate. There is need to exchange know-how on developments in the field of biotechnology and simultaneously to take necessary steps to strengthen countries' capabilities to conduct risk assessment on genetically modified products. Similarly, with regard to sanitary and phytosanitary standards and technical barriers to trade agreement, developing countries need to strengthen their capabilities. Technical assistance to developing countries in these areas needs to be significantly enhanced.

Fisheries occupy a very important place in our economy, as it is a powerful income- and employment-generator. We endorse implementation of the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. In India, a major programme for creating awareness about this in coastal areas has been launched. With regard to the recommendations of the International Plan of Action (IPOA) on Reduction of Fishing Capacity, we have already started exercises for the optimization of the fishing fleet.

We endorse the intensification of efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of plant and animal pests and diseases. Capacity building and infrastructure development in developing countries for plant and animal quarantine need to be given the highest priority. In the field of capacity building in sanitary and phytosanitary measures, a time-bound intensified effort on a regional basis should be undertaken by FAO. We would like to urge that Codex standards be made more representative, in the sense that the standards very often do not reflect the conditions prevailing in developing countries. FAO should undertake studies on the possible adverse effects on exports from developing countries of certain commodities following the implementation of Codex standards and guidelines.

We see the Technical Cooperation Programme as an important source of rendering technical advice and support to developing countries in the unfolding trade scenario. We, therefore, strongly support the proposal to increase the funding of the Technical Cooperation Programme. We, however, recommend a close monitoring of the projects, as there is a considerable time lag between proposals and sanctions. We note with concern the fall in the extra-budgetary resources for non-emergency field programmes. The developing countries have consistently argued for a balance to be maintained between normative and field programmes in FAO. The status of the funding of non-emergency field programmes further strengthens the argument for higher allocation for TCP projects.

India has welcomed opportunities in multilateral settings to share technical expertise, talent and experience in agricultural development in the spirit of South-South cooperation. I would like to assure you of our continued support to these endeavours. We had pledged to render assistance under the Special Programme on Food Security to eight countries and we are glad that we have concluded agreements with Eritrea, Mozambique and Lesotho.

As an affirmation of faith in the international community in the role of the multilateral organizations in combating hunger and poverty, the resources for specialized agencies such as FAO need to be enhanced.

Once again I commend the role of FAO and feel confident that its efforts will usher in a new phase of agricultural development in the world.

Abdul Illah H. Mohammed SALEH (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

It is indeed a pleasure and an honour for me to present my country Iraq at the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference. It is my further pleasure to express heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, for his invitation addressed to us to attend this Conference and for the noble stand adopted by FAO *vis-à-vis* our dear country and standing by it since the imposition of the unjust embargo.

FAO has indeed contributed positively to treat what could be treated of the agricultural problems through extending certain urgent technical assistance to my country to enable the agricultural sector to play its role.

Despite the fact that five years have lapsed since the World Food Summit of 1996, we find that the food problem throughout the world still constitutes a real humane problem, since most countries suffer insufficiency in their food resources and the people suffer hunger or malnutrition and consequently poverty, which is the main cause of food insecurity. Furthermore, the food problem has come to assume an economic framework with an essentially political content. It is used as a means by which certain developed countries exert pressure on developing and poorest countries by various means.

Despite the all-out embargo imposed on my country since 1990 (and this embargo runs counter to the UN Charter and the documents and tools of its specialized agencies and their lofty objectives in ushering in development throughout the world – including agricultural development, for which the embargo is considered one of the main obstacles impeding my country from implementing the decisions of the World Food Summit), despite all this, Iraq has accorded special attention to the agricultural sector, it being the sector concerned with providing food and producing agricultural commodities which assumes greater importance during this period of embargo. That is why our strategy has concentrated on the production of grains and food crops, and for this we have adopted scientific techniques and policy within what is termed as international development programme concerned with the production of cereals, grains, rice, cotton, white maize and yellow maize and high-yielding varieties of olives and tomatoes.

These development programmes constitute the integrated action of agricultural research and application conducted by technicians with the participation and involvement of farmers on the basis of scientific rules and they have yielded the desired results at levels which far exceed what was planned for.

The leadership of Iraq has endorsed the project of our leader Saddam for the development of irrigation techniques, whether by sprinkle irrigation or drip irrigation, which are applied on an extensive scale in the field and which constitute a solution to the problems suffered by Iraq including the crisis of water as a result of the damming of international rivers by some countries bordering these rivers, regardless of the historical and natural right of Iraq to this water. Furthermore, work has continued in terms of the training and retraining of agricultural cadres and staff who have contributed considerably to the adaptation of development and technological progress, and their application in Iraq.

At a time when Iraq tries to alleviate the suffering of its people by serious work, patience and steadfastness in the face of the unjust embargo, and the time where it seeks to provide the components and inputs of agricultural production on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations, certain countries which are influential in the Security Council and the delegates of Committee 661 seek to obstruct the adoption of the contracts concluded on the basis of this Memorandum for periods amounting to several months while suspending some of them indefinitely. The number of contracts suspended in the field of agriculture and irrigation amounted to 174 with a total value of US\$420 million, among which 164 contracts had been previously approved and their supplies were already given to Iraq previously. The periods of suspension of these contracts regarding the provision of agricultural machinery and sprinkle irrigation systems and equipment exceeded 203 days, and even 500 days.

Let me address this question to this august assembly. How are we to contribute actively to the implementation of commitments emanating from the World Food Summit Plan of Action under this all-out economic embargo imposed on us for over ten years, and with continued intervention on the part of some committee members of Committee 661 to obstruct the contracts rated to food and agricultural inputs and veterinary products which contribute to effective increase of agricultural production? The requirements of the people of Iraq in terms of food are considerable and the needs of the agricultural sector are also considerable and what is allowed to enter Iraq constitutes only a small percentage of the total requirements. That is why I call upon the distinguished participants to take a serious stand in the right direction in order to alleviate the suffering of the people of Iraq, to impose justice and equity to enable Iraq to secure its urgent needs in terms of food, medicine and other human requirements and to effect agricultural developments along the road to all out development.

We ask the United Nations and its specialized agencies to defend their charters, instruments and declarations and to seek to put an end to all kinds of economic embargoes, particularly that the Rome Declaration on World Food Security issued in 1996 the following: "Food should never be used as a tool to exercise political and economic pressure". We reaffirm the importance of international solidarity and cooperation and refraining from unilateral measures which run counter to international laws and the UN Charter.

In conclusion, we should like to place on record our appreciation for the distinguished participants wishing all peoples of the world rapid agricultural development in order to attain freedom from hunger and a dignified life.

Wilhelm MOLTERER (Austria)

First of all, I would like to congratulate the honourable Mr President and the Vice-Chairmen of this Conference on their election to these responsible functions. I would also like to take the occasion to wish you the best possible success for the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference.

Austria has always supported the proposal of holding the World Food Summit as well as the review of its Plan of Action. The postponement of the World Food Summit is understandable, especially after 11 September, but we have to set the right signal and take the chance to work together and to solve problems together, to make the World Food Summit next year in June a successful Summit.

That brings me to the main goal of the World Food Summit, that is halving the number of undernourished people by the year 2015. This means that we have to achieve a reduction of at least 20 million undernourished people every year between now and 2015. The present trend shows that the number of undernourished people is falling, but at a rate that is still far below that which is needed. In fact, the current rate of reduction of around 6 million undernourished people per year reflects a too slow progress in order to reach the set goal. In spite of the continuing growth of the world economy and food production there are not only worldwide efforts necessary, but clear measures of action needed.

Despite this continuing, but not equal, distribution of economic growth and the increasing availability of considerable food reserves, progress towards the improvement of food security in many developing countries appears to be only marginal. For an effective strategy to help reduce undernourishment, as well as increase food security, it must be our primary goal to reduce or even eradicate poverty. To integrate developing countries into the global economy and have them take part in global trades are essential elements to promote their domestic economy.

The European Union made the first step last year by signing the "Everything but Arms" treaty with the 49 least-developed countries by giving full access to our markets. This should be seen as a positive signal and I hope others will follow.

That brings me to the next WTO round, which hopefully will be launched at the end of this week in Doha. The European Union as a whole, and Austria in particular, are in favour of this new round. This new trade round should lay down conditions for future economic relations and, in

particular, conditions to liberalize further the trade of agricultural commodities. But most important it should define conditions of fair trade.

The process of globalization is neither good nor bad. It is a process which cannot be stopped. But what we need is a globalization with clearly defined conditions. We have to give the political answer to concerns of the people, to our consumers. We have to lay down rules which respect the long-term objectives of sustainable development as defined in Rio in 1992. I therefore consider that sustainable development has to be the answer for globalization. There is an increasing urgency to address sustainability in the light of the growing political, economic and social tensions around the world. These items will be part of the subject of the Summit in Johannesburg next year.

Fair trade means that within the next round we need to negotiate rules for trade concerns as well as non-trade concerns. We need rules which respect food safety. But also questions regarding the multifunctional role of agriculture in the environment, as well as for instance animal welfare, must also be considered in order to prevent market distortion. Sustainable agriculture and the positive development of rural areas are important targets not only for my country, not only for the European Union, but for all countries of the world. As regards the contribution of Austria to FAO, Austria provides targeted support for FAO activities at both regional and global levels. In this context I would like to mention the Tenth Session of the Working Party on Women and Families in Rural Development, which was held in 2000 and highlighted the significance of FAO and the important role it plays in Europe as a platform for the exchange of experiences and as a promoter of East-West and North-South cooperation. The discussions of this successful meeting focused on the rural youth issue which is connected to Item 6 of the agenda on the FAO Plan of Action on Gender and Development 2002 to 2007. Another point on the agenda that is of major importance to Austria is the point concerning the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture adopted last Saturday. It is not only the conclusion of long efforts but also a step forward to reaching the goal of food security. Facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is a main pillar on which the Treaty is built, a major benefit to developing as well as developed countries.

A few remarks on the forthcoming programme of work and budget:

The allocation of the budget resources should be based on transparency, taking into account the needs of developing countries and countries in transition and the policies of the contributing countries, as well as the mandate of the Organization, while being coherent with a balanced and transparent working programme.

I regret, that there was no scenario presented concerning the Zero Nominal Growth, which would be necessary to understand the budgetary requests of FAO. As FAO faces a number of additional gains, partly as a result of the forward purchase of Euros and since the difference between zero real and nominal growth has become less, Austria still favours a budget at the current level.

In this sense it must be the concern of all of us to support the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at present and in its future work and thus continue to make a valuable contribution to the benefit of mankind.

Aissa ABDELLAOUI (Algérie)

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur Général, Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs de délégations, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, Je voudrais tout d'abord adresser mes félicitations à Monsieur le Président et Messieurs les Vice-Présidents pour leur élection au Bureau de la Conférence en étant convaincu de la réussite de nos travaux sous leur direction éclairée.

Permettez-moi en second lieu de rendre hommage au Monsieur Jacques Diouf, digne fils de l'Afrique pour sa détermination et son engagement indéfectible en faveur de l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde et qui, à la tête de notre organisation, ne ménage aucun effort pour le développement agricole durable. Je tiens également à lui exprimer notre témoignage de

gratitude pour avoir rehaussé de sa présence, la récente inauguration du Bureau de représentation de la FAO à Alger.

Je présente mes félicitations aux quatre pays qui viennent renforcer notre organisation. Je salue l'aboutissement de l'accord entre la FAO et l'OADA adopté par la Conférence. Enfin, mes félicitations vont au Secrétariat pour tous les efforts consentis pour l'Organisation et la tenue de cette Conférence ainsi que pour la qualité des documents qu'il a mis à notre disposition.

L'Algérie s'associe aux nombreux pays qui ont chaleureusement salué les efforts de Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Gerbasi et tous les membres ayant participé à l'élaboration du Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques adopté par consensus.

Malgré les progrès accomplis dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire, force est de constater que, dans les pays en développement, l'objectif de réduction du nombre des personnes sous-alimentées, n'a pas été atteint.

Conscients de cette situation alarmante, les pays africains multiplient les initiatives favorisant le développement économique, condition *sine qua non* pour l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire. Ceci m'amène à évoquer le Nouveau Partenariat pour le Développement Africain (NEPAD), auquel son Excellence Monsieur Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Président de la République algérienne, accorde une attention particulière. Cette initiative, pilotée par l'Afrique du Sud, le Nigéria, le Sénégal, l'Egypte et l'Algérie, situe l'action en Afrique d'abord dans la réalisation de la paix et de la stabilité pour ensuite permettre à l'ensemble des pays du continent de conjuguer leurs efforts pour que la mondialisation et la globalisation soient appréhendées non pas comme une fatalité mais comme des facteurs de dynamisation de nos économies, valorisant au mieux nos nombreux atouts.

Les pays africains pourront alors se consacrer à la coopération, d'abord entre eux, mais également avec leurs partenaires extérieurs dans une nouvelle forme de concertation. L'objectif est de sensibiliser notamment et de sensibiliser les pays les plus riches, sur l'épineuse question de la dette africaine et plaider en vue d'un traitement approprié de nature à favoriser le développement de l'Afrique. A travers les priorités que le NEPAD identifie, l'Afrique pourra indéniablement engager, d'une seule voix, une nouvelle dynamique de dialogue et de partenariat avec le reste du monde.

Dans cette perspective, je tiens à marquer notre appréciation pour les efforts qu'entreprend le Directeur Général de la FAO à l'effet de traduire en mesures opérationnelles les décisions des Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement, adoptées lors du dernier Sommet de l'OUA de Lusaka, et d'apporter la contribution de la FAO au NEPAD à la prochaine réunion ministérielle conjointe des Ministres africains de l'agriculture et du commerce.

Dans cette même perspective, j'évoquerai les concertations en cours, sous l'égide de l'Union Africaine avec l'appui de la FAO, pour créer un marché commun africain de produits alimentaires de base; création qui consacrera l'intégration économique de notre continent à même de prendre en charge les spécificités de l'économie africaine et son intégration réussie à l'économie mondiale.

Je voudrais saisir cette opportunité pour exprimer notre soutien au projet des Résolutions soumis par le Président du Groupe Africain en faveur de l'application de la Résolution prise par les Chefs d'États et de Gouvernements africains pour l'éradication de la mouche tsé-tsé et de la trypanosomiase.

Faisant suite aux recommandations du dernier Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, l'Algérie s'est engagée avec détermination sur la voie du développement durable, de l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et de la lutte permanente contre la pauvreté et la malnutrition et ce, à travers un Plan national de développement de l'agriculture. Ce plan qui vise à développer les capacités de production et à rationaliser l'utilisation des ressources naturelles s'inscrit dans une dynamique de croissance agricole soutenue par le programme de soutien à la relance économique, d'un montant de près de 8 milliards de dollars, qui améliore, qui amorce une authentique stratégie de développement rural, intégré et durable. Ce programme qui s'étale sur la période 2001-2004

accorde une place privilégiée à la mise en valeur agricole, à la mobilisation et à la gestion des ressources hydriques ainsi qu'au développement des pêches, y compris les pêches continentales et l'aquaculture.

L'organisation du prochain Sommet Mondial de l'alimentation constitue sans aucun doute l'opportunité, combien espérée par nous tous, pour nous mobiliser davantage contre la faim dans le monde et parvenir à l'objectif global auquel nous avons tous souscrit lors du Sommet de 1996, à savoir réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim. Le défi que nous devons tous relever pour éradiquer la faim et lutter contre la pauvreté exige une solidarité concrète et entière de la communauté internationale. De la même manière que la communauté internationale se mobilise pour lutter solidairement contre le terrorisme, elle devrait également montrer la même solidarité tout autant concrète et entière pour éradiquer la faim et lutter contre la pauvreté. Une telle entreprise appelle, à notre sens, un partenariat efficace avec les gouvernements et la société civile et une coopération étroite avec les organisations internationales, les bailleurs de fonds et les agences spécialisées, un partenariat plus que nécessaire pour la mise en synergie de tous les efforts déployés pour l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde.

De son côté, l'Algérie tient ici à réaffirmer son engagement résolu à fournir sa pleine contribution pour cette œuvre collective qui vise à garantir la sécurité alimentaire et le droit à la nourriture pour tous.

Mahmoud HOJJATI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on your Chairmanship of the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference. I also express my gratitude to the Secretariat of the Conference for compiling invaluable documents and reports.

This Conference opens under circumstances that instead of renewed efforts for development, welfare and the campaign against poverty and hunger, regrettably global attention is concentrated on war and conflict. Human experience highlights the fact that as far as the world witnesses injustice and the numbers of the poor and the hungry are measured in millions, the risk of unrest and war remains high.

During the last twenty years the Islamic Republic of Iran on average has been hosting more than two million Afghani refugees. Considering the minimal poverty criteria of the United Nations, that is US\$1 a day per person, the total cost of this hosting adds up to about US\$ 15 billion. Moreover, thousands of our soldiers sacrificed their lives in fighting to prevent drug transition from Afghanistan to other countries via the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the past several years, time and again, and on many occasions, Iranian authorities addressed the world, through international and regional fora, not only on the corrupt practices of drug traffickers but also on the critical situation of innocent poor, hungry and vulnerable Afghani people. Unfortunately, the potential risk in the region was ignored and our voice did not receive enough attention. As a result we saw the tragedy of the loss of lives of thousands of innocent people. Today we are witnessing the death of innocent and defenceless people as victims of war, drought and hunger in Afghanistan.

Five years ago, the head of state and government of FAO Member Nations signed a document committing themselves to reduce by half the number of the hungry by 2015. It was late and the target was low but now, after 5 years the common reality seems to be that the world is lacking the political will to reach even that low target.

Despite the promising words and good wishes we heard here in the very same hall, in practice, Official Development Assistance to developing countries not only did not reach the agreed level of 0.7 percent of the national income of most developed countries but it has experienced a continuous declining trend over time. What is remarkable is that the share of agriculture in total ODA has severely declined. On the other hand, FAO, the only United Nations Specialized Agency responsible for agricultural development and food security, has been facing a declining real budget during the past eight years.

According to the *State of Food and Agriculture*, published by FAO in 2001, agricultural production enjoyed satisfactory growth in 1999. This happened mainly in developed countries. According to the same publication, agricultural output in developing countries has been disappointing. For the past three consecutive years, agricultural production growth has been lagging behind the population growth in sub-Saharan Africa, resulting in increased poverty and food insecurity. According to the October 2001 issue of the *Food Outlook*, grains production in 2001 estimated to be 14 million tonnes less than in 2000.

These are a few real examples of the grim outlook of agriculture in some developing countries. This picture, together with declining resources allocated internationally, and in most cases nationally, to agriculture explains why the annual rate of reduction in the number of undernourished in the world is drastically inadequate in the light of the already conservative target agreed at the World Food Summit.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been caught in a dry spell in its fourth consecutive year of drought, the worst for 30 years, which has had a serious negative effect on dryland production. As a result, and due to the policy of maintaining food security at the level of international standards, Iran became one of the chief importers of grain. This, together with the Government's emphasis on taking measures to prevent rural urban-migration, environmental degradation and desertification, plus rescheduling of agricultural loan repayments and payments of substantial amounts of grants to affected farmers and consumer subsidies to vulnerable population, has created enormous pressure on the Government's budget.

It seems that drought is a bitter reality and a lasting phenomenon in the Near East and Central Asia. One of the most serious risks of prolonged drought in this region is endangerment of the very rich biological plant and animal diversity. Its negative consequences would be a big loss to the whole world. As an example, the Islamic Republic of Iran has a genetic reserve of 1 200 plant, 400 animal, 350 fish and 16 shrimp species, saved as a national heritage for thousands of years by Persian farmers. This deserves the full and unconditional attention of FAO. My delegation strongly believes that drought management is the priority for our region. I would like to place high emphasis on this fact that FAO should prepare and implement a special regional strategy and plan of action for this problem. I am aware that such activity might be beyond the financial possibilities of FAO, but I am confident that FAO is able to lead this task with the cooperation of other UN Organizations such as IFAD, UNDP, WMO and WFP. Of course, the assistance of donor countries can be of great help and would be highly appreciated by most of the countries in the region.

I would like to inform this august gathering that agricultural development and food security are among the prime priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and despite severe climatic problems, we have achieved successful results. During the First and Second National Development Plans (1990-99) the growth rate of the added value of agriculture has been about 5 percent and the growth of agricultural exports has amounted to 9 percent. In spite of the 1.5 percent growth rate of the population, agricultural added value per caput has risen by 3.2 percent. In the Third National Development Plan, agriculture has a significant function. Financial aid to infrastructure activities, especially water and irrigation management projects, allocation of 25 percent of banking system credits to agricultural investment, strengthening the legal foundations of water and soil utilization consistent with application of modern technology, are examples of agricultural policies in the Third Development Plan. In terms of social approaches, expansion of social safety nets and direct and indirect aids to consumers in areas of nutrition, education, sanitation and transportation, are definitely respected.

I seize this opportunity to express the willingness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to share its agricultural knowledge and experiences with other countries. We believe that the Special Programme for Food Security, TCDC and South-South Cooperation, are effective devices for such a scientific and empirical exchange.

In conclusion, I should like to extend my gratitude to Mr Jacques-Diouf, Director-General of FAO, for his vigorous support and worthwhile efforts in the promotion and implementation of the noble goals and objectives of FAO.

Ms Margareta WINBERG (Sweden)

There are no short cuts to the eradication of hunger, malnutrition or poverty. Therefore, it is necessary that we urgently take action to reach the World Food Summit goal. Commitments to peace, security, democracy and equal opportunities are prerequisites for this. Many of the keys and obstacles to success can be found in the developing countries themselves and in their domestic policies. However, I would like to encourage all countries to take a close look at the impact their different policies, for instance, in trade and agriculture, have on the situation for hungry and poor people in the world. At last month's meeting for the European Union's Ministers of Agriculture in Luxembourg, I brought up this issue with my colleagues. The European Union Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) is in many ways a hindrance to agricultural development in Third World countries.

Furthermore, we must work towards full market access for products from the developing countries and make development a core concern in the international trading system. The developing countries must have the possibility to protect their own production. In this context, it must not be forgotten that many poor and hungry people have no access at all to markets. The development of local markets for the poor as well as regional markets is therefore a key component in the fight against hunger.

Women are pivotal in achieving development and food security. I warmly welcome the FAO Plan of Action on Gender and Development (2002-2007) which was endorsed by the Conference yesterday, as a step in the right direction, whilst hoping that a gender plan for the Secretariat as such is also in the making. As is pointed out in 2001 *State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)*, investments in women's education, health and nutritional status are some of the best investments that can be made. Besides the important aspect of improving the situation of the women themselves, it also means that children are born in good health, are well taken care of and that the household productivity rises. Although some people may have food to eat, important nutrients can be missing. This too can affect economic growth. Weak undernourished people are unable to concentrate. They fall ill more often. They have less energy and creativity and cannot constructively participate in the development of a country.

A further urgent concern is HIV/AIDS. We must take action at all levels and with participation of the civil society in the fight against and prevention of AIDS. The Secretariat must include this dimension in all its work and collaborate with UN/AIDS and other partners. I was pleased to hear from the Secretariat about the seminar to be organized in December on this issue.

As I mentioned earlier, we must all work together to achieve universal national food security. These efforts obviously demand financial resources - both private and public, both domestic and international. It is surprising and disappointing that the majority of donor countries are still far from reaching the UN goal of using 0.7 percent of their GNP for development assistance. Sweden for its part is increasing its allocations for development cooperation reaching 0.81 percent. These are clear steps towards our Swedish goal: foreign aid reaching 1 percent of GNP.

Development cooperation aimed at rural and agricultural development is central to increasing the income of the poor. We are all dependent on the sustainable utilization of natural resources for agriculture, fisheries and forestry. In the North, South, East and West, in the management of natural resources FAO has an important role to play. An excellent example of this role is the Reykjavik Declaration, which needs urgent implementation.

However, most importantly, without dedication and a strong political will there is no way we will achieve the World Food Summit target in time.

Alphonse BONOU (Burkina Faso)

La tenue de la 31^{ème} session de la Conférence générale de la FAO, me donne l'agréable occasion, au nom de la délégation du Burkina Faso, d'adresser à vous-même Monsieur le Président, au Directeur Général de la FAO Monsieur Jacques Diouf, ainsi qu'à l'ensemble de ses collaborateurs, toutes nos félicitations et nos remerciements pour tous les efforts consentis afin que ce rendez-vous biennal ait lieu malgré le contexte international difficile. Nos félicitations vont également aux membres du bureau de la Conférence et aux nouveaux membres élus au sein de l'organisation.

Ma délégation est heureuse de constater que la même conviction nous anime tous quant à la nécessité d'un bon suivi du plan d'action du Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation de 1996, notamment en ce qui concerne sa revue à mi-parcours, avec pour objectif la réduction de la faim, de la malnutrition dans le monde. Il est regrettable que le Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation: *cinq ans après*, n'ait pu se tenir aux dates prévues, malgré la volonté affichée des pays membres et la détermination du Directeur Général de notre organisation. Même si le Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation: *cinq ans après*, ne pourra se tenir qu'en juin 2002, il reste que la 31^{ème} Conférence nous donne l'opportunité de faire le point de l'insécurité alimentaire et de proposer des solutions.

Le Burkina Faso, pays sahélien exposé aux risques climatiques, 3^a l'indice de développement humain parmi les plus faibles du monde, et cela signifie qu'en matière de sécurité alimentaire, beaucoup d'efforts doivent être déployés, et en tout premier lieu dans le secteur agricole. Nous notons avec fierté, et cela nous réjouit, que le rapport de la FAO sur l'état de l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde en 1999, a mentionné le Burkina Faso parmi les treize pays en développement qui ont le plus réussi à réduire la sous-alimentation entre 1980 et 1997.

Traitant de la structure de l'économie du Burkina Faso, je dois souligner que cette économie est à dominante rurale et les secteurs de l'agriculture et de l'élevage emploient près de 86 pour cent de la population active et fournissent 40 pour cent du produit intérieur brut mais également fournissent 80 pour cent des recettes d'exportation. Malgré l'existence d'importantes potentialités, d'atouts majeurs, permettant de jeter les bases d'une croissance accélérée du secteur agricole, l'agriculture de notre pays est dominée par de petites exploitations familiales de 3 à 6 hectares en moyenne. L'agriculture du Burkina Faso doit faire face à de multiples contraintes qui limitent ses performances. Parmi ces contraintes l'on peut retenir: l'insuffisance et l'irrégularité de la pluviométrie, la dégradation des ressources naturelles et la baisse de la fertilité des sols, les fortes pressions démographiques sur certaines terres agricoles avec pour conséquence la disparition des jachères, l'exode rural qui prive le milieu rural de ses bras valides et enfin, les pesanteurs socioculturelles qui tendent à marginaliser les jeunes et particulièrement les femmes dans la société rurale. Ces nombreuses contraintes qui pèsent sur la productivité de l'agriculture burkinabée n'entament pas, loin s'en faut, le courage des producteurs sous l'impulsion d'une politique agricole volontariste du gouvernement. Conscient que la promotion des cultures vivrières passe par une bonne organisation de la production et un soutien conséquent à la commercialisation, le Gouvernement de mon pays vient de créer une société d'économie mixte, dénommée Société de promotion des filières agricoles, dont la vocation essentielle est de soutenir en amont et en aval les producteurs de céréales, des oléagineux, de fruits et légumes et de productions animales.

Quant à la situation alimentaire, elle se caractérise par de fréquents déficits céréaliers. Cette situation conduit à des risques d'insécurité alimentaire auxquels restent essentiellement exposés les ménages ruraux, les femmes et les enfants. C'est cette situation quelque peu généralisée dans le monde, aggravée par les zones de tensions et de guerres et sans oublier la pandémie du SIDA, qui nous donne la triste réalité de 815 millions de personnes souffrant de la malnutrition et de la famine.

Les conséquences nationales, et certainement universelles, sont interpellées sur la situation décrite dans le document C 2001/2. Cela nous rappelle qu'aucune initiative, aucun effort, ne devraient être ménagés pour soustraire notre monde de la pauvreté, de la faim et de la malnutrition. C'est

ainsi qu'avec les ajustements qui ont consacré la libéralisation de l'économie du Burkina Faso, et à la faveur des engagements du Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation, le Burkina Faso a entrepris l'élaboration d'une stratégie de croissance agricole durable dont la note d'orientation et le Plan stratégique opérationnel sont aujourd'hui des réalités. Cela s'est fait avec l'appui des partenaires au développement dont principalement la FAO. La stratégie de croissance agricole durable du Burkina Faso prend en compte le Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire, initiative particulièrement heureuse pour le Burkina et la plupart des pays bénéficiaires.

Parlant de Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire, je profite de l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour remercier le Directeur Général de la FAO pour avoir organisé une visite de terrain du P.S.S.A. au Burkina Faso les 7 et 8 octobre dernier. Ces remerciements vont également aux nombreux pays et institutions qui ont bien voulu participer à cette édifiante visite. Nous en appelons à la solidarité entre les pays nantis et les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier pour une collaboration accrue en vue de l'expansion du Programme spécial à tous les pays éligibles. Monsieur le Président depuis 1990 la communauté internationale et les Nations Unies ont organisé des conférences qui ont eu trait à des sujets comme: les droits de l'enfant, des droits de l'environnement, les droits de l'homme, les droits de la femme, l'alimentation ainsi que le programme des investissements humains. Toutes ces réunions ont eu comme centre le développement rural et notamment la lutte contre la pauvreté dans le monde. Par ailleurs, il me plaît de rappeler ici, que dans le cadre du Programme agricole commun africain, les chefs d'Etats de l'Afrique réunis en juillet dernier à Lusaka, ont décidé de la conduite d'un programme panafricain d'éradication de la mouche tsé-tsé (PATTEC) en vue de la réalisation rapide de l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Dans cette optique, le Président du Burkina Faso, Son Excellence Monsieur Blaise Compaoré, dans son allocution devant la 106ème session de la Conférence de l'Union Inter-Parlementaire, tenue à Ouagadougou du 9 au 15 septembre 2001, a invité les parlementaires du monde entier, à développer un plaidoyer pressant auprès des institutions nationales et internationales pour l'effacement de la dette des pays pauvres et l'accroissement des contributions volontaires pour le financement des actions de développement. Il faut du reste se réjouir qu'après la création du fonds fiduciaire par le Directeur Général de la FAO, des intentions de contributions aient été enregistrées. La création du fonds n'exclut pas cependant l'adoption d'un budget conséquent pour 2002-2003. C'est pourquoi la délégation du Burkina Faso soutient un budget à croissance réelle comme nouvel élan indispensable pour notre Organisation pour le prochain biennium afin de lui permettre de conduire avec efficacité ses programmes de lutte contre la pauvreté dans le monde.

Jerzy PLEWA (Poland)

Let me first congratulate you on your election to chair this important gathering. Poland attaches great importance to FAO activities, both normative and operational, in fostering international cooperation in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development. We declare our continued support for aims and programmes of FAO. We believe that there is still a possibility to enhance further the international standing of the Organization as well as to improve its governance.

Food security, which remains a continuing global problem, is in the very centre of attention of the Organization and its Member States. Poland has welcomed the idea of Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General, to devote a high level meeting next year for the assessment of progress in the implementation of the World Food Summit of 1996. Five years after the Plan of Action was adopted it seems timely to renew support for the fight against hunger and malnutrition as well as address new phenomena which have an impact on world-wide food security.

It is the growing concern of my country and many other states, that the reduction in the number of undernourished people in the world is far below the expectations and targets set by the World Food Summit. A number of negative factors influence international food security: the growing impact of man-made disasters; adverse climatic conditions on the food situation in developing countries; declining resources for agricultural development. It is of great concern that assistance to victims of manmade disasters accounts for almost 50 percent of international food assistance. We are of the opinion that all nations should do even more to take greater responsibility for their

own food security. Much more attention should be paid not only to the strengthening of good governance in countries facing food problems but also to the mitigation of international political instability, to policy of conflicts, prevention and conflicts resolution, as well as respect for human rights and rule of law. No food security may be attained without sound economic growth and effective economic policies at the national level. Obviously, national efforts are not enough. More concerted international action is required. A fair-trade environment is needed in international agricultural markets to assist trade in food, facilitate economic growth and help development, in particular of less-advanced countries.

The World Food Summit Plan of Action remains valid and should be implemented further in an integrated way with other goals set out by other United Nations global summits, like the Millennium Summit, to fight poverty, hunger and underdevelopment.

In the last several years the Polish agriculture sector has been undergoing significant structural adjustment and change. The main object of the structural policy is to improve productivity and enhance competitiveness as well as to speed up the development of areas still lagging behind the urbanized parts of the country. I do hope that Poland's future membership of the European Union will permit better conditions for the development of agriculture in rural areas of the country. The significant potential of Polish agriculture will be used to the benefit of consumers and agricultural producers, as well as to the benefit of environmental protection. The search for such solutions is in the interests of both Poland and its European partners, and is conducive with the aims of FAO.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express Poland's support for the recently adopted Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Eco-system.

Pape DIOUF (Sénégal)

La délégation de la République du Sénégal, par ma voix, voudrait vous adresser ses chaleureuses félicitations en se réjouissant qu'un digne représentant d'un pays ami, les Emirats Arabes Unis, ait été élu à la tête de cette importante session. Nous sommes convaincus, Monsieur le Président, que vos éminentes qualités d'homme d'Etat et votre expérience des questions agricoles constituent un gage de succès de nos travaux. Soyez assuré de notre soutien et de notre collaboration dans l'accomplissement de vos tâches. J'associe à ces félicitations les autres membres du Bureau. Au Président indépendant du Conseil, Son Excellence Monsieur Baharsjah, je tiens à dire toute notre appréciation pour la sagesse et la compétence avec lesquelles il a dirigé les travaux du Conseil durant ces quatre dernières années.

Le Sénégal, qui a souscrit à la Déclaration de Rome sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et au Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, a traduit sa volonté politique d'observer les normes internationales en matière de sécurité alimentaire et a engagé immédiatement, au sortir du Sommet, la mise en œuvre des stratégies et programmes dans des domaines aussi variés que sont la décentralisation, la promotion de la femme, la protection de l'enfant ainsi que la relance du système agricole. L'avènement de l'alternance politique au Sénégal est venue renforcer ces acquis et ouvrir des perspectives nouvelles pour le secteur agricole avec, notamment, la création des bassins de rétention pour une plus grande maîtrise de l'eau ainsi que le Plan OMEGA de Son Excellence Maître Abdoulaye Wade, Président de la République, Plan devenu par la suite la Nouvelle Initiative Africaine et tout récemment le Nouveau Partenariat pour le Développement de l'Afrique. La réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire qui est un droit fondamental de l'homme constitue une priorité de l'Etat du Sénégal. Cette sécurité alimentaire ne peut être atteinte que par une augmentation importante de la production agricole, par un approvisionnement correct et régulier du pays en denrées de première nécessité, notamment le riz qui demeure l'alimentation de base de nos populations. C'est ainsi que chaque année l'État appuie les producteurs dans le cadre du programme agricole. Durant la campagne 2000-2001, l'État est intervenu pour près de 18 milliards de FCFA soit 25,7 millions de dollars des États Unis. Ce programme agricole qui s'exécute depuis quatre ans porte notamment sur une plus grande accessibilité du crédit pour les intrants et les équipements agricoles, les taux d'intérêt du crédit agricole aux intrants étant passé de 15 pour cent à 7,5 pour cent, soit une réduction de 50 pour cent. Il porte également sur la constitution du capital semencier, sur l'insémination artificielle pour le développement de la

production de la viande et du lait, sur la réalisation des services d'utilité publique tels que la régénération des sols par le phosphatage de fonds, la protection des végétaux contre les invasions massives et enfin sur l'accès de plus en plus facile des femmes aux crédits et à la terre. Enfin l'État a décidé de mettre en place un financement de 3,25 milliards de FCFA, soit près de 4,650 millions de dollars des États-Unis pour la consolidation et l'élargissement à l'ensemble du territoire, pour une durée de deux ans, du programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire de la FAO, le PSSA. Démarré en 1995, le PSSA couvre les activités de production durable en riziculture, horticulture, aviculture, apiculture, aquaculture et transformation des produits agricoles dans sept des dix régions que compte le Sénégal. Permettez-moi, à cet égard, de rendre ici un hommage solennel aux Gouvernements vietnamien et italien ainsi qu'à la FAO pour la réalisation de ce qui constitue assurément un bel exemple de solidarité, tout en me félicitant de ce que de nombreux pays développés dont notamment la France et la Belgique aient décidé de soutenir le renforcement et l'élargissement du PSSA, parallèlement au développement de la Coopération Sud-Sud.

Dans cette foulée, je salue à sa juste valeur historique l'adoption par notre présente Conférence du Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, après plus de sept ans de négociations auxquelles le Sénégal a activement participé. De même, dans le cadre du renforcement de la coopération entre l'OUA/Union Africaine et la FAO, j'appuie l'adoption d'une résolution sur une campagne d'éradication de la mouche tsé-tsé africaine et de la trypanosomiase.

L'examen du budget constitue toujours un point important de l'ordre du jour de la Conférence. A ce sujet, ma délégation voudrait marquer sa réelle préférence pour un niveau de budget à "croissance réelle" ou, à défaut, à "Croissance Réelle Zéro", ceci afin de permettre à notre Organisation de remplir les missions que nous lui avons confiées et dont les États Membres ne cessent de demander l'élargissement. Le Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, à qui il n'est que juste de rendre hommage pour son engagement, sa foi et sa détermination nous a, une fois de plus, livré des arguments si convaincants qu'il n'est point besoin d'y revenir. Il me semble cependant que le moment est venu de tirer sur la sonnette d'alarme parce que le budget de la FAO a atteint une masse critique en deçà de laquelle il n'est plus possible d'aller, si tant est que notre volonté de nous attaquer sérieusement au problème de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde, soit réelle. Comment pouvons-nous en effet déplorer la baisse continue des ressources allouées au secteur de l'agriculture par les Institutions financières internationales et priver, en même temps, notre propre Organisation des moyens d'agir efficacement pour atteindre les objectifs inscrits dans les textes de base de la FAO tels que réaffirmés par les leaders mondiaux ici même à Rome en 1996? A cet égard, le retard inquiétant qui nous sépare de la réalisation de l'objectif fixé il y a cinq ans par les Chefs d'États et de gouvernements du monde, lors du premier Sommet mondial de l'Alimentation, pousse le Sénégal à soutenir fortement la tenue, au siège de notre organisation, à Rome, du 10 au 30 juin 2002, du Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation: *cinq ans après*. L'occasion sera alors excellente, au plus haut niveau, de faire le bilan de nos efforts nationaux et communs en vue d'adopter des mesures hardies pour réduire de moitié le nombre des personnes sous-alimentées d'ici à 2015 au plus tard, répondant ainsi aux attentes profondes de l'humanité.

C'est dans un contexte international particulièrement affecté par les événements tragiques du 11 septembre et ses conséquences que se tient la 31ème Conférence générale de la FAO. Le monde entier a manifesté son horreur et son indignation devant les actes terroristes qui ont provoqué la mort de milliers de personnes innocentes, de tous horizons, races et croyances religieuses. Rarement les nations de la planète auront été aussi unanimes à condamner un crime aussi odieux, témoignant ainsi de leur attachement aux valeurs universelles et au respect de la vie et de la dignité humaine.

Faisons preuve de la même solidarité envers les 800 millions de personnes à travers le monde qui souffrent de la faim et de la misère et dont, chaque jour, des milliers sont arrachés à la vie, par manque de nourriture. Nous ne pouvons malheureusement pas ressusciter les morts du 11 septembre mais nous pouvons empêcher que, chaque jour, des milliers de personnes innocentes deviennent les victimes de la faim. Nous en avons le devoir.

Necati UTKAN (Turkey)

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference. Allow me to have first a glance at the developments we have witnessed since the World Food Summit in 1996. It is obvious that FAO and the national governments have tried to do their best for the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted at the World Food Summit. These efforts have provided undoubtedly significant contributions to the agricultural development worldwide and led to improvements in the world food situation. Nevertheless, we should admit that there is little progress in reaching the overall goal of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015.

We should be aware that there are still obstacles in achieving world food security. Hunger and poverty continue to remain as important problems. People who are facing hunger and malnutrition need more than ever urgent assistance from the international community. We, on our part in Turkey, attach great importance to implementing the commitments of the World Food Summit Action Plan by inserting them into our national programmes and projects. Thus Turkey, while implementing appropriate measures to assure its own food security, contributes also to guarantee food security in its region and, eventually, to global food security. In this context, the Southeastern Anatolia Development Project plays a significant role.

Within the framework of South-South cooperation Turkey has shown its willingness to cooperate with Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan. The Turkish Government and FAO have jointly prepared related projects. We have already allocated the relevant sum in our budget. For the other participating countries, soft loan credits have been obtained from the Islamic Development Bank. When these credits are actually allocated, projects can be quickly implemented. Therefore, we are looking forward to the assistance of FAO in completing the process.

In another area we have to deal with the new round of agricultural negotiations within the World Trade Organization. On that occasion we believe that all countries should display goodwill and spare no efforts in order to establish a more equitable trade system, taking especially into account the difficulties faced by the developing countries in this field. Subsequently, we also believe that there is a need for FAO to play an active role in these negotiations.

Taking into consideration the international trend, Turkey has adopted new legislation concerning production, consumption and inspection of foodstuffs to ensure food safety. A Food Safety Action Plan has been prepared and enforced throughout the country to supply safe food to consumers. Hazard analysis and critical control point systems and good manufacturing practices have been introduced. Also, a rapid alert system has been set up to protect consumers' health.

On the other hand, we believe that activities in fishery resources are very important for food supply and employment. With the expected increase in the world population, the importance of fisheries in achieving food security will be further enhanced. We expect that FAO will continue to lead activities to this effect. In this context, we would like to carry out studies with the countries of the region for the assessment and the rational utilization of fish stocks in the Eastern Mediterranean, within the framework of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. An adequate infrastructure already exists in Turkey, and we expect FAO's contribution to initiating this cooperation.

Concerning animal health, we consider that in order to achieve an effective cooperation for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in the region, the establishment of a Foot- and-Mouth Disease Control Commission in the Middle East will indeed be very useful for the countries of the region.

I would like to conclude my remarks by welcoming the new members of our Organization and expressing my very best wishes for the success of this Conference.

Aleke K. BANDA (Malawi)

It is my honour and privilege to have this opportunity to address such a distinguished gathering and to share the views of my delegation on various regional and global issues related to food, agriculture and general topical issues that affect the well-being of humanity.

I wish to convey to you the best wishes of my President, His Excellency Dr Bakili Muluzi, who attaches great importance to this Organization because of the crucial role it plays with regard to the issues of food and agriculture.

Allow me to join my fellow delegates in congratulating you on being elected to the high office of Chairman of this Thirty-first Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference, and wish you all the success in guiding its deliberations. I also wish to sincerely thank the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, for his able stewardship of this Organization, which touches the lives of many people throughout the world.

Five years ago, political leaders from more than 180 countries gathered here to pledge their will and commitment to eradicate hunger in the world, in an effort to reduce the number of undernourished people by half by the year 2015. This Conference is an opportunity to assess the progress of our efforts to achieve that goal. According to the Director-General's report, there are still 815 million people undernourished and at this current pace of development, it will take, as the Director-General states, 60 years to achieve the goal of the World Food Summit. That is a disappointing and I would say even frightening situation. We have to act and act decisively now.

Poverty in Malawi affects about 60 percent of the population of 11 million people, translating to about 6.6 million people. According to the 1996 FAO Declaration, the poverty figure in Malawi must be halved to 3.3 million by 2015. To achieve this target, the Government of Malawi has introduced many programmes to ensure that by the year 2015, tangible results are achieved. Malawi has the will and commitment to implement the World Food Summit Plan of Action, but we cannot wage this fight against hunger and poverty alone. We need support from all our cooperating partners.

Since the World Food Summit, Malawi has formulated a series of policy measures and strategies aimed at strengthening agriculture, improving access to agricultural inputs and other requirements for agricultural production. As a result of these policy reforms and strategies, as well as favourable climatic conditions, Malawi was able to produce all her food requirements in the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 seasons, and we were able to even export some surplus produce. However, in the 2000-2001 season, the country was able to produce only about 90 percent of its 2 million tonnes of food requirements due to the adverse effects of drought in some parts of the country and floods in others. It is against this background that Malawi attaches great importance to the Rome Declaration and the World Food Summit Plan of Action endorsed by the Heads of State and Government five years ago.

In this regard, we are deeply appreciative of the Technical Assistance Programme, such as the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), which includes irrigation, livestock, aquaculture and agricultural diversification projects. In addition, a number of small-scale projects under the Telefood programme are being implemented, primarily focusing on rural women who are the main producers of food.

Malawi, which has vast water resources in the form of lakes, rivers and underground reservoirs, is committed to rapid irrigation development in order to lessen dependence on rainfed agriculture. Currently, activities such as the development of irrigation in flood plains and development of small-scale irrigation through treadle and small motorized pumps are underway.

My delegation has studied with great interest the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2002-03 and supports the resumption of real growth under the Regular Budget and urges member countries to support it. We believe that this Conference should avoid adopting actions that would retard the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

May I take this opportunity to commend the Director-General for embarking on various cost-cutting measures. However, we hope that these cost-cutting measures will not be so severe that they affect the effectiveness of FAO in implementing its many and varied programmes, including the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Malawi further commends the FAO Council and its subsidiary bodies for their efforts in standardizing some aspects of food and agricultural production, such as the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. The Committee of Experts for Plant Genetic Resources has done a commendable job in drafting the Treaty of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources which this Conference has passed. This undertaking is particularly important for a developing country like Malawi which wishes to conserve and sustainably utilize plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The menace of pests such as the tsetse fly is of great concern to Malawi. Malawi would like to urge Member Nations of FAO to consider how the region can best be supported to minimize the danger from these pests. Since dealing with migratory pests requires cooperation among neighbouring countries, coordinated control measures are more effective than individual national efforts. We sincerely hope that through FAO and this Conference, cooperation can be strengthened.

Before I conclude my statement, I wish to talk briefly about HIV/AIDS. Last June in New York at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, 183 Government representatives adopted unanimously a Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. This Session addressed the problem of HIV/AIDS in all aspects because of its devastating scale and impact. Our delegation would like this Conference to consider FAO follow-up to the commitments contained in the Declaration, which deal with threats to development, including food security.

In conclusion, I would like to state that Malawi has high hopes for this Conference because of the role it will play in preparing for the World Food Summit: *five years later*, planned for June 2001. It is Malawi's hope that this Conference will come up with ways to speed up the progress towards achieving the goals of the 1996 World Food Summit. Malawi remains committed to the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Joseph MADE (Zimbabwe)

First of all I would like to start by congratulating you on your election.

Thank you for according me the opportunity to contribute to this session. Allow me to share with you some of the measures that Zimbabwe and the SADC region are taking to ensure food security. In light of this, the SADC region reaffirms its commitment to the undertaking of the World Food Summit in 1996 to halve the population of the hungry people in the world by the year 2015.

In our renewed efforts to combat poverty, it is our view that development programmes should benefit the poor, the food insecure and vulnerable groups, especially in rural areas where 70 percent of the Zimbabwean population lives. Most of them derive their livelihood from farming on land where the production level cannot achieve adequate income to sustain them throughout the year. Policies must therefore recognize and support these communities to improve their capacity to produce adequate food on a sustainable basis.

In discussing this subject, it is necessary to cast it in the context of the ongoing globalization which is fostering the liberalization of the world economies. The economic reform programme focused on stimulating growth with the assumption that growth would bring about poverty reduction and food security. In our case, the negative effects of globalization have become too apparent and the socio-economic gains that we had made earlier have been compromised.

The Government has had to review its focus and now prioritizes measures that would bring about growth through poverty reduction and food security strategies. Such measures *inter alia* include agrarian reforms, poverty alleviation programmes and small- to medium-scale enterprises. Agrarian reforms, while addressing inequitable access to land, have to focus on the overall transformation of the existing farming systems, institutions and structures, including access to markets, credit and training, and stimulation of agro-industries. This would create markets while generating employment opportunities.

Zimbabwe is progressively addressing the problem of access to land by landless Zimbabweans through the land reform and resettlement programme. To ensure increased food production, the Government has put in place institutional reforms in terms of the agricultural education and farmer training programmes, research and extension services and provision of credit and agricultural inputs. Farmer training centres have been set up across the country.

In agricultural research and extension we have refocused service delivery to the smallholder sector, priority being put on the empowerment of farmers to increase production. Programmes have been put in place to redirect and assist the smallholder farmers to diversify into high value crops. Agro-industries are being developed and supported to create markets for agricultural products and processing for value addition.

As a region, SADC has also made concerted efforts aimed at ensuring food security among its member states and countries. Measures include the SADC sanitary and phytosanitary food safety initiative, capacity building and regional food security training, SADC seed security network, integrated pest management, establishment of information on migratory pests and the southern Africa biodiversity support programme, wildlife and fisheries protocols and a free trade protocol to allow free trade within the region.

The Government of Zimbabwe and the SADC region have not been doing this all alone. We are greatly indebted to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the international community for mobilizing resources for programmes which are addressing food security in the entire SADC region. In the same vein I must recognize the role played by the private sector whose contribution has benefited agricultural production immensely.

It is ironic however that in spite of these measures the position of food security for Zimbabwe and the region as a whole remains unsatisfactory when we look at the cereal supplies in 2001. Cereal supplies remain insufficient. This has been due to the delayed onset of the rains in the 2000/01 rainy season, erratic rains that were characterized by mid-season droughts in many areas. In other areas this was followed by excessive rains which caused reduced yields. These features were widespread throughout the SADC region leading to deficits currently being experienced.

According to the latest food security analysis (August 2001), the overall SADC cereal deficit of 3.2 million tonnes is estimated for the 2001-02 marketing year. In this effort it is envisaged that overall food production can be increased through improved capacity of local communities, reduction of environmental degradation and improved coordination of vulnerability information systems.

Another phenomenon which has greatly affected agricultural production in the region is the HIV/AIDS pandemic due to its impact on skilled workforce. About 20 percent of the adult productive population (15-49 years) have succumbed to HIV, reducing life expectancy from about 64 to 39 years.

The pandemic has strained the household financial base as more time and resources are devoted to caring for the sick. It is essential to improve efforts to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS as this would maintain a healthy and productive work force as well as sustain agricultural productivity.

In the millennium the challenge for Zimbabwe and the region is to establish a coordinated institutional arrangement and harmonize food insecurity and vulnerability monitoring systems to form the basis of food security planning and project design. This will facilitate institutional linkages between SADC bodies concerned with different aspects of early warning, vulnerability assessment and emergency preparedness.

Having reaffirmed our commitment to the eradication of hunger and famine, I would like to make some important observations. To demonstrate political will, policies that ensure success are not necessarily easy choices for us and do not bring instant results because of the difficulty to manoeuvre without exceeding our budgetary allocations, but as governments we are being called upon to play our part. Economic reform policies that do not recognize the centrality of land in agrarian reform and are not supported by the requisite funding will not yield results since many

developing nations work with limited budgets. Lastly, sustainable food security, poverty reduction and growth require policies that promote enterprises that identify with the aspirations and needs of the vulnerable groups.

From these observations, it is our resolve as the SADC region that the World Food Summit of the Heads of State and Government should be convened in June 2002 to help us refocus our attention on the targets we set in 1996. We need commitment by donors to extend aid to the developing world to enable them to manoeuvre without exceeding budgetary allocations; commitment to increased technical assistance to train farmers and pass on new technologies and information; greater commitment from our developed counterparts in increasing access to global markets for our agricultural products at better prices, backed by fair world trade practices; and lastly, assistance in regular economic policy research and analysis, evaluation of the impact of economic policies, and in identifying and in anticipating where new challenges may arise.

In conclusion, the Government of Zimbabwe fully endorses the submission by the Chairman of the Africa Group that seeks assistance in eradicating tsetse and trypanosomiasis in Africa. Provision of adequate resources and appropriate technology for the eradication of this scourge will not only ensure human and farm animal health but increased agricultural production and improvement in nutritional standards.

Sra. Victoria GUARDIA DE HERNÁNDEZ (Costa Rica)

En nombre de la delegación de Costa Rica expresamos nuestras más sinceras felicitaciones al señor presidente y a los señores vicepresidentes por su elección, deseándoles mucho éxito en esta trigésima primera Conferencia, así como damos la más cordial bienvenida para los cuatro nuevos países que se unen a nuestros esfuerzos en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza.

Conocer la Costa Rica que tenemos y pensar en la Costa Rica que deseamos.

Costa Rica es un país eminentemente agrícola, con alto índice de educación y salud, así como un reconocido apoyo al medio ambiente. Sin embargo, enfrentamos momentos muy difíciles en nuestras exportaciones, especialmente el café, cuyos precios han bajado, como bien lo ha señalado la delegación de Bélgica. En el año 1842 hicimos nuestra primera exportación de café a Chile y este país lo reexportó a Inglaterra.

La producción realizada por pequeños productores se convirtió en el ingreso económico más importante del país. Poco tiempo después, estos pequeños campesinos se auto-impusieron un impuesto para que el Gobierno construyera el Teatro Nacional, que se inauguró con la opera Fausto a finales del siglo XIX. He querido contar esta pequeña anécdota para demostrar la estrecha interrelación que existe entre la producción de café y el desarrollo socio-político costarricense.

Hemos aprendido a encontrar en los valores de la sociedad, y en su transmisión entre generaciones, fuentes decisivas de fortaleza, cuya atención no es tema secundario.

Tampoco podemos ignorar el papel de las instituciones y el patrimonio acumulado de conocimientos y prácticas sociales que apoyan el desarrollo. Pero en estos momentos debemos enfrentar el desafío del nuevo siglo, ayudar a nuestros campesinos a diversificar su producción y, créame, no es una tarea fácil de realizar.

Por otro lado, debemos reflexionar sobre la experiencia de las naciones, en sus éxitos y fracasos al buscar un progreso social y económico duradero. Indudablemente éstas han generado muchas enseñanzas que conviene considerar, para encontrar fuentes de inspiración para orientaciones nacionales. También asumimos la imperiosa necesidad de emplear racionalmente los recursos naturales, para generar o conservar un ambiente sano y garantizar una disponibilidad duradera.

Al abrirse el siglo XXI, el país no logra superar algunos umbrales críticos, como el crecimiento del producto nacional, el ahorro interno, la reducción de la pobreza o la subutilización de la fuerza de trabajo.

Por una parte están las condiciones internacionales asociadas al proceso de globalización, algunas estrictamente económicas y otras que responden a los mecanismos de oferta y demanda de las finanzas y el comercio internacional.

En el último año las exportaciones del sector agrícola cayeron sustancialmente. Consecuencia de la situación vivida con el café, debido a la caída de su precio a nivel internacional, y el banano, debido a las trabas para ingresar al mercado europeo y la sobreoferta generada por consiguiente en otros mercados.

Las exportaciones del sector agrícola durante el año 2000 ascendieron a 1 270 millones de dólares EEUU de los cuales el 63 por ciento corresponde a fruta y a vegetales, un 25 por ciento a café, té y otras especies y el restante 11 por ciento a plantas, flores y follajes.

La pregunta es si esa economía, que muestra cierta capacidad de resistencia ante circunstancias externas adversas, está creando cimientos para un crecimiento sostenido en el futuro que le permita, entre otras cosas, reducir de forma significativa la pobreza. Como aspecto positivo se puede señalar una cierta ventaja en cuanto competitividad asociada a la seguridad jurídica y a la inversión en recursos humanos, el dinamismo de otras actividades como la exportación de *software* y el inicio de esfuerzos para articular mejor la producción nacional con las nuevas exportaciones.

El patrimonio natural de Costa Rica está constituido principalmente por los bosques, los suelos y el agua. De estos tres componentes, el bosque es el que más ha captado la atención de la sociedad costarricense en las últimas tres décadas y es además el recurso más amenazado al inicio de ese período, lo cual dio lugar a una sucesión de diagnósticos y políticas que han producido resultados positivos a lo largo de los años. En efecto, se logró revertir el proceso de pérdida de la cobertura boscosa, en parte mediante la demarcación de áreas bajo protección estatal y la concesión de incentivos y pagos al sector privado y en parte también debido al abandono de potreros y áreas de cultivo, que gradualmente se van convirtiendo en bosque secundario. Los datos más recientes estiman que entre el 41 por ciento y el 43,3 por ciento del territorio nacional está bajo algún tipo de cobertura arbórea. De medidas destinadas simplemente a proteger bosques primarios, detener la deforestación y otorgar incentivos más o menos indiscriminados a la reforestación, se ha pasado al diseño de corredores biológicos, al manejo conjunto de áreas silvestres y zonas de amortiguación entre el Estado y los propietarios privados, y al pago de servicios ambientales, incluida (si bien todavía en muy pequeña escala) la fijación de carbono. Aunque sigue existiendo tala ilegal, ha disminuido la extracción de madera de los bosques y se ha incrementado la explotación de áreas agroforestales y plantaciones madereras. Estas últimas son hoy el cultivo con más extensión territorial en Costa Rica.

El país avanza en el conocimiento de su rico patrimonio natural. El Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad duplicó en el 2000 el promedio anual de nuevas especies descritas y la comunidad científica nacional reportó la cifra récord de 331 especies.

La Delegación de Costa Rica desea expresar el reconocimiento al embajador Fernando Gerbasi por el excelente trabajo realizado en la Comisión de Fitogenéticos y que ha concluido con la aceptación del Convenio sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para la agricultura y la alimentación; así como también hacemos extensivo este reconocimiento a Don José Esquinas-Alcázar y sus colaboradores.

En la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación en 1996, nuestro país al igual que otros 186 países, se comprometió en cooperar para reducir el número de personas subnutridas para el año 2015. Como ya han señalado muchos países, esta meta no se ha podido cumplir.

Nuestro país, por tradición, se ha distinguido por su preocupación por resolver la pobreza y lograr la seguridad alimentaria, temas que van de la mano. Sin embargo, los esfuerzos en los últimos años no parecen haber dado resultados en el sentido en que no hemos podido reducir la pobreza. Cabría entonces preguntarnos si la crisis internacional no habría golpeado aún más fuerte a las clases pobres si no se hubieran puesto en marcha una serie de programas sociales en favor de las clases menos favorecidas.

Como se puede ver el problema alimentario es un tema complejo que no puede abordarse ni resolverse bajo la óptica de un solo sector de la economía nacional. En este sentido, se requiere el concurso de una serie de instituciones y sectores que en su conjunto y en forma articulada resuelvan el problema. Es por ello que en el sector agropecuario se habla de una política de seguridad alimentaria que debe ser complementada con las acciones de otros sectores.

Por lo tanto las políticas de fomento de las actividades productivas tanto de carácter primario como agro-alimentario deben estar estrechamente vinculadas, especialmente, con las políticas de salud, de manera que las necesidades nutricionales de la población puedan ser cubiertas con productos nuestros y a precios accesibles para la población. En lo que concierne al sector agropecuario, su rol es velar por la disponibilidad y estabilidad de alimentos así como la producción de alimentos sanos, nutritivos e inoctrinos, es decir, que la producción sea sostenible en condiciones de calidad e inocuidad inmejorables.

Todo lo anterior exige políticas orientadas a forjar la capacidad de gestión de las organizaciones públicas y privadas, acelerar las innovaciones tecnológicas, fortalecer la organización de los productos y reducir los costos de transacción para la comercialización de insumos y productos, todo lo cual contribuirá a mejorar la capacidad competitiva de la agricultura y el mejoramiento del ingreso de las familias rurales.

Finalmente, señor presidente, no queremos dejar de apoyar el Plan de Acción para la Mujer y en este sentido compartimos la declaración de la distinguida ministra de Suecia. También apoyamos la Declaración sobre Pesca Responsable, aprobada recientemente, y concluimos manifestando nuestra satisfacción porque en los próximos días se firmará con la República Dominicana un acuerdo en el marco de la Cooperación Sur-Sur.

Cassius B. ELIAS (Saint Lucia)

Mr Chairman, Mr Independent Chairman of the Council, Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, Fellow Ministers, delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to convey the greetings and best wishes of the Government of Saint Lucia, and the people of Saint Lucia as well, to the Food and Agriculture Organization and especially to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, for the conduct of this meeting so far and I wish particularly to thank Mr Diouf for his passionate concern for the rural peoples of the world and his equally passionate desire to fight hunger and reduce poverty.

The world is experiencing challenging times, more particularly since the event of 11 September. That event has caused governments worldwide to adjust and re-adjust their priorities and refocus their efforts on issues of national security and food security. The situation in Saint Lucia is no different, although we are some distance removed from what has now been termed "ground zero" in the United States, our economy has already started to feel the effects of the changes in the United States' economic misfortune. We say in the Caribbean "when the United States sneezes we catch a cold".

For decades the agricultural sector was the premier generating factor of foreign exchange for our country and the biggest contributor to this sector was, and continues to be, the banana industry. However, the advent of trade liberalization and the impact of this phenomenon on the European Banana Trading Regime caused significant dislocations in this very important industry. Suddenly, farmers who were accustomed to earning their livelihood from the banana industry found themselves facing possible displacement from the industry and an activity for which they had received training for a number of years. And the process of diversification, I must point out, is not an easy process, it is a long-term process and sometimes people use the word and do not realize how long it takes to diversify an agricultural sector or an economy adequately from one crop to another.

Bad as it may have been, many families had earned their living from the profits of the banana industry, because it is a small-farmer-dominated industry, and they suddenly found themselves to be literally without an economic activity that could provide income for their families. Since the economy for years had grown very accustomed to the widespread positive effects of the banana

dollar, they suddenly found themselves having to re-engineer other sectors in the frantic attempt to cushion the economic and social fallout from the banana industry.

Our Government, to its credit, has managed these troubling times remarkably well. We have had some fair degree of success in modernizing the banana industry so that it can respond better to the challenge of trade liberalization. We have devised a social recovery programme to provide social safety nets to the inevitable fallout from the industry and we have energized other sectors, most notably the tourist industry, to fill some of the void left by the dwindling banana industry. Our economy, although still fragile and in transition, was showing signs of being able to weather the globalization onslaught. And then came 11 September and the still unfolding repercussions have continued and are continuing to have a devastating effect on our economic stability.

The tourism industry, as you know, even before 11 September had begun to suffer immensely from the drastic slowdown in the US economy, and the reluctance of people all around the world to embark on holiday travel has become very apparent. Hotels that up until September was struggling but holding their own suddenly wilted under the pressures of low occupancy levels. The prospects for the winter season, which traditionally represents our peak tourist season, do not look good at all, and this has an effect on all sectors, because the rural farmers of Saint Lucia rely heavily on providing the food that is consumed by the tremendous amount of visitors who come to our country.

Therefore, we have once again to turn our attention to the agricultural sector to cushion the impact of the impact of the slowdown in the tourism sector and, even more important, to ensure national food security and food safety. It is a well-accepted fact that international conflicts have constricting effects on the distribution channels of food, goods and services. Therefore, a country such as Saint Lucia which has a trade deficit on food can be particularly vulnerable in such circumstances, and in this context I think of the possible repercussions of an intensification of the current conflict in Afghanistan and I hope it is resolved in a manner that does not begin to affect countries which are dependent on trade for their livelihood.

Our Government is redoubling its efforts to increase our productivity in the agricultural sector and expand the market penetration of our commodities. We are seeking to produce efficiently more of what we consume and consume more of what we produce. We are accelerating our use of technology to increase efficiencies and cost-effectiveness. We are attempting to harness water resources, already burdened by heavy domestic demand and the negative impacts of poor land use, to remove the seasonality of production and to increase yields. We are desperately seeking to forge production linkages with other sectors, more particularly the tourism sector, and we are working to harness the productive capacities of our youth in the agricultural development initiative; we have specially made provisions for establishing a training institution for young people to help them to see agriculture as a worthy enterprise.

But for these efforts to succeed we will require the continued assistance of FAO in the future. FAO has been our agricultural sector's number one technical support agency. In recognition of the sterling work of FAO over the year, the Organization was given the Award of Allied Organizations contributing to Saint Lucia's agricultural development, an award that was graciously accepted by the Regional Representative in the region.

Over the years we have taken to assisting our agricultural sector by providing on-farm irrigation for our small farmers with the assistance of FAO. I share the concern of the Director-General that there can be no sustainable agriculture anywhere in the world without redefining a policy to provide irrigation for all farmers throughout the world. Rainfed agriculture is the greatest factor in compounding the poverty that we seek to eradicate, and I call upon FAO to provide greater incentives to farmers who require that service.

I turn to fisheries for one moment and I wish to commend FAO for the work it has been doing over the years in respect of support to the fisheries sector, but Saint Lucia continues to have a concern about some sea mammals' consumption of our fish stock, and I would like to commend the Government of Iceland for hosting a very important Conference on Responsible Fisheries in

the Marine Eco-system. This was a good opportunity to promote ecosystem consideration in fisheries management. I wish to stress, again, that sustainable use of living marine resources, including marine mammals, would contribute to world food security, given the very fact that marine mammals continue to consume three to five times as much fish as fisherman can capture. I would like to inform the gathering that IWC, after some discussion, has agreed to host the conference in Saint Lucia to discuss this very important question of the consumption of fish by mammals versus the fish actually caught for domestic consumption. It is important that we do not put pressure on our fishermen and ourselves while we continue to ignore the possibility that fish mammals may be contributing to the scarcity of fish.

I wish to commend FAO for the Trust Fund for Food Security and Safety, and hope that this fund will continue to assist the many countries in the world which truly deserve assistance under the various programmes put in place to alleviate poverty and hunger.

Gerard Jakob DOORBOS (Observer for the International Federation of Agricultural Producers) (IFAP)

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) represents farmers at world level. I am a farmer from the Netherlands and President of the Dutch farmers' organization (LTO) as well as being the President of IFAP.

FAO and IFAP have enjoyed close cooperation since our respective organizations were established in the 1940s. However, we both need to do much more in order to move rural poverty and food insecurity issues back to the top of the international policy agenda. Agriculture remains the mainstay of the economies of most developing countries, and yet it has ceased to occupy the central place in development programmes that it did in the past.

Every day, 24 000 people die from hunger and related causes. Eighteen thousand of these are children under five years of age. Yet priority for agriculture has fallen. This must be changed.

The FAO World Food Summit: *five years later*, that has been postponed until June 2002, is an important opportunity to make that change. The drain of resources away from agriculture needs to be stopped, and the levels of development assistance and investment in agriculture need to be increased substantially.

Between now and the Summit next June, farmers would like FAO to play an even more effective role in raising awareness of hunger and nutrition problems. The FAO paper on the State of Food and Agriculture describes clearly the critical impact of nutrition on health, on school and work performance, and on economic growth. Further, the paper points out that adequate nutrition can increase the per caput GDP growth rate by about 1 percent. This is very significant.

All stakeholders should be mobilized to create the necessary dynamics for a successful Summit. For our part, IFAP, with its network of farmers' organizations worldwide, is ready to cooperate to advance this process.

IFAP would like development efforts to focus more on people and their organizations. One of the keys to a successful fight against hunger is having well-organized partners to work with, like farmers' organizations. Strengthening the institutional capacity of civil society organizations and involving them as partners in development efforts, therefore needs to be a cornerstone of any strategy for reaching the rural poor.

In order to escape from poverty, small farmers need the means to go beyond producing food for their families, and to generate income from the commercial market. However, they often lack market opportunities, and market information services for farmers leave much to be desired.

Whilst farming is first and foremost an economic activity, in the developing countries farming is the basis of livelihoods for about 80 percent of the population. In order to survive, farmers need fair prices and a reasonable level of income.

However, commercial food and agricultural markets are becoming increasingly dominated by a few gain multinational companies. Farmers are questioning whether markets are functioning

competitively. There are many cases where deregulation and liberalization have resulted in severe pressure on producer prices and increases in the margins of the traders.

FAO could make a very valuable contribution by looking at the question of market concentration in relation to prices received by primary producers, and the margins obtained along the food chain by intermediaries before the end product reaches the consumer.

The effect of globalization on small farmers is not only a major concern of IFAP, but has also become an issue for civil society and governments in general. When trade ministers meet at the WTO Conference in Doha next week, they know that the developing countries are the key to the success of any new round of trade negotiations. High on the list of demands of the developing countries are measures to correct the serious imbalances in the agricultural trading system against farmers in the developing countries. Farmers everywhere need market opportunities, but they also need to be able to take advantage of such opportunities.

They need secure access to resources on a long-term basis. In particular, this means granting secure land tenure to farmers, secure water rights, access to credit at affordable prices, and access to genetic resources such as improved seeds and livestock. These measures do not require high levels of government expenditure, but they have a very significant impact in motivating farmers.

Efficient infrastructure for marketing, transportation and communications is an essential part of a sustainable agricultural system. Rural infrastructure is not only important for farmers as producers, but it is also important for farmers as citizens and their quality of life in the rural areas.

Developing countries require support in agricultural research, technology transfer to farmers to ensure that they are competitive and that they can continue as food producers. Farmers need support services to ensure that their products can meet increasingly stringent quality standards. Farm programmes need to address the special situation of women farmers who produce much of the food in developing countries.

In the final analysis, it will be the farmer who will make or break any strategy to achieve food security. It is therefore critical not to lose focus of the key player. If the Summit in June next year focuses on strengthening small-farm agriculture and on facilitating the self-help efforts of the farmers, then I am convinced that the target of reducing by half the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition by 2015 is achievable.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours

La séance est levée à 18h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2 – 13 November 2001 Rome, 2 – 13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2 – 13 de noviembre de 2001
NINTH PLENARY MEETING NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA
7 November 2001

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours
Mr Majzoub Al-Khalifa Ahmed,
Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15
sous la présidence de M. Majzoub Al-Khalifa Ahmed,
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Majzoub Al-Khalifa Ahmed,
Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)
PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE (suite)
PARTE I - ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture

(C 2001/2; C 2001/INF/25) (continued)

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

(C 2001/2; C 2001/INF/25) (suite)

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

(C 2001/2; C 2001/INF/25) (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DÉCLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION (suite)

DECLARACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Uganda, Finland, South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, Bénin, Norway, Pakistan, France, Jordan, Greece, Paraguay, Philippines, Bolivia, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Guinée, Swaziland, Panamá, Permanent Observer for the Holy See, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)

Wilberforce KISAMBA-MUGERWA (Uganda)

My delegation wishes to associate itself with those who took the floor before me and express congratulations upon your election to the Chairmanship and wish you success in guiding our deliberations.

Uganda is not proud of being among those countries where people are experiencing hunger and undernourishment. Uganda is known for having done what is humanly possible to create a conducive atmosphere to increase productivity and eradicate poverty through the modernization of our culture. We are however experiencing negative factors, such as the HIV/AIDS scourge and low and declining world prices for our produce and exports.

Uganda has a population of 22 million and the population growth rate is 2.8 percent. The agricultural sector grew by 3.4 percent per annum between 1997 and 2000, while GDP grew by 5.7 percent per annum. At least 36 percent of Uganda's population (which is more than 8 million people) are below the poverty line of US\$1 per day. These people are inevitably food insecure. Moreover, there are people whose income is above the poverty line and who have access to food whose quality is not to the required standards. The net agriculture sector growth after adjusting for population growth is only 0.6 percent. At this rate Uganda will take more than 60 years to eliminate food insecurity. This situation is not acceptable.

There are several policies and programmes which the Government of Uganda has designed and is implementing to fulfil the seven World Food Summit commitments made in 1996. Their outputs and impact are beginning to show positive results in terms of increased agricultural productivity, reduction of poverty and food insecurity. The policies and programmes include: creating an enabling political, social and economic environment; restoring constitutionalism through the election of the president, members of parliament and local government councils conducted through universal adult suffrage; reducing poverty levels from 48 percent in 1995-96 to 36 percent in 1999-2000 through poverty reduction focused policies and actions; increasing investment in various sectors to contribute towards poverty eradication and food security, which include agriculture, rural feeder roads, health, education, water and sanitation; introducing conflict prevention measures, such as setting up a Human Rights Commission to probe cases of human rights violation and the Amnesty Commission to pardon those armed groups fighting the government; improving relationships and restoring diplomatic ties with neighbouring countries to ensure peace in the region; implementing prudent fiscal and monetary policies, privatizing public enterprises, as well as liberalizing the marketing of produce and cash crops; empowering women

through affirmative action, representation in parliament and at all levels of local governments, availing them targeted credit for production or other forms of business as well as access to higher education; and establishing a strong behavioural change programme against HIV/AIDS that has reduced the productive population and left the country with 1.7 million orphaned children.

Our efforts to attain sustainable food security and reduce hunger include: increasing food production and reducing food losses; increasing productivity and diversifying production to increase profits of small-scale farmers; improving market access for farm inputs through the establishment of rural networks of stockists; improving the marketing of agricultural products; strengthening the agricultural extension programme through the establishment of a National Agricultural Advisory Delivery Service (NAADS) which is farmer driven; and developing a conceptual framework for modernizing agriculture.

We are currently experiencing surplus of food production, especially of banana, maize and beans. Unfortunately, while the urban-based population is enjoying low food prices, the poor marketing of food crops coupled with low coffee prices may demoralize the farmers and they yet experience low food production. However, the main constraints, despite all government programmes, remain internally displaced people due to cattle rustling. This has reached sophisticated dimensions thus destabilizing neighbouring areas within Uganda that would sufficiently produce food for residents. It is important that FAO addresses itself to this phenomenon of uncontrolled livestock movement.

The spells of drought disturb sustainable production and productivity. We intend to intensify small-scale irrigation to ensure increased productivity and sustainable production. We are grateful to the assistance given by FAO in this endeavour through its SPFS.

The efforts undertaken by the United States of America, through the Agriculture Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the European Union (EU) liberalization of trade may go a long way to boost production in developing countries. We are quite grateful as long as it is not accompanied by restrictive high standards.

We pray that developed countries limit subsidies extended to their farmers to level the ground.

In conclusion, the problem of food insecurity cannot be addressed in isolation. Parallel investment in water, land, capacity building, health, education and infrastructure is needed to utilize Uganda's potential.

As stated earlier, this requires national and international support. Uganda therefore strongly supports the project proposed to FAO for tsetse fly eradication in Africa to ensure the eradication of nagana and sleeping sickness. We also support the Work Plan and Budget which has been proposed to enable FAO to support member countries to fight food insecurity and undernutrition. We, however, wish that the resources made available will in future be increased to match the task at hand.

Kalevi HEMILÄ (Finland)

It is five years since we convened here for the World Food Summit. The time span is not long enough for us to evaluate the total effect of our enhanced work against hunger. However, it is sufficiently long to draw some conclusions on the development up to now. Finland shares the concern over the slowdown in the reduction of undernourishment in the world.

In September 2000, all the Member States of the United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration. The Declaration puts together the commitments made at the summits and conferences in the 1990s and sets clear quantitative development targets taking also into account the time span. The World Food Summit and its Plan of Action are an integral part of the worldwide development strategy.

As we recall, at the Millennium Summit decisions on the world's future development were made at the highest political level. The first goal is the most important one: "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger". There is no doubt that alleviating hunger is one of the prerequisites for sustainable

poverty reduction. Rural and agricultural development deserves particular attention and efforts, and must be taken as a high priority in the development plans.

Promotion of rural policy measures aiming at eradication of hunger is a task of utmost importance not only for the international community. It is the primary duty for every government to place these matters on the top of their national policy agendas and to set concrete national targets to reduce the number of the hungry.

Increased agricultural production alone cannot solve the problems of food security. Availability of fisheries and forestry products is an important precondition for the well-being of most people. Sustainable development and use of these resources should also be considered as our high priority. This is why Finland strongly supports the endorsement of the Reykjavik Declaration in this Conference.

Another important aspect of food security is gender equality. Women have a crucial role in agriculture, as we all well know. We will continue to emphasize women's equal right of access to land and other resources.

Many different reasons have led to the insufficient supply of food for the world population. In many parts of the world natural disasters have taken their deadly toll and destroyed agricultural land as well as productive – and protective – forests in vast areas. This is especially true in countries where agriculture is the mainstay of the economy and levels of undernourishment are high.

Wars and violent conflicts have often prevented people from settling down in peace, cultivating their land. The situation is extremely worrying in many parts of the developing world. We have to face these problems, and we must not give up. FAO has a central role in rebuilding agriculture and improving food security.

The debt burden of the least developed countries is tremendous. Finland recognizes the problem and is doing its share in relieving the debt burden of these countries.

We welcome the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as the first legally binding international agreement in the field of sustainable agriculture. It is a major achievement of this Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference and while I wish its timely and effective implementation I also want to extend special thanks to our experts who have worked tirelessly for more than seven years on this subject.

The World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference is starting its meeting in Qatar to launch, we hope, a new round of trade negotiations. Only in the context of such a comprehensive round it is possible to reach truly meaningful results also in the agricultural sector.

To encourage and facilitate agricultural trade we need a credible set of rules and commitments. The Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture created such a stable framework. Now we can build on our previous achievements and continue down the path of gradual reform.

The European Union is the world's largest importer of agricultural products. It will continue to provide an important and growing market also for developing countries and at the same time ensure that the European model of agriculture can continue to fulfil its multifunctional role.

Our advanced sanitary and phytosanitary requirements have been introduced for the purpose of protecting consumers. It is important that we all work together to help also the developing countries to meet these criteria and to become competitive exporters on international markets.

The world situation today does not allow us to lean back and enjoy the fruits of our work. On the contrary, we have to double our efforts in order to alleviate the suffering of those millions of people who do not have enough to eat today so that tomorrow will be better for them and for us all.

Ms Angela Thoko DIDIZA (South Africa)

I wish to share with you all the impressions of a 17 year-old South African girl called Thrishni, who was the winner of this year's competition for young people on the theme of food security, which was preceded by the Vision 20-20 meeting held in Bonn during September. I quote: "And so it was that world leaders just met and they lent their major powers to the cause that their people were championing so fervently. It seemed that for once the politicians were more concerned about human issues than military ones. The conference buildings echoed with calls for economic assistance for Third World countries for developing the world markets that are supporting these countries through importing while at the same time helping them by allowing them to pay less tax. Most importantly it was decided that greater attention would be paid to dealing with wars through mediation because refugees of war-torn countries made up the greatest part of the world's hungry. These suggestions had all been made before but this time people were actually listening and taking them seriously. The reality of the situation had sunk in. World hunger affected every single country. It upset the balance".

Honourable delegates, when our Presidents met and committed us to the 1996 World Food Summit Plan of Action, it was these issues - so clearly articulated by Thrishni - that were pertinent and as such defined the framework within which we should proceed with implementation. This week, they should have reconvened here to review progress, but the reality of the upset balance has disrupted that major important task. While this may be the case for now it should not detract us from dealing with hunger and poverty in the world. This challenges us to reflect in earnest as to what progress we have made and also to consider what has changed in the state of food security and agriculture worldwide. In that process we must highlight the new issues that may require a change in strategy.

I would like to suggest that what has changed is that we now have a deeper understanding of the interrelationship between natural resource management issues, research innovation technology development issues and the need for a reform of the global agricultural trading system. If we are to manage the agriculture and food sector effectively by increasing productivity when necessary, facilitating on-farm and non-farm employment in rural areas whilst ensuring sustainable natural resource use, we need to accept that tactical choices will have to be made in terms of at least the following issues: investment which supports microeconomic development versus macro economic rule; equity considerations between developed and developing countries, between men and women in agriculture, between young and older populations; longer-term sustainable goals versus short-term visible gains; limiting or expanding the different yet complementary roles of the public, private and civil society sectors; balancing the access, use and proprietary rights that farmers, researchers, the private sector and society as a whole have over our rich biodiversity; within the public sector (nationally, regionally and internationally), finding the appropriate balance between centralized and decentralized governance and service delivery systems; and promoting urban and rural development.

There may be other issues but, in my view, these in some way should help us to move in creating that balance. This would all be done, as many of you have clearly stated, with the objective of eradicating poverty worldwide in such a manner that the policy and programmes we implement result in economic, social and environmental sustainability. There needs to be a sense of urgency in making these choices because of the devastating implications for people who are poor today. However the reality is that, if we do not act decisively to change the current poverty conditions, there will be adverse affects on future generations. We must not give up the fight against poverty and hunger, rather we must build on our experience of what has worked. We owe it to our children and our grandchildren.

When we define basic minimum needs for the African continent and its people there will be some variety as a result of the rich diversity of the people themselves and the continent as a whole. Nevertheless, a core set of basic needs which underpin economic and social development and the quest for a better quality of life would include food, water and health security and the right of

access to a dwelling and to income-generating opportunities. At another level, peace, stability and democratic freedom would also be included.

The challenge becomes how to ensure that these basic needs are met speedily in the light of climate change trends, emerging and re-emerging animal and human diseases, the rapid pace of technology change, increasingly monopolistic market behaviour, declining levels of profitability of the farm sector and continuing civil conflicts. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a Marshall Plan for the economic recovery of the continent, responds to this challenge. Africans, for the first time, have decided to take the leadership of their cause, while acknowledging the fact that they will need the support of other partners in the developing world.

Agriculture is the pivot around which most economic and social activity in Africa turns. In most countries it is still the largest contributor to GDP, ranging between 20 and 40 percent, while it contributes as much as 75 percent to employment. It is the biggest source of foreign exchange, accounting for about 40 percent of the continent's hard currency earnings, and the main generator of savings and tax revenue. It is still the dominant provider of food and industrial raw materials. Consequently, within the context of NEPAD, the agricultural sector in most countries has been identified as a critical foundation sector upon which to build interventions for poverty eradication, job creation and income-generating and distribution, which can contribute to political stability.

There is general consensus within South Africa that we have taken strides in establishing the necessary macroeconomic balance and stability, away from the situation which we inherited in the apartheid legacy. However we acknowledge that we ourselves still face the challenge of food security and poverty. We have developed an integrated action plan, which in our view will be measured by how much of a positive impact it has on a number of key performance indicators, including food security levels.

With regard to promoting and improving national food security status following the advent of the 1996 World Food Summit Plan of Action, the Government of South Africa has initiated the development and implementation of the integrated food security strategy and programme. Our approach includes developing effective partnerships and linkages with all relevant stakeholders. It also includes setting up and maintaining effective food insecurity and vulnerability information system for early warning purposes and monitoring the trends in food security indices. These critical issues should form part of the agenda and programme of action that flows from the upcoming World Food Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg in September 2002.

Agricultural issues are at the core of sustainability strategies, yet the leadership and farmers are not yet vocal enough on the imperatives. I therefore hope that you will continue the debates on the tactical choices and join me in South Africa to articulate the agricultural issues.

Alphonse DOUATI (Côte d'Ivoire)

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur Général, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et Chers Collègues, Honorables Représentants des Pays Membres de la FAO, Mesdames, Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord vous adresser les chaleureuses salutations du Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, Son Excellence, Monsieur Laurent Gbagbo, de son Gouvernement et du peuple ivoirien. Je voudrais ensuite féliciter le Président et le Vice-Président de la Conférence pour avoir été commis à ces responsabilités et pour l'efficacité avec laquelle ils dirigent les débats.

Je voudrais enfin rendre un hommage vibrant au Directeur Général, Monsieur Jacques Diouf qui, à la tête de notre Organisation, s'emploie inlassablement à réduire l'insécurité alimentaire dans les régions de notre planète où elle continue de sévir. Si des avancées certaines ont pu être enregistrées au cours des cinq dernières années, force est de constater que, sans une nouvelle prise de conscience, assortie d'un programme de grande envergure, l'objectif consistant à réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes souffrant de faim chronique et de malnutrition ne sera pas atteint en 2015. C'est pourquoi la Côte d'Ivoire a accueilli avec satisfaction la reprogrammation en juin 2002 du "Sommet Mondial: cinq ans après". Dans ce contexte, la Côte d'Ivoire connaît désormais l'insécurité alimentaire et une pauvreté grandissante, tant en milieu rural qu'urbain. Cette pauvreté

est la conséquence de la dégradation des termes de l'échange et de la crise socio-politique que nous avons connue. En outre, depuis plus de trois ans, la Côte d'Ivoire vit sur ses ressources internes, l'aide internationale ayant été arrêtée, aggravant la pression financière et, de fait, la pauvreté. Mon pays, la Côte d'Ivoire a toujours mis un point d'honneur à développer l'agriculture, il a bâti des avantages comparatifs sur un certain nombre de cultures tropicales. Il est devenu, au fil des années, et par la force de travail de ses filles et de ses fils, un partenaire de référence pour de nombreux produits dont le cacao, produit dont il est le premier producteur mondial, mais aussi l'ananas, le palmier à huile, la banane, le café, le caoutchouc, le coton et, plus récemment, la noix de cajou. Tous ces résultats sont le fruit de petits exploitants disposant en moyenne de un à deux hectares de culture. Malheureusement, les cours de tous ces produits se sont effondrés sans perspective de redressement à court terme, rendant encore plus précaire l'existence de milliers de familles rurales, et accroissant leur insécurité alimentaire. Face à la recrudescence de la pauvreté et à la menace de l'insécurité alimentaire, le Gouvernement de la Deuxième République, issu des élections démocratiques d'octobre 2000, a décidé de prendre des mesures correctrices. La première action prioritaire consiste à créer les conditions permettant de sortir de la crise socio-politique et le Forum de la Réconciliation Nationale, dont les travaux, démarrés en octobre dernier, sont toujours en cours, devait permettre aux Ivoiriennes et aux Ivoiriens de se rassembler autour d'un nouveau consensus national.

Au plan économique, le Gouvernement s'est attelé au rétablissement des relations avec les principaux bailleurs de fonds de la Côte d'Ivoire, concrétisé par la signature, en juillet 2001, d'un Programme Intérimaire avec la Banque mondiale et le FMI, puis par la reprise progressive de la coopération avec l'Union européenne. Une vaste réforme de l'État a été entreprise, pour approfondir l'État de droit et la Gestion démocratique de la vie publique. La décentralisation et la restructuration des institutions constituent les fondements de cette réforme. Au plan social, afin de permettre aux plus défavorisés, et principalement aux couches rurales, d'avoir accès aux soins de santé, le Gouvernement a instauré un système d'assurance maladie universelle, basé sur la solidarité nationale. Dans le secteur agricole, la nouvelle orientation accorde la priorité à la concertation et à une plus grande responsabilisation des producteurs dans les prises de décisions. La professionnalisation à travers un Conseil agricole mieux adapté, une formation plus appropriée et la recherche scientifique mieux ciblée sont les instruments de cette nouvelle orientation. S'agissant du secteur vivrier, notre plan d'action consiste à améliorer la distribution intérieure et à réduire de moitié, d'ici cinq ans, les importations de riz, de viande et de poisson, tout en assurant 30 pour cent, contre 13 pour cent actuellement, de la couverture de nos besoins en lait et produits laitiers.

La Côte d'Ivoire a entrepris une vaste réforme foncière, qui devait réglementer et rationaliser l'occupation de l'espace rural, sécuriser les agriculteurs et les investissements, tout en accordant à la terre une valeur capitalisable. Au titre des actions prioritaires, il convient de citer la maîtrise de l'eau, à travers un schéma directeur d'irrigation appelé à donner une forte impulsion à la production agricole.

Monsieur le Président, Chers Collègues Ministres, un aspect majeur de la réforme agricole instaurée en Côte d'Ivoire porte sur la filière cacao, dont notre pays détient 45 pour cent de la production mondiale. Il s'agit, pour nous, de sécuriser la principale source de revenus en organisant au mieux la commercialisation intérieure et la mise à l'exportation par un système de régulation transparent et devant permettre de diriger le meilleur flux financier vers le milieu rural. Cette régulation nous paraît essentielle, non seulement au plan national mais devrait constituer une position de principe pour la Côte d'Ivoire, lors des négociations de Doha. Car nous sommes d'avis que seul un mécanisme de régulation transparent, basé sur des règles internationalement reconnues, permettra d'aboutir à une équité dans le commerce international. D'ailleurs, nous restons attachés au principe d'un traitement spécial et différencié des pays en développement dans les échanges internationaux. Et il est heureux de constater qu'à certains égards l'Union Européenne l'a bien intégré dans son initiative: "Tout sauf arme". Dans la quête pour la survie que mènent les pays en développement, la FAO devra de plus en plus jouer un rôle régulateur. C'est pourquoi nous nous réjouissons de l'accord sur l'utilisation des ressources phylogénétiques, car la

Côte d'Ivoire a souffert du transfert illicite de ses ressources végétales, sans une contrepartie réelle.

Nous pensons que la FAO doit jouer un rôle fédérateur dans les problèmes cruciaux comme la fièvre aphteuse, et diriger la réflexion sur la pertinence des barrières sanitaires liées à la vaccination. Notre organisation doit continuer de diriger les consultations techniques sur les normes, sur la sincérité de l'étiquetage et des dénominations et tenir rigueur quant à la composition des marques déposées de produits alimentaires comme le chocolat. Enfin, la Côte d'Ivoire, tout en adhérant fermement à la Déclaration du Groupe des Pays Africains sur la lutte contre la mouche tsé-tsé et la trypanosomiase, émet le vœu que la FAO accorde à ce programme la plus haute priorité comme composante essentielle du programme de sécurité alimentaire.

Théophile NATA (Bénin)

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais vous féliciter pour votre élection à la tête de notre Conférence ainsi que le Vice-Président élu en même temps que vous. Monsieur le Président, je voudrais, compte tenu de la réduction du temps, aller directement à l'expérience béninoise.

Au Bénin, le secteur agricole et rural occupe près de 70 pour cent de la population active et contribue pour environ 40 pour cent au Produit intérieur brut (PIB). Il dispose de zones agro-écologiques variées, permettant la culture d'une large gamme de produits. Le Bénin est globalement auto-suffisant sur le plan alimentaire mais n'est pas à l'abri des situations de précarité alimentaire les années de graves perturbations climatiques, notamment les années de sécheresse sévère.

L'utilisation des semences améliorées et des engrais permet d'obtenir de bonnes récoltes sur le maïs, le riz et le manioc. La campagne agricole 2001-2002 qui s'achève a connu des perturbations climatiques qui se sont manifestées par une pluviométrie irrégulière dans la plupart des régions du pays. Cependant les productions agricoles seront globalement suffisantes pour faire face aux besoins alimentaires de notre pays.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, poursuivant les réformes économiques en cours au Bénin depuis le début de la dernière décennie, le Gouvernement a procédé récemment à l'actualisation de sa politique agricole pour tenir compte des impératifs de lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim et des exigences de compétitivité pour la conquête de marchés extérieurs.

Ainsi les domaines prioritaires de la politique agricole du Bénin portent sur la diversification agricole par la promotion de cultures d'intérêt économique, selon chaque région agro-écologique. Ils portent aussi sur le développement de l'élevage et de la pêche, sur la sauvegarde de l'intégrité du patrimoine écologique national grâce à une gestion rationnelle et participative des ressources naturelles, sur la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle par des actions spécifiques dans les zones les plus vulnérables. Ils portent encore sur l'appui à la promotion des organisations d'agriculteurs, sur l'intégration socio-économique des femmes et des jeunes grâce à des actions appropriées en leur faveur, sur l'accès au crédit par la promotion d'institutions de micro-finances adaptées aux petits producteurs, sur la maîtrise de l'eau et enfin sur le développement des infrastructures socio-économiques de base.

La redéfinition du rôle de l'État à travers la réforme institutionnelle des services agricoles a favorisé aujourd'hui l'émergence de nouvelles formes d'organisation de producteurs, depuis le village jusqu'au niveau national, en passant par tous les stades intermédiaires, sans oublier l'existence d'une Chambre d'Agriculture de plus en plus forte.

Il s'agit, à travers ces diverses structures, de permettre aux producteurs agricoles de prendre effectivement en charge la gestion de leurs propres affaires.

Pour la mise en œuvre de cette politique agricole dont les objectifs sont d'élever le niveau de vie de la population et de renforcer le rôle du secteur rural dans le développement socio-économique, le Gouvernement du Bénin s'attèle à poursuivre la démocratisation de la vie politique, le renforcement de la paix et de la stabilité et l'implication effective de toutes les couches de la population au développement de la Nation.

Il s'attèle aussi à poursuivre la réforme économique dans le sens de la promotion et de l'encouragement du secteur privé, à mettre en œuvre la décentralisation de l'administration territoriale et enfin à contribuer à l'intégration économique sous-régionale à travers le Conseil de l'Entente, l'Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine et la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Au nombre des programmes réalisés ou en cours d'exécution, avec naturellement l'appui de nos partenaires au développement, il importe de citer: la promotion des structures financières décentralisées pour l'octroi des crédits aux petits agriculteurs, le transfert au secteur privé de la distribution des intrants agricoles et de la commercialisation des produits agricoles, la diversification des productions, végétale, animale et halieutique, et le financement des activités génératrices de revenus dans les domaines de la production, de la transformation et de la commercialisation. On peut citer encore l'amélioration de la production vivrière dans les zones d'insécurité alimentaire d'un programme réalisé ou en cours d'exécution avec naturellement l'appui de nos partenaires au développement. Il importe de citer la promotion des structures financières décentralisées pour l'octroi de crédits aux petits agriculteurs, le transfert au secteur privé de la distribution des intrants agricoles et de la commercialisation des produits agricoles, la diversification de la production végétale et animale halieutique, le financement des activités génératrices de revenu dans le domaine de production, de transformation et de commercialisation, l'amélioration de la production vivrière dans les zones d'insécurité alimentaire, la mise en œuvre, depuis deux ans, du programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire, la lutte contre l'analphabétisme, par l'institution d'une scolarisation obligatoire assortie de mesures incitatives pour les jeunes filles, l'élaboration en cours d'une législation foncière rurale pour sécuriser les agriculteurs dans leurs activités, la réorganisation de la recherche agricole pour la mettre plus proche aux premiers bénéficiaires qui sont les agriculteurs, la gestion de la fertilité des sols, gage de l'intensification de notre agriculture, l'irrigation par une gestion plus efficace de micro barrages et retenues d'eaux, l'amélioration des outils de travail par le développement de l'agriculture attelée et de la petite mécanisation.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs des Délégations, beaucoup d'orateurs ont mis l'accent sur la distorsion qui existe entre une production mondiale suffisante et la marge de plus en plus grande de ceux qui ont faim. Nous parlons aujourd'hui de sécurité alimentaire, si cette tendance s'accroît, il se peut que d'ici à quelques années nous soyons à cette tribune à parler de sécurité tout court, car les nantis ne seront pas en sécurité en face de la grande masse de pauvres. Ceux qui sont repus, ceux qui sont opulents, verront leur sécurité menacée d'ici à quelques années. Si le monde entier ne se ligue pas, ne se met pas debout pour faire reculer l'insécurité alimentaire, ce sera demain l'insécurité tout court.

Je voudrais terminer, Monsieur le Président, puisque je dispose encore de quelques minutes, pour dire que mon gouvernement soutient toutes les résolutions qui vont dans le sens de l'éradication de la mouche tsé-tsé et de la trypanomiase en Afrique aujourd'hui et aussi pour dire, Monsieur le Président, que le Bénin soutient tous les efforts qui vont dans le sens du recul de toutes les maladies dont souffre aujourd'hui l'Afrique et surtout par rapport à l'exposé que nous avons suivi hier matin dans la Salle Verte de cette Assemblée.

Lars SPONHEIM (Norway)

In a world with enough food, it is intollerable that people do not have enough to eat. We urgently need to intensify our efforts to reduce the number of hungry. This is the reponsibility of all FAO's member countries, both developing and developed. This must be done in partnership with international organizations such as the International Development Banks and FAO. The Norwegian Government is committed to contributing actively to this end.

There is a link between poverty and hunger. During the World Food Summit in 1996, many voices called for a commitment by the international community to set a goal to eradicate hunger completely. The Millenium Goals adopted by the United Nations, repeated a commitment laid down by the World Food Summit, to halve the number of hungry by 2015. Evidence provided in recent reports from the FAO Secretariat shows that, at the current rate of progress we will not

reach this goal. Therefore we support the decision to hold the World Food Summit: *five years later* meeting in June next year.

Despite the fast process of urbanization in developing countries, recent studies show that the majority of the world's poor still live in rural areas. FAO also has a responsibility in focusing on the need to reach the marginalized rural poor. There is a need to increase resources to sustainable agricultural and rural development, to achieve food security in both investments and official development assistance.

I also take this opportunity to appeal to the donor community to increase ODA to reach the agreed target of 0.7 percent of GNP. My Government believes that a broad approach to food security is needed – an approach that takes both social and political aspects into account. This means that we need to work from a number of angles to achieve food security and improve the livelihoods of the rural poor. I believe that one important strategy for achieving these goals would be to elaborate the right to adequate food, and I believe that this is an area where FAO can play an important role. Norway has been, and still is, supporting the work for an international code of conduct on the right to adequate food. FAO and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have started a process to develop such a code of conduct. Furthermore, international NGOs have made an important contribution to this work inasmuch as they have formulated a proposal for a code of conduct. I wish to stress that Norway will support the efforts to realize a code of conduct and sees this as an important step to realizing the commitments laid down in the World Food Summit Plan of Action. Furthermore, I support the German initiative to convene an international workshop on the right to food involving experts and NGOs. We need to focus on improving the lives of the poor as well as on overall agricultural production in developing countries. In order to achieve food security, FAO must take as a point of departure, Member Nations' formulated development plans and poverty reduction strategy papers and work in close collaboration with other international organizations in the fight against poverty. In this context, I am pleased to note that FAO recently joined the United Nations Development Group.

This year's Conference will be remembered for one major achievement. Last Saturday, seven years of hard work resulted in the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. I wish to congratulate all delegations and members of the Secretariat that have participated in this important and difficult endeavour. This is the first legally binding instrument concerned with sustainable agriculture. As such, the treaty will be a cornerstone in the world's efforts to secure and develop biological diversity of importance to agriculture and will strengthen FAO's important role. This will help the least food-secure people and will be important in the fight against hunger. The treaty is clearly not perfect. I regret that many crops of importance to food security have not been included. The document agreed during this Conference is, however, a very good start. I urge Member Nations to go ahead with the ratification process to ensure that the treaty enters into force as soon as possible.

Women play a special role in food security and in agricultural production. FAO needs to intensify its work in empowering women. I wish to emphasize how important it is that FAO confronts the challenge that HIV/AIDS represents for the agricultural sector. HIV/AIDS mainly hits the productive part of the population. The epidemic therefore has a significant negative impact on agricultural production and food security. FAO must take into account the challenge posed by HIV/AIDS in the advice provided to member countries and in its technical cooperation programmes. I am pleased to note that UNAIDS and FAO have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

In the FAO report on the State of Food and Agriculture 2001, it is stated that the spread of emergent disease in evasive species has increased dramatically. Nationally, the Government will merge national control authorities in this field into one national authorities responsible for all controls regarding production and distribution of food. With the recent outbreaks of BSE and foot-and-mouth disease in Europe, I wish to emphasize that the goal must be to eradicate these diseases altogether. To achieve this we need to coordinate the efforts made internationally.

In the area of sustainable fisheries, I support the endorsement by the Council of the Declaration from the Reykjavik Conference.

In December 1999, the Government presented a White Paper to the Norwegian Parliament. The main emphasis of this paper is the important role played by agriculture in modern society. To enable agriculture to live up to this role, the White Paper underlines the need for a more consumer-oriented agricultural policy and to produce public goods such as environmental goods and long-term supply of food. The Ministerial Meeting of WTO in Qatar will most likely initiate a new comprehensive round of negotiations. Norway has emphasized that non-trade concerns, such as food security, must be an integral part of the negotiations on agriculture in WTO. The non-trade concerns of agriculture are important to a large number of both developing and developed countries. What is needed is a genuine interest in safeguarding non-trade concerns and the need for flexibility in their multilateral trading system in order to sustain the domestic agriculture required to address these concerns. At the same time, Norway recognizes that improved market access for agricultural products is of vital importance to many developing countries as a vehicle for economic growth and poverty alleviation. Special and differential treatment, as well as technical and financial assistance to the poorest countries is required in order for them to take advantage of the opportunities offered by more open markets.

Hafeez AKHTAR (Pakistan)

It is a matter of great pleasure and honour for me to address this distinguished gathering at the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. Allow me to convey my Government's congratulations to you and to the three Vice-Chairmen on elections to guide the proceedings of this august forum, and to the Governments of Monaco, Nauru, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia for their entry into this great organization of the UN System.

My Government was looking forward to participating today at the highest level to review the achievements made towards implementing the decisions we took at the historic congregation of the world leadership here in Rome in 1996. We considered it a most opportune moment to take stock of the grim scenario in which attaining the target of halving the number of undernourished by 2015 seems more a chimera than a reality and reversal of the situation is only possible if renewed efforts are made with full political commitment now and not tomorrow.

The events of 11 September have inflicted a double setback to humanity in its fight against hunger and poverty. This vicious act has not only brought about a temporary diversion of our focus on combating malnutrition, hunger and poverty, but is also likely to push additional millions to malnourishment and absolute poverty, making the attainment of the international development goals embodied in the historic Millennium Summit Declaration even more difficult. Against this backdrop, I need not overemphasize the added relevance and urgency in bringing the Heads of States together to review and reaffirm their collective pledge to halve the number of undernourished by 2015. My Government is therefore pleased to endorse the Council decision to hold the World Food Summit in June 2002. My Government also wishes to place on record its appreciation of the efforts made by the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, towards getting the world leadership together for this noble purpose.

It goes without saying that Pakistan is one of the most affected by the events of 11 September. My Government is estimating an immediate loss of about US\$3 billion to the economy in a country where almost one-third already live in poverty with income levels below US\$1 a day. We have been housing 2 million Afghan refugees for over two decades and now more are on their way. The longer-term impact on investor confidence in our region is likely to make recovery equally difficult. These factors are certain to affect our food security. We therefore foresee an increased reliance on agriculture for meeting our food security requirements, as well as for economic growth.

My Government has already initiated steps to introduce pro-poor policies in the country. These include: creating an enabling environment through devolution of power to the grassroots level, and the rebuilding of a relationship of trust between the people and the Government; embarking

on an affirmative poverty alleviation programme to create job opportunities in order to accelerate economic activity in the marginalized areas and provide basic social amenities; establishing microfinance facilities to provide credit to the poor, the needy and the most deprived and disadvantaged groups of people, without guarantee or collateral security; augmenting and improving the social safety net through food support programmes and enhancement of subsistence allowance under the Islamic System of Zakat; rationalizing support prices of major commodities leading to increased earnings for the farmers; distributing abandoned lands amongst the poor, low-income, landless and those forced to leave their homes because of drought; introducing a reform programme in agriculture to shift gradually from a supply-based production system to a demand-based one, which is more responsive to market signals and has appropriate downstream infrastructures, with an aim to reduce market imperfections inherent in the old system.

On account of these and other policy measures, the agriculture sector recorded a remarkable growth rate of 6.1 percent in 1999 to 2000. However, the momentum could not be maintained in 2001 with the sector witnessing a decrease of 2.5 percent. This decline was due to the unprecedented drought situation which engulfed the entire country and resulted in irrigation water shortages of 15.8 to 29 percent for the two main cropping seasons. The production of food grains decreased by 8.5 per cent to 26 million tonnes. Water availability is becoming a serious handicap to agricultural development and food security and is one area in which major initiatives are required, together with innovative solutions at the micro level.

We may, however, report that, despite a year-on-year fluctuation in per hectare yield, a ten-year scan shows that the yields of wheat and rice have shown a marked improvement with rice recording an increase in per hectare yields of 31 percent and wheat of 26 percent. Nevertheless, yield gaps remain significant and we must continue to work with the farmers to decrease this. In this regard, we recognize the contribution made by FAO's Special Programme on Food Security which demonstrated yield improvements of 65 to 168 percent and 61 to 128 percent in wheat and rice, respectively, at various pilot sites in Pakistan. My Government has now decided to pursue this model and extend it to more than 100 villages through our own development resources. We congratulate the Director-General for undertaking this initiative in support of achieving the targets of the World Food Summit. We hope that the Trust Fund established for enhancing the coverage under this programme will receive full support from the donor countries as well as the private sector. We also believe that declaring 2003 as the International Year of Rice would help in addressing the issues and challenges facing this important crop for food security.

Important meetings are being held in the coming days which would have profound implications for agricultural development and food security. Had we been holding the Summit today, important signals could have been transmitted to these forums for taking into consideration our concerns. The Fourth WTO Ministerial Meeting being held this week is one such forum. I need not emphasize that the agriculture sector continues to be the main provider of employment and livelihood for 60 to 90 percent of the population in developing countries. The benefits of the existing multilateral trading system have continued to elude the developing countries. We therefore stress the need for the Doha Conference to take the necessary decisions for achieving the fundamental reform of agriculture through adopting effective modalities for eliminating the trade and production-distorting measures and the trade-impeding impact on developing countries' exports in agriculture, redefining effectively and meaningfully this special and differential treatment, and to formulate specific guidelines for safeguarding the objectives of food security through agriculture and rural development. In this regard, the proposals by developing countries on "Development Box" should be included in the provision of a renewed and a more equitable agreement.

A little later next year, we have the all-important conference on financing for development in Mexico. The IFPRI Conference in Germany early this year concluded that despite the pledges made at the World Food Summit, food security has not received high priority in the global development agenda. Indeed, the global summit in the 1980s and 1990s issued a plethora of goals and objectives leaving the international development agenda unfocused, overloaded and underfunded. Unfortunately for the world's people who are poor and hungry, talk has indeed been

cheap. For the Mexico conference, our message remains that agriculture and rural development have increased in relevance in eliminating hunger and poverty and therefore its share in bilateral and multilateral ODA, and lending by IFIs should be enhanced from 20 to 30 percent. In global terms we emphasize the need to fulfil the commitment of reaching the target of 0.7 percent of GDP for ODA and reverse its declining trend.

In this scenario of renewed focus on agriculture we emphasize the exceptional relevance of FAO in times to come. In its normative work it has just reached a landmark in concluding the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for which it merits our congratulations. In its field activities we have already mentioned the contribution of the Special Programme for Food Security. These examples exhibit the necessity to demonstrate our critical will by supporting a growth budget for FAO. We also appeal to other Member Nations to reaffirm their belief in FAO to the adoption of the budget at a size which signals promise and hope.

Claude CHÉREAU (France)

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les Délégués, je dois d'abord vous exprimer les regrets de Monsieur Jean Glavany, Ministre de l'agriculture et de la pêche, que le débat budgétaire au Parlement en France, a empêché de se joindre à nous. C'est en son nom que je m'adresse à vous.

La France apportera tout son concours pour que le "Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation: *cinq ans après*" puisse se tenir dans les meilleures conditions afin qu'il donne l'élan supplémentaire au niveau mondial pour que les objectifs du Plan d'action de Rome soient tenus. Je souhaite, pour ma part, que l'ensemble des nouvelles dispositions que nous devons prendre ensemble pour assurer le succès indispensable de cette initiative fasse l'objet d'un consensus très large au sein de la Communauté internationale, comme le Conseil qui a précédé cette Conférence a su le faire, ce dont nous nous félicitons.

Je voudrais évoquer devant cette Assemblée les évolutions récentes de la politique agricole de mon pays. L'adoption de l'Agenda 2000 par l'Union européenne a fait du développement rural le deuxième pilier de la politique agricole commune, et l'Assemblée nationale française a adopté en 1999 une nouvelle loi d'orientation agricole. Il s'agit là de la mise en route d'une véritable mutation de notre agriculture.

Mais la France et de nombreux autres pays ont dû surmonter des crises sérieuses dues à des problèmes sanitaires qui ont fortement perturbé la production. Dans des conditions difficiles, nous avons dû tout à la fois maintenir la confiance des consommateurs, en pratiquant une politique de vérité, et garantir la transparence sur la qualité des produits et donc sur la fiabilité des contrôles.

Beaucoup ont ainsi découvert que l'agriculture a des responsabilités nouvelles et qu'elle doit s'inscrire dans un développement durable et, par conséquent, être respectueuse de l'environnement et des hommes, qu'elle doit contribuer à maintenir ou à créer des emplois, qu'elle doit garantir la qualité et la diversité des produits, qu'elle doit valoriser les terroirs et participer à l'aménagement du territoire, qu'elle doit contribuer à la préservation du patrimoine culturel. Cette liste n'est pas limitative.

Il faut approfondir, aux plans national et international, des notions comme le "Principe de précaution" ou encore certaines "considérations d'ordre non commercial". Je pense que notre Organisation est l'enceinte privilégiée où toutes ces problématiques peuvent et doivent être débattues sereinement, afin que chaque pays, profitant de l'expérience des autres, puisse trouver des solutions applicables à ses propres problèmes.

Monsieur le Président, j'en viens à l'examen des enjeux de la Conférence générale. Ils sont importants. Tout d'abord, permettez-moi, comme d'autres, de féliciter cette Organisation pour l'adoption, samedi dernier, du Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, après sept ans de négociations complexes. La France, qui s'est beaucoup investie dans cette négociation, attache une importance particulière à ce texte qui devra permettre, à travers sa mise en œuvre, de répondre à l'objectif général d'améliorer la sécurité

alimentaire mondiale. Pour ce faire, nous restons convaincus qu'il est indispensable que la liste des espèces couvertes par ce traité soit élargie le plus tôt possible, afin de tenir compte de l'éventail des régimes alimentaires.

Il nous faut aussi décider du niveau du budget pour les deux ans à venir. Notre Organisation a fait des efforts importants pour s'adapter à un contexte budgétaire devenu de plus en plus rigoureux au fil des années. Elle doit poursuivre dans cette voie, pour améliorer encore son fonctionnement et rechercher toutes les synergies possibles avec les autres organisations internationales, comme nous en sommes convenus lors de l'adoption du Cadre stratégique, il y a deux ans.

La France examinera avec beaucoup d'attention les résultats de l'audit sur le programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire qui devrait être rendu public au premier semestre 2002. Mais un budget ferme un tout, et c'est pourquoi les missions de cette Organisation doivent être assurées prioritairement grâce aux moyens du programme régulier, en particulier en ce qui concerne les objectifs du Plan d'action de Rome. La multiplication des ressources extrabudgétaires tels que les fonds fiduciaires n'est pas une réponse satisfaisante dans le temps.

Notre Organisation doit aussi disposer de moyens appropriés correspondant aux priorités de son programme. La France considère qu'il est nécessaire d'étudier les conditions permettant de doter de moyens supplémentaires les secteurs de la pêche et de la forêt, afin de rééquilibrer leur importance vis-à-vis du secteur de l'agriculture, compte tenu du rôle que ces deux secteurs jouent dans le maintien de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

La France partage le souci du Directeur Général de consacrer plus de moyens financiers et humains de la Communauté internationale à l'agriculture et au développement agricole et rural, car la situation n'est pas satisfaisante. Le nombre de personnes mal nourries dans les pays les moins avancés a doublé en 30 ans. Parallèlement, la préparation de la réunion de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce a montré suffisamment que les pays en développement n'ont pas tiré les bénéfices annoncés de la libéralisation des échanges agricoles. Ceci ne veut pas dire que nos efforts n'ont pas porté leurs fruits. Je veux saluer en particulier l'énorme travail de terrain, effectué au quotidien par les spécialistes de cette Organisation et des autres, ainsi que par nos coopérants, sans oublier toutes les ONG qui se mobilisent en faveur du développement.

Pour notre part, et avec les autres pays de l'Union européenne, nous avons renouvelé la réflexion sur l'avenir de notre coopération avec les pays ACP, comme le prévoient les accords de Cotonou, et ouvert le marché européen à tous les produits des pays les moins avancés, sauf les armes.

Or l'Europe importe déjà, en provenance des PMA, six fois plus de produits agricoles que les Etats-Unis, ce qui n'est pas seulement le fait du hasard. Les pays développés et les plus grands pays émergents doivent pouvoir s'ouvrir largement aux produits de leurs voisins les plus pauvres.

Mais il subsiste de graves problèmes et c'est pourquoi il faut aujourd'hui donner une impulsion nouvelle à la réflexion et à l'action internationale. La lutte contre la pauvreté, mais aussi contre les inégalités, est une dimension essentielle pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire. A cet égard, le précédent sommet de l'Organisation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture avait rappelé que la sécurité alimentaire est avant tout la responsabilité de chacun des États Membres. Il faut donc s'interroger sur la pertinence des politiques de développement agricole des années passées. Si je peux résumer un débat naturellement complexe, je crois qu'il faut accepter de dire clairement aujourd'hui que nous avons trop négligé l'agriculture locale, les cultures vivrières, l'agriculteur et le rôle qu'il joue dans le tissu social et économique des zones rurales des pays en développement.

Plutôt qu'encourager une libéralisation incontrôlée, nous devons désormais rechercher la constitution de marchés intérieurs élargis, dans lesquels les cultures traditionnelles pourront se développer. C'est dans ce cadre que l'on dispose de bons atouts pour développer de réelles politiques agricoles régionales, protégées le cas échéant, pourquoi ne pas le dire, par des éléments tarifaires raisonnables, lorsqu'ils sont nécessaires pour assurer un revenu suffisant aux agriculteurs.

La France poursuivra ses efforts pour permettre aux pays en développement d'accéder au savoir et aux connaissances scientifiques et techniques pour fonder la sécurité alimentaire sur le développement d'une production agricole et alimentaire durable. Dans cet esprit, le rôle de la recherche agricole étant primordial, il faut encourager l'ensemble des acteurs de la recherche agricole pour le développement à renforcer la coordination de leurs efforts et affirmer la responsabilité de notre Organisation dans cette coordination.

Par ailleurs, il est de notre responsabilité collective de faire en sorte que la sécurité sanitaire des aliments des pays en développement ne soit pas mise en opposition avec celle des pays développés. Le relèvement des normes est une exigence des consommateurs et un devoir pour les responsables publics. Et naturellement, ce mouvement se poursuivra. Les pays en développement semblent parfois craindre qu'il y ait là prétexte à instauration de barrières non tarifaires. Ils le disent souvent. Mais mon pays ne pense pas qu'il puisse y avoir différentes sortes, différents degrés de sécurité sanitaire des aliments. Nous devons avoir comme objectif commun de garantir la santé de tous.

Monsieur le Président, pour conclure, nous avons, pour le développement agricole, des objectifs clairement identifiés. L'agriculture, les forêts et la pêche doivent jouer un rôle essentiel dans les politiques de développement, au plan économique mais aussi aux plans social et environnemental. Tout le reste (l'ouverture de marchés des pays développés, l'intégration régionale, les priorités de la coopération, etc.) doit être considéré comme des outils pour aider à la mise en place de véritables politiques de développement pour lutter contre la pauvreté et les inégalités. La tâche est immense. Mais beaucoup de pays, dont la France, comptent sur la FAO pour aider ceux qui ont des difficultés à les surmonter au plus vite dans l'intérêt de leur population.

Mahmud DUWAYRI (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

Distinguished Director-General of FAO, your Excellencies, members of the delegations, ladies and gentlemen, greetings.

It is a great honour and a great pleasure for me to be back with you and to take the floor before you during this General Conference of FAO, which is of considerable importance at this point in time both for you and for us. It falls within the scope of the policies defined by our king, King Abdullah II. Jordan, despite its natural resources, does lack some basic products, and food self-sufficiency has always been one of our major priorities. The structural adjustment programmes adopted from 1992 to 1998 helped to boost agricultural production to some extent. This economic development does not show very clearly in the agricultural sector because of the natural disasters we have faced over the past few years and because of the population growth. Jordan lacks water resources and because of that we only depend on areas that have a lot of rainfall and they have been affected by the drop in rainfall. And so, because of that, such agriculture is difficult to carry out.

We have an agricultural policy that is sustainable and whose goal is to meet the needs of our people as far as possible given the low water resources. We need fruitful cooperation and constructive cooperation with international organizations and regional organizations to implement our development plans between now and the year 2010. We are also counting on the technical expertise and agricultural advice we can receive in line with the decisions of the World Food Summit. This cooperation is extremely important and a case in point is the financial aid granted by the international institutions of the specialized United Nations agencies to enable farmers to be more self-reliant and to provide for their families. Of course, our priorities include the preservation of natural resources, the protection of the environment, reducing the unemployment rate and boosting the rural sector so that they can participate in food self-sufficiency. Thus we are able to increase agricultural production and deal with the problem of scarcity of red meat, so we hope that this increase in production will enable us to move towards achieving the objectives outlined in the World Summit.

In the light of the difficult situation we are facing and because of the plagues of war that we have seen in many regions of the world, I have mentioned a number of important issues for agricultural

development. I do hope that you will consider these issues to be of significant importance so we can look at them together and find solutions to them. This is a good opportunity to resolve a number of agricultural problems and speed up concretization of the objectives of this Summit, the goal being to reduce by half the number of undernourished persons. Among the priorities we set out is the need for increased focus on the United Nations and its different Agencies, giving the role these bodies play in peacekeeping, food security, conflict resolution and the fight against hunger, and food insecurity in general. Food security is a major problem which all countries face to varying extents, and we need to encourage the principle of participation, also in line with international objectives, the goal being to promote our efforts in this area.

Furthermore, justice is absolutely essential for food self-sufficiency. If everyone has access to justice then food self-sufficiency will become achievable. Peace and justice are absolutely indispensable. Food should never be used as a weapon and so we must encourage Member States to comply with a code of conduct, especially in terms of the use of pesticides. We want to reduce the negative impact on health and on the environment.

Women play a very important role in food self-sufficiency. We must emphasize the role of women. They contribute to the preservation of the environment and contribute to food self-sufficiency. We must also encourage the production of local seeds and maintain biological diversity in collaboration with all the specialized institutions in line with the commitments made on the protection of plant and genetic resources for agriculture and food. We must do everything in our power to maintain these plant resources. They must be used in a rational fashion, especially following the adoption by our Conference of the international commitment last week.

We also want to emphasize the importance of this commitment to food self-sufficiency. Further efforts must be made by all partners to facilitate the implementation and the entry into force of this commitment. FAO has a very important role to play and we would like to assure you that we intend to fully play our role. We are absolutely convinced that our joint efforts will certainly have a significant impact on the decisions required to take us to food self-sufficiency.

If we work in cooperation and in collaboration we will achieve the objectives of the World Food Summit, the goal being to reduce the number of undernourished people by half. We hope that our efforts would be crowned with success. We also would like to express our deep felt gratitude to Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, and to the entire Secretariat of FAO. We wish you great success.

Constantin YEROCOSTOPOULOS (Greece)

I would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election and wish you much success in conducting this important Session of the FAO Conference. I would also like to convey to you the warm greetings of the new Greek Minister for Agriculture, Mr George Drys, who was appointed the other day and is not able to participate in this Conference.

Greece, like all EU member countries, welcomes the recent adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources as a significant step in establishing a regulatory framework for conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use. It is a framework that will contribute greatly to the goal of sustainable agricultural and rural developments as well as food security.

The figures repeatedly quoted by the Director-General, for example, 815 million or 300 million, do not represent abstract numbers. Neither are they mere statistics. They represent human beings, children like our own, and we have at least a moral obligation to try to do more, to try to do better and to take action to meet the World Food Summit Plan of Action goals. FAO's effort to combat hunger, malnutrition and underdevelopment are well known. The main cause of those calamities is also well known to us. It is persistence of poverty, a complex multidimensional problem linked to a variety of factors, such as low income levels, market malfunction, lack of infrastructure, climate changes, economic instability, natural disasters and civil strife. All those factors have an extremely harmful impact on people's welfare and particularly on the local and national supply of

food. In supporting FAO's endeavours, Greece as a member state of the EU has undertaken, in accordance with the World Food Summit Plan of Action commitments, a significant effort over the last three years. In this connection we have implemented a dual plan of action, both at community level, as adopted by the European Union, and at international level as a member of the Development Assistance Committee. The Greek Food Aid Programme was directed mainly to the Balkan region aiming at the immediate relief of people heavily hit by the war. The Greek food aid to this region amounted for the year 1999 to US\$144 million. Assistance was also provided in the form of technical assistance, know-how and the training of women. In 2000, food aid to the same geographical region as well as to the Autonomous Palestinian Territories exceeded US\$79 million. We have also offered aid in the form of training and know-how to a number of countries elsewhere in the world. For this year, food aid and training projects are under way mainly in the Balkan countries.

With regard to our agenda, I would like to address two items which my delegation considers vital and important. First, substantive and policy matters concerning nutrition and agriculture. Second, FAO's programme of work and accountability process. Needless to say we require to clearly identify our priority areas of action taking into account FAO's international character and the relationship between substantial and operational activities. We also require a thorough analysis of the international environment in which FAO acts, as well as its strategic objectives in the coming decade combined with a Plan of Action capable of pursuing those goals. The broad recognition and acceptance that the agricultural sector plays a vital and multifunctional role in the development process should be seriously taken into account in shaping and applying the appropriate new policies. We therefore consider it necessary to examine the budget issue, taking always into consideration the necessity of addressing first the activities of higher priority.

In this connection we do not have any problem with agreeing with those who support a linear reduction in activities while stressing, of course, that Greece is one of the very few countries which increased its contribution by 53 percent. In concluding, I would like to point out that FAO should continue to be an international forum with specific and substantive competencies which will allow it to play the leading role in the struggle to eradicate hunger and undernourishment.

Sra. Lilia ROMERO PEREIRA (Paraguay)

Por duro que suene, Señor Presidente, iniciaré mi intervención recordándoles que cuando haya terminado de leer este párrafo un niño menor de 10 años habrá muerto de hambre. Según informes de esta organización, a la que orgullosamente pertenecemos todos, cada 7 segundos un niño menor de 10 años muere por inanición. ¿Somos conscientes de este dato? ¿Qué hace la comunidad internacional al respecto? Mucho, pero lastimosamente no es suficiente.

Hace cinco años, la comunidad internacional se propuso reducir para el año 2015 de 800 a 400 millones, el número de personas que padecen hambre. Sin embargo, de acuerdo a los cálculos de la FAO en el bienio 1997-1999, aún había en el mundo 815 millones de hambrientos. Siguiendo los patrones de hoy día, difícilmente se logrará los objetivos trazados en la "Declaración de Roma". Por eso mi Delegación se congratula con la decisión tomada en el 121º período de sesiones del Consejo de celebrar la "Cumbre sobre la Alimentación: cinco años" en junio del 2002, oportunidad en la que no debemos escatimar esfuerzos para buscar alternativas y compromisos que permitan alcanzar esta loable meta.

Con mucho pesar he leído el documento de la FAO relativo al estado de la alimentación y la agricultura, donde se manifiesta que el incremento de la producción agrícola mundial disminuyó considerablemente el último año. Los motivos fueron diversos, nuestra región se vio afectada por catástrofes naturales devastadoras como lo fue el fenómeno del "Niño" y el Huracán Mitch.

Pero, Señor Presidente, el hambre en el mundo no es producido sólo por catástrofes naturales, difícilmente predecibles, sino también por la actividad humana. Las políticas de subsidio a la agricultura, por parte de los países desarrollados, dificultan el acceso de los productos agrícolas a los mercados de países en desarrollo, donde esta actividad es la base de sus economías.

Un crecimiento en la producción agrícola, sería suficiente para paliar el hambre mundial, siempre y cuando ésta estuviera acompañada de un acceso a los alimentos más equitativos, lo cual se podrá lograr mediante una redistribución de los alimentos en sí mismo, o de los medios para producirlos, accediendo a nuevas tecnologías y a mercados más equitativos.

Erradicar el hambre, Señor Presidente, no es simplemente un objetivo. Asegurar el derecho a disponer de alimentos adecuados y, fundamentalmente no padecer hambre, es un derecho internacional contenido en diversos instrumentos de derechos humanos, ratificados por la gran mayoría de los estados aquí presentes. El acceso a una alimentación adecuada es un derecho individual y una responsabilidad colectiva, además de ser esencial para combatir la pobreza.

La pobreza y el hambre es un flagelo que afecta a todos los países, pero en mayor medida a los países en desarrollo y en alguna medida a los países desarrollados. A diario leemos que cientos de personas llegan a las costas europeas en travesías inhumanas, arriesgando sus propias vidas a fin de buscar un mejor porvenir para ellos y sus familias, creando grandes problemas a los países acogedores. Pero: ¿Quién querría abandonar su hogar, su familia, malvender los pocos bienes que tienen para aventurarse a un viaje desconocido, ser objeto de mafias despiadadas que los explotan, si en sus países cuentan con la posibilidad de acceder a un estándar de vida mínima necesaria?

Por todo lo expresado, creo que esta Conferencia y la "Cumbre sobre la alimentación: cinco años después", a realizarse en junio del 2002, será el Foro para preguntarnos: ¿Qué ha sido de los acuerdos no cumplidos, y las metas no logradas que asumimos en 1996?

Creo que una vez más tenemos que buscar alternativas y compromisos por parte de todos los Estados, así como convencer a las instituciones financieras internacionales para que también ellas formen parte de este compromiso.

No olvidemos que al finalizar el día de hoy, habrán muerto de hambre 604,800 niños, reflexionemos sobre esto y comprometámonos.

Philippe J. LHUILLER (Philippines)

Five years ago, our leaders came to Rome to commit ourselves to the task of reducing the world's hungry and malnourished to 400 million by the year 2015. After five years, we had not gone far in achieving this, and then came 11 September 2001. Within one hour the world changed. The world will never be the same and we are sadly starting to doubt whether the goals of 1996 can ever be achieved. The only one of our noble goals of 1996 that seems to be valid for us is the pursuit of halving our hungry and malnourished and this remains our national responsibility.

I am pleased to report that, while world agricultural output growth slowed to 1.2 percent in 2000, compared with the 2.7 percent growth achieved in 1999, and while agricultural production in Asia and the Pacific grew at 2.1 percent in 2000, Philippine agriculture posted a better 3.52 percent growth for that same period. A combination of favourable weather and government policies and programmes contributed to this better than expected report. The lynchpin of national policy was the Agriculturang MakaMASA programme that sought to enhance productivity in rice, corn, high-value commercial crops, livestock and fisheries.

In implementing our agricultural and fisheries modernization programme we have developed some pragmatic concepts. First is the concept of strategic agriculture and fisheries development zones (SAFDZ), which makes use of the integrated development approach in areas with comparative advantages as food baskets. Matching the most productive agricultural areas with the most viable product and production system, these agriculture and fishery zones are convergence areas of investment for total agro-industrial development in which concerned national government agencies for rural development have targeted their resources to infrastructure, technical, credit and marketing support.

The second concept is that of bottom-up planning and implementation of programmes and projects with the involvement of all stakeholders, under the principal leadership of local government units and with national government agencies providing facilitation and coordination for critical support services. As a result of this we now have an agriculture and fisheries

modernization plan that has been designed through an interactive process from municipal, provincial, regional and national levels.

Through such devolution of functions and power, the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act has made government support services available at a level that is closer and more accessible to farmers and fishers. The main features are:

We continue to expand our irrigation system with particular emphasis on cheaper and fast-gestating rehabilitation and construction of systems and small, farmer-controlled systems.

We are ensuring the provision of other rural infrastructure, farm-to-market roads and facilities that reduce production costs and post-harvest losses and promote value-adding processes for better farmers' income.

To boost competitiveness through the improvement of the sector's cost efficiency, we have exempted inputs to agriculture and fisheries enterprises from the payment of tariffs and duties.

Under the President's MakaMASA programme we have increased production and marketing support consistent with our commitment to the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the sector's strategic commodities: rice, corn, high-value crops, livestock, fisheries, sugar, abaca and coconut.

We continue to increase the level of support to research and development to unify the agriculture fisheries research and development programme. This strategy sets one common agenda for all agriculture and fisheries research agencies, regardless of funding sources.

The department has initiated a more aggressive protection of the sector from unfair trade, particularly from the heavily supported sector of developed countries.

We have also successfully past our priority legislative agenda concerning trade remedy laws on countervailing measures, anti-dumping and special safeguards.

In recognition of the need to harmonize and unify product standard setting in the sector, we established the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Products Standards (BAFPS) in 1998. This bureau is now coordinating with various agencies to formulate a comprehensive set of product standards for agriculture and fishery products within the standards set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

To cushion our farmers from increasing global competition we are piloting an innovative financing scheme that entices banks, other financial institutions and intermediaries to extend credit to farmers and other rural entrepreneurs who are partly or totally unable to produce loan collateral.

Although we changed Government early this year, we continue to carry out the underlying principle of the previous administration on food security and poverty alleviation. In fact, the new Government is vigorously pursuing these ends by inviting our stakeholders and private sectors to be more active under its banner programme: Ginintuang Masaganang Ani, GMA, golden and bountiful harvest.

We believe that food security cannot be solved alone. We also need the support of other countries. But we do not need aid. What we need is a level playing field for international agricultural trade. As we strive for global competitiveness, we have embarked on aggressive counter trade and market access strategies that include not only marketing missions and bilateral negotiations, but also waging battles for fair trade in WTO and other international fora.

In WTO and other international fora, we continue to support the struggle for special and differential treatment for developing countries, and the elimination of trade-distorting measures practised by many developed nations such as domestic support, export subsidies and various non-tariff trade barriers. In this regard we would like to reiterate the comprehensive proposal of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the Special and Differential Treatment for Developing Countries in the Context of Agricultural Negotiations in terms that are more specific and call for:

- elimination followed by prohibition of export subsidies and the establishment of other forms of support for exports in order to prevent circumventions;
- the reduction, over time, of all trade-distorting support measures;
- improved market access for developing countries through further reduction of tariffs and the elimination of tariff peaks and tariff escalation on products of interest to developing countries. Developing countries' commitments on markets should be directly proportional to those of developed countries' commitment on domestic and export subsidies;
- differential treatment and modalities for developing countries in all three pillars to enable them to address their development goals, including non-trade concerns such as food security, poverty alleviation, and rural development.

The Philippines believes that these principles should be clearly stated as they will be amplified in the Doha Ministerial Meeting and emphasized in the review of the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, hopefully next summer.

Finally, as we continue to think of the ever-increasing numbers of hungry and malnourished people, we remain optimistic that the production of more rice will be a crucial element in solving this seemingly intractable problem of hunger and malnutrition. We call upon the Secretariat and the Member Nations to make everyone aware of the potentials of rice in food security by making the year 2003 the International Year of Rice.

David BLANCO ZABALA (Bolivia)

Traigo el saludo fraterno del presidente constitucional de Bolivia, Ing. Jorge Quiroga Ramírez, a esta magna Asamblea y deseos de éxito en nuestras deliberaciones, en momentos en los cuales ha cambiado la faz del planeta, imponiendo nuevos desafíos en los temas de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, de la lucha contra la pobreza y del desarrollo económico y social.

Bolivia reafirma su compromiso con el Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación e insta a todos los miembros de la FAO a continuar con estos esfuerzos. Así mismo, expresamos de forma especial nuestro reconocimiento al Director General de la Organización, Señor Jacques Diouf, por los esfuerzos que ha venido realizando para revertir la situación de hambre que existe en el mundo.

Mi país ha realizado en los últimos años enormes esfuerzos que se han traducido en políticas de vanguardia en la lucha contra la inseguridad alimentaria y la pobreza. Una de las iniciativas más importantes en este sentido ha sido el mecanismo de diálogo nacional convocado por el Gobierno de mi país en el año 2000, que estableció una nueva relación de trabajo y de responsabilidad compartida entre las instituciones del Estado, el sistema político y las organizaciones de la sociedad civil. En esta iniciativa participaron ciudadanos de todos los niveles y, particularmente, los más pobres de las comunidades rurales. Este foro decidió en qué forma se manejarían los recursos que recibiría el país, producto del esquema de condonación de la deuda. Como ustedes saben, Bolivia ha sido elegida en la iniciativa HIPIC II por un monto de alrededor de 2 100 millones de dólares EEUU. Sobre la base de estos acuerdos, se ha establecido una estrategia boliviana de reducción de la pobreza y, adicionalmente, proyectos que se implementarán en los próximos años.

En el sector agropecuario, mi país enfrenta el problema de la baja productividad, que limita la obtención de ingresos para los productores, impide que los productos locales compitan con los productos importados y obstaculiza la colocación de la producción nacional en los mercados de exportación. La baja productividad afecta también a los consumidores nacionales al incrementar el costo y los precios de los productos en los mercados locales. Existen problemas en la comercialización de productos agrícolas y agroindustriales. La comercialización se realiza a través de una larga cadena de intermediación desventajosa, aunque el problema no radica solamente en la existencia de esta cadena de intermediación, sino más bien en las condiciones en las cuales ésta opera: falta de información para los productores, inexistencia de control de calidad, incumplimiento de normas sanitarias, falta de protección para el consumidor, entre las más importantes.

Bolivia ha realizado grandes esfuerzos para diversificar sus exportaciones, especialmente en el sector agropecuario. Sin embargo, los principales productos en los cuales se han producido estos desarrollos enfrentan condiciones desventajosas en materia de precios. Expresamos, al igual que otros países en el seno de este Foro, nuestra preocupación por el proteccionismo de muchos países desarrollados, aunque vemos con optimismo el futuro y el compromiso de levantar las barreras que limitan nuestros productos de exportación.

Quisiera aquí hacer una reflexión sobre el esfuerzo que viene realizando nuestro país en la reducción de los cultivos de coca destinada a los mercados internacionales. Producto de este esfuerzo, en los últimos tres años, ha sido la erradicación de 40 000 hectáreas de coca que estaban destinadas a producir 250 toneladas de cocaína que entraban a los mercados internacionales. Ahora esas 250 toneladas de cocaína ya no ingresan en los mercados internacionales. Sin embargo, hemos llamado la atención de la comunidad internacional en diferentes foros, para invitarla a participar en nuestros programas de desarrollo alternativo y generar las condiciones para que los productores en estas zonas que, precisamente ahora, están enfrentando conflictos sociales, desarrollen nuevos productos y puedan entrar en esos mercados.

Difícilmente lograremos erradicar el hambre en el mundo, mientras los países desarrollados continúen poniendo en práctica medidas proteccionistas que impidan a los productores en los países en vías de desarrollo competir en el marco de un comercio internacional agrícola y sin distorsiones. Sin embargo creemos en los criterios que se están analizando y solicitamos la revisión de los criterios de calificación de los países de bajos ingresos y déficit de alimentos PBIDA, que toman en cuenta indicadores que no siempre reflejan la realidad económica y social de sectores vulnerables en los países en vías de desarrollo.

En este contexto, celebramos la firma del Tratado Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos y felicitamos al embajador Gerbasi. Este logro, sin lugar a dudas, es un logro muy importante para la humanidad. Nosotros nos preguntamos que hubiera sucedido hace mil años o dos mil años atrás si este Tratado y una Organización como ésta hubieran existido.

De nuestro país, en la zona andina, es originaria la papa que ahora todo el mundo consume. En verdad disfrutamos de ese recurso y todos nos beneficiamos de su contribución a la dieta alimenticia. Yo hago un parangón con el desarrollo de San Marino, tal vez la nación más antigua de esta sala. Viene del año 301 después de Cristo, caracterizada por un desarrollo económico social importante para todos nosotros.

En este contexto, solamente quiero referirme a tres temas finales. La ley que el Gobierno ha aprobado esencialmente para movilizar los recursos financieros y los municipios a través de la participación pública, popular y la descentralización del manejo de los recursos. Así mismo los distintos programas y proyectos en los cuales está embarcado el ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural.

Particularmente quiero mencionar el Programa de servicios agropecuarios, PSA, cofinanciado por el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, para apoyar la institucionalización del Sistema Boliviano de Tecnología Agropecuaria y el Servicio de Sanidad Agropecuaria. Este último viene desarrollando proyectos de Asistencia Técnica a Pequeños Productores, el Programa de Desarrollo Integral de Semillas, el Programa de Investigación y Asistencia Técnica para Productores de Trigo; el Programa de Desarrollo Lechero en el Altiplano Boliviano; el Programa de Apoyo a Empresas Rurales; los programas de Riego, Desarrollo Rural Integrado, y Desarrollo de Comunidades Rurales y el de Apoyo a la Seguridad Alimentaria (PASA). Desde su inicio el PASA aprobó 197 proyectos destinados a crear y mejorar la infraestructura vial de las zonas productivas, capacitación y asistencia técnica, riego, apoyo a la producción, almacenamiento, procesamiento y comercialización de productos agropecuarios.

Quiero terminar mi intervención, señalando la importancia que para nosotros reviste la organización de la próxima Cumbre. No solamente hacer referencia a la situación política internacional que vivimos hoy en el mundo, y sobre la cual ya expresamos en diversos foros nuestra condena a los actos terroristas de septiembre último en Nueva York, pero estamos seguros

que en el seno de la FAO debemos dar un ejemplo a la humanidad en estas circunstancias fortaleciendo la FAO y nuestras instituciones en la lucha contra la pobreza y la injusticia social. En definitiva, en la construcción de un mundo para nuestros hijos.

Thelmuth Harris Wilhelm WOUTERSZ (Sri Lanka)

I am happy to associate myself with the expressions of congratulations on your election. At a time of great global tension with a looming threat to recession, a special responsibility is cast on the developing world to strengthen its economies, particularly in the agricultural sector. The decision of the Conference to hold the World Food Summit: *five years later* in June next year is to be welcomed.

Mindful of its pledges to the seven major commitments of the Rome Declaration in 1996 to help improve the world food security situation, Sri Lanka with its long and historic agricultural tradition has developed a national programme document and a strategy for national agricultural development, Horizon 2010.

The agricultural sector in Sri Lanka has continued to play a pivotal role over the past two decades in transforming the country from a food-deficit to a food-surplus situation. The resources of the private sector are being harnessed with a view to its increased involvement in this effort. However, we are conscious of the fact that food security per se does not reflect the challenge posed by the ancillary problem of malnutrition and the efforts to combat it.

Food security has been affected by relatively low yields, increasing input costs and uneconomic holding sizes. Poverty appears to be the most persistent cause for food insecurity. Agricultural development can contribute to reduction in poverty and hunger by raising the productivity of labour and land and the strategy for this has now been initiated. Sri Lanka also has to meet the challenges posed by its commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and free trade. We face uneven competition from other producing countries with hidden subsidies. This is an issue that concerns the Conference since it affects a number of developing countries. In meeting this challenge we have identified four major thrust areas: transforming traditional agriculture into commercially viable economic activities; greater self-reliance on the livestock sector; sustainable exploitation of fishery resources and the implementation of a master plan for forestry. Sri Lanka has achieved considerable progress in the implementation of the pilot phase under the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) but this is only a brief respite for a sector that is seriously threatened.

We are happy however to report that we have just launched the expansion phase of the SPFS with the active collaboration of FAO and, in particular, the Government of Japan. Sri Lanka is confident that it will meet the challenges of the Twenty-first century which I have referred to and which are faced by many developing countries. However, safeguards must be provided for the less developed nations to withstand the pressures brought about by the justification that free trade is best for the agricultural sector. A more judicious view needs to be assessed in this regard.

I must at this point stress that Sri Lanka is extremely grateful for the significant assistance that has been provided by FAO to the many programmes and projects we have received. We have also benefited from the mutual cooperation on technical assistance and I would here indicate that we too have provided our assistance for this purpose. Whilst striving to make FAO a centre of excellence, we feel that FAO should maintain an acceptable balance between normative and operational work.

Sri Lanka strongly supports the proposed resolution of the G-77 to declare 2003 the International Year of Rice and it remains our hope that FAO will take appropriate action in this regard.

Sri Lanka also wishes to place on record its appreciation to this Conference for the successful conclusion of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela)

Es para mí sumamente grato reafirmarle, ante todo y en representación de Venezuela, nuestro compromiso de trabajar para que su ejercicio como presidente del 31° período de sesiones de la Conferencia, sea exitoso y, por tanto, rinda resultados cónsonos con las expectativas que nosotros, los estados miembros, nos hemos planteado para esta reunión. En segundo término, es de interés de mi delegación expresar algunas consideraciones sobre aspectos principales de nuestra agenda de política agroalimentaria nacional, en cuya instrumentación hemos otorgado merecida importancia a la cooperación con la FAO.

Comenzaré exponiendo ciertas apreciaciones sobre el Programa especial de seguridad alimentaria mundial de la FAO. El Programa ha sido concebido como importante herramienta a los países en desarrollo, tanto para el mejoramiento como para facilitar el acceso de sus poblaciones a los alimentos. Se ha insistido, con sobrada razón, que este tipo de Programa es aplicable y aplicado sólo en aquellos países que tienen bajos ingresos y un déficit alimentario.

Debo indicar, que si bien Venezuela es un país intermedio, y que de alguna manera se aparta de los criterios que comúnmente se utilizan para colocar a un Estado en la categoría de países BIDA, nuestro Gobierno y la FAO hemos encontrado la manera de aprovechar las ventajas y bondades que se derivan de este Programa. Su aplicación a nuestro país ha sido ajustado a nuestras realidades y podrá ser ejecutado eficientemente en los treinta municipios más pobres del territorio nacional. Sus principales componentes, los puedo resumir de la siguiente manera:

Transferencia de tecnología para la intensificación agropecuaria, formulación de estrategias nacionales para el manejo del riego, el drenaje y los recursos naturales, el establecimiento de un sistema de información agrícola, la movilización, recaudación y uso de fondos parafiscales, así como la diversificación de la producción agrícola intensificada.

Hay dos aspectos peculiares de este Programa que merecen ser destacados. El primero de ellos, es que en su formulación se le dio espacio relevante a la Cooperación Sur-Sur, en este caso particular y específico entre Venezuela y Cuba. El otro, no menos importante, es que su ejecución se nutre con recursos que alcanzan los 33 millones de dólares EE.UU. y que aporta Venezuela bajo el esquema de Fondos Fiduciarios Unilaterales administrados por la FAO. De esta manera, reafirmamos nuestra confianza en la transparencia y optimización del uso de los recursos, en la experiencia, experticia técnica y en la visión global de la Organización. Estamos seguros que este Programa se convertirá en un nuevo modelo de cooperación entre la FAO y los países en desarrollo.

Llegado a este punto debo hacer una referencia a un aspecto fundamental de la cooperación internacional. Como he señalado, el diseño e instrumentación del Programa especial de seguridad alimentaria en nuestro país, es posible por nuestros propios recursos. De manera que sin recursos financieros no hay programa de desarrollo, y es bien sabido que no todos nuestros países, reitero, no todos nuestros países están en condiciones de movilizar recursos nacionales de un sector a otro sin que uno de ellos se vea considerablemente afectado.

Es aquí donde encuentra justificación la iniciativa que llevó al Director General, siguiendo las disposiciones internas de la Organización, a establecer un Fondo Fiduciario de carácter voluntario. Recientemente, el ciudadano Presidente de la República, Hugo Chávez Frías, le ha manifestado personalmente al Director General, que Venezuela apoya esta iniciativa y que la continuará apoyando, ya sea desde el punto de vista político como desde el punto de vista financiero.

Permítame expresar el reconocimiento de Venezuela a los esfuerzos que ha desplegado el Director General para llevar adelante la "Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*". Es bien sabido que luego de intensas consultas, el Director General formuló la correcta recomendación de posponerla para el año 2002. El Consejo, por su parte y con base a esa recomendación, decidió proponer a esta conferencia que la Cumbre se lleve a cabo en Roma, en junio del próximo año. El Gobierno de Venezuela apoya resueltamente esta propuesta, cuya

presentación fue posible gracias a la voluntad de compromiso de todos los estados miembros, en particular, de aquellos que inicialmente expresaron reservas con la recomendación del Director General.

Hemos avanzado en la Cooperación Sur-Sur y es importante seguir por ese rumbo, sin descuidar, obviamente, la necesidad de promover la Cooperación Norte-Sur. En cuanto a la cooperación entre países en desarrollo, debo destacar el impulso que Venezuela le está dando a un proyecto de producción de semillas con asistencia de la FAO. Este proyecto procura, entre sus objetivos, el intercambio de información y material genético, el desarrollo de prácticas y tecnologías agrícolas que reduzcan los insumos y aumenten la productividad, el desarrollo de programas de investigación y la tecnología necesaria para producir las semillas que, a través de mecanismos adecuados de cooperación internacional, serán destinadas a aquellos países en desarrollo más necesitados para que puedan incrementar su producción nacional de alimentos.

Permítame ahora entrar en un asunto que nos mantuvo ocupados durante los últimos siete años, pero que ahora nos llena de satisfacción. La Comisión sobre recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura, que me honro en presidir, tuvo como objetivo fundamental la aprobación por parte de esta Conferencia del Tratado internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura. Por años la comunidad internacional mostró un interés cada vez mayor por el valor de la biodiversidad de los cultivos agrícolas. Por ello la FAO inicia un proceso intergubernamental de ardua negociación para revisar el Compromiso Internacional de 1983 en armonía con la CDB, enfatizando la importancia de estos recursos para la agricultura y la alimentación mundial. Gracias al empeño de la Comunidad Internacional, se lograron avances destacados e innovadores que permitieron a la Conferencia, en el presente período de sesiones, aprobar por consenso el Tratado vinculante, y corresponde ahora ratificarlo para su entrada en vigor.

En la declaración y en el Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996, reafirmamos el "Derecho fundamental de toda persona a no padecer hambre, como se declara en el Pacto Internacional de derecho Económico, Sociales y Culturales", así como prestar especial atención a la aplicación y realización plena y progresiva de este derecho como medio de conseguir la seguridad alimentaria para todos.

El Derecho a la Alimentación es parte esencial de los derechos humanos, y en forma particular, del derecho a la Vida.

En virtud de ello hemos insistido en la importancia de elaborar un *Código de Conducta Voluntario* que sirva como marco normativo para la aplicación del Derecho a la Alimentación, así como instrumento que permita la mejor comprensión de este derecho por parte de todos los sectores de la sociedad, tanto a nivel nacional como internacional. Esta consideración plantea que el problema de la aplicación de este derecho y de la inseguridad alimentaria no se deriva de la insuficiencia en la producción de alimentos, sino del acceso adecuado a los alimentos por quienes padecen hambre. Por ello, proponemos la creación de un Grupo de Trabajo abierto a todos los estados miembros para que se dedique, a la brevedad posible, a la negociación y preparación de un *Código de Conducta Voluntario* para la aplicación del derecho a la Alimentación.

Nos complace constatar que en el transcurso de esta Conferencia, un número significativo de países, ya sea desarrollados o en desarrollo, han tratado este asunto de manera sumamente positiva, por lo que esperamos que esta augusta asamblea acoja esta propuesta y la apoye de una manera clara y precisa.

Ghebre-Medhin BELAY (Ethiopia)

I wish from the outset to congratulate His Excellency Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Raqabani, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of the United Arab Emirates, on his election as Chairperson of this august Conference of FAO. Ethiopia warmly welcomes our new Member Nations, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Principality of Monaco. My thanks go to His Excellency Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, for his able leadership to achieve the noble goals of our Organization.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge His Excellency Patricio Aylwin, former President of the Republic of Chile, for the lecture he made in tribute to the Frank McDougall Memorial.

My delegation shares the points raised and proposals forwarded with regard to the issues of food security and development.

The world at large is witnessing that hundreds of millions of people are still being exposed to famine, poverty, malnutrition and food insecurity. As people, we cannot tolerate this situation. As governments, I think we are obliged to improve such conditions. In this regard, Ethiopia is now better prepared to fight resolutely the long-lasting enemies of the people – hunger and poverty.

Prior to 1991, Ethiopia had been subjected to both chronic and transitory food insecurity. Food insecurity covers a wide range of areas and affects a large number of people. Adverse climatic changes, severe land degradation, wide use of backward agricultural production systems, inappropriate policies, protracted civil strife and a widening gap between food production and population growth had all colluded to bring about this situation. Inadequate transport systems and storage facilities also contributed to the deficiency in food security.

A new era of peace and economic revival has dawned in Ethiopia since 1991. The government has managed to create a peaceful and stable political system, conducive to active participation of the people in the development process, and it has decentralized the administration of the government structure into federal and regional governments to ensure further popular involvement in our development endeavours at the grassroots level.

The new economic policy embarked upon since 1991 is a market-based economic transformation. This policy placed food security at the top of the development priorities of the country and evolved the Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization (ADLI) strategy for the long-term development of the country. The strategy aimed at achieving rapid and sustainable economic growth by improving the productivity of agriculture, and building up the agro-based industrial sector using local raw materials and labour-intensive technologies. Therefore, ADLI envisages a growth that is inherently a poverty-reducing strategy. Furthermore, at the end of 1996, the government issued the National Food Security Strategy with the objective of achieving a modest level of food security in the medium term.

Other relevant measures have been taken by our government, either simultaneously or subsequently, to support efforts in poverty reduction and food security, including Education and Health Sectors Development Programmes, Policy on Population, Women Policy, the Environment Policy, the National Policy on HIV/AIDS, Water Resources Management Policy, and the Poverty Reduction Programme. In addition, Ethiopia has been committed to implementing the 1996 World Food Summit Plan of Action.

As a result of the above measures, major achievements thus far include: firstly, a higher commitment to poverty reduction at all levels; secondly, the number of farmers participating in the extension package has gone up to 3.8 million out of 7 million farmers; the use of improved inputs has grown, crop yield has increased, and total annual output has increased from 6.5 million metric tonnes in the early 1990s to 9.1 million tonnes in the late 1990s; thirdly, living conditions have improved in the last ten years. The annual growth of GDP in the period 1991 to 1996 averaged 5.4 percent, and 5.6 percent during the period 1992-93 to 1999-2000. The incidence of poverty in rural areas is estimated to have declined from 63 percent in 1989 to 46 percent in 2000; fourthly, the situation of food security has improved as a result of increased agricultural production, but not significantly. Most of the production comes from areas of adequate rainfall. The dryland areas have low rainfall and are always food insecure; and, lastly, in Ethiopia the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic from the economic, demographic, health care and social perspectives is substantially significant. The current estimate of five percent HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in rural areas is expected to increase rapidly, with adverse consequences on the agricultural sector. Realizing its serious consequences, Ethiopia launched a National Policy on

HIV/AIDS in 1998, and subsequent implementation of programmes involving the community are in progress.

Although there are encouraging results, Ethiopia still faces considerable challenges in solving the food insecurity and poverty problems. In addition to recurrent droughts and pre- and post-harvest losses, increased agricultural production is being overtaken in particular by a surging population growth, widely spreading natural resources degradation, poor rural infrastructures and lack of off-farm employment opportunities. Annually, over two million mouths are added to feed. The number of food insecure persons has been estimated to be 45 percent. Each year, two to five million people do not get access to enough food and, therefore, require emergency food assistance.

To ensure that the aforementioned undesirable situations are removed and food security and sustainable development are achieved, my government reaffirms its commitment, through its latest poverty reduction strategy that aims to extricate the country from the vicious circle of abject poverty, to: firstly, strengthen and deepen the decentralization process at all levels; secondly, support agricultural development, including promotion of specialization and diversification of agricultural production, improve rural infrastructures and marketing, and enhance irrigation and water harvesting technologies, especially in drought-prone areas; thirdly, strengthen cooperative development, fourthly, promote capacity of agricultural extension services, particularly through TVET and agricultural research; fifth, exert every effort to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic, sixth, provide support and implement both national and regional projects or programmes that eradicate Tsetse Flies and hence Trypanosomiasis. In this regard, FAO is expected to support the implementation of the Resolution of African heads of state and governments for eradication of Tsetse Flies and Trypanosomiasis from Africa; and, lastly, encourage a more active involvement of the private sector in rural development.

Ethiopia highly appreciates the fact that much of its recent achievement was done in partnership with the international community.

In conclusion, as Ethiopia embarks on its second Five-Year Plan of Action since 2000, the support of the international community to Ethiopia to develop its sustainable food security and reduce poverty is highly welcomed. In relation to this, I would like to take this opportunity to extend the Ethiopian delegation's appreciation for the technical and financial support provided to Ethiopia by FAO. My delegation would like to reconfirm Ethiopia's readiness to work with FAO to achieve food security at the household level and reduce poverty.

Finally, to feed the hungry people, the political will by both national governments and international donors is absolutely necessary. In view of this, I am extremely pleased and encouraged that the statements delivered at this Conference by the majority of distinguished delegates underlined the need and urgency to promote food security and to reduce the plight of poverty through available means.

Souhaib Deen BANGOURA (Guinée)

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence, Monsieur le Directeur Général de la FAO, Mesdames et Messieurs, les Ministres, Honorables Délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord, vous transmettre les salutations fraternelles de Monsieur Jean Paul SARR, Ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage de la République de Guinée qui empêché, ne pourra prendre part aux travaux de la trente et unième session de la présente Conférence.

Permettez moi, au nom de mon pays, de vous présenter mes sincères félicitations pour votre brillante élection au poste de Président de cette présente Conférence.

Le pays dont vous êtes originaire est un pays frère et ami de la Guinée.

Ces mêmes félicitations vont également vers les autres membres du Bureau.

Nous saluons les nouveaux membres de la FAO: la République de Yougoslavie, de Nauru, d'Ouzbékistan, la Principauté de Monaco et leur souhaitons la bienvenue parmi nous.

Monsieur le Président, notre Conférence s'ouvre à une période où les événements du 11 septembre viennent aggraver davantage les problèmes sociaux et économiques, situation que nos pays déplorent.

Il semble cependant que cela devrait au contraire nous pousser à agir tous de façon plus résolue pour éradiquer la faim et la malnutrition qui frappent 815 millions d'êtres humains de par le monde.

Malheureusement encore une fois, l'Afrique - pauvre Afrique - reste le maillon le plus gravement touché par ce phénomène. Il n'en demeure pas moins que nous sommes particulièrement réconforté par les efforts louables que le Directeur Général de la FAO, notre frère, Monsieur Jacques DIOUF, ne cesse de déployer pour combattre la faim et la malnutrition, nous l'en félicitons.

A cet égard le Programme spécial (PAAS) de la FAO de Production Alimentaire a l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire bénéficie de tout notre soutien et devrait être amplifié, compte tenu des résultats probants déjà obtenus. C'est un exemple concret de coopération Nord-Sud et de solidarité Sud-Sud.

Le programme *Empres* de prévention contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes recueille également notre appui et devrait recevoir un financement adéquat.

S'agissant de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en République de Guinée, le Gouvernement a adopté et mis en œuvre des politiques hardies visant à assurer la sécurité alimentaire de ses populations. Il y a lieu de signaler depuis une décennie la présence des réfugiés libériens et sierraleonais dont les activités sur nos terres et forêts ont contribué à détruire l'environnement écologique. La République de Guinée, dont 85 pour cent de la population sont des ruraux, est caractérisée par le phénomène de la pauvreté. C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement accorde une place de choix à la lutte contre la pauvreté et, dans le cadre de cette lutte, la priorité est accordée au développement de l'agriculture. Les efforts déployés par le gouvernement et appuyés par les bailleurs de fonds dans la promotion de notre agriculture, montrent aujourd'hui des résultats intéressants. La production du riz, nourriture de base des populations guinéennes, est passée de 760.000 tonnes en 1999 à 816.000 tonnes en 2000, tandis que pour la même période, les importations de riz sont passées de 240.000 tonnes, à 150.000 tonnes.

La situation alimentaire est en général moyenne. Malheureusement cette progression de la production agricole a été perturbée par la crise de septembre 2000, suite aux incursions rebelles. Ceci a entraîné l'abandon des réserves alimentaires dans les greniers, des champs en végétation et le déplacement massif des populations vers des préfectures qui connaissent encore une paix relative. C'est autant dire que les campagnes 2000 et 2001 ont été fortement perturbées.

Les agressions armées auxquelles se sont ajoutés les aléas naturels: inondations, invasions massives de cultures par des chenilles nuisibles, a contribué à assombrir les objectifs de la campagne agricole 2000-2001 dont les résultats présenteront sans nul doute un déficit important.

En république de Guinée, 70 à 80 pour cent des activités agricoles sont réalisées par des femmes. C'est pourquoi dans la formulation des nouveaux projets agricoles, un accent particulier est mis sur leur situation de manière à alléger certaines de leurs tâches pour qu'elles participent plus à la production agricole. Le gouvernement Guinéen a toujours œuvré pour la promotion des femmes ce qui se traduit par le pourcentage élevé des femmes aux différents postes de responsabilités. C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement guinéen adhère sans réserve au plan d'action 2002-2003 sur la parité femme-homme.

En ce qui concerne les ressources phytogénétiques, la République de Guinée a depuis longtemps adhéré à l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et dispose aujourd'hui au niveau de l'Institut de Recherche Agronomique de Guinée d'un programme national de conservation des ressources phytogénétiques basé au Centre Agronomique de Foulaya (Kindiya). Dans chacun des six centres régionaux de la recherche, il

existe des collections vivantes sur les principales cultures vivrières, industrielles et d'exportation (riz, manioc, fonio, caféier, palmier à huile, hévéa, manguier, etc.)

A propos des pesticides périmés, la République de Guinée qui a adhéré à la convention internationale phytosanitaire et aux organisations sous-régionales telles que CPH/AOC, a mis en place un comité national des pesticides en vue de la bonne gestion de ce type d'intrants.

Dans le souci de réduire les risques liés à l'utilisation de ces intrants, la professionnalisation des acteurs est en cours (importateurs, distributeurs, applicateurs) que sont les Agents Privés de Traitement Phytosanitaire (APTP), lesquels bénéficient d'agrément professionnel.

À propos du Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation: *cinq ans après*, la Délégation de la République de Guinée réaffirme son soutien ferme pour sa tenue dans le plus bref délai, conformément au programme fixé par la Conférence de la FAO. Elle réaffirme sa disponibilité pour sa participation effective, le moment venu, et apportera sa contribution à la hauteur de l'enjeu.

Monsieur le Président, La délégation guinéenne approuve le rapport d'évaluation et soutient le programme et le budget 2002-2003 de croissance réelle, croissance réelle soulignée à l'encre rouge.

C'est le lieu et l'occasion pour la Guinée d'exprimer sa satisfaction du programme de coopération technique qui permet d'asseoir une politique et mobiliser d'autres bailleurs de fonds pour la mise en œuvre de la Lettre de Politique et du Développement Agricole.

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation salue la phase finale des négociations de l'Engagement International sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et adresse ses vives félicitations au groupe de contact ayant à sa tête son Excellence Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Fernando Gerbasi qui, sans trêve et sans fatigue, n'a ménagé aucun effort pour mener à bon port cette mission délicate dans un esprit constructif de compromis.

Ma Délégation est en faveur de la Résolution concernant la mouche tsé-tsé.

Je ne saurais terminer mon intervention sans saluer ici les efforts louables que le Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'élevage ne cesse de déployer en faveur de nos populations rurales.

Roy FANOURAKIS (Swaziland)

Mr Chairman, Director-General of FAO, Mr Diouf, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, may I on behalf of my delegation convey the warm greetings of His Majesty King Mswati III and her Majesty the Indlovukazi (Queen Mother), the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Swaziland to this historic and important meeting. I wish also to express my delegation's appreciation to the FAO Secretariat and the Italian authorities for the warm welcome and excellent arrangements made for this Conference. Furthermore, allow me to convey, on behalf of the Kingdom of Swaziland, our congratulations to the four newly-elected Members of this Organization.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the member countries of FAO for reaching a consensus on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which seeks *inter alia* to protect and promote the rights of farmers as well as ensure the sustainable use of plant genetic resources. We are looking forward to the implementation phase of this important legal instrument.

Five years ago Heads of State and Government gathered here in Rome to deliberate and decide on how best we could rid the world of the scourge of hunger and poverty. We adopted the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Plan of Action where we committed ourselves to reducing by half the number of undernourished people by the year 2015. Evidence, however, suggests that this noble and lofty goal may not be attained hence the need for this review summit.

One of the most important commitments that was made in 1996 was the establishment of an enabling political, social and economic environment. My delegation believes strongly that political commitment by all our governments is the key to the eradication of hunger and poverty.

Consequently over the last five years the Kingdom of Swaziland has adopted concrete policies and strategies designed to ensure social and political stability as well as economic prosperity. To name but a few of these policies, we have adopted a constitutional dispensation, which will enable us to formulate a constitution which allows for good and democratic governance. The country also reached a consensus of a twenty-five year National Development Strategy (NDS) whose vision is that "by the year 2022, the Kingdom of Swaziland will be in the top 10 percent of the medium human development group of countries founded on sustainable and political stability". In order to implement the NDS, we have formulated the Economic and Social Reform Agenda (ESRA) which is a management tool with a time-bound set of objectives implemented by Government and other public and private organizations. The important feature of all these policies is that they have been driven from an extensive consultative process amongst all stakeholders in the country. Moreover the objective of food security and poverty alleviation is central to all of them.

Over the past five years, the Kingdom of Swaziland has faced a number of constraints in its attempt to reduce hunger in the country. Paramount among these have been natural disasters in the form of droughts and floods, which have left vast numbers of rural people with very little or no food at all. Normally, our country produces 80 percent or above of its staple crop, maize, but these calamities have often reduced our food production to 50 percent or less of our requirements. It is because of such misfortunes that we are now developing a comprehensive policy to deal with natural disasters in line with Commitment Five adopted by the Summit in 1996. We have also realized that in Southern Africa (including Swaziland), food production is usually positively correlated to the amount of precipitation. Consequently, since 1997-98 we have, in collaboration with FAO, initiated the Special Programme for Food Security. This programme has among other things, enabled rural farmers, particularly women, to develop irrigation facilities specifically designed for food production. For this, we would like to applaud the partnership with FAO.

As part of the Special Programme on Food Security, the Swaziland Government entered into a Tripartite Agreement with FAO and the Pakistan Government for the supply of experts in various areas of crop and livestock production under the South-South Cooperation Agreement. We strongly believe that such a programme will not only empower our extension services and farmers but will also increase social and cultural understanding between the Swazi and Pakistani people. The catalytic role of FAO is much appreciated. We have, however, realized that the South-South Cooperation Programme may not be very easy to implement for some developing countries like Swaziland simply because of the relatively high matching resources that have to be committed by the recipient government. The same situation exists for opening up new country offices. It is therefore our humble submission that the two programmes may need to be reviewed in order for a majority of our developing countries to benefit from them.

The issue of HIV/AIDS is threatening to compromise our efforts towards attaining food security. The effect of this disease on economic development generally and agricultural development in particular is very complex. One obvious negative effect is that resources are diverted from development to caring for the sick. Able-bodied farmers and farm workers are incapacitated and ultimately die, thereby leaving a large number of disadvantaged groups, such as young orphans, the elderly and the disabled, who may not be very productive in farming. This sad situation leads to more hunger and poverty. My delegation, therefore, calls for a speedy global strategy to combat this disease before it causes irreparable damage to our development efforts.

Before I conclude my remarks, allow me to express Swaziland's strong commitment to the convening of yet another World Food Conference in June 2002. I believe such a forum will allow us to review our strategies and also express and demonstrate our political commitment towards the eradication of hunger and poverty in the shortest possible time. The circumstances under which the previously scheduled Summit was postponed are very much regretted

Sra. Rossana Luigia AMEGLIO (Panamá)

Estamos convencidos de que esta Trigésima Primera Conferencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación nos brinda la ocasión para confirmar

nuestra creencia de que tanto la agricultura como la alimentación constituyen factores fundamentales para el desarrollo y el bienestar de la humanidad y conforman el más importante instrumento de paz con que cuenta la colectividad de naciones en estos angustiosos momentos. Consecuentemente, tenemos la obligación moral de reafirmar nuestra voluntad política de encontrar soluciones viables que produzcan el mejoramiento de la calidad de vida de todos los seres humanos. Mientras estas condiciones no se den, mientras sigan prevaleciendo el hambre y la pobreza ningún país ni gobierno tendrá autoridad moral para permitirse hablar de legítimo y auténtico desarrollo.

Cuando reflexionamos sobre las razones que nos alejan cada vez más de alcanzar el objetivo que se propusieron en la declaración de Roma nuestros jefes de Estado y de Gobierno o sus representantes de reducir a la mitad el número de personas que padecen hambre en el mundo, a más tardar para el año 2015, es inevitable que expresemos el desaliento que sentimos los países en desarrollo por la postergación de la tan necesaria Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*. Se nos hace muy difícil aceptar que siguen existiendo millones de inocentes que padecen hambre, madres que sufren por la falta de alimentos y de salud de sus hijos, padres que no logran trabajo para el sostén de la familia. Las causas principales de tan deprimente resultado las identificamos con la falta de voluntad política y la no disponibilidad de recursos financieros necesarios para cumplir con la meta propuesta. Por ello es necesario resaltar, una vez más, la urgencia de celebrar en junio del 2002 la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después* como la ocasión para procurar respuestas al hambre y a la pobreza generalizadas que continúan persistiendo en nuestro mundo.

La región geográfica a la que pertenezco, América Latina y el Caribe forma parte del grupo de países en desarrollo con elevados niveles de pobreza y pobreza extrema. Según cifras recientes la pobreza afecta al 40 por ciento de la población de América Latina en donde 120 millones de personas viven con menos de un dólar al día. Las personas que viven en condiciones de pobreza alcanzan cifras mayores a los 224 millones, razón por la cual se hace imperativo que los organismos dedicados a lidiar esta situación, asignen mayores recursos a mitigar este flagelo en América Latina y el Caribe, antes de que sea irremediable. Dentro de esta cruda realidad, además de las catástrofes naturales que hemos vivido en los últimos años debemos tener presente las frecuentes crisis económicas que golpean con mayor fuerza a los más necesitados.

Para estar en condiciones de ser sujetos de cooperación a nivel bilateral, o de crédito de las instituciones financieras internacionales, nuestros gobiernos se han vistos forzados a adoptar cambios estructurales cuyos resultados, como hemos podido ver con la globalización, son muchas veces negativos y hacen más lejanos los beneficios que se persiguen.

En los segmentos de población mayormente afectados por la pobreza, millones de niños en edad preescolar y escolar no satisfacen sus necesidades energéticas mínimas y muchos de ellos padecen de malnutrición aguda. Esta deficiencia mutila intelectualmente a millones de niños, debido a que sin alimentos adecuados estos niños no estarán en capacidad de aprender lo que se les enseña en las escuelas y sin alimentos tampoco podrán acceder a empleos que les permitan mejorar su condición de vida. Este proceso se convierte, de esta manera, en un círculo vicioso que condena a estos seres humanos a permanecer en el subdesarrollo para siempre.

Contrariamente a la imagen predominante de país de servicios, en Panamá el 45 por ciento de la población vive en las zonas rurales en donde la pobreza y la pobreza extrema afectan, respectivamente, al 65 y 39 por ciento de nuestra población rural. Dentro de esta elevada incidencia de pobreza se destaca el factor indígena, del cual el 95,4 por ciento vive por debajo del umbral de la pobreza y el 86,6 por ciento de aquél de la pobreza extrema. Ante esta realidad, impulsar el desarrollo humano sostenible es la preocupación fundamental del Gobierno de la presidenta Mireya Moscoso, quien recientemente fue honrada por el Señor Jacques Diouf, Director General de la FAO, con la medalla Ceres por la labor que ha realizado en beneficio del desarrollo rural y agrícola y de la justicia social. Dentro de su plan de inversión social, como parte de los esfuerzos para combatir la pobreza extrema y la desnutrición en las comunidades rurales, el Gobierno ha introducido un Programa de Granjas Autosostenibles y su meta es establecer un

mínimo de 3 000 granjas para el año 2004, habiendo alcanzado a establecer 200 granjas multifamiliares hasta el momento. Desafortunadamente, estos esfuerzos realizados por mi Gobierno son insuficientes y no alcanzan a garantizar una adecuada paz social y la seguridad alimentaria de nuestro pueblo, razón por la cual los mismos deben ser complementados por el apoyo internacional a través de organismos que, como la FAO, tienen el mandato de aliviar los problemas de los más necesitados.

Vivimos en un mundo en donde unos pocos deciden sobre el futuro de millones de personas y en donde las recientes tendencias económicas han hecho más ricos a los ricos, mientras que los pobres se hacen más pobres. Este nuevo milenio nace, por lo tanto, con el reto de instituir modelos viables de desarrollo rural que contribuyan al crecimiento económico, pero que al mismo tiempo, puedan resolver los niveles de pobreza, creando y otorgando oportunidades a las sociedades rurales. Es intolerable que sigamos viviendo en este paradójico mundo en donde se han alcanzado niveles tecnológicos y de producción de alimentos sin precedentes, mientras que en los países pobres continúa persistiendo el hambre crónica y la desnutrición generalizada.

Aprender de nuestros propios errores se hace necesario para tener la capacidad de corregir rumbos y, créanme, si hay voluntad estamos a tiempo para hacerlo. Debemos hacer una revisión, a conciencia, de las políticas utilizadas hasta el momento y evaluar ponderadamente las razones por las cuales seguimos viviendo en un mundo con tantas desigualdades y contrastes. Nuestro deber es el de procurar una nueva tendencia que partiendo de los derechos básicos del ser humano y de manera solidaria, justa y equitativa, propicie una igualdad de beneficios, oportunidades y derechos para todos los pueblos. La verdadera liberalización del comercio es un aspecto importante para alcanzar la tan deseada equidad entre los países, pero al mismo tiempo, este intercambio debe ser justo, sobre todo en el sector agrícola, para que nuestras débiles economías puedan, en condiciones favorables, sin que se interpongan barreras no arancelarias al libre comercio, sin subvenciones a la agricultura y sin la imposición de cuotas de importación a nuestros productos.

En la mayoría de los países en desarrollo, la función fundamental que cumple la agricultura, se convierte en necesidad de subsistir. Es por ello que debemos manifestar nuestra gran preocupación por la tendencia descendente de los recursos destinados a la agricultura, al desarrollo rural y a la seguridad alimentaria en los programas de préstamos de las instituciones financieras internacionales, lo mismo que la marcada propensión a la disminución de los presupuestos de los organismos intergubernamentales dedicados a tales propósitos. En este contexto, resaltando la necesidad de ajustar la distribución de los recursos para equilibrar la ayuda a los países en desarrollo, apoyamos el nivel del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto propuesto por el Director General. Existen 815 millones de personas que padecen hambre y no es justificable que la FAO, responsable de buscar solución a estos problemas no cuente con recursos suficientes para cumplir con esta labor crucial. Por lo tanto, solicitamos a todos los gobiernos que cumplan con sus compromisos con esta Organización y adopten las medidas que permitan asegurar que los Objetivos de Ayuda para el Desarrollo alcancen el nivel de 0,7 por ciento de sus productos internos brutos, como acordado en la Estrategia Internacional para el Desarrollo.

Para concluir, señor Presidente, deseo expresar nuestra complacencia por la finalización de las negociaciones del texto de Compromiso Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura y de la misma manera felicitamos al Embajador de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Fernando Gerbasi, y al profesor José Esquinas-Alcázar por el éxito alcanzado.

Monsignor Agostino MARCHETTO (Permanent Observer for the Holy See)

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, thanks to you, the whole human family, in a certain sense, is present here in its different dimensions and components, once more to speak about agriculture and its opposite, hunger, to discuss agricultural production and food supply, and especially to find clear strategies for food security so that we can reach the goal we set ourselves in 1996: halving the number of starving in the world before 2015.

Throughout this effort, FAO's presence and activities, aimed at reaching the poorest and the indigent, remind us how necessary and urgent it is to implement effective cooperation in order to spread techniques and instruments for agriculture, forestry and fishery. Furthermore, there is a need for resources distribution, starting with secure food supplies. This commitment turns the concept of food security from a merely technical consideration related to the availability of enough food stocks, into a principle that guarantees the fundamental right of every human being and becomes a vital factor of peace and international stability. And we need peace and stability in this moment of worldwide tension!

Unfortunately, worrying signs are returning to different areas of the globe, not only regarding peace, but also regarding risk or vulnerability with reference to nutritional levels and health conditions, as well as food availability and consumption trends. The present difference between what has been done and what could be done seriously threatens the survival of many millions of people in a world where, as a whole, we have unprecedented development and progress. I believe that this fact provided the inspiration to implement the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

We cannot forget the situation of starving people, refugees and internally displaced people, victims of conflicts or violations of fundamental human rights and people hit by illness and infections – these are painful realities which not only undermine living standards for people and communities, but also threaten human health and cause problems on food security.

In these circumstances, bearing in mind all the data which are available to us, the Holy See considers itself obliged to ask you, with your own tasks and responsibilities, to open up your hearts and understand that hunger is not an abstract problem but rather one that affects human beings who suffer from hunger and malnutrition every day, very far from the target of food security. Accepting this perspective we recognize that human beings are at the centre of social living, and that their fundamental needs must be the basis for immediate international support activities.

If we look at the motivations that drive contemporary international life we see first of all opposing interests and desires - collision prevails on cooperation. Because of this, leaders abandon negotiations and drive into isolationism, not answering human needs with due effectiveness and readiness. Bearing in mind such a situation and the fact that the World Food Summit: *five years later* has been postponed until next year, we would like to emphasize that our expectations, and those of all men and women of goodwill, go beyond the agricultural and food sectors, to embrace a wider poverty-combatting strategy.

The international community, States, NGOs and civil society alike must focus their efforts on such cross-cutting issues through various ways and means of cooperation, increasingly convinced that the fight against poverty is not just another subject or field of international relations. We must give an answer to millions of people who are deprived of fundamental means of living and working, because of endemic conflicts, lack of central or peripheral structures and investments or heavy international debt, so that they do not lose hope and become frustrated.

Furthermore, we have to admit that all over the world the supply and demand for food products does not operate according to principles of solidarity but is anchored in a culture of having (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, 28) rather than the ethic of brotherhood and equity among all States that forms a family of peoples and nations.

We all know that feasible solutions cannot be reduced to technical choices but are to be found in those of our functions and responsibilities that respond to obligations to others - community, State or nation alike. This approach must be turned into a productive policy of redistribution and sharing in order to rebalance the relation between the food needs of the entire population (which is growing) and food availability, which is already globally sufficient as we can see from production data. Hence, a new order and balance that override the contrasts between developed and developing areas are not only mandatory but also possible. Each one of us can find in him- or herself the solution, based on human nature, compassion and instinct regarding other people (even though this instinct may be dormant). The roots of solutions to these problems are in our common

human nature and natural law which goes beyond differences of culture, religion or any other kind.

In Christian tradition – let me mention it, being the Representative of the Holy See – this relationship is quite well expressed in the Gospel's episode of the multiplication of loaves and fishes. When there was a need for food, the Lord answered, once, with a miracle, giving food to the crowd of people. Later, they collected all the leftovers so as not to waste anything (see John 6,12). This miracle must be realized again, today, starting in our hearts: we ought to be ready, not simply to share what we have, but above all to believe that our donation to others is possible and just. We should also learn not to waste any resource, thereby avoiding a consumistic mentality that, even though it is a *reality for very few*: is becoming unfortunately a *trend for all*.

Such a vision tells us that food security cannot be planned and realized only for emergency operations to bring help and relief when people are in dire need, but must be considered as a regular cooperation action. We are thinking in particular – as far as emergency is concerned – of those never-ending conflicts, both internal and international, which bring unutterable suffering to entire communities uprooted from their homes or land, causes land loss and, ultimately, deterioration of the levels of food security. War means hunger; in peace and justice nothing is lost. Let us work therefore for a just peace, following truth, love and freedom.

While, in our fight against poverty, we should not forget food security, we also cannot neglect environmental protection and rehabilitation aimed at sustainable development of the various ecosystems in agriculture, forestry and fishery. It is from this that the determination and conservation of security come. Food supply and security do not proceed just from the cultivation and availability of land and the avoidance of natural or manmade disasters, but also from effective policy on environment and from soil and water security.

Today, moreover, we have to promote and support safe agricultural production systems in situations that could put public health at risk because of a lack of basic quality standard controls.

Last but not least, we exhort all to take up the pledge that has already been undertaken by some countries to participate in the FAO Trust Fund that was instituted with the aim of ensuring primary and ongoing interventions aimed at food security. The global investment goal is extremely limited in comparison with the extremely large military budget or in comparison with the unnecessary expenses that millions of people in developed countries are used to making. And it is having a substantial influence on developing areas. Recent humanitarian measures taken in Afghanistan confirm that, when there is real political will to intervene against hunger, many things can be done, more or less effectively.

Therefore, political choices are required that favour the poorest people affected by hunger, and the responsibility falls upon the whole international community. All States, especially those that can afford it, are requested to fulfil their duty to guarantee the right to be fed of all persons and peoples whenever a single State, because of poverty and underdevelopment or other reasons, cannot provide adequate food for everybody.

This is the perspective that the World Food Summit concretized into the concept of food security, foreseeing an effort of solidarity aimed at guaranteeing food for everybody, or at least at reducing by half the number of undernourished and starving people before 2015, through the common commitment of governments, international institutions and different entities of civil society.

**Salem AL-LOZI (Observer for the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development)
(Original language Arabic)**

It is my great honour to address this august assembly for the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference. It is particularly my honour to participate in this meeting for the first time in my capacity as the Director-General of our organization. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my heartfelt congratulations to Mr Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Raqabani, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in the United Arab Emirates, and I am sure that thanks to his wisdom, counsel, vision and great knowledge the works of this meeting will be crowned with

success. I would also like to express my congratulations to his colleagues who have also been elected. It is my pleasure to extend to you the greetings of all the member countries of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development which represents 21 states that work continuously to achieve the lofty goals of our organization. Our organization, by all standards, is the twin sister of FAO, especially in the implementation of the goals, policies and visions aimed at achieving food security, preserving natural resources and training human resources in various agricultural sectors.

After my election as the Director-General of my organization, I paid an immediate visit to FAO Headquarters in Rome and I have had the honour of meeting the Director-General and his aides, all of whom have expressed their determination to pursue cooperation and coordination with our organization. I would particularly thank FAO for having sent two technical missions to our headquarters in Khartoum during the last two months and I am sure that these two visits have been instrumental in enhancing cooperation between our two organizations.

There is no doubt that the agreement of cooperation between our organizations, which has been adopted by the Board and the Conference of this Organization, will set the stage for better cooperation between our organizations and set the administrative, legal and technical framework to enhance this cooperation. I believe that the Director-General's determination will motivate us to better work for the benefit of the peoples of our Region.

The challenges which we are facing are tremendous at the beginning of this Twenty-first century. That is why we have to determine the priorities and the programmes of cooperation among our two organizations on the one hand, and between our two organizations and the various international and intergovernmental organizations. The General Assembly and the Executive Board of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development have identified the priorities and the basis for cooperation among us, particularly in the fight against plant and animal pests, rationalization of scarce water resources, introduction of modern technology to increase agricultural projects, enhancing investment in the various agricultural sectors to combat desertification and alleviation of the impact of drought to achieve food security in the world and on international level.

These programmes represent the priorities we have to concentrate on, such as setting up studies and surveys, exchange of knowledge and experience, and enhancing cooperation. Finally, I would like to congratulate the Conference on the adoption of the International Convention on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as well as all the important achievements of this Organization. We would like to thank you for inviting us to this prestigious and august Organization and we will spare no effort in achieving the goals of FAO for the benefit of the member countries and for the benefit of achieving agricultural development for all.

The meeting rose at 13.30 hours

La séance est levée à 13 heures 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.30 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2 – 13 November 2001 Rome, 2 – 13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2 – 13 de noviembre de 2001
TENTH PLENARY MEETING DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
7 November 2001

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
J.N.L. Srivastava

Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00
sous la présidence de J.N.L. Srivastava,
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de J.N.L. Srivastava
Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

PART I - SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)
PREMIÈRE PARTIE - QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE (suite)
PARTE I - ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS Y DE POLÍTICAS (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)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
DÉCLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION (suite)
DECLARACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE DELGACIONES (continuación)

Kyrgyzstan, Albanie, République Centrafricaine, Czech Republic, Oman, Namibia, Fiji, Maroc, San Marino, Suriname, Ecuador, Haiti, Mali, Mozambique, Roumanie, Uruguay, Burundi, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Zambia, Afghanistan, Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, International Union for Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations

Alexandr KOSTYUK (Kyrgyzstan) (Original language Russian)

I would like to inform you, briefly, of the progress achieved and the existing problems in the agricultural sector of the Kyrgyz Republic over the five years since the historical global forum of the World Food Summit, which took place in November 1996.

The agricultural sector in Kyrgyzstan is the most important one and accounts for approximately 50 percent of GDP. Nearly half of the population of our country is engaged in agricultural activities. Thus, reforms in agriculture play an important role in the recovery and growth of the economy and are aimed at poverty alleviation. It should be noted that Kyrgyzstan is predominantly a mountainous country and arable land comprises only about 7 percent (1.2 million hectares) of the total land area. Therefore, our objective is to maximize the efficiency of our agriculture.

For the last five years, Kyrgyzstan has been continuing reforms in the agricultural sector in order to adapt to the new market conditions. Reforms resulted in the break-up of collective and State farms (*kolkhozes and sovkhozes*), privatization of agriprocessing enterprises, complete liberalization of prices for agricultural products and introduction of private ownership of land. It should be noted that Kyrgyzstan was the first country among the former Soviet republics to introduce private ownership of land and is at present implementing reforms to stabilize the land market.

Under land and agrarian reforms, 75 percent of all agricultural land (arable, hayfields and pasture) has been distributed to the residents in rural areas. The remaining 25 percent of the land is owned by the Government and leased to local self-governance bodies.

As a result of land and agrarian reform in Kyrgyzstan, more than 82 000 individual farms and unions have emerged. Currently, private farms, united peasant farms and individual households produce 98 percent of total agricultural output, while the State's share does not exceed 2 percent. So there is an obvious strengthening of agricultural production by the private sector and virtually no State interference or control.

The second key phase of the land and agrarian reform began with the introduction of private ownership of land and the lifting of moratorium on land sale. At this stage, within the Comprehensive Development Framework Strategy: 2001 to 2010 which was developed on the initiative and with the direct assistance of the international donor organizations and the World Bank, efforts will be concentrated on further land and agrarian reform, ensuring a legislative and institutional basis for operation of the land market and fostering conducive conditions for the flow of private investments into agri-processing enterprises.

Private services supplying agricultural machinery, seeds and other resources will be improved. Special attention will be paid to enhancing the country's export capacity and farmers will be oriented towards growing high-value crops and livestock breeds. All the internal barriers to the transportation of agricultural products will be eliminated. Agricultural training, advisory and marketing services will be developed. Management and financing of most irrigation assets will be decentralized to ensure effective maintenance of water supply and irrigation systems with more active involvement of water users.

Successful implementation of reforms would not be possible without the investments provided to our country by international donor organizations like the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Swiss Government, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union and many others. A number of large investment projects are being implemented in the country with assistance and active participation from donor organizations. These are aimed at: a) rehabilitation of irrigation systems; b) farm restructuring; c) formation and development of the land market; d) development of the rural financial market; e) development of markets for machinery services, seeds and fertilisers; f) development of rural advisory services; g) strengthening of export and marketing capacity; and h) introducing a new system for the registration of rights to immovable property, including landownership rights.

All projects and programmes are aimed at providing practical assistance to farmers and peasants working on the land. As an example, I would like to mention the Rural Advisory Development Project, which was implemented jointly with the Swiss Association for International Cooperation (HELVETAS). Advisory services are widely practised in the countries with developed market economies and are an integral part of the successful functioning of agriculture. We too place great emphasis on the development of rural advisory services and work in this direction will be broadened and strengthened. This example brightly illustrates our willingness and openness to learn and introduce new methods of agricultural farming.

The most important aspect of poverty alleviation is ensuring food security in the Kyrgyz Republic. There are four main principles of food security: a) availability of food in the market; b) stable supply of food; c) food must be safe and of acceptable quality; and d) ensuring physical access and access through increased purchasing power of population. The European Commission Food Security Programme is providing essential assistance in implementing and addressing problems of food security. Despite a number of objective problems, Kyrgyzstan is now self-sufficient in supply of basic agricultural commodities including cereals, meat, milk and vegetables.

A mountainous country with vast pastures, Kyrgyzstan has ideal conditions for livestock breeding. In this connection a priority will be given to milk and meat cattle breeding. Activities to improve cattle breeds will be carried out. For this purpose the semen of bulls from Switzerland is being imported and more imports are envisaged from the United States and Israel. Sheep breeding and goat breeding will be further developed. Some 200 rams and 400 ewes of Australian Merino sheep have been brought into the country under a World Bank-funded project. This year, with assistance from Germany's GTZ, 1 000 goats will be brought from China and Mongolia. Another promising direction for the development of livestock breeding industry is yak breeding.

Despite the successes achieved we admit openly that there are a number of problems in agriculture. Currently, the country is experiencing a lack of private investments into agricultural production and the processing industry. Substantial work is being carried out to improve the legislation, including tax and customs legislation, in order to create favourable conditions for attracting private investments into the economy as a whole and into agriculture in particular. I invite foreign investors to visit our country to explore and scrutinize opportunities for private investments. We have huge untapped capacity in the area of processing agricultural commodities and production of high-quality products, like potato chips, vegetable oil, meat products and macaroni products. Most of these products are imported from neighbouring and overseas countries and well-organized local production can be competitive. Thus, there is an opportunity to gain a local market share for these products via import substitution.

Despite quite a large volume of investments in the agriculture sector, there are many problems, for instance, in the irrigation sector. Irrigation is one of the key sectors of agriculture, since about 60 percent of total arable land is irrigated. This is why the Government of the Kyrgyzstan allocates a large budget and investment funds for rehabilitation and operation of irrigation assets.

Irrigation systems in the Former Soviet Union have been designed for *kolkhozes and sovkhoses* to irrigate massive areas of hundreds of thousands of hectares. In the course of land and agrarian reforms, private individual farms of several hectares have emerged. Existing irrigation systems are unable to deliver water to individual plots and therefore must be reshaped and improved. Besides, most irrigation assets are in poor condition and require urgent rehabilitation.

There are problems with the renewal of the agricultural machinery fleet; the development of services for the supply of high quality seeds, fuel and fertilizers; and the marketing and export of agricultural commodities. However, these problems will be successfully addressed under an adopted reform programme and a Comprehensive Development Framework Strategy: 2001 to 2010.

We believe that successful implementation and strengthening of reforms in agriculture will lead to building a true market economy, economic growth of our country, growth of income of the rural population and, finally, to solving the problem of poverty alleviation. This will require much effort and time but we are committed to succeed.

Agron DUKA (Albanie)

Qu'il me soit permis de vous féliciter au nom de la délégation de la République d'Albanie pour votre élection au poste de Président de cette Conférence.

Il m'appartient également d'exprimer au Directeur Général de la FAO, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, mes sincères et vives félicitations pour le travail impressionnant qu'il a accompli et la contribution décisive qu'il a apporté au cours de ces années passées à la tête de notre Organisation.

Cette Conférence montre l'occasion de présenter la situation d'agriculture albanaise.

L'agriculture en Albanie est le secteur prioritaire et stratégique de toute l'économie nationale. La production agricole occupe plus de 50 pour cent de la production brute intérieure. Plus 40-47 pour cent de la main d'œuvre sont employés dans ce secteur.

Au cours de ces dernières années, l'agriculture albanaise a obtenu de bons résultats. Pour l'année 2001 en prévoit une croissance de la production agricole par rapport à l'année 2000.

Les importations des denrées alimentaires ont subi une chute de 12 pour cent. La production de légumes et de produits d'élevage est accrue.

Le Gouvernement Albanais considère l'agriculture le secteur prioritaire et stratégique de toute l'économie du pays. Dans le programme du nouveau gouvernement l'agriculture et l'alimentation sont une priorité du développement de l'économie du pays pour la période 2001 – 2005 en orientation est en harmonie avec le processus d'intégration de l'Albanie en Europe.

Dans ce contexte l'objectif majeur de l'agriculture pour la période 2001 – 2005 sera la croissance durable de la production agricole avec un rythme moyen de 4–5 pour cent, l'amélioration de l'organisation du marché intérieur des produits agricoles et leur marketing, l'accroissement de l'exportation des produits agricoles et la réduction des importations des denrées alimentaires; le développement d'une agriculture durable et une meilleure utilisation des ressources naturelles.

Pour réaliser ces objectifs, les mesures suivantes seront prises:

- La poursuite des programmes de réhabilitation du système d'irrigation, du drainage ainsi que l'infrastructure de l'irrigation,
- La fourniture pour l'agriculture d'intrants, machinismes agricoles, semences, fertilisants, pesticides etc.
- Le soutien de l'agriculture avec des crédits et des programmes spéciaux pour le développement

- La promotion du secteur privé en poursuivant une politique encourageante de crédits et d'impôts douaniers.
- Le développement de l'agro-industrie, grâce à la promotion des investissements dans le secteur de l'industrie agro-alimentaire,
- Le développement de la pêche et de l'aquaculture,
- Une meilleure gestion des ressources forestières.

Monsieur le Président, la lutte contre la pauvreté rurale est l'amélioration du niveau de vie des zones rurales est un déficit du programme de notre gouvernement.

Nous sommes en train de préparer la première stratégie du développement économique et la réduction de la pauvreté. L'objectif de cette stratégie est d'assurer une croissance durable dont toute la population albanaise bénéficiera.

C'est une stratégie à long terme, envisageant des résultats concrets au cours des années 2002-2004. Nous nous sommes engagés de préparer ce document au cours de l'année avec une large participation de la société civile, du pouvoir local, des organisations non-gouvernementales, avec l'assistance des organismes internationaux et des pays donateurs.

Dans le cadre de cette stratégie, le gouvernement albanais va mettre à la disposition plus de fonds à disposition des secteurs plus prioritaires comme la santé publique et l'éducation. Les deux facteurs plus importants pour la réduction de la pauvreté, dont l'infrastructure, la construction de routes dans les zones rurales, l'amélioration de l'approvisionnement en eau, de l'énergie électrique et l'amélioration de la télécommunication. Une aide particulière sera accordée aux pauvres et aux groupes vulnérables.

Monsieur le Président, le Gouvernement Albanais apprécie objectivement le rôle positif joué par la FAO pour le soutien de réformes et la structuration de l'agriculture albanaise, vers une économie de marché, grâce à l'assistance technique pour les problèmes de privatisation, marketing, législation agricole et alimentaire, la pêche, étude d'évaluation des ressources en eau et forestières en Albanie lesquels participent au développement des projets de coopération technique.

Nous sommes convaincus que la FAO à l'avenir continuera d'aider l'agriculture albanaise par des projets d'assistance technique pour affronter le déficit et résoudre le problème de la sécurité alimentaire.

La délégation albanaise unit ses espoirs à ceux du monde entier et espère que la FAO, comme toujours même, dont l'avenir sera un forum mondial de l'agriculture, pour mobiliser toutes les ressources et atteindre les objectifs que notre Organisation a signés dans la déclaration de Rome est le plan d'action du sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Salomon NAMKOSSERENA (République Centrafricaine)

Je voudrais tout d'abord vous adresser nos félicitations au nom de son Excellence Ange Félix PATASSE, Président de la République Centrafricaine, Chef de l'Etat, au nom du Gouvernement, et au nom de la population Centrafricaine toute entière pour votre élection comme Président à cette Session.

Lors du Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation de novembre 1996 à Rome, la République Centrafricaine, comme les autres pays des régions du monde à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, s'est engagée à faire des efforts de production, de sorte que les progrès s'accélèrent pour lutter contre la faim et réduire la pauvreté des 650 millions de personnes des pays en développement, dont plus de 250 millions en Afrique subsaharienne.

Comme vous le savez, la République Centrafricaine vit sa huitième année de changement tant sur le plan politique qu'économique. Le changement démocratique, faut-il le souligner, s'est déroulé dans la sérénité, marqué par des élections transparentes, situation qui nous donne foi en l'avenir. Cette foi en l'avenir anime également les stratégies du développement rural. Ces stratégies ont fait

le pari de consolider la sécurité alimentaire à travers le développement de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, des ressources fauniques mais également la gestion rationnelle, durable et conservatoire des ressources naturelles.

Avec l'appui de la FAO, des autres partenaires au développement, de la société civile, du secteur privé, mon Pays, la République Centrafricaine, a posé des actes positifs pouvant concrétiser l'objectif du Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation, c'est-à-dire faire de sorte qu'avant 2015, au moins la moitié des 800 millions de personnes souffrant encore de la faim ne soient plus privées du droit le plus fondamental: le droit à la nourriture.

Grâce aux potentialités agro-pastorales considérables (15 millions d'hectares de terres cultivables; 3 millions de têtes de bétail) et aux activités de cueillette encore importantes, la République Centrafricaine ne connaît pas de graves pénuries alimentaires. Cependant l'instabilité politique comporte des risques de famine et d'insécurité alimentaire, lesquels peuvent compromettre pendant longtemps l'équilibre alimentaire si aucune action ciblée n'est envisagée.

En effet, les multiples mutineries (1996, 1997) puis les derniers événements du 28 mai 2000 (à savoir la tentative du coup d'Etat manqué) ont causé de graves entraves au tissu économique.

La République Centrafricaine est enclavée au cœur de l'Afrique où elle couvre 623.000 km² avec une population estimée à 3,8 millions d'habitants et une densité de 6 habitants/ km². La population rurale représente 60 pour cent du PIB et contribue pour environ 80 pour cent à l'emploi de la population active. Ce secteur est placé en priorité dans la politique de relance de l'économie du gouvernement pour lutter contre la pauvreté et l'exode rural, assurer la sécurité alimentaire des ménages, créer plus de richesse, améliorer nos exportations et contribuer à une meilleure croissance de l'économie.

En effet le secteur agricole est appelé à jouer un rôle déterminant dans l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et la lutte contre la pauvreté. Le constat pour la République Centrafricaine est que, malheureusement, les performances du secteur restent faibles (seulement 700 000 hectares mis en culture par an, faible productivité du travail, etc.) ce qui ne lui permet pas de jouer ce rôle de levier, faute de la quasi inexistence des moyens financiers auxquels il faut ajouter une politique et des stratégies peu cohérentes.

Toutefois, depuis 1998, le gouvernement a déployé des efforts pour asseoir une base de développement durable et ouvrir une brèche dans la lutte contre la faim. C'est ainsi que le plan national de lutte contre la pauvreté (PNLCP) a été élaboré en 1999, le Plan Directeur Agricole (PDA) adopté en 2000 et le cadre stratégique de lutte contre la pauvreté est en cours de finalisation et d'autres documents de politique, constituant des fondements sur lesquels un développement harmonieux et cohérent, sont envisagés.

Dans le cadre du Programme Spécial de Sécurité Alimentaire et avec le concours de la FAO, le Gouvernement a mis en chantier et exécuté plusieurs projets dont, entre autres, le projet "Accès des femmes rurales aux micro projets générateurs de revenus", grâce aux micro finances de la FAO. L'objectif étant d'accroître les capacités d'intervention des femmes rurales qui produisent plus de 80 pour cent des cultures vivrières en République Centrafricaine. Ces gestions sont aussi soutenues par la composante micro finance du Programme Inter-Agences de Lutte contre la Pauvreté des Agences du système des Nations Unies (SNU).

La FAO, avec l'appui financier du PNUD, exécute la formation d'une politique et des stratégies de productions maraîchères.

L'adhésion de la République Centrafricaine au PSSA a permis de lancer le processus de la formation des autres composantes du programme.

Le Gouvernement, les donateurs et les Institutions financières consentent des efforts fondamentaux d'investissement dans l'agriculture de la République Centrafricaine. La volonté politique étant là et les sources nécessaires engagées, mais il nous faut aussi et surtout l'implication des ONG, des organisations de la société civile, des sociétés privées, des

groupements d'intérêts ruraux, des commerçants et des paysans eux-mêmes pour réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes affamées.

En somme, des efforts sont en train d'être déployés par le gouvernement pour augmenter au moins à 5 pour cent le taux de croissance économique tout en maintenant à 2,5% le taux de croissance démographique, la réduction d'au moins 50% du taux de ménages en insécurité alimentaire; l'amélioration et la diversification de la compétitivité de nos produits d'exportation. Mais toutes ces actions nécessitent des moyens tant financiers, matériels, qu'humains, étant entendu que la dépendance alimentaire coûte chère. C'est pourquoi, mon Pays, la République Centrafricaine, tout en reconnaissant les efforts déjà consentis, attend de la communauté internationale en général, et de la FAO en particulier, de l'assistance sous toutes ses formes en vue de son développement durable.

Pour terminer, la République Centrafricaine à l'instar des autres membres du Groupe Africain qui l'ont précédée, insiste sur la nécessité pour notre Session de poser un acte concret pour l'éradication de la mouche tsé-tsé.

Pavel SKODA (Czech Republic)

Allow me to express on behalf of the delegation of the Czech Republic profound respect for the participation in this significant Session and deep delight because of the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. Also I would like to express my special thanks to the Chairman of the Thirty-first Conference. The delegation of the Czech Republic has no doubts about the fact that under his experienced Chairmanship this Session of the Conference shall be successful.

As it is with all those present, my thoughts are strongly focused on the tragic events of 11 September 2001 in the United States of America. and on the current fight waged against international terrorism. We firmly believe that this fight shall be successful and that no small role therein shall be played by the United Nations.

The Czech Republic is prepared, in the framework of its own possibilities to continue pushing through the conclusions of the 1996 World Food Summit. In particular it will be done in the form of providing multilateral development assistance realized through the FAO Trust Funds. This cooperation is directed to professional development and exchange of information within the region of Central and Eastern Europe, and to the support of the inclusion of Czech experts into the FAO project. In addition, the Czech Republic continues to provide development assistance on a bilateral basis to various countries to over the world. May I be permitted to mention, of all the development assistance projects realized to date, a successful project in Morocco entitled "Sustainable Management of Wildlife and Nature in Morocco", which was implemented through the FAO Trust Fund. Moreover, we have been providing on a regular basis since 1999 humanitarian food aid through the World Food Programme.

In the preparation and implementation of projects helping developing countries, the Czech Republic has acquired much experience in the past. We are prepared now and in the future to use our experience and possibly technologies in the preparation of development assistance projects that are bringing benefits to the developing countries.

The activities of the Czech Republic have not concentrated exclusively on providing food security for all, but recently also on food safety within development aid in the field of agricultural products. For that purpose, the Czech Republic, as a candidate country in the process of accession to the European Union, is gradually harmonizing its own legal regulations with the European Law, in accordance with the with the so-called White Book on Food Safety issued by the European Commission in 2000 and presenting a broad programme for the preparation of novel legislation and the modification of the present legislation in the Czech Republic. The aim is the attainment of top standards of food safety based on the revision of existing regulations and on the introduction of new measures in the fields of feed, health and protection of animals, hygiene, residua, up to the so-called new-type food, including genetically-modified food. In consequence,

the fundamental aspect of food safety in the Czech Republic is the so-called food legislation directed in particular at the protection of health and the economic interests of consumers.

In this respect, the Czech Republic welcomes the possible assistance of FAO in monitoring the occurrence of BSE, and in the suppression thereof, in particular in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The Czech Republic supports the establishment of the FAO Multilateral Trust Fund which will provide the solution to the problems of feed and food safety from the point of view of monitoring BSE in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. We consider this set of problems to be one of the key subjects of further effective mutual cooperation with FAO in the near future.

In the future, we would also like to start closer cooperation in the field of ecological farming which FAO has started to deal with in the recent years, and that also in connection with the growing significance of this method of farming worldwide. A first step of the cooperation lies in the distribution of a FAO questionnaire which the Secretariat of the Organization sent to the individual countries, the aim of which was to assemble complex information on the present condition of ecological farming. For the given countries. In this direction we would appreciate an exchange of information on ecological farming. For instance, we would be interested to learn the results of the above questionnaire, which would enable us to acquire a survey on the development and present condition of ecological farming in other countries too.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that the Czech Republic shall continue to hold the position that world food security is one of the essential prerequisites of a balanced development of the international community. The Czech Republic is in agreement with the international efforts aimed at the economic strengthening of afflicted countries, and with the offer to make available the temporarily unused production potential of the country aimed at enlarging the global food resources.

Yahya bin Abdullah bin SALIM AL-ARAIMI (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

First of all I would like to convey to you the congratulations of my country to the Chairman on his election as Chairman for the Thirty-first Session of this Conference and I am sure that with his wisdom and ability he will lead us to success. My country has given great attention to the importance of realizing food security and thus the sectors of agriculture, livestock and fisheries have achieved a lot of progress over the last three decades, as a result of the intensive efforts made in the area in order to obtain self sufficiency in food production. The Sultanate of Oman adopts a policy of diversification of national income in order to improve the standard of living in different areas. The Sultanate has large areas of arable land as a result of the surveys carried out in the country. The agricultural census which was carried out in 1993 shows that the agricultural land in ten years has reached 100 542 hectares and we have 105 660 tenants who support 804 147 people.

The Government also adopted a policy of vertical expansion in development of agriculture to rationalize the use of water in irrigation and in order to ensure economic efficiency in agricultural production, which means that the increase of farmland areas is no longer an indicator of agricultural development and therefore more importance is to be granted to the qualitative and quantitative increase of agricultural production through the introduction of modern techniques and ensuring the quality of produce with a view to raising its added value.

The sectors of agriculture, livestock and fisheries, because of their importance, constitute one of the most important bases in the economic development strategy of the country. We therefore have increasing growth in order to meet the needs of the population. All the sectors of agriculture, livestock and fisheries have witnessed an increase in their production in quality and quantity through: the change of awareness in the rural family; the adoption of modern techniques and agricultural technology in its various aspects; and the policy and programmes of the Government which have been implemented over recent decades and through the five-year plan.

The efforts of development and the success of five-year plans have led livestock and fisheries to occupy their position in the non-oil sectors of the Omani economy. In the contribution to food

security in the Sultanate, these sectors have provided 47.6 percent of the country's needs, that is 65 percent of the Omani population.

In the provision of employment these sectors employ a large number of citizens part-time or full-time.

My country is still anxious that we have not achieved the targets of eradicating poverty and hunger, and what raises further our concern is that there is an increase in the number of countries that suffer from severe food deficits in spite of the efforts exerted by FAO to obtain a world free from hunger and poverty.

And the Sultanate at this forum would like to express its commitment to the principles in the Rome Declaration of the 1996 World Food Summit, in which the countries committed themselves to alleviating the poverty of many of the people in the world. We see that we should have the political will and the financial support in order to attain this noble and human objective.

It is also important to grant investment in the agricultural sector its due importance, as investment in this vital sector will in fact lead to families that are able to support themselves and in this way we obtain two objectives: eradicating poverty and providing new job opportunities. My country supports the efforts of the Director-General to mobilize resources and set up partnerships with the international organizations concerned in order to have strong cooperation in the long term.

The Government of my country has also granted great importance to ensuring food security outside its borders through the provision of emergency assistance through the organizations concerned or directly to the countries affected. Last year we provided assistance to the World Food Programme to enable it to provide assistance to refugees and the victims of disasters. Also the Sultanate provides assistance to the United Nations Population Programme and also annual assistance to ICRC, UNRA, the refugees in Kosovo during the crisis there and to UNICEF. Lastly, the Sultanate has provided financial assistance to assist the Afghan refugees. Moreover, we exert efforts to assist through the voluntary organizations in our country. We not only provide assistance to ensure food security during peace, but at all times. And therefore we set up a commission for the strategic reserve in order to provide food assistance when needed.

I would like to welcome the new members in the Organization and their contribution will certainly support the Organization in its efforts to obtain world food security. We also welcome the achievement made by this Session, that is to say the ratification of the undertaking on plant genetic resources after long negotiations over seven years which is important to obtain food security.

Finally, I would like to thank you for availing me of this opportunity to address your Conference and wish your Conference every success.

Helmuth K. ANGULA (Namibia)

I would like to join those who spoke before me to congratulate you on your election to the helm of this august session of the FAO Conference. In the same vein I wish to congratulate and compliment the Director-General and his staff for having wisdom and vision in steering this institution into a centre of excellence. In particular we appreciate and indeed cherish FAO's continued support to our country's agricultural and water sectors, especially in the area of date production, livestock improvement, water policy and legislation reform, the support to the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of Namibia, the training and WTO agreement negotiations, and of course the support to the fisheries and marine resources sector.

The Namibian delegation wishes to express its concern about the state of food and agriculture in developing countries in general and in Africa in particular. To quote from the report of the State of Food and Agriculture 2001, "agriculture production in sub-Saharan Africa continues to stagnate with levels for agriculture, cereal and food items in 2000 being virtually identical to those attained in 1999".

This Conference takes place when Africa is faced with extreme poverty, high unemployment rates, high HIV/AIDS prevalence and unfavourable climatic conditions. It is also taking place when the multilateral trading system is so unjust and unfair that it continues to: restrict market entry for agricultural products from developing countries; allow developed countries to provide massive subsidies to their producers, thereby aiding the production of massive surpluses to continue to suppress world prices for agricultural commodities; allow developed countries to provide massive export subsidies thus enabling them to dump cheaper products on the domestic markets of developing countries, thereby suppressing local production; allow developed countries to apply very high tariff peaks and tariff escalations to processed agricultural products from developing countries, thereby suppressing value addition in underdeveloping countries; allow dumping of food surplus in the name of food aid and further allow some countries to use food aid as a political bargaining tool; and allow the use of non-tariff barriers, such as sanitary and phytosanitary conditions to restrict entry of agricultural products into their markets.

These combine to reinforce the vicious cycle of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and underdevelopment that our countries and people find themselves in.

To reverse this trend there is a need for a vision, a vision that will ensure that our people can extricate themselves from this vicious cycle. At global level, especially as far as the mandate of FAO is concerned, we have the 2015 vision which reinforces the 1996 World Food Summit declaration and the subsequent World Food Security and Nutrition Plan of Action. However, despite this international vision little has changed for the majority of the poor, most of whom reside in the developing world where 815 million people continue to be undernourished and chronically food-insecure.

This noble vision will only achieve its objective if it is reinforced by international, regional and national visions with sound plans of action. In this regard Africa has formulated a New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This new partnership is a pledge by African leaders to eradicate poverty in their countries and place them on a path of sustainable growth and development. It is also a call for a new partnership between Africa and the international community to overcome the underdevelopment malaise in which Africa finds itself.

Namibia wishes to call upon the international community to be real partners in this new initiative. At national level Namibia has a well-articulated National Development Plan (NDPII), a Food Security and Nutrition Policy and its related Plan of Action and a Poverty Reduction Strategy, amongst others. However, effective implementation of these policies is being frustrated by local financial resources.

The objectives of these policies will remain statements of good intention if they are not effectively and permanently implemented to be a tangible output that has a beneficial effect on the population. Namibia being a developing country with extreme inequality in income distribution, as reflected by its unique Gini coefficient of 0.7, requires the support of the international community to achieve its noble developmental objective. This, we believe, can and should be realized through a smart partnership.

To achieve these objectives, priority areas have been identified in the areas of human resource development, health care (especially as it relates to HIV/AIDS), agricultural development, small and medium enterprise development and land redistribution to ensure access to land for the marginalized section of our population.

These priorities have been identified on the basis that in southern Africa food shortage and poverty are partly exacerbated by many years of colonial deprivation and usurpation of land by the previous obnoxious colonial apartheid settler regimes. To undo this inhuman system of land monopolization, countries affected need massive financial resources to empower the landless indigenous people to acquire land while at the same time giving fair and just compensation to the former settlers.

Equally important is the technical assistance in the areas of priority for the developmental needs of the country. By doing this we are convinced that we shall be able to conquer hunger and ensure

the right to food for all. Furthermore, food security cannot be ensured from agriculture alone. It is for this reason that Namibia takes the issue of responsible fisheries in a serious light. Hence Namibia is host to the Convention of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO) and strongly supports the call for the endorsement of the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem by this Conference. The endorsement of the declaration by this Conference will be a step in the right direction to contribute to the sustainable utilization of the world's marine resources.

On the trade front, Africa views that development is inseparable from agriculture, as most of our people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Yet again, agriculture is inseparable from trade since most of our trade involves agricultural commodities. This is because of the limited scope for horizontal and vertical diversification of our economies as dictated by resource constraints. Therefore, Namibia wishes to see a mainly developmental agenda being adopted at Doha. Such an agenda must, *inter alia*:

- boost agricultural production in developing countries to ensure a minimum level of food self-sufficiency, to reduce the high import bills while enabling them to still export some of their produce so as to foster a positive balance of payments to afford essential food imports;
- increase the market entry for agricultural products on the international markets. This can and should be achieved by reducing domestic and export subsidies applied by developed countries, by doing away with export subsidies, by having harmonized SPS or food safety standards and by reducing tariff peaks and escalations for processed products from developing countries. In this regard Namibia welcomes the Everything but Arms Initiative of the EU and the African Growth and Opportunity Act of the United States;
- stop the dumping of food aid and ensure that food aid is increasingly replaced by development aid for all after disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction. It should further curb the use of food aid for political bargaining and ensure that food aid is used for the relief of emergencies and disasters only, and that whenever it is provided it is fully in grant form and that sourcing of such food aid from local or regional sources is encouraged;
- promote value-adding within developing countries; and
- ensure the special and differential treatment of developing countries.

In conclusion, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources adopted by this Conference is also welcomed by the Namibian delegation as it will go a long way in enhancing food security for all.

I would like to conclude by appealing to all Member Nations to double their efforts to ensure food security for our people.

Tubuna SAKIUSA (Fiji)

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to address the Conference of FAO on behalf of the Government of Fiji.

First, I wholeheartedly agree with the comments made by the former President of the Republic of Chile, His Excellency Patricio Aylwin, when he said that the problem of hunger is simply not solved by increasing agricultural production in developing countries. The issue is more complex and touches upon lack of income and employment opportunities and the consequent endurance of a high level of poverty.

In spite of the significant improvement in economic development brought about by increasing trade and globalization, a staggering 800 million people throughout the world, and particularly in the developing countries, do not have enough food to meet their basic nutritional needs. Certainly the situation calls for greater commitment from the international community to address this serious problem.

In this respect I would like to welcome the initiative taken by FAO through the establishment of the FAO Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety. This Trust Fund would serve as a catalyst

for enhancing food production and improving access to food in developing countries. My Government would certainly urge the donor community to contribute generously to this Trust Fund.

In addition, I would request the Secretariat to expedite the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) which was launched in 1994 in countries that have communities who are vulnerable to hunger and poverty. While Fiji is not classified as a low-income food-deficit country, there are certain vulnerable groups in the community who would require some attention.

As suggested by the EU Commissioner responsible for agriculture, Dr Franz Fischler, an essential tool to combat hunger and reduce food insecurity is to integrate developing countries much better into world trade. While this is a laudable concept, in practice we are forced by limited prospects for trade. Market access remains a deterrent to trade in agricultural products and, unless developed countries open up their markets, only marginal progress will be made in the economies of developing countries. In this regard, special attention should be given to address the particular situation and needs of small-island developing countries like Fiji.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the efforts rendered by FAO through the assistance provided by the Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands based in Samoa. Fiji will continue to provide its support to FAO in our collective effort to eradicate food insecurity and hunger.

Ahmed BELHAMD (Maroc) (Langue originale Arabe)

C'est un plaisir, au nom de la délégation du Maroc, de féliciter Monsieur Al-Raqabani, Ministre de l'agriculture, pour son élection à la présidence de cette session de la Conférence. Nous lui offrons tous nos vœux de succès.

Je voudrais également remercier le Directeur Général Jacques Diouf, de la FAO, ainsi que son personnel, pour tous les efforts et l'activité entrepris pour préparer cette session.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, compte-rendu des difficultés de l'époque actuelle et des défis majeurs auxquels notre Organisation est confrontée et du rôle particulier qu'elle doit jouer, nous devons trouver des solutions à tous les obstacles qui existent et qui empêchent le développement de l'agriculture. Je ne peux qu'inciter l'Organisation à redoubler d'efforts pour renforcer et consolider les programmes à caractère développemental pour prendre en compte les recommandations qui seront adoptées lors de cette présente session.

Néanmoins, nous ne pouvons réaliser ces objectifs que si les pays riches s'engagent à combattre la pauvreté et à traduire leurs déclarations dans les faits, c'est-à-dire à fournir une assistance concrète et technique aux pays pauvres, à l'instar de ce qui a été fait, après la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale, lorsque le Plan Marshall a vu le jour et a ainsi contribué à enrichir les pays d'Europe comme les Etats-Unis.

De fait, le Maroc souhaite dire que nous regrettons que le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation ait dû être reporté. Nous saluons la décision qui a été prise d'organiser cette réunion au mois de juin, en vue de remédier aux conséquences négatives du retard pris et de mettre en place les mécanismes qui seront nécessaires pour relever les défis rencontrés aujourd'hui.

Parmi les différents programmes sur lesquels nous devons concentrer notre attention, il convient de mentionner le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire et les programmes de coopération technique qui témoignent des importantes capacités et des résultats positifs tout à fait concrets qui sont liés à l'effort et à l'activité de notre Organisation.

Le Maroc est prêt à redoubler d'efforts pour contribuer au succès de ces programmes au niveau de la Région Afrique. Il est à noter que le Maroc a directement contribué à l'appui apporté au Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire pour l'Afrique, dans le cadre d'un accord spécial avec la FAO, et d'autre part d'un accord avec le Burkina Faso et le Nigéria. Plus d'une cinquantaine d'ingénieurs et de techniciens sont associés à ce projet pour veiller au succès de l'exécution de ce

programme. Cette coopération Sud-Sud est tout à fait importante et doit se poursuivre à l'avenir avec d'autres partenaires.

Aujourd'hui, nous souhaitons qu'un haut niveau de coopération soit mis en œuvre, dans le cadre de l'exécution des projets de développement, dans les pays en développement, dans le cadre de la FAO qui doit certainement jouer un rôle moteur.

Nous demandons que soient augmentés les crédits alloués dans le budget pour l'exécution du Programme de sécurité alimentaire ainsi que du Programme de coopération technique et cela en vue de répondre aux attentes et aux besoins des pays qui souhaitent développer la coopération Sud-Sud.

Mesdames, Messieurs, la politique entreprise au Maroc depuis l'indépendance en matière de sécurité alimentaire nous a permis d'avancer très largement vers la réalisation de cet objectif et de pouvoir nourrir notre population, avec une ouverture également sur l'économie mondiale.

Le développement des populations rurales, le développement à partir des femmes, le développement de l'irrigation, de la pêche, de la production, toutes ces actions, ces activités ont permis d'améliorer la production de produits de base, produits laitiers, sucre, légumes et fruits.

La part des surfaces irriguées reste très importante pour un certain nombre de productions, notamment cette part est très importante dans le cas des fruits et légumes.

Nous pouvons dire, lorsque l'on regarde le secteur agricole marocain, que la sécheresse constitue un problème en ce qui concerne la qualité des terres arables et le Maroc continue ses efforts, sous la direction de Mohamed VI, pour que cet aspect d'ordre structurel, je parlais d'irrigation, soit inclus dans tous les projets stratégiques de développement agricole, et cela afin de garantir des fondements durables pour notre agriculture, indépendamment des aléas climatiques, le but étant d'améliorer l'insuffisance alimentaire et de réduire la pauvreté dans les zones rurales.

Cela s'inscrit dans le cadre d'un programme national de lutte contre la sécheresse qui devrait permettre une régulation des phases de production et une amélioration de la production elle-même, tout en fournissant les moyens techniques de développement humain dans le cadre d'une réforme institutionnelle nécessaire.

En ce qui concerne la pêche, le Maroc souhaite préserver les ressources halieutiques et améliorer les qualités de ces ressources ainsi que la consommation de poissons de qualité. Nous appuyons tout à fait l'appel lancé par la Conférence de Reykjavik en Islande concernant les ressources phylogénétiques. Nous avons soutenu le Traité international auquel nous sommes parvenus dans ce domaine et qui représente un moyen crucial de réaliser notre objectif de sécurité alimentaire.

De même, le programme de lutte contre la mouche tsé-tsé nous apparaît très important. Le Maroc est tout à fait prêt à participer à la mise en place des moyens de lutte transfrontalières contre les ravageurs et les maladies qui affectent les ressources végétales aussi bien qu'animales.

Monsieur le Président, avant de conclure mon intervention, je voudrais revenir sur les liens qui unissent le Maroc et la FAO. Ces liens se sont traduits sur le terrain par des projets visant à développer, à améliorer la production végétale et animale, cela afin d'augmenter le niveau de revenus de nos petits agriculteurs.

Nous espérons que des résultats concrets pourront être enregistrés, du fait de notre action et nous souhaitons que des programmes de coopération soient mis en route et cela pour satisfaire les besoins alimentaires des populations.

Fabio BERARDI (San Marino)

I wish to join my predecessors in congratulating you Mr Chairman on your appointment, and the new States on their recent membership to FAO. Their contribution will help to achieve common objectives.

We are gathered here today at a time characterized by a dramatic international situation and we cannot but reflect upon this. One of the main aspects of the Plan of Action resulting from the 1996

Summit and considered a priority was food security achieved through peace and international stability. There seemed to be no doubt. Today this has proven to be untrue. There can be neither justice nor solidarity and peace without respect for human rights.

Today, more than ever, there is a need to develop a culture of prevention, to develop preventive diplomacy and to create the conditions for an equitable and sustainable development through full participation and cooperation between governments, international organizations, NGOs and civil societies. The rights to food, health and education are mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and constitute the very foundation of modern societies. Education and the right to food are increasingly interrelated and interdependent and it is fundamental that agriculture and basic education in agriculture be on the international agenda.

Investing in basic education is crucial to promote rural development and food security as key elements to eradicate poverty. The objective of "food for all" is linked with the objective of "education for all". In this respect the Republic of San Marino has supported a joint FAO/UNESCO project on basic education for rural development, which is aimed at training trainers. At the end of this study a manual for project implementation will be published.

Today, about 800 million people live in extreme poverty and it is shown that malnutrition is closely linked to the spread of HIV/AIDS which results in labour reduction. In this respect FAO can make a significant contribution to enhance cooperation with WHO and UNAIDS to combat the spread of AIDS by promoting food security and education. FAO is a centre of excellence for developing and developed countries through its policies, advice and capacity-building. Since the Rio Declaration a new awareness has emerged, namely that the causes of environmental destruction and degradation are often linked to an increase in agricultural production through irrational exploitation of resources, the use of inadequate technologies and wastage of water. In order to face desertification, deforestation, erosion, floods and drought, it is important to develop policies centred on sustainable agriculture.

More investments, both private and public, are needed for agriculture, the driving force of almost all developing countries, in order to improve living conditions and to ameliorate rural women's conditions in the broadest sense of the word.

As regards countries in transition, governments must commit themselves to creating the conditions for a competitive agricultural sector, improving the standard of living of rural communities, protecting the various forms of agriculture, and informing land farmers that EU integration can be a useful opportunity to become more competitive.

To conclude, I hope that the European Food Authority will soon be established and will contribute to achieving food safety. I welcome the approval of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as it is important that developing countries accede to negotiations within WTO.

Finally, I really hope that the results of this Conference will be a good start for the Summit in 2002.

Geetapersad GANGARAM PANDAY (Suriname)

First of all, I would like to extend to you, Mr Chairman, my congratulations on your election as Chairperson of the Thirty-first Conference of FAO. We are confident that in view of your long and rich experience, we may look forward to fruitful discussions during this Conference. A number of excellent papers have been prepared for this Conference and I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the excellent job they have done.

Hunger and malnutrition are indeed the biggest threats to mankind and we are looking forward to the evaluation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action by our Heads of State and Government in June next year.

Allow me to report on new policies and developments under the present Government of my country. The new Government that was appointed last year has given great priority to stabilizing

the economy and this has proved quite successful. As a result, production in the agricultural sector has increased significantly.

In the fishery subsector, private companies have taken new initiatives to exploit the pelagic fisheries in order to develop this underdeveloped subsector. Taking into account the huge stocks of pelagic fish, we would like to take the opportunity to ask FAO for assistance in order to accelerate the development of this subsector in a sustainable way so that we can increase our fish exports substantially.

In the livestock subsector, the Government has taken measures to increase milk production in order to be less dependent on imported milk powder.

Great success has been achieved in the rice sector where this season's production of rice has doubled compared with last season. This increase has made us very aware of the complex mechanisms in the world market. Since Suriname has a small population, and thus a small domestic market, about 70 percent of rice production has to be exported. Because world market prices for rice have reached the lowest level of the past 20 years, increased production does not automatically result in increased income for farmers. This means that there is no incentive for farmers to increase food production further. This does not only apply to rice but also to other agricultural products where we see a similar trend of decreasing market prices.

For this complex problem of high fluctuations in the prices of agricultural products from developing countries, we need to find a solution in order to motivate our farmers to increase production and to make sure that their incomes, will increase. Some countries are selling their products at lower prices because they are able to subsidize their exports, and this endangers our own products in our domestic market.

Other aspects, which have a negative influence on the increase in food production in developing countries, are the constantly increasing quality requirements of certain countries. Food safety is an issue for us all; therefore the requirements for safe food must be applied in discussion with everybody and must not be used to protect one's own interest.

For these reasons, we look forward to the World Food Summit to discuss how we can create effective methods for developing countries to increase their food production and overcome poverty in the rural areas in order to reduce hunger and malnutrition in a sustainable way.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Director-General of FAO for his role in leading the fight against hunger and malnutrition and also for the technical assistance which Suriname is receiving in order to enhance its food production.

Arturo GANGOTENA GUARDERAS (Ecuador)

El 11 de setiembre del 2001 ha marcado una inflexión histórica que se ha gestado en un nuevo paradigma, caracterizado por un estado de inseguridad e incertidumbre. Parecería que el proceso de evolución de alfa a omega del superhombre que nos hablaba Nietzsche, se ha invertido; que ese hombre que se creyó trascendente ha regresado a etapas de primitivismo y de autodestrucción.

Esta Conferencia respira una atmósfera enrarecida por estos hechos, que han impedido la actual realización de uno de los más importantes eventos internacionales: "La Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*", que esperaba aglutinar a los más altos dignatarios de la comunidad internacional.

A la inseguridad alimentaria mundial, se le ha agregado este nuevo factor de debilitamiento pues, para poder producir alimentos, distribuirlos y consumirlos, se requiere no solamente fertilizantes o tractores, sino paz para cultivar la tierra.

Concurre a este panorama una grave recesión de la economía internacional. Pese a haberse reducido las tasas de interés con la mejor de las intenciones. No se puede negar que, a partir de septiembre, existe un orden mundial diverso y que como consecuencia de estos recientes acontecimientos, no debemos retornar a protegernos como castillos medioevales en el comercio

internacional, sino avanzar en una verdadera liberalización, si el derrotero común es, como debe ser, la seguridad alimentaria.

Nos demuestra la historia que la obra pública y el libre comercio han sido factores dinamizantes y catalizadores del crecimiento de la economía y del bienestar ciudadano. No en vano, las grandes civilizaciones construyeron pirámides, acueductos, basílicas, carreteras, puertos como fuentes generadoras de empleo, lo que significa paz y progreso: "Fiat Panis".

Las economías, limitadas por la iliquidez monetaria, orientadas exclusivamente a mantener los equilibrios presupuestarios, han sido incapaces de generar obra pública y han conducido a la recesión. Los hombres han abandonado sus tierras y se han dirigido hacia otras latitudes donde se concentra el bienestar. Estos hechos, reitero, constituyen los principales agravantes del desempleo y de la emigración.

Hace un quinquenio se reunieron 180 Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno y suscribieron el plan de acción. A base de estas directrices, el Ecuador asumió el reto de promover el bienestar nutricional de la población, en el marco de los compromisos para combatir el hambre y la desnutrición. El Gobierno nacional declaró en 1998 la seguridad alimentaria como política de Estado y, conjuntamente con la FAO, desarrolló el Programa especial sobre seguridad alimentaria.

La FAO se ha caracterizado por ser una organización de gran eficacia, dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, habiendo traducido sus acciones en el Ecuador, en la ejecución de 25 importantes proyectos dirigidos tan acertadamente por su Director el Sr. Jacques Diouf y sus colaboradores.

A partir de 1996, la economía ecuatoriana ha atravesado por uno de los períodos más complejos, sin embargo para el 2001, se ha visto una recuperación con un crecimiento de casi el 6 por ciento, resultado del esfuerzo del sector productivo privado y de la apertura oficial a la inversión extranjera. Se ha producido una transformación en el marco institucional que, hacia afuera, prevé una reestructuración de las obligaciones internacionales y, hacia adentro, proyecta una delegación de las funciones del Estado hacia la sociedad civil y organismos seccionales.

El Ecuador ha tomado la decisión de reestructurar las deudas o pasivos del sector productivo, de manera especial de la producción agropecuaria, a fin de corregir anteriores anacronismos crónicos reflejados en altas las tasas de interés, que se aplicaron al aparato productivo. Hoy, es nuestra decisión retornar a la normalidad financiera. No hemos creído que quedarnos silentes y pasivos sea la mejor alternativa de un pueblo que posee los recursos humanos y naturales necesarios para salir adelante, y que cuenta con la firme voluntad política de su Gobierno para combatir el hambre y erradicar la pobreza.

Las grandes economías no encontrarán una rápida y consistente recuperación, simplemente con la reducción de las tasas de interés, sino cuando los países en desarrollo también sean economías florecientes en un mutuo compartir del bienestar.

Para finalizar, bien vale que reflexionemos sobre lo que el padre Theilhard de Chardin dijera, y que es una filosófica radiografía de los que vivimos hoy: "La vida evoluciona... en el mundo físico parece prevalecer la entropía, la tendencia a caer, pero hay un aliento que lo contradice y que viene de la esencia de la vida. Ocurren la desintegración de los elementos, la muerte de las criaturas vivas y la corrupción, pero hay también una creatividad que se expresa como adaptación para perdurar y como despertar y toma de conciencia. Hay una cosmogénesis y una antropogénesis".

Sébastien HILAIRE (Haiti)

Chaque deux ans les Ministres de l'agriculture du monde se réunissent ici telle une classe très hétérogène le jour de la remise des bulletins scolaires. Les élèves les plus doués, toujours placés en tête du classement, auraient été tout fiers de gravir ce podium en vue d'exhiber les excellentes notes qui remplissent leurs bulletins couverts d'étoiles, tandis que les moins doués auraient dû s'armer d'un mâle courage pour poser le même geste dans la crainte des nombreuses notes rouges

qui les attendent. Mais dans des assemblées de ce genre on est plutôt prédisposé à donner dix sur dix à tous les participants sous de très chauds applaudissements.

Il en est ainsi, non pas par complaisance, mais grâce à la sagesse que procure la pleine compréhension de la diversité des conditions d'existence, des moyens, des valeurs et des motivations des peuples.

Haïti ne peut prétendre être un bon élève. Sa situation économique, alimentaire et environnementale a même fait croire à certains qu'ils auraient le droit de lui proposer de faire à sa place son devoir de nourrir sa population moyennant versement direct de l'aide financière que d'autres amis plus fortunés voudraient lui accorder à ce titre. D'autres, heureusement, pensent qu'il est plus respectueux de nous aider à accomplir ce devoir de nourrir notre propre population. Nous leurs sommes reconnaissants et nous croyons que c'est dans ce sens que doit aller la vraie coopération tant dans le secteur de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation que dans d'autres domaines.

Les 56 ans d'expérience de travail de la FAO dans le milieu rural du monde entier, et en particulier avec les plus pauvres des pays les plus pauvres, lui ont donné toute la maturité requise pour un tel respect. D'où cette constante recherche d'équilibre entre les théories volontaristes de la globalisation uniformiste et la réalité des différences énormes, difficilement dissimulables ou contournables entre nos différents peuples.

C'est avec l'assurance de cette compréhension que je vais vous exprimer quelques inquiétudes du Gouvernement de mon pays:

- Nous sommes inquiets de la dérive des prix des produits agricoles qui ont constitué jusque là la principale source de devises permettant à la plupart des pays en développement d'être actifs sur le marché international des biens et des services;
- Nous sommes inquiets de l'immense capacité de manipulation génétique développée par les grandes compagnies multinationales tendant à leur assurer une main-mise sur le biologique, qu'il est juste de considérer comme patrimoine de l'humanité tout entière;
- Nous sommes inquiets devant le manque d'intérêt de plus en plus manifeste de la communauté internationale pour l'agriculture de subsistance, seule garantie durable pour la sécurité alimentaire, l'emploi et le revenu des populations rurales vivant dans les zones reculées, dépourvues de moyens de transports et de communications modernes;
- Nous sommes inquiets de l'orientation que prend la notion même de sécurité alimentaire définie en termes de capacité d'accès aux aliments disponibles sur le marché, définition qui ne reflète pas suffisamment la capacité des communautés de se nourrir à partir de leur propre capacité de production, à partir de leur propre agriculture, de leurs forêts et de leur pêche;

Quand nous constatons le retrait spectaculaire des États et des gouvernements du jeu économique;

Quand nous savons que les aliments, comme toutes les autres marchandises, sont lancés sur le marché national ou international non pas en quête de ventres creux, de ventres affamés, mais plutôt à la recherche d'argent, les deux ne cohabitent généralement pas;

Quand nous connaissons les difficultés qu'éprouvent nos petits agriculteurs à s'adapter à la grande versatilité du marché international où il leur est demandé d'entrer en compétition avec d'autres agriculteurs qui bénéficient de tout un ensemble d'avantages structurels, technologiques et financiers;

Quand nous considérons le degré de désaffection des jeunes générations pour l'agriculture qui nourrit de moins en moins bien son homme;

Nous nous demandons si le petit agriculteur des pays en voie de développement n'est pas une espèce en voie d'extinction et, par voie de conséquence, si le nombre des 800 millions à 1 milliard d'affamés que le dernier siècle de progrès technologiques et scientifiques, générateurs d'immenses richesses, a traîné et légué à ce millénaire comme un boulet honteux, si ce nombre là n'est pas appelé à s'accroître.

Haïti se trouve pleinement dans toutes les préoccupations formulées par la FAO à travers les différents thèmes soumis à l'attention de cette Assemblée, qu'il s'agisse de la mondialisation, de la dynamique des populations, de la pression accrue sur les ressources naturelles, de l'agriculture urbaine et périurbaine, des crises complexes et liées aux catastrophes naturelles, des défis posés par les nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication.

Monsieur le Président, Nous nous réjouissons de l'adoption du Traité international sur les Ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, après sept années de négociations ardues. Tous nos hommages à l'Ambassadeur Gerbasi du Venezuela pour son travail à la tête de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques. Evidemment le succès de la mise en œuvre du Traité dépendra en grande partie du respect des droits des agriculteurs et du partage équitable des avantages découlant des ressources phytogénétiques.

Nous avons examiné avec attention le Programme de travail et de budget 2002-2003 et nous pensons que le scénario croissance réelle est celui qui donne de la cohérence aux objectifs d'élimination de la faim et de la pauvreté dans le monde. La création du fonds fiduciaire est, à notre avis, une initiative très encourageante.

Les inégalités entre les hommes et les femmes jouent un rôle déterminant dans la persistance de l'insécurité alimentaire et de la pauvreté. La FAO doit, dans les années à venir, redoubler d'efforts afin de placer les femmes rurales au centre de ses réflexions et de ses activités. Le Plan d'action 2002-2007 pour la parité des hommes et des femmes trouve tout notre support.

Dans cette même salle, en 1996, nos Chefs d'États et de gouvernements ont pris l'engagement solennel de réduire de moitié d'ici 2015 le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde. Aujourd'hui, il est pénible de constater que le taux de sous-alimentation ne fait que croître dans plusieurs régions malgré la hausse de la production alimentaire au niveau mondial. Une évaluation au plus haut niveau des progrès accomplis dans la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté s'avère nécessaire. C'est pourquoi nous nous réjouissons du consensus dégagé lors de la dernière session du Conseil en vue de la tenue, du 10 au 13 juin 2002, du Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation: *cinq ans après*.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de vous féliciter ainsi que les membres du Bureau pour votre élection et la façon dont vous conduisez les travaux de la trente et unième session de la Conférence de la FAO. Mes félicitations s'adressent également aux quatre nouveaux Membres de notre Organisation. Je souhaite qu'en bons élèves ils pourront contribuer à relever le niveau de notre classe.

Au nom du Président, du peuple et du gouvernement de mon pays qui vit au cœur de la problématique de la pauvreté, il m'est agréable de féliciter l'Organisation et tout particulièrement son Directeur Général Monsieur Jacques Diouf pour sa perspicacité, son courage et son dynamisme.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Permettez-moi en tout premier lieu, Monsieur le Président, de vous adresser au nom des autorités de mon Pays et à mon nom propre, toutes nos félicitations. Ces félicitations vont à vous-même, au Vice-Président de la Conférence, aux Présidents aimables du Bureau et des différentes Commissions de la Conférence.

Nous sommes certains que sous votre sage direction nous atteindrons nos objectifs et que la présente Conférence sera un véritable succès, malgré la morosité ambiante, conséquence des événements tragiques du 11 septembre que nous déplorons et condamnons tous.

Qu'il me soit permis de saisir cette opportunité pour féliciter l'ensemble du personnel de la FAO pour avoir organisé de manière parfaite la présente Conférence.

Nous voulons manifester au Directeur Général, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, tout notre appui dans le combat qu'il mène pour un monde meilleur, juste, équitable et libéré de la faim. Ensemble nous continuerons ce combat et ensemble nous le réussirons *-Inch'Allah*.

Monsieur le Président, La République du Mali, comme vous le savez, compte – hélas! – parmi les pays les plus pauvres du monde, à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier. C'est un pays vaste de plus d'1 204 000 km², dont 60 pour cent est désertique et semi-désertique, et sans aucun accès direct à la mer. La population, d'un peu plus de 11 000 000 d'habitants dont plus de 87 pour cent vivent uniquement et essentiellement du secteur rural. La croissance démographique est parmi les plus fortes au monde. Mais un signe d'espoir est le fait que la population soit très jeune, avec plus de 46 pour cent de la population âgée de moins de 15 ans.

La capacité de support du milieu naturel est limitée, à cause des conditions agroclimatiques qui prévalent.

Le Mali, Monsieur le Président, est un pays essentiellement à vocation agro-pastorale. Les principales ressources économiques proviennent de l'agriculture et de l'élevage, bien que le secteur minier, avec l'exploitation de l'or, tende à se développer. Le coton, qui est la principale source d'exportation et de rentrée de devises, traverse ces dernières années une crise sans précédent dans son histoire.

La production céréalière de la dernière campagne agricole 2000-2001 a été inférieure de 17,5 pour cent par rapport à celle de 1999-2000 (2 386 296 tonnes contre 2 893 603 tonnes).

Nous avons tenu à rappeler ces faits, Monsieur le Président, afin de mieux faire comprendre les dures réalités auxquelles notre pays est confronté dans la voie du développement, de la lutte contre la faim, la malnutrition et la pauvreté.

Pour inverser les tendances, et loin de considérer la situation comme une fatalité, le gouvernement de mon Pays a élaboré et mis en œuvre un ensemble de programmes et politiques aux niveaux macro-économique et sectoriel, qui visent l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations et qui sont repris d'ailleurs dans le Cadre Stratégique de Lutte contre la Pauvreté au Mali, approuvé récemment et qui a bénéficié du soutien des institutions internationales de financement et de développement.

Ce sont par exemple:

- le plan décennal de développement socio-sanitaire,
- le programme décennal pour l'éducation,
- le premier programme d'investissement en matière de population, le plan d'action pour la promotion des femmes,
- le plan national d'action national pour l'enfant,
- le plan d'action pour le développement rural et
- le plan d'action environnemental,

tous mis en chantier avec plus ou moins de réussite.

Le Mali compte parmi les pays d'Afrique qui, selon les sources de la FAO, ont réalisé un progrès notable dans le cadre de l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire ces dix dernières années.

Le Mali est fermement engagé à relever le défi de la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté, et partage pleinement les objectifs, politiques et stratégiques de la FAO, dont l'appui a permis la mise en œuvre de plusieurs projets et programmes de coopération technique. Le plus récent est le Programme spécial de Sécurité Alimentaire (PSSA), au succès duquel le Mali croit fermement parce qu'adapté à nos besoins et réalités.

Le Mali a la ferme volonté d'apporter à notre Organisation tout l'appui qu'elle mérite et dans la mesure de toutes ses possibilités.

Ces considérations faites, je voudrais faire part des points de vues de notre Délégation sur un certain nombre de sujets abordés au cours de la présente Conférence.

Concernant la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, l'humanité n'a jamais autant que maintenant possédé les moyens techniques, technologiques et financiers pour mettre fin à la faim et à la pauvreté dans le monde. Alors, pourquoi n'y parvenons-nous pas? La question nous interpelle tous! Le Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation aurait permis sans doute d'apporter

quelques réponses. Bien que nous regrettons le report de ce Sommet pour les raisons que nous savons tous, nous appuyons fermement la proposition du Directeur Général de le tenir en juin 2002 et espérons que rien n'entravera plus la tenue de cette importante rencontre qui sera rehaussée par la participation des chefs d'Etats et de gouvernements, ainsi que d'importants dignitaires de ce monde. Les mesures qui s'imposent pour inverser la tendance négative enregistrée et rendre possible l'atteinte de l'objectif de réduction de moitié d'ici 2015 du nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la pauvreté dans le monde, ne peuvent souffrir d'atermoiements ni de retards.

Pour relever ce défi nous devons être animés d'une réelle volonté politique et faire preuve d'une véritable solidarité internationale, comme c'est le cas aujourd'hui contre le terrorisme.

Parlant d'alimentation et d'agriculture, s'agissant des négociations de l'Organisation Mondiale du Commerce sur l'Agriculture, nous en souhaitons l'aboutissement rapide, en veillant à ce que les pays en développement n'en soient pas – une fois de plus, hélas! – les perdants. A cet égard, une plus grande attention doit être accordée aux dimensions prises par la qualité et la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, sans offrir un moyen de discrimination de plus des produits de pays en développement. L'appui de la FAO sera inestimable en la matière.

Dans le contexte macro-économique mondial actuel, notre pays estime que seule l'intégration sous-régionale et régionale, constitue la voie privilégiée de l'atteinte à la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique. C'est pourquoi notre gouvernement œuvre de toutes ses forces pour la réalisation de vrais ensembles sous-régionaux et régionaux et d'une union africaine véritable. Ceci explique du reste notre totale adhésion à la création d'un marché commun africain pour les produits agricoles de base dont le lancement a eu lieu cette année à la Conférence des Ministres de l'Agriculture de l'OUA tenue au Togo.

S'agissant du traitement sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, le Mali a suivi avec un grand intérêt et participé aux travaux de la Commission des Ressources Génétiques pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture, relatifs aux négociations du Traité sur les Ressources Phytogénétiques pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture. Nous en souhaitons l'adoption sans que les intérêts des différentes parties soient lésés. Grâce à la clairvoyance, au tact et au savoir-faire de Son Excellence, notre ami, Fernando Gerbasi, Ambassadeur du Venezuela et Président de la Commission, c'est maintenant chose faite et nous nous en réjouissons. Nous voulons remercier tous ceux qui ont fait preuve de bonne volonté et de sens du partage pour permettre l'aboutissement heureux de ces négociations. Nous osons espérer que le même esprit prévaudra lors du processus de ratification du Traité. Les ressources phytogénétiques constituent le patrimoine des générations futures. Il nous appartient à tous d'en assurer l'amélioration, la conservation et l'utilisation durables, et de garantir à ce que les bénéfices escomptés le soient pour tous.

Pour ce qui est du Plan d'action de la FAO – Parité hommes-femmes et développement 2002-2007 - nous encourageons et félicitons la FAO pour les résultats obtenus dans la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement (1996-2001). Le Mali a eu l'honneur de présider et prendre ainsi une part active à la Consultation de haut niveau *sur les femmes rurales et l'information*, tenue en fin 1999 à Rome, au siège même de la FAO.

Le nouveau plan d'action qui nous est proposé: Parité hommes-femmes et développement 2002-2007, qui constitue une avancée de plus dans la recherche d'une plus grande consolidation des rôles et des responsabilités dévolues aux femmes dans le développement, nous agrée parfaitement. Les efforts doivent s'axer en priorité sur le milieu rural, mais devront aussi concerner d'autres niveaux. Par rapport à l'Organisation elle-même des objectifs et indicateurs clairs devront être fixés comme c'est le cas ailleurs, pour une meilleure mesure du chemin parcouru.

Concernant la révision du *Code de conduite international pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides*, le Code de conduite dans sa version révisée d'octobre 2000 est compatible avec la réglementation en vigueur au Mali. Les amendements apportés aux documents permettent d'améliorer et de mettre à jour notre réglementation en la matière. c'est pourquoi nous suivons

avec un intérêt tout particulier la révision du Code, soutenons et encourageons cette initiative de la FAO. Nous apprécions hautement la qualité du travail effectué par le Groupe d'experts, que nous félicitons en passant, et marquons notre approbation pour l'adoption de la version révisée du Code.

Au sujet du Programme Alimentaire Mondial ONU/FAO, la République du Mali a accédé à la qualité de Membre du Conseil d'Administration du Programme Alimentaire Mondial (PAM) ONU/FAO, suite à son élection par le conseil de la FAO à sa cent-dix-neuvième session en 2000. Il y a lieu de remercier encore une fois tous ceux qui nous ont fait confiance et ont permis cette élection. Nous ferons tout notre possible pour le mériter. Notre intérêt pour le PAM remonte bien avant cette élection cependant. Le Mali est reconnaissant au PAM pour l'appui apporté tout au long de ces dernières années. Les activités du PAM montrent à souhait qu'il reste au premier plan de toutes les Organisations du Système en matière d'aide alimentaire dans le monde.

Hommage doit être rendu au Directeur exécutif et à l'ensemble du personnel pour le travail remarquable effectué. Le PAM rencontre cependant des difficultés liées à la baisse des ressources pour l'aide au développement, ces dernières années. Cette baisse, si tant est que l'aide au développement constitue l'un des mandats et l'une des missions du PAM, est inacceptable. Nous en appelons aux donateurs afin que la situation connaisse une amélioration. La preuve est faite chaque jour sur le terrain que cette aide constitue celle qui a le plus d'impact et de durabilité parmi les activités menées.

La décentralisation des activités avec la création des bureaux régionaux, dont trois nouveaux pour l'Afrique, marque une étape cruciale dans la vie du PAM et nous en souhaitons plein succès. On ne peut parler du PAM sans évoquer l'alimentation scolaire et l'initiative en faveur de l'alimentation scolaire mondiale, que nous encourageons et à laquelle nous entendons participer.

Pour ce qui est du programme de travail et budget 2002-2003, par rapport à l'exécution des programmes 1998-1999 et 2000-2001, nous félicitons sincèrement le Directeur général et l'ensemble du personnel pour les sacrifices consentis et les résultats obtenus dans un contexte de contraintes budgétaires difficiles.

Aussi, nous comprenons et approuvons les raisons profondes qui l'ont amené à proposer un budget à croissance réelle, pour répondre en grande partie aux besoins que nous, les membres, avons soumis à l'Organisation, tant pays développés que pays en développement.

La FAO a apporté à suffisance la preuve pour qu'elle mérite notre confiance et les ressources nécessaires pour son travail doivent lui être accordées.

Dans le cadre du programme de travail et marquant notre appui à la déclaration du Groupe Africain, nous souhaitons manifester aussi notre soutien à la résolution sur la Campagne Panafricaine d'Eradication de la trypanosomiase et de la mouche tsé-tsé, fléau dont souffrent notre cheptel et nos populations, avec un coût économique appréciable.

Je voudrais terminer en confirmant tout notre engagement aux côtés de la FAO., et notre confiance en une réaction positive des membres de cette auguste Assemblée afin que l'Organisation puisse atteindre les objectifs qui lui sont assignés.

Ananias Benjamin SIGAUQUE (Mozambique)

Your Excellency Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Raqabani, Chairman of the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference, Your Excellency Jacques Diouf Director-General of FAO, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, for your unanimous election to chair this session of the FAO Conference. We are confident that under your capable chairmanship this session will achieve the expected results. I would also like to commend the FAO Secretariat for their excellent preparation of the documentation presented to this Conference Session.

The Government of the Republic of Mozambique is committed to fighting hunger and malnutrition and reducing the levels of poverty, particularly in rural areas where 80 percent of Mozambique's total population lives.

In fact, the Government of the Republic of Mozambique has established in its programme that poverty reduction is one of the key priorities and an ultimate goal of its policy agenda. In line with this challenge, the Government has set up sectorial policy instruments which are expected to have a significant impact on poverty reduction and fighting hunger.

Among the instruments, two are particularly prominent: the Action Plan for Poverty Reduction and the Food Security and Nutrition Strategy. Both policy documents are the result of comprehensive and in-depth studies as well as of broad consultations. These studies and consultation mechanisms have allowed the Government of Mozambique to design strategies and action plans with concrete and realistic objectives. The actions incorporate a variety of aspects, namely economic, social, political and cultural are designed to be implemented at various levels - national, provincial, sectoral and local.

This political, social and economic environment has created enormous progress. In fact, annual average inflation has been drastically reduced from 50 percent in 1996 to 20 percent, and Mozambique's annual GDP increase is one of the highest in the world. This performance was made possible by the concerted efforts to coordinate fiscal and monetary policies.

As a result of the ongoing reform process, private actors play an increasingly important role in economic and social development. Progress is also due to the increasing participation of women in development.

Vulnerability and preparedness to cope with natural disasters was tested again in Mozambique within the first months of this new millennium. Around 4.5 million people suffered directly from this disaster. The floods displaced 544 000 people and caused at least 699 deaths. There is overall agreement that the Government of Mozambique was prepared to respond to the impact of the floods. No major broad-impact disease outbreak or famine took place according to nutritional and health data.

Despite impressive macroeconomic progress, the Government of Mozambique is fully aware that Mozambique is still a poor and vulnerable country. The Government conducted a comprehensive household survey in order to get a clear picture of poverty in Mozambique. This study revealed that 69.4 percent of the population, especially in rural areas, is absolutely poor.

The Government of Mozambique welcomes the agreement achieved on the International Undertaking for Plant Genetic and Resources for Food and Agriculture. It took seven years of hard discussion, particularly on access, benefit sharing and farmers' rights.

The delegation of Mozambique also supports the draft resolution for the implementation of the African Heads of State Resolution for the eradication of tsetse flies.

We recognize that, although tireless efforts of individual governments in developing countries, particularly in Africa, are being made to fight hunger and malnutrition, positive results will not be brought about soon if there is not an increase in resources to cope with the projects and programmes for food security and rural developments.

Thus, while urging FAO to continue increasing its efficiency and allocating more resources to field operations in developing countries, we support the real growth option for increasing FAO resources for the next biennium. We believe that, with the generous support of the international community, hunger and malnutrition can be defeated within the period of time set up during the World Food Summit in 1996.

Serban STATI (Roumanie)

Tout d'abord permettez-moi de vous adresser, Monsieur le Président, au nom du Gouvernement de la Roumanie, de cordiales félicitations pour votre élection en tant que Président de la Trente et unième Conférence de la FAO. Nos félicitations s'adressent également aux trois

vice-présidents et aux autres membres du Bureau de la Conférence. En même temps, je veux vous assurer de l'intérêt du Gouvernement de la Roumanie pour les questions qui sont inscrites à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence et du fait que la délégation de mon pays apportera sa contribution au succès de nos travaux.

Je saisis l'occasion pour déclarer la haute appréciation de mon gouvernement pour les efforts déployés par le Secrétariat et par le Directeur Général dans la préparation de documents de haute qualité, soumis aux débats de la Conférence.

Permettez-moi également d'adresser un chaleureux salut de bienvenue et nos vives félicitations aux nouveaux Membres de l'Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation salue la décision du Conseil concernant la date du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation qui se tiendra du 10 au 13 juin 2002. Je voudrais vous assurer que la Roumanie donne son soutien total aux engagements pris par le SMA en 1996 et exprime l'espoir que les chefs d'Etats et de gouvernements trouveront les moyens pour accélérer la mise en œuvre du plan d'action, de façon à ce que notre Organisation puisse enregistrer, dans les années à venir, une diminution accélérée du nombre de personnes qui souffrent de la faim dans le monde.

Dans ce contexte, j'aimerais vous présenter quelques éléments concernant l'agriculture roumaine qui se trouve en plein processus de réformes, en vue de la consolidation de l'économie de marché.

Aujourd'hui, l'agriculture roumaine apporte une contribution de 12 pour cent au Produit intérieur brut (PIB) en employant près de 38 pour cent de la population active du pays.

En ce moment, les privés détiennent plus de 85 pour cent des terrains agricoles et, conformément au programme gouvernemental, la restitution des terrains agricoles à leurs anciens propriétaires s'achèvera en 2004. Pour accélérer le processus de privatisation, on a créé une institution spéciale et on a amélioré la législation concernée pour pouvoir utiliser des méthodes de privatisation simplifiées et efficaces.

L'achèvement des réformes structurelles facilitera la création d'un marché foncier fonctionnel et le développement d'exploitations agricoles optimales pour permettre l'utilisation des technologies performantes. Pour favoriser ce processus de développement des exploitations viables, le Gouvernement a adopté la législation qui prévoit les dimensions minimales pour les exploitations de toutes sortes, végétales, zootechniques, de pêche, etc., et qui précise les instruments de soutien de la part de l'Etat.

La stratégie de développement de l'agriculture à moyen terme prévoit dans le secteur végétal la croissance de la production moyenne sur l'unité cultivée, la réduction des coûts de production, une réduction annuelle (2 à 3 pour cent) des superficies cultivées en céréales et la croissance proportionnelle des superficies cultivées avec des plantes techniques.

Pour ce qui est du secteur de l'élevage, on prévoit la croissance des effectifs, l'amélioration génétique des races, l'utilisation intensive des biotechnologies pour la reproduction et le développement de la production des fourrages de bonne qualité.

A partir de l'année agricole 2001-2002, il est prévu d'allouer des subventions seulement pour les produits agricoles qui sont destinés au marché. Les ressources financières qui sont très limitées seront octroyées aux exploitations agricoles dans lesquelles on applique des technologies modernes de culture et qui sont orientées vers le marché.

Plus de 60 pour cent des ressources budgétaires du Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation et des forêts sont destinés aux subventions des produits agricoles, en premier lieu pour le redressement du secteur de l'élevage.

Permettez-moi de vous présenter aussi les objectifs du Gouvernement de la Roumanie dans les secteurs de l'agriculture, de l'industrie alimentaire et de la sylviculture. Il s'agit d'adopter le modèle agricole européen dans le contexte plus large du développement rural par l'accélération du processus d'intégration de la Roumanie dans les structures européennes, l'assimilation et la mise en œuvre de l'acquis communautaire. a) accroître la production agricole, du point de vue

quantitatif et qualitatif, sur la base de la revalorisation du potentiel productif national, pour le renforcement des performances dans les exploitations agricoles et par la promotion de l'agriculture écologique ainsi que par l'augmentation de la capacité concurrentielle du secteur agro-alimentaire national sur le marché intérieur et le marché international. b) développer et consolider le secteur privé national par l'achèvement de la privatisation des sociétés agricoles d'Etat et par la promotion d'un programme d'investissement efficace et avantageux pour les producteurs agricoles. c) assurer la sécurité alimentaire et la protection des consommateurs par une politique ferme dans le domaine de la santé, des plantes et des animaux. d) développer un marché de produits agricoles compétitif et stable, capable d'assurer des revenus appropriés aux producteurs agricoles.

Dans le contexte de la réforme de la politique agricole commune de l'Union européenne, à la suite des évolutions récentes sur le marché européen, le Gouvernement roumain a initié des programmes de développement de l'agriculture biologique pour laquelle la Roumanie dispose d'avantages considérables.

Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais exprimer notre satisfaction pour la coopération entre la Roumanie et la FAO et nos remerciements pour l'assistance qui nous a été octroyée. Nous sommes persuadés que cette collaboration peut s'enrichir de nouveaux projets d'assistance qui sont maintenant évalués par les services techniques de l'Organisation. Pour cela, j'aimerais exprimer ma pleine confiance en ce qui regarde les perspectives d'une coopération encore plus étroite à l'avenir entre la Roumanie et la FAO.

Pour conclure, je désire formuler mes meilleurs vœux de succès aux travaux de notre Conférence.

Julio César LUPINACCI (Uruguay)

Este 31° período de sesiones de la Conferencia se realiza en el marco de una situación internacional excepcionalmente grave a partir de los luctuosos acontecimientos del 11 de septiembre, que obligaron incluso a posponer la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*. Los esfuerzos de los hombres de buena voluntad para alcanzar la paz en la tierra sufrieron un duro revés y el panorama de las relaciones internacionales se ha ensombrecido más aún, agregando nueva violencia a la violencia ya existente que cobra permanentemente la vida de miles de inocentes como también las cobra el hambre en el mundo.

Frente a tanta injusticia debemos oponer la globalización de la solidaridad. Frente a tanto odio debemos erigir la civilización del amor al hombre, del respeto a sus derechos fundamentales, el primero de los cuales es el derecho a la vida que no existe sin el derecho a la alimentación. Y en ese sentido, apoyamos el esfuerzo de la FAO y los desvelos de su Director General, para combatir y erradicar el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo. Por ello, adherimos a los objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después* y apoyamos firmemente su realización.

Uruguay celebra la aprobación del Tratado Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, reconociendo que, al igual que la mayoría de las naciones requiere del uso de recursos provenientes de otros países para llevar a cabo el mejoramiento genético de sus cultivos. Asimismo, y en el ejercicio de nuestros derechos soberanos, pondremos nuestros recursos en el Sistema Multilateral de Acceso y Distribución de Beneficios para que estén a disposición de todos los estados partes del Tratado. Conscientes y convencidos de las necesidades del mundo de contar con este instrumento, participamos activamente en todas las instancias de negociación y de revisión del antes denominado compromiso y estamos empeñados en continuar con nuestro esfuerzo en las tareas provisionales, que para la aplicación del tratado comenzarán el próximo año.

Señor presidente, los uruguayos tenemos la fortuna de vivir en un país con exceso de producción de alimentos, sin embargo, este hecho no nos hace desconocer la existencia de la avergonzante cifra de 800 millones de seres humanos con hambre en el mundo. El Uruguay ha mantenido una estrategia global para combatir el hambre y la pobreza que comienza desde su base política, manteniendo un entorno estable de respeto a los derechos humanos y libertades fundamentales procurando la igualdad de oportunidades para ambos sexos y el pleno funcionamiento de la

democracia. Uruguay ha desarrollado una política de estado, tendente a la búsqueda de condiciones económicas estables, así como el fomento de iniciativas privadas y públicas, apuntando hacia una sociedad donde la solidaridad y la igualdad de oportunidades sea el eje de su accionar y que, al mismo tiempo, procure brindar las mejores oportunidades a los grupos y personas más vulnerables y desfavorecidas. Pero no sólo la producción de alimentos y la estabilidad política y económica combaten el hambre y la pobreza en una sociedad, un factor determinante en este plano es la distribución de la riqueza generada, y en este sentido, Uruguay, de acuerdo con los últimos informes de la Comisión Económica para América Latina, CEPAL, ha logrado consolidarse como país de América Latina con mejor distribución del ingreso.

De acuerdo con las cifras publicadas durante la década de los años 1990, los hogares uruguayos por debajo de la línea de pobreza, se han reducido del 12 por ciento al 6 por ciento, como así también los de extrema pobreza también se redujeron del 2 por ciento al 1 por ciento. Estos datos no surgen por casualidad, ya que la sociedad uruguaya en su conjunto es la que realiza el mayor gasto social per cápita del continente, superando los 1 500 dólares EE.UU. en el año 1999, lo cual representa el 222,5 por ciento de su producto bruto interno. Pese a esta circunstancia, el fenómeno de la pobreza está presente en Uruguay, y el entorno económico no ha sido beneficioso para nuestro país en los últimos años, lo que se reflejó en un crecimiento más lento de la economía, la caída de los precios agrícolas, la inestabilidad regional. También contribuyó, en este último año, la crisis de la aftosa. En reconocimiento de esta situación el Gobierno uruguayo viene desarrollando un conjunto de acciones directas con el objetivo de mitigar la pobreza. Es así que el Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca está cumpliendo, desde hace años, programas que buscan atender las necesidades de los sectores más desposeídos de la sociedad rural. Desde otros ámbitos del estado también se desarrollan acciones tendentes a minimizar los efectos de la pobreza, el Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social, a través del Instituto Nacional de la Alimentación, focaliza sus políticas alimentarias y nutricionales a la población uruguaya que presenta riesgo de inseguridad alimentaria y lo hace, en el marco de los compromisos asumidos en el Plan de Acción de Roma de 1996. Sin embargo, reconocemos que continúan afectando al Uruguay varios niveles de pobreza en las zonas rurales y, por extensión, la existencia y multiplicación de la pobreza urbana, las que, en gran medida, son resultado directo de las desiguales relaciones comerciales entre naciones que rigen los mercados internacionales de bienes agropecuarios durante las últimas décadas, dificultando artificialmente, nuestro acceso a sus consumidores finales de alto poder adquisitivo, por la aplicación de elevados aranceles de importación, procedimientos de dumping a sus exportaciones agrícolas y subsidios estatales desmedidos a sus producciones locales.

Qué mejor colaboración de los países desarrollados, hacia los países en desarrollo, para eliminar la pobreza, que fomentando el empleo, permitiendo el acceso mediante un comercio lo más libre posible de bienes primarios y sus correspondientes transformaciones con incorporación de mayor valor agregado. Con ello, además de transmitir señales claras sobre qué, cómo, dónde y cuándo producir, se permitiría recibir precios unitarios mayores a los vigentes, se posibilitarían incrementos en los volúmenes físicos exportados de diversos bienes y, en definitiva, se contribuiría a la erradicación de la pobreza rural, disminuyendo las migraciones urbanas con sus costos sociales, que redundan, con frecuencia, en aumento de la criminalidad y la marginación. Para ello, se hace necesario dismantelar sistemáticamente las medidas proteccionistas que, construidas a través del tiempo y que beneficiando una proporción cada vez más pequeña de los países desarrollados, perjudican a enormes mayorías en países en desarrollo, o a economías menos favorecidas, situación que entraña un costo político potencialmente explosivo.

En ese marco el Gobierno del Uruguay reafirma su compromiso, ya suscrito en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996, de proseguir incorporando todas las medidas necesarias que apunten a mejorar la situación de hambre y pobreza a escala nacional, regional y mundial.

Vénérand BAKEVYUMUSAYA (Burundi)

La délégation burundaise tient d'abord à vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette Conférence, ainsi que tous les membres du Bureau. Nos

félicitations vous sont aussi adressées pour la sagesse et la compétence avec lesquelles vous dirigez les travaux de cette Trente et unième session de la Conférence de la FAO, dont le débat général est axé sur l'examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Monsieur le Président, en prenant seulement la référence récente du Sommet des Chefs d'États et de gouvernements à Rome, il y a cinq ans, le constat est que vaincre la famine dans le monde reste un défi majeur pour la FAO et les États Membres. De nombreux efforts sont faits mais se heurtent à la complexité du problème, étant donné que la faim est le résultat des problèmes de plusieurs ordres, notamment liés aux catastrophes naturelles, aux politiques, aux échanges commerciaux, à la pauvreté et malheureusement aussi aux conflits de toute nature.

On pourra vaincre la faim dans la mesure où on réussit à résoudre simultanément, ou un à un selon les cas, les problèmes qui en sont à la base et d'une manière adaptée aux besoins propres à chaque pays, avec une méthode spécifique à chaque situation, en exploitant et en rentabilisant les ressources déjà disponibles sur place.

La situation de l'alimentation dans mon pays, le Burundi, au moment où se tient cette Conférence, est préoccupante. Mais, avant d'évoquer les nombreuses raisons qui sont à la base de cette situation, permettez-moi d'abord d'adresser à la FAO et aux pays membres, les sincères remerciements du Gouvernement du Burundi pour l'aide qu'il n'a cessé de recevoir; et j'y reviendrai.

En effet, Monsieur le Président, le Burundi, pays gâté par la nature au niveau du climat et de la variété des cultures, tant vivrières qu'industrielles, connaît des difficultés sur le plan alimentaire pour des raisons d'insécurité qui durent depuis huit ans bien comptés. L'insécurité a provoqué, entre autres effets, des mouvements de population, créant l'instabilité des producteurs agricoles, notamment avec la situation des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées à l'intérieur de leur propre pays, qui passaient de l'état de producteurs à l'état de nécessiteux de l'aide alimentaire. Le pays a aussi connu par moments un climat capricieux qui a été défavorable à la bonne récolte avec tantôt la sécheresse et tantôt la pluie diluvienne.

La situation de troubles intérieurs et de l'insécurité a eu pour effet la baisse générale de la production et par conséquent des revenus. Le cours défavorable du café, l'embargo qui a frappé le Burundi deux ans durant, ainsi que le gel de la coopération internationale, tout cela combiné a privé le Burundi des devises dont il a besoin pour assurer la production et être en mesure de s'acquitter de sa contribution à notre Organisation. Malgré les meilleurs résultats qui avaient été observés lors de la seconde campagne de la saison agricole au mois de juin dernier, la sécurité alimentaire face aux besoins réels est précaire, et va l'être plus encore avec le mouvement du retour des réfugiés et leur réinstallation chez eux.

Comme le constatait la FAO dans son rapport sur l'Afrique du mois d'août, les engagements relatifs aux secours humanitaires d'urgence au mois de juin ne couvraient que 15 pour cent des besoins estimés pour l'année. La FAO concluait en disant que d'autres engagements de la Communauté internationale sont nécessaires de toute urgence pour soulager la souffrance de la population.

Comme je disais plus haut que le problème de l'alimentation est complexe, le pari du Burundi pour vaincre la faim passera aussi par la mobilisation pour améliorer la santé des collectivités. En effet, on a aussi assisté ces derniers temps à un véritable fléau de maladies endémiques et du SIDA, qui constitue une véritable menace permanente pour la population active. En plus du problème évident d'incapacité de produire, le coût des soins de santé a un impact négatif sur les revenus déjà faibles des ménages, compromettant ainsi l'alimentation au niveau quantitatif et qualitatif.

Le Burundi a bénéficié grâce à la FAO des appuis dans les domaines de la fourniture des semences, des intrants agricoles, d'appui technique aux études et à la formation. Le Burundi lui est sincèrement reconnaissant, parce qu'aux moments difficiles elle n'a cessé d'intervenir dans la mesure de ses possibilités pour soutenir l'agriculture et autres activités connexes. C'est ainsi que, juste à titre d'exemple, le projet BDI/96/001 "Appui à la restauration et à la gestion de

l'environnement au Burundi", financé par le PNUD a pu être réalisé grâce à la FAO à travers l'appui technique de Monsieur Koyo qui a été honoré par l'attribution du prix B.R. SEN 2000 au cours de cette même Conférence et à qui je réitère mes félicitations.

Dans le contexte actuel, tel qu'il vient d'être présenté, on peut s'interroger sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture que l'on peut envisager dans un proche avenir au Burundi.

Vous avez suivi sans doute qu'en vue de mettre fin au conflit qui endeuille le Burundi depuis maintenant huit ans les Burundais s'étaient mis autour d'une table pour des négociations sans exclusive qui ont abouti en date du 28 août 2000 à "l'Accord d'Arusha pour la paix et la réconciliation au Burundi", sous la médiation de l'ancien Président Nelson Mandela. Les Burundais se sont mis d'accord que, même si le problème burundais se présente sous un aspect ethnique, le fond est politique, d'où la solution doit être envisagée politiquement, en assurant une bonne gouvernance, avec un pouvoir partagé, et une correction des déséquilibres constatés dans certains domaines comme notamment la sécurité, la justice et l'éducation. C'est ainsi que, dans le cadre de la mise en application de cet accord, un gouvernement de transition de large ouverture vient d'être mis en place ce 1er novembre 2001, avec Son Excellence Pierre Buyoya comme Président de la République pour les 18 mois qui viennent et Son Excellence Domitien Ndayizeye, actuellement Vice-Président prendra la relève en assurant la Présidence pour les 18 mois qui suivront, en même temps que des élections démocratiques seront organisées conformément à ce qui est convenu dans l'accord de paix. L'Assemblée Nationale va être élargie à toutes les parties signataires de l'accord et un Sénat va être mis sur pied.

De nombreux responsables politiques y compris des parlementaires ont déjà commencé à quitter l'exil pour regagner le pays où ils participent aux institutions de transition. Les groupes armés, qui ont déjà répondu à l'invitation du médiateur, le Président Nelson Mandela, se sont déjà déclarés disposés à négocier avec les nouvelles institutions pour la négociation d'un cessez-le-feu permanent.

Monsieur le Président, si je prends ce temps pour vous présenter cette situation, c'est qu'elle est porteuse d'espoir pour les Burundais, c'est que avec le nouveau contexte, le conflit qui a été à la base d'une insécurité alimentaire va faire place à la paix, facteur indispensable pour la création d'un environnement favorable pour la production agricole et l'augmentation des capacités de répondre aux besoins de l'alimentation.

Le Gouvernement du Burundi compte une fois de plus sur l'appui de la FAO et sur chacun de ses États Membres notamment dans ses efforts pour la relance de la production particulièrement en faveur des personnes réinstallées. Un appui sera aussi indispensable dans le domaine de la santé, et de l'éducation quant à l'alimentation des enfants en scolarité. Avec l'évolution du processus de paix qui vient aujourd'hui d'aboutir à la mise sur pied des institutions de transition, le Gouvernement du Burundi attend d'être encouragé dans ses efforts. C'est pourquoi je lance un appel à la FAO et aux États Membres pour que, à ce moment particulier du processus de paix, ils renforcent l'aide en faveur du Burundi, en référence notamment à la Conférence des donateurs qui a eu lieu à Paris en décembre 2000.

Monsieur le Président, je ne doute pas qu'avec la paix au Burundi le travail de son peuple laborieux, les atouts que lui offre sa nature, la solidarité internationale pour la relance de la production en quantité et en qualité, de même que pour la lutte contre la maladie, le pari de vaincre la faim au Burundi va être gagné dans un proche avenir.

Ivan ANGELOV (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

In the name of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, as well as in my own name, I have the honour to wish this Conference every success in its deliberations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General, Jacques Diouf, and his staff for the assistance given to the Republic of Macedonia in the form of seed and fertilizer for autumn sowing this year. I would like to emphasize that, during this year, Macedonia passed through the worst period of drought for the last 50 years, as well as suffering unexpected military actions in certain regions of the country.

In order to improve the situation of agriculture in our country, and to give our own contribution to the development of European and world agricultural policy, we consider that agricultural reforms have to be directed towards two main groups of activities. First, activities connected to productive policy and rural development.

The transformation of the political and economic system from a contractual to a market economy requires the total privatization of land suitable for agricultural production. The application of the programme for transferring land from State to private ownership will develop through a land market. The land utilized by existing cooperatives, which has not been purchased, will be given on concession.

In the agricultural combinats that require total privatization, the transfer will be effected through various methods. Unproductive State farms or parts of State farms will be privatized through liquidation.

The strategy for agricultural development and rural agrarian policy, the SAPARD Programme and some other funds for support and restructuring will determine the long-term measures and instruments for revitalization of the villages. The intention is to implement the instruments of the simplified fiscal system, the favourable monetary and credit policy, import and custom facilitation, the protective measures of social policy and health protection. The methods of organic production in the Republic of Macedonia are the subject of permanent interest arising from market demand. To that aim, a working version of the Law for Organic Production is under preparation. It will include the basic norms of European Community (EC) Legislation as well as the experiences of other Central and Eastern European countries. Until the passing of this law, projects in the field of organic production will develop through phases.

The first phase – education - would include:

- a) identification of farmers interested in the various types of organic production who are ready to produce on a market base, as well as to follow instructions and adhere to the standards in this matter;
- b) association of interested farmers, according to their specialized fields of production and their education, through: seminars, presentations of other countries' experiences, detailed familiarization with the essence of this production, organization of vocational trips abroad, visits of foreign experts to our country; and
- c) domestic or foreign experts from ministries, institutions, faculties, non-governmental organizations and representatives of farmers' associations will carry out training at training centres.

The projects in this phase should be aimed at strengthening and equipping the laboratories that will serve the farmers. Science would be included in the field of genetic engineering, i.e. the creation and determination of the most convenient plant, utilizing the newest technologies and scientific achievements.

The basic aim of the second phase - pilot projects - is to demonstrate production and gain personal experience in specific local conditions. As well as getting the local product, the complete circle of organized production should be closed, from control and certification to marketing. Since the existing criteria in the aforementioned regulation and its standards are hardly yet acceptable, possibilities for organic production must be found in traditional extensive production that fulfils the minimum required standards. Priority will be given to export-oriented products.

The third phase is organization of marketing of the agricultural products. Irrigation in our country is an important condition for high and stable agricultural production. Because of the limited possibilities, the water economy department aims at the construction of small dams. Most farm workers work in unfavourable conditions in agricultural production. In order to overcome differences in the levels of labour productivity and to reach the approximate level of competitiveness on the united European market, our Government intends to apply systematic measures,

The regulation of imports of agricultural inputs is a very important part of the measures. The large number of components that are indispensable in agricultural production and highly valued in the import department should have the lowest import price, and those products that are insufficient on the domestic market should have a border price, equal to the price in the EC.

In an effort to reduce production price, special attention is paid to: tax systems, custom systems, the system of stimulating measures, investing and crediting, agricultural market regulations, social and health insurance, and support to private farmers.

In the fiscal system we will persevere to create: complete suspension of value-added tax (VAT) for reproductive materials and substances needed for primary agricultural production; complete suspension of VAT for agricultural machinery, equipment and other technical facilities that are not produced in the country or are highly insufficient; the VAT on the final products should not exceed 5 percent.

In order to increase the competitiveness of agricultural products concerning their price, the State intends to reduce customs as much as possible for products that are in short supply and for reproductive materials and equipment, and to equalize them to the free trade closes. Components with high levels of toxic materials and unhealthy food used in the productive process will be excluded from these facilitations.

It is essential to mention the importance of implementation and support of new development programmes in agrarian policy, as an element of a market export-oriented agricultural production. All these programmes will be based on a free business initiative and marketing approach.

M.R. MULELE (Zambia)

Allow me, on behalf of my Delegation, to congratulate you Mr Chairman and your Bureau on having been elected to steer the affairs of this important Conference.

My country experienced difficulties in meeting the required food production during the 2000/01 agricultural season. This is attributed to unfavourable weather conditions, which saw the country receive too much rain in certain areas while other areas experienced droughts and prolonged dry spells. This negatively affected crop production, resulting in a maize deficit of 200 000 tonnes.

The low food production has led to a situation where some segments of our population are faced with severe food shortages, especially in the rural areas. My Government is, however, taking measures to ameliorate the food-deficit situation. My Government has financed the commercial importation of 150 000 tonnes of maize from within the Region.

As a long-term measure, my country has been implementing programmes to ensure increased overall agricultural production, and food production in particular. These programmes include: diversifying of agricultural production through seed multiplication and distribution programmes at local level, focusing on food crops such as cassava, sweet potatoes, sorghum, millet and groundnuts; strengthening and monitoring the liberalization of markets and facilitating private-sector growth; developing infrastructure, especially in potentially productive agricultural areas; strengthening the provision of agricultural services to farmers, by both my Ministry and the private sector; promoting and strengthening gender equity in resource allocation and access to agricultural services; developing the livestock sector, especially through combating livestock diseases; developing the fisheries subsector with emphasis on promotion of aquaculture and sustainable fishing practices; promoting sustainable and environmentally sound agricultural practices such as conservation farming practices which improve and maintain soil fertility and eventually lead to increased yields; and facilitating the formation of demand-driven farmers' organizations, such as cooperatives, to enhance effective service delivery, input and crop marketing.

Given our region's susceptibility to adverse weather conditions, my country promotes trade in all commodities, including agricultural products.

This way, our countries can support each other in situations of surpluses and deficits within the region. This strategy is in line with the objectives of our regional organizations such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Poverty levels in our country are unacceptably high. As a way of tackling this problem, my country has been developing the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) over the last year. The overall goal of the PRSP is poverty reduction and economic growth.

It is my country's strong view that agriculture can, and should, play a critical role in contributing to poverty reduction and overall economic growth. This is because the majority of our people are involved in agriculture, i.e. approximately 70 percent of the population derives livelihood from the agricultural sector in terms of direct production. Agriculture is therefore being seen as a leading sector in poverty reduction. Furthermore, resource allocation in the PRSP is such that agriculture is accorded a relatively high share.

Allow me, at this juncture, to express my country's gratitude to the World Food Programme (WFP) for its assistance with food relief efforts to the worst-affected areas in terms of floods and drought as pointed out above. This is a commendable effort and we hope that pledges made by some of our cooperating partners will soon be honoured.

I wish to reaffirm my country's commitment to the ideals of the Food and Agriculture Organization. My country has continued to benefit greatly from FAO in terms of technical support in all aspects of the agricultural sector such as irrigation, fisheries and food security. In particular, I would like to thank and commend the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf, for calling for the World Food Summit: *five years later*, which will be held next year. Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm my country's commitment to attending the Summit next year in June.

In conclusion, I would like to join those who have supported the resolution tabled by the African Group on the eradication of the tsetse-fly in Africa. Zambia endorses this important resolution. In the same vein, my delegation welcomes the Treaty on International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Programme of Work and Budget for the Biennium 2002-03 is also supported. We hope that, in future, more resources will be made available to FAO to enable it to discharge its mandate fully, especially in needy countries like Zambia.

Hamidullah NASSER ZIA (Afghanistan)

In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful. Mr President, Mr Director-General, Your Excellencies the Ministers of Agriculture, Honourable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the people and government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, I extend my sincere greetings to your Excellencies and consider it a privilege to participate in the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference and to say a few words about the tragic food situation in my country. Before doing so, I wish to register the regret of my government about the postponement of the World Food Summit: *five years later*. We look forward for its opening next year under a calm international atmosphere.

The uninterrupted war of the past twenty-three years and the unprecedented drought of the last three years have seriously damaged the fabric of the Afghan society. The vivid signs of this tragedy are hunger, spread of infectious diseases, children deprived of schooling, land covered with mines, infrastructure in ruin, large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons and poverty on a massive scale.

The current food situation in Afghanistan is grim and terrifying. The 2001 cereal output is estimated to be 2 million tons, which is about half the level of 1998. Pre-famine conditions existed before the tragedy of 11 September in the United States of America. Events since then have exacerbated the food situation in the country. The recent assessment by the World Food Programme gives a figure of 7.5 million people at risk. A higher number cannot be ruled out. The drought has affected all regions of the country, though the situation is more critical in the northern provinces. In remote areas, more than fifty percent of the population faces severe food shortages

in the winter months. With borders closed and the cold weather on the horizon, large-scale starvation can only be averted with massive emergency food aid. The prompt delivery of food is of essence. Any delay in delivery is an invitation to a human tragedy of catastrophic proportion. On behalf of the people and Government of Afghanistan, we urge the international community to expedite the delivery of adequate emergency food aid so as to forestall starvation in the coming winter months.

I wish to express my nation's gratitude to all the countries and organizations which are responding to the appeal launched by the Secretary-General for humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. The generous contribution of one million tons of wheat from the friendly government of India to the people of Afghanistan for distribution through WFP is highly appreciated and we urge the donor community to provide the WFP with the necessary resources to facilitate the transport of this wheat from India to Afghanistan and its eventual distribution inside the country. Despite internal difficulties, the WFP is doing an excellent job of food distribution in Afghanistan and we are grateful for its food assistance to the poor in urban areas. We also urge the donor community to make pledges to the recent appeal of US\$ 236 million launched by WFP. Only one-third of this appeal has been received so far. We also urge the international community to be generous in contributing commodities and funds for other aspects of humanitarian aid such as medicine, blankets, tents, heating oil and other goods essential for livelihood. Prompt and generous aid by the international community will save millions of innocent lives who are currently deprived from basic necessities embodied in the universal declaration of human rights.

Because of the military operations since 7 October, the Afghan farmers have either missed the autumn planting season of wheat or the area sown is reduced considerably. This means the deficit in cereals will continue to persist in the next marketing year, that is from July 2002 to June 2003. Forward planning to meet the expected deficit of the next marketing year is as crucial as arrangements to meet the current crisis.

While efforts to avert starvation in Afghanistan are most urgent, one cannot set aside two other essential tasks facing the country. One is the provision of agricultural inputs to increase the sowing area during the coming Spring season and to be well prepared for the winter cereal sowing season which starts in October 2002. Both these contingencies would include an adequate supply of seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides, animal feed, fuel and farm equipment. The stockpiling of these items in the country is of highest priority.

The second essential task is the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the agricultural economy of the war-devastated Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan have a huge task of rebuilding their country. Peace and tranquillity is the first crucial step to be followed by a comprehensive programme of rebuilding the agricultural sector. This latter will require two interrelated phases.

A five-year phase designed to rehabilitate the agricultural economy of the country to the level of the pre-war year of 1978. The focus in this phase will be on two special areas. The first is to rebuild the institutions serving the agricultural sector, including agro-industry. These would include the rehabilitation of the Ministry of Agriculture, the semi-public seed and fertilizers industries, the Agricultural Bank of Afghanistan, veterinary laboratories, nurseries, applied research centres, the crop and livestock extension services and the reopening and upgrading of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Science and provincial agricultural schools. The decentralisation of the agricultural services and farmers' organizations will also be covered. The second special area is the rehabilitation of the traditional and modern irrigation system, rebuilding the grazing areas, protection of the remaining forests and removing the mines which cover all parts of the country. There will be considerable room for FAO's assistance in the rehabilitation process, particularly of FAO's Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS). The drawing up of a Master Plan for the long-term development of agriculture will be part of this phase. Naturally, FAO would be requested to assist in the preparation of the Master Plan.

A ten-year phase of modernizing the agricultural sector of the country based on the Master Plan mentioned above. The five key assumptions underlying this process of modernization will be as follows: a sustainable agricultural sector that does not cause any damage to the natural resource

base which is already degraded because of neglect; an agricultural sector that is market oriented, based on the nation's comparative advantage and amenable to the rules of the WTO; an agricultural sector that provides for the integration of crops and livestock at the household level; an agricultural sector that makes effective use of the most scarce resource in our country, namely water; an agricultural sector in which farmers make their own decisions for improving the livelihood of their household and the surrounding environment; an agricultural sector in which planning and implementation is decentralized. It is these six assumptions that will guide the growth and prosperity of the agricultural sector in post-war Afghanistan.

Thank you for your attention and I wish this Conference a great success. May God bless you.

James SHERRY (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)

It is a pleasure to be able to address your Conference today on behalf of UNAIDS' Executive Director, Dr Peter Piot. As you are aware, in the historic UN General Assembly Session in June of this year, 189 governments unanimously pledged themselves to implement a Declaration of Commitment to Combat AIDS. In their declaration, these governments recognized that the global impact of the epidemic, through its devastating scale and impact, constitutes a global emergency and one of the most formidable challenges to human life and dignity. They further recognized its undermining of food security and of social and economic development throughout the globe.

Among the specific areas where leadership commitments were made by governments to respond to the epidemic was the commitment to strengthen the AIDS response within the agriculture sector. By now I am sure most of you in this room are aware of the magnitude of this unprecedented epidemic. By the end of last year 36 million people worldwide were living with AIDS, 90 percent in developing countries and 75 percent in sub-Saharan Africa. I am also hopeful that most within this room no longer view the epidemic from the narrow perspective of a health problem. Today AIDS threatens development, social cohesion, political stability, food security and life expectancy in many countries, imposing a devastating economic cost. It requires urgent and exceptional national, regional and international action across all of the development sectors and in particular the agriculture sector.

HIV/AIDS constitute an agriculture issue. We have witnessed in the past few years the devastation that AIDS has caused on the state of food and agriculture in the hardest hit countries of sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. In the most affected countries, up to 80 percent of the population depends on agriculture for their subsistence. The AIDS epidemic is increasingly affecting rural communities with especially heavy burdens, as many HIV-infected urban dwellers return to their homes for care. HIV prevalence is unusually high among populations and therefore disproportionately affects the agriculture, transport and mining sectors which often rely on migrant workers. FAO-supported researchers have calculated that AIDS is causing the loss of up to 50 percent of agriculture extension staff time in sub-Saharan Africa.

In badly affected parts of Thailand, one-third of rural families affected by AIDS experience a halving of their agricultural output, threatening their food security. In regions where more than one-third of the GNP comes from agriculture and where farming systems are labour-intensive, there is much greater vulnerability. For example, AIDS has killed around 7 million agricultural workers since 1985 in the 25 worst-hit countries in Africa.

It is increasingly evident that the achievement of the World Food Summit goal of reducing by half the number of the food-insecure simply cannot be attained in significant parts of the world, sub-Saharan Africa in particular, unless the agriculture sector begins to address AIDS in its planning and programmes.

With the increasing evidence of the clear link between AIDS and food security, calls for increased collaboration among international organizations and their partners in the agriculture sector have been heard. UNAIDS looks to FAO to take the lead within the international system to promote the appropriate policies and support the undertaking of activities required within the agriculture sector to reverse the spread of the epidemic and mitigate its impact.

The challenge to FAO to respond to the request of Member Nations for their collaboration and cooperation in strengthening the AIDS response within the agriculture sector is quite clear and a number of important activities are already under way. For example, FAO has made a major contribution to the development of the UN System Strategic Plan for 2001-05. The UN System Plan defines the overall objectives of the UN system in support of the goals and targets adopted by Member Nations at UNGAS to address the epidemic.

To take this work further in the agriculture sector, FAO, together with WFP, IFAD and UNAIDS, is taking the lead in the development of specific strategies to mitigate the impact of AIDS on agriculture and food security. The next step of this process will be a meeting here in Rome on 5 to 7 December. This meeting will bring together persons from ministries of agriculture, NGOs and others who have been working on responses to AIDS from and through the agriculture sector, to share experiences and build on lessons learned.

UNAIDS looks forward to the guidance that this Conference will provide to FAO and encourages the further inclusion of HIV/AIDS activities in FAO's programme of work. UNAIDS also encourages the Conference to ensure that FAO has the necessary resources to fulfil its critical role in AIDS in the agriculture sector. This of course will require some direct strengthening of institutional capacity of FAO to address AIDS. UNAIDS intends to support this process, however modestly, including: through the establishment of a jointly funded post here at FAO for a specialist on HIV/AIDS and food security; through support to a number of priority FAO activities responding to AIDS through the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors; and by collaborating with FAO to analyse and monitor the impact of the epidemic on food security and to strengthen human resources and national infrastructures in the agriculture sector.

Resources devoted to combating the epidemic in the agriculture sector, both at national and international level are clearly not commensurate with the magnitude of the problem. Action to raise the required resources will necessitate increased national, subregional, regional and international cooperation between FAO and its many constituencies, not only ministries of agriculture but also international and national scientific and educational institutions, the business sector, unions of farmers, fishermen and traders, the media and parliamentarians, just to name a few.

In closing, let me assure you that UNAIDS looks forward to its continuing collaboration with FAO and to supporting FAO's strengthened efforts in leadership within the international system and in supporting Member Nations in acting on their UNGAS commitments to intensify the AIDS response within the agriculture sector.

Peter HURST (Observer for the International Union for Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations)

I represent an international trade union association that organizes food and agricultural workers globally. That organization is known as the International Union of Food, Agriculture and Allied Workers and we represent those wage workers who work in the global food chain, who work on producing food from plough to plate.

However, today, I am here to speak on behalf of the International Civil Society Organization (CSO) and the Non-governmental Organization (NGO) Planning Group, a much wider body, which is preparing the CSO and NGO Forum for the World Food Summit: *five years later*. On behalf of that group, I would like to thank you all, and FAO, for the opportunity to report on our plans leading up to the rescheduled World Food Summit next year.

In preparation for the Food Summit that was postponed, the NGOs and civil society organizations had a busy year. There has been a lot of work done on analysis and discussion of the thematic issues in a whole series of national and regional meetings covering all the five FAO regions, which was supplemented by electronic conferences. Regional reports and thematic papers contributing to the planned CSO/NGO Forum on Food Sovereignty, which would have accompanied the Summit, have been worked upon. These would have then led to the NGO Forum which would have involved 600 women and men – representative organizations of farmers,

herders, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, workers, women, and civil society organizations which were supporting them. They were to come to Rome for this Forum, approximately 80 percent of them from the South and 20 percent from the North.

We regret very much that international circumstances, exacerbated by unhelpful actions by the host Government, forced FAO to rearrange and postpone the Summit at the last moment. This has been costly for us, as well as for governments, FAO and other associate bodies. However, having had a planning meeting over the weekend, we have decided that we will put this behind us now and will turn to the rescheduled Summit next year, preceded by a whole series of FAO regional conferences. We look at this as a new opportunity to widen and deepen the participation of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations in promoting food sovereignty.

Over the next seven months, looking forward to the June timetable, we see new opportunities, for example to promote the new Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, its ratification and implementation.

We see opportunities to advance the call for food sovereignty, that is, the right of peoples to determine their own food and agricultural policies. We see opportunities to bring these and other food and other agricultural issues to the five regional conferences in early 2002 which will precede the rescheduled Summit. We see opportunities also to link the rescheduled Summit to the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Johannesburg Summit. In 2002 there will therefore be two parallel processes which can complement each other. We also see opportunities to find new ways of debating with FAO on relevant issues on sectoral and cross-cutting programmes, which are often referred as the priority areas for interdisciplinary action. In preparing for the Summit, the civil society organizations and NGOs will be promoting three themes.

The first theme is food sovereignty. Under the heading of food sovereignty we will be pursuing a variety of issues calling for food before trade; an end to food dumping, that is, the sale of food below the cost of production at original destination; and the right to farmer-led food sovereignty which limit calls for monopolization of the food system. So food sovereignty will be one of the key themes that we will be pursuing through our NGO Forum leading into the World Food Summit.

The second theme that we will be pursuing is the right to food and to resource justice. Under this heading we would be pursuing for example, the right to adequate, affordable, culturally-appropriate, safe, nutritious food. We will also be pursuing the right to productive resources such as natural ones, viz. land, water, forests, fishery and genetic resources, and social and economic ones, viz. credit, technology, training, research, information and skills that are needed to provide a right to food and resource justice.

We will also be demanding the right that all producers and workers should engage in the production of food in a safe, sustainable way. We cannot afford excessive levels of deaths or fatalities in the food production industries. So the right to food and to resource justice would be the second main theme that the NGOs and the civil society organizations would pick up and promote.

The third theme will be sustaining life on earth, promoting a new agro-ecology paradigm that emphasizes localized food systems. I emphasize localized food systems, which provide food and livelihood security and environmental integrity.

We plan through these processes to develop specific recommendations for the Summit, which will address both programmatic and institutional issues, and to link these with specific campaigns in the CSO and NGO community: campaigns for example on the code of conduct on the right to food; implementation of genuine agrarian reform; on no new WTO agriculture round negotiations; on anti-food-dumping; an international moratorium on genetically-modified organisms; a ban on terminated technologies; and also no patents on life.

In pursuing these themes and these campaigns we wish to make you aware of one important condition. We civil society organizations and NGOs are able to harness the energies of civil society to support this important process that will contribute to local and global food security. But we can only do that if you, members of FAO, FAO staff and FAO itself as an institution actively find acceptable ways of involving us and demonstrate a willingness to change or modify existing policies, plans, programmes and, where necessary, changes in elements of this agenda.

In conclusion, we look forward to a constructive preparatory process over the coming seven months and a widened and deepened civil society and non-governmental organization participation that will contribute to a successful World Food Summit next year. At this summit we will be prepared to present the outcomes of our Forum for Food Sovereignty which will be held immediately before the main Summit and we will host a series of workshops for the benefit of all participants at the World Food Summit.

I will close with the words of the Havana Declaration on Food Sovereignty which was one of the regional CSO meetings for Latin American and Caribbean countries in preparation for the November Summit. It states, and I quote, "Food sovereignty is the means to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and to guarantee lasting and sustainable food security for all of the peoples in the world".

The hope for a new millennium free of hunger will continue to be frustrated to the shame of humanity if the Summit in June does not take urgent steps to recognize people's food sovereignty.

CHAIRMAN

Ladies and gentlemen, I must thank all of you for your excellent cooperation.

I have an announcement to make. Ms Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), Mr Båge, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, will launch the publication, *Working Together*, at 18:00 hours, in the Plenary Hall on Thursday, 8 November 2001. That is tomorrow.

The publication produced jointly by FAO, IFAD and WFP portrays some of the ways in which the three Agencies have strengthened their partnership and developed successful interagency strategies to promote agricultural and rural development and make a genuine difference to the lives of the hungry and poor throughout the world. I would encourage all of you to come to this key event.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2 – 13 November 2001 Rome, 2 – 13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2 – 13 de noviembre de 2001
ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING ONZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 11ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
9 November 2001

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours
Mr Majzoub Al-Khalifa Ahmed,
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Majzoub Al-Khalifa Ahmed,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 9.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Majzoub Al-Khalifa Ahmed,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Third Report of the General Committee (C 2001/LIM/19)**Troisième rapport du Bureau (C 2001/LIM/19)****Tercer Informe del Comité General (C 2001/LIM/19)****Fourth Report of the General Committee (C 2001/LIM/21)****Quatrième rapport du Bureau de la Conférence (C 2001/LIM/21)****Cuarto Informe del Comité General (C 2001/LIM/21)****CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)**

Before we proceed to the Adoption of Commission II Report on Item 12, Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003, I would like to invite delegates to ensure they have the Third Report of the General Committee, document C 2001/LIM/19, as well as the Fourth Report of the General Committee, document C 2001/LIM/21 before them.

The Third Report of the General Committee lists the nominations received within the deadline of Saturday 3 November 12:00 hrs, for approval by the FAO Council, document C 2001/LIM/19. Are there any comments on this document?

I see none. We adopt document C 2001/LIM/19.

*Adopted**Adopté**Aprobado***CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)**

We now move on to the Fourth Report of the General Committee, as set out in document C 2001/LIM/21. This Report concerns the granting of voting rights to Member Nations.

Are there any comments on this Document?

I see none. We adopt the Fourth Report of the General Committee.

*Adopted**Adopté**Aprobado***Second Report of the Credentials Committee (C 2001/LIM/24)****Deuxième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 2001/LIM/24)****Segundo Informe del Comité de Credenciales (C 2001/LIM/24)****CHAIRMAN**

We now proceed to the Second Report of the Credentials Committee, document C 2001/LIM/24 which has been distributed to all delegations. I should like to invite Ambassador George Poulides from Cyprus, the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee to join me on the podium to present the Second Report of the Credentials Committee.

George F. POULIDES (Chairman, Credentials Committee)

The Credentials Committee held its first meeting on 19 October 2001 at 10:00 hours; its second meeting on 29 October 2001 at 11:00 hours; its third meeting on 1 November 2001 at 17:00 hours, its fourth meeting on 2 November 2001 at 13:00 hours and its fifth meeting on 7 November 2001 at 17:00 hours, to examine the credentials of the delegations of Members of the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference.

The Committee elected Ambassador George Poulides, Cyprus, as its Chairperson and Ms Maria Eulalia Jiménez de Mochi Onori, El Salvador, as its Vice-Chairperson.

The Committee was informed of the recommendation made by the FAO Council at its Hundred and Sixteenth Session in June 1999 which had already been followed during the Thirtieth Session

of the Conference in 1999, regarding the approach that should be taken by the Credentials Committee with respect to the acceptance of credentials.

In accordance with Rule III.2 of the General Rules of the Organization and the criteria established by the Committee itself at its previous Sessions, as well as the above recommendations of the Council, the Credentials Committee examined the credentials of 164 delegations. The Members whose delegations submitted credentials which were found valid are shown in the attached List A. The Members whose credentials were considered as information on their delegations are shown in the attached List B.

It is recommended that the Conference accept both the credentials of delegations on List A and those on List B on the understanding that formal credentials of FAO Members referred to in List B will be communicated to the Director-General as soon as possible.

In addition, in accordance with Rule III.5 of the General Rules of the Organization and FAO practice, pending the final report of the Credentials Committee and the decision on that Report by the Conference, all delegations are authorized to participate fully in the work of the Conference Session.

Armenia had informed the Secretariat that they would not attend the Conference.

Having examined the question of the credentials of Afghanistan, the Committee decided to defer a decision on the credentials of representatives of Afghanistan on the understanding that the current representatives of Afghanistan accredited to FAO would continue to participate provisionally in the work of the Conference with the same rights as other Members.

To date, 20 Members have not presented credentials. Any other credentials which will be received from Members will be examined by the Committee at subsequent meetings. The Committee invited all Members referred to in List B to take such action as required so that there could be listed in List A.

I will now proceed to read List A and List B. Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Bhutan, Cameroon, Canada, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Philippines, Portugal, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Senegal, Slovenia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

I will now proceed to read List B: Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Comoros, Croatia, Dominica, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Monaco, Myanmar, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Uzbekistan and Zambia.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Now the Report is set before you and we will take it paragraph by paragraph. We start with paragraph 1.

Mamadou DEKAMO KAMARA (Congo, République du)

La délégation du Congo a déposé tous les documents concernant les pleins pouvoirs au Protocole depuis près de quatre jours.

Hamoud OULD ELY (Mauritanie)

Je voudrais tout simplement dire que la délégation mauritanienne a déposé ses pouvoirs ce matin. C'est juste pour apporter cette précision.

Elvio Gonçalves NAPOLEÃO FERNANDES (Cape Verde)

In line with the other representatives who have already taken the floor before, Cape Verde delivered all the documents necessary to have the *pouvoir* for the election in this Conference.

Mrs Hedwig WÖGERBAUER (Austria)

As the speakers before us we also delivered, yesterday, all the necessary documents for the credentials.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Can we adopt this Report now, taking into account the observations of the different delegates who took the floor?

I thank His Excellency, Ambassador Poulides. If there are no other comments we can consider Second Report of the Credentials Committee adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We shall now move on to Item 12 of the Agenda, the Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003. This item brings us to another important stage in our work: the adoption of the Report of Commission II, including the Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations for 2002-2003. This report is set out in document C 2001/REP/1.

I now invite the Chairman of Commission II to take the floor, thanking him for the task which was accomplished by the Commission.

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
ADOPTION DEL INFORME**

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY (FROM COMMISSION II)

Paragraphs 1-18 (C 2001/REP/1)

PROJECT DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFÉRENCE (COMMISSION II)

Les paragraphes 1 à 18 (C 2001/REP/1)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA (DE LA COMISIÓN II)

Los párrafos 1 a 18 (C 2001/REP/1)

Carl-Josef WEIERS (Chairman, Commission II)

Thank you for inviting me to deliver some brief comments.

You referred to the document C 2001/REP/1, which I hope you all have. It contains two important parts, the first part is the Draft Report of Commission II, concerning the Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003, and the second part is the Resolution on the Budgetary Appropriations 2002-2003.

The first part is the result of the harmonious work of the Drafting Committee and which was agreed to by consensus by Commission II last night. The second part, the budgetary level, was mainly prepared by a Working Group, Friends of the Chair, and also agreed by Commission II on a consensus basis last night.

In the name of Commission II, I present these papers and results for which we would like to have the support of the Thirty-first Session of the Conference. At the end of the proceedings of Commission II, I would like to express a word of thanks to all those who participated in that Commission for their great input, as well as my thanks to the Membership and the Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

As Commission II has already examined this Report on the basis of the Draft Report presented by the Drafting Committee, I should like to suggest that paragraphs 1 to 18, which represent the narrative part of the Report, be adopted *en bloc*. After adopting this part of the Report, we will proceed to vote on the resolutions that feature in paragraph 19 of document C 2001/REP/1.

Can we adopt paragraphs 1 to 18?

Paragraphs 1 to 18, were adopted
Les paragraphes 1 à 18, sont adoptés
Los párrafos 1 a 18, son aprobados

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Paragraph 19, including Draft Resolution .../2001: Budgetary Appropriation 2002-2001
 (C 2001/REP/1)

Le paragraphe 19, y compris le projet de résolution .../2001: Ouverture de crédits 2002-03
 (C 2001/REP/1)

El párrafo 19, incluido el proyecto de resolución .../2001: Consignaciones presupuestarias para 2002-03 (C 2001/REP/1)

CHAIRMAN

We can now consider the Budget Level for the year 2002-2003 as it stands in paragraph 19. I will ask the Secretary-General to introduce the roll call vote on the budget resolutions.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Article XVIII.5, of the Constitution stipulates that decisions on the level of budget shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. According to Rule XII.7, a vote by roll call shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds is required by the Constitution. Rule XII-3(c) of the General Rules stipulates that when a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one-half of the Member Nations of the Organization. The number of votes cast for or against should therefore be at least 92.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

If there are no objections, we will now proceed with the vote.

I ask the Secretary-General to determine the number of countries present in this hall.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Has every delegation in the room indicated by pressing the green button?

Ahmed Ali Hummed AL-HAWRI (Yemen) (Original language Arabic)

I pressed the button at the very beginning, together with Viet Nam. However, the name of my country did not show on the screen.

We have to make sure that the number we have is correct.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

May I now read the results of the quorum? Number of delegations present – 99. Therefore, we have a quorum because the quorum required is 92.

Ahmed Ali Hummed AL-HAWRI (Yemen) (Original language Arabic)

What we have in paragraph 6 of document C 2001/LIM/21, well I do not like it. The fact that Yemen is mentioned in this fashion is not acceptable to us. We discussed this with the Secretariat and we reached an agreement with them. They are the ones who made a mistake here. They should know how to treat delegations with respect and, with all due respect, I call on the Secretariat to resolve this problem immediately.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We take due note of those comments. If you agree with the content of the Draft Report on the budget in document C 2001/REP/1, that means we have finished with this part of the Report.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We are ready now to vote for the Draft Resolution concerning the budgetary appropriations for 2002-2003. I am going to open the vote. You should proceed to vote according to the instructions of the Chairman.

Vote
Vote
Votación



Vote on:
Vote sur:
Votación para:

FOOD AND ORGANISATION ORGANIZACION
AGRICULTURE DES NATIONS DE LAS NACIONES
ORGANIZATION UNIES POUR UNIDAS PARA
OF THE L'ALIMENTATION LA AGRICULTURA
UNITED NATIONS ET L'AGRICULTURE Y LA ALIMENTACION

09/11/2001
10.33.08

RESOLUTION ON BUDGETARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2002-2003

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votación Nominal

	Present/ Présents/ Presentes	
Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	107	
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	71	
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	107	
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0	
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	2	
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	56	

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:
Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, C.A.R., Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Congo Dem.Rep, Congo Rep, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, D.P. Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egipt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozanbique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, The F.Y.Rep. of Macedonia, Tonga, U.A.E., U.K., Uganda, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:
Australia, U.S.A.

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:
Albania, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, Comoros, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Israel, Kiribati, Korea Rep., Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nicaragua, Niue, Oman, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, ST. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincente and the Grenadines, Swaziland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanatu, Yugoslavia

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones *RD*

Draft Resolution .../2001: Budgetary Appropriation 2002-2001

(C 2001/REP/1), was adopted

Projet de résolution .../2001: Ouverture de crédits 2002-03 (C 2001/REP/1), est adopté

Projecto de resolución .../2001: Consignaciones presupuestarias para 2002-03

(C 2001/REP/1), es adoptado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

Before moving on to the vote on the second Draft Resolution, I will give the floor to Yemen.

Ahmed Ali Hummed AL-HAWRI (Yemen) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, I wanted to say that everybody saw clearly. Venezuela also had a problem. It is a technical problem. We need to look at it and see what is going on.

CHAIRMAN

We take due note.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

May I ask for a clarification from the Secretary-General. I understood her to say that there were 107 total votes. When I looked at the number registered, I thought it was 107 in favour, plus 2 abstentions which would be 109 votes total. Is that correct please?

CHAIRMAN

The Secretary-General has the floor. Please clarify the situation and comment on the technical problems raised by the Representative of Yemen, as well as answer the question just raised by the Representative of United States of America.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For the delegate of the United States of America, based on the automatic printout which counts the number of votes cast and which also registers separately the number of abstentions, that is what we have here, 107 cast. These votes were for. A different button is pressed to indicate abstentions. So that is what I indicated.

Shoji SATO (Japan)

I would like to congratulate Mr Carl-Josef Weiers, Chairman of Commission II, on the conclusion of these difficult discussions on the Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Mr Tony Wade and other members of the Secretariat and all participants for their utmost efforts to conclude this discussion.

The Japanese delegation is pleased to join the consensus in favour of the Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003. As I mentioned at the Commission II meeting, budgetary discipline, such as a Zero Nominal Growth budget, remains the Japanese Government's policy for all international organizations. We believe that international organizations, including FAO, should keep their administrative budgets to a minimum and that continuous efforts should be made to streamline and improve the efficiency of these organizations for the effective utilization of limited financial resources. From this point of view, Japan highly appreciates the efforts made by FAO to sustain its budget since 1992 to this day, through the implementation of various major structural reforms. We encourage the Secretariat to do so from now on, too.

Japan supports the proposed budget level, welcoming that it is very close to the current budget level.

Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela)

Hoy es un día importante porque, entre otras cosas, esta tarde tenemos las elecciones para el Presidente Independiente del Consejo y para los Miembros del Consejo.

Tengo la impresión, y creo que muchos la comparten en esta sala, que la forma y manera de como se están llevando a cabo las votaciones aquí no son las correctas. En la votación que acabamos de tener, el delegado de Yemen, que vi apretar el botón, no apareció en la pantalla grande, primera cosa. En segundo lugar, las explicaciones que da la Secretaría, y lamento decirlo, no son correctas. No se puede hablar de 107 votos emitidos y dos abstenciones, son 109 votos emitidos; pero además de eso la Secretaría induce en error al decir que 50 y tantos votos no fueron emitidos.

Eso querría decir que hay 165 delegaciones en esta sala, pero no creo que sea el caso. La Secretaría tiene que tener claro que es lo que significa votos emitidos y decirnos con exactitud cuántos fueron los votos emitidos y dentro de los votos emitidos cuántos fueron a favor, cuántos fueron en contra y cuántos fueron abstenciones. Le reitero, creo que hay un problema técnico con el puesto de Yemen y posiblemente con otros puestos en esta sala; puede ser que no esté funcionando el equipo.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Let me first reply on the apparent technical problems with Yemen. In accordance with Article III.4 of the FAO Constitution, a Member Nation which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contribution to the Organization shall have no vote in the Conference. If the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it from the two preceding calendar years, although the Conference may restore this vote. The matter was considered by the General Committee and, if you look at the Report that you have just approved, you will see in paragraph 10 that the vote of Yemen has not been restored. This is the first question.

As far as the second question is concerned, in accordance with Rule XII.4 of the General Rules of the Organization, votes cast shall mean affirmative and negative votes and shall not include abstentions or defective ballots. Therefore, the votes cast are 107, with 2 abstentions.

Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela)

Estas son explicaciones que si las hubieran dado antes no nos hubiéramos confundido, pero de todas formas, la Secretaría debería ser más clara al informar los votos que se expresan en esta sala porque escuché al principio decir 107 votos a favor, 2 abstenciones y 50 y tantos que no se pronunciaron; eso no es correcto porque significaría que hay más gente en la sala de la que está votando. Pido claridad a la Secretaría y, cuando se solicite un planteamiento, que den información correcta porque ninguno de nosotros tiene en la memoria todos los Textos Fundamentales de la Organización.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would like to indicate that the system is automatic and it prints out information, which I will read louder the next time. I appreciate the concerns expressed by the representatives. However, there is no way in which I can make an error because it is all here on the automatic printout, but I will be louder the next time.

Mark COREY (Canada)

Now that the Resolution has been adopted, Canada is very pleased that a consensus has been reached on the Budget Level for the coming biennium. In our view, it is vital that decisions on programme budgets be reached in this way, because to do otherwise would convey unfortunate signals about the unity of the Membership in supporting the Organization's mandate and activities. We really want to send the message that the work of FAO is absolutely critical to the well-being of a large number of people and, by agreeing to adopt this Budget, we are doing exactly that.

Like all compromises, this agreement may not fully meet the wishes of all Members, but we think it is a workable and balanced agreement that will provide the resources to allow FAO to carry on the important work programme that we have agreed to.

Much has been said during these discussions here about the importance of budget discipline and solid results-based management. This is an approach that the Canadian Government seeks to bring in its own operations and to the many other international organizations of which we are a member. As we have said earlier, we are very much encouraged by the steps that FAO has been taking in this area and we think that the now agreed Programme of Work and Budget is in line with this approach. We would encourage the Organization and its Membership to continue work, to ensure that we continue to get the best value for the investment of the work we are making to achieve FAO's very important goals.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

Australia wishes to make a brief statement to explain the position we have taken.

Australia has participated in the Working Group throughout the past three days and discussions have been long and difficult. Australia would wish to thank the Chairman and other Members of the Working Group for their constructive efforts throughout the negotiations.

A consensus on the budget level has emerged and this necessarily meant countries moving from their preferred positions. As Members would be aware, Australia adheres to a position of Zero Nominal Growth as a policy position across the UN System. We believe that such a position is effective in promoting reform and efficiencies across the UN System to the benefit of all Member Nations.

Australia appreciates the efforts of FAO over recent years to cut unnecessary costs and increase efficiencies, and considers ZNG has played a key role in this process. Our view is that this process has not yet been exhausted and there remains a clear responsibility to maintain budget discipline. To this end, FAO needs to continue to look critically at its work programme to ensure that it is undertaking core work where it has a clear comparative advantage and where it can provide maximum benefits to the Membership.

ZNG remains a valuable budgetary tool, particularly in the absence of a consensus on a replacement mechanism for maintaining budget discipline. Australia, therefore, wishes to place on record that the adoption of a budget for 2002-2003, incorporating a small increase, should not be accepted as a precedent for future budgets or as an endorsement of a permanent departure from ZNG. We recognize the efforts and goodwill of everyone in reaching the consensus on the budget level on this occasion. We did not wish to stand in the way of the consensus and so Australia has chosen to abstain from this day's vote.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

My doubts in the question I needed to ask were raised by Venezuela and the United States of America. I am sure that the whole house was in confusion and in doubt that the explanation given is not with full confidence from the Legal Counsel nor from the Secretariat. We need to understand clearly how the voting system works, because several times it was said that the number of votes required were 92. As there is a fixed number in any meeting, if two-thirds is required and the quorum is full, those present in that meeting count and two-thirds from those present should be calculated. Otherwise, those countries who did not attend here should be reached by correspondence to say that their vote counts or not. But when we are voting here, we have to have a system which is very clear and we need that clarification. Does a vote count from those who are present here when the quorum is full, taking into account those who have lost their Voting Rights?

I personally did not feel confident on how we are adopting and we have to make it easier to clarify for the future. I am not complaining about what happened up to now, but what system we adopt in the future. If the total number of Member Nations is, say, 170, then the majority vote required may be 92, but that may not be the case. There are countries that lose their vote and the quorum may be full, then exactly count two-thirds from the quorum present and take into account those who are losing their Voting Rights.

We need some clarification in the future and to be very clear how the voting works.

David BLANCO ZABALA (Bolivia)

El sentido de mi intervención inicial era, y es, obviamente, agradecer en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y del Caribe al señor Carl Josef Weiers y al Grupo de Trabajo por haber llegado a un consenso en este particular tema referido al presupuesto.

Debo confesarle que, como economista, me ha sido difícil entender el concepto de Crecimiento Real Cero. Desde el punto de vista de los economistas el Crecimiento Real es uno y el

Crecimiento Nominal es otro, pero creo que la situación de compromiso, como se ha esbozado, es la más adecuada en las presentes circunstancias.

Particularmente ayer hemos visto una región con singular agrado a la coordinación inter-institucional y al trabajo que se va a realizar conjuntamente entre la FAO, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos y el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA). Creemos que este futuro va a generar mayores recursos donde América Latina y el Caribe espera tener una participación creciente en la asignación de los mismos.

Quiero finalizar señalando que nuestra participación en los temas financieros como región se va a acrecentar. América Latina y el Caribe ha demostrado, y está demostrando, a través de políticas de ajuste en sus economías, disciplinas presupuestarias que son dignas de imitar. Todos los países están confrontando temas de recesión, en algunos casos derivados de difícilísimos procesos de ajuste, pero indiscutiblemente se ha ido buscando en ese contexto el uso eficiente de los recursos disponibles.

No quisiera terminar sin antes sugerir a la Secretaría muy respetuosamente a través de su Presidencia que en el tema de la votación debe ser muy clara. En las sucesivas intervenciones de esta tarde y como lo ha indicado el Representante de Venezuela, debemos enfrentar el proceso de votación; no todos conocemos en detalle el tipo de normativas en este contexto. Me permitiría muy respetuosamente tener este tema muy claro para todos los delegados.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

I would like to make a brief statement to explain the vote of the United States of America on the Programme of Work and Budget but, before I do so, may I thank the Secretariat and especially the Legal Counsel for the explanation. I was pleased to find that out. I know I am not a lawyer and trained in juridical matters but I was concerned that, as an economist, I might not be able to add up to ten at this point. Thank you for that reassurance.

I would also like to thank you, Mr Chairman, for your work in the General Committee, where the difficult issue of Voting Rights was discussed very thoroughly before the Committee took action and presented this Report this morning. I am sure that our experience this morning makes us aware of the need to be prepared for the elections this afternoon that will take place for the Independent Chair. So we will all get out our Basic Texts and read them very carefully before that election takes place.

Regarding the vote of the United States of America on the Programme of Work and Budget, I would like to agree with things that have been said so far by some of the other delegates. Canada mentioned the need to reach a consensus and we think that was extremely important in this body. In times as we are experiencing today, it is important for all of us to understand each other better and do our best to reach an agreement. Like others who have participated in the Working Group, I would also like to thank the Chair, Mr Weiers of Germany, for all of his persistent efforts to facilitate reaching such a consensus in some very difficult negotiations. I would also like to thank other members of the Group who, as Australia noted, had to give up some of their preferred positions, and also to the outstanding support from the Secretariat in patiently explaining, again, to those of us who are – as we say in my country – mathematically-challenged, some of the finer points of the Programme of Work and Budget.

I would also like to align myself with some of the statements said by Australia. Like Australia, the overall policy of the United States is to support a Zero Nominal Growth budget in the UN System overall and we believe that it has, to date, achieved great efficiency savings. We also believe that there is room for continued savings, although it may not be to the same degree. As Australia said, we have not, any of us, come up with another mechanism for maintaining discipline. We will continue to search for one but we would commend the Secretariat for the efforts that have been made to contain costs and achieve greater efficiencies. As a Member of the Finance Committee, the United States of America looks forward to some of the suggestions that were made in these discussions regarding comparisons with other UN Agencies, a practice called benchmarking,

where we would look for best practices in other Organizations in our effort to achieve even greater efficiencies.

We were unable to join the consensus formally but we did not want to block the consensus that was reached on this very important decision, because we believe that the work of this Organization is so important to reducing hunger and to developing agriculture throughout the world. We continue to support the Food and Agriculture Organization in its work and we look forward to participating in the coming months, in the coming biennium, with our colleagues in this Organization, to move the agenda of FAO forward.

Mrs Neela GANGADHARAN (India)

On behalf of the developing countries of Asia, let me place on record our deep appreciation for the excellent leadership that the Chairman of Commission II provided to the deliberations in the Commission and in the Friends of the Chair negotiations.

We also appreciate the spirit of consensus that prevailed during the deliberations and negotiations. We would like to reiterate our continued support for adequate resources being provided to FAO, the premier Specialized Agency for agriculture in the world, in view of the critical role of the Organization that Canada alluded to. We do agree that FAO has to identify its comparative advantages. At the same time, the diverse needs of the different Members need to be kept in mind as well.

As it is often said, if only developing countries had everything except financial resources, the problems that we face today in the world would not be there. The difference in agro-ecological conditions, climate conditions, require different approaches and FAO needs to be allied to these needs of the countries.

Though, as developing countries, we will not be fully content with the Budget Level, in the adoption of the budget today we hopefully see a positive movement towards an expansionary phase in resources and activities for FAO.

We also take this opportunity to place on record our deep appreciation for the work that Mr Tony Wade and his staff have made in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget, particularly to Mr Wade whose patience and ability we have all come to admire. I consider the document, the Programme of Work and Budget, to be worldclass. We wish to acknowledge its excellence and wish the very best to this team in future.

Simon DRAPER (New Zealand)

New Zealand believes that this Resolution on the Budget Level is a positive one.

New Zealand has, in recent years, preferred the Zero Nominal Growth budget scenarios. However, we came to this budget debate, as we always do, with an open mind and ready to listen carefully to the views of all Members.

New Zealand today voted positively for the Zero Real Growth scenario and we can assure Members here that, when we return in two years' time, we will again come with fresh eyes and our decision will be based on the merits of, and after a careful analysis of the Programme of Work and Budget at that time.

Finally, New Zealand would like to add its voice of thanks to the Chairman of Commission II and the Secretariat for the excellent work they have done.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Le représentant de la Tanzanie donnera plus tard la position du Groupe Africain, position à laquelle mon pays, le Sénégal, se rallie. Nous accueillons avec intérêt le consensus qui vient de se dégager pour l'adoption de ce budget à Croissance Réelle Zéro. Ce qui constitue un peu une sortie d'un bout du tunnel, mais nous ne sommes pas encore arrivés, loin s'en faut, car maintenant notre conviction et notre nette préférence, comme l'a dit mon Chef de délégation devant cette assemblée, est que c'est la Croissance Réelle seule qui peut donner justice à la FAO. En effet, l'on

sait que depuis 1994 notre Organisation n'a cessé de faire des économies et des gains d'efficacité, et qu'elle est la seule dans le système des Nations Unies qui soit encore victime de l'injustice budgétaire. Ici j'ajoute que nous, États Membres, ne cessons chaque fois, quand les Comités de la FAO se réunissent, de réclamer de nouveaux programmes, de nouvelles missions, à notre Organisation. Enfin, en 1996 les leaders mondiaux se sont réunis ici à Rome pour adopter un Plan d'action qui établit un objectif assez clair.

Nous sommes loin, trop loin, de cet objectif. Et la seule réponse aujourd'hui adéquate aurait été une Croissance Réelle au niveau du budget. C'est donc le cœur meurtri que nous acceptons le consensus d'une Croissance Réelle Zéro mais nous pensons que nous, États Membres, devrions faire un saut de qualité pour rétablir notre Organisation à la place qui doit être la sienne.

Enfin, nous ne saurions terminer, nous qui avons eu l'avantage d'être ici pendant assez longtemps, sans souhaiter que les délégations que nous avons vu dans tous les Comités au niveau du Conseil, à savoir le Canada et le Japon, se rallient réellement au consensus aujourd'hui. Nous souhaitons que leur comportement futur reflète leur position d'aujourd'hui et nous sommes sûrs qu'ils le feront, connaissant leur pays et ce que le pays, par ailleurs, fait pour la coopération au développement.

Miss Fatimah Hasan Gohar HAYAT (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

I am taking the floor to speak on behalf of the Near East Group, which I have the honour to Chair.

I would like to begin this statement by congratulating the Director-General. Without his instructions and his wisdom, we would not have been able to reach this consensus on the Budget Level.

Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr Chairman of the Conference, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in the United Arab Emirates. Thanks to your wisdom you have managed to conduct the business of our Conference in a successful manner and without that wisdom we would not have been able to reach a consensus.

My thanks also go to the Chairman of Commission II, my friend with whom I worked in an atmosphere of friendship. Thanks to this atmosphere of friendship, we managed to reach the consensus we so much desired.

In conclusion, I would like to add my voice to those who thanked Mr Tony Wade, whom I have known for a long time. He is known for his wisdom and patience. He met with many problems in previous years, when there was competition, difficult negotiations and different views regarding the budget of FAO. Without his patience and wisdom we would not have been able to reach this positive conclusion today.

I would also like to thank all those who worked with Mr Wade in the Commission with us and those who worked behind the scenes. I am quite sure that my Group voted in favour of the Budget Level, in spite of the fact that we would have liked to reach a higher level in order to meet all the activities of FAO. Well, I am not going to delve into details because my friend from India has referred to the reasons that called for the necessity of having a higher budget.

My Group was very keen, in reaching a consensus, so we worked hand in hand with all the other Groups in order to reach this consensus.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank you all for these interventions and for the kind words and for the ideas you have referred to. I am absolutely certain that what you have said will benefit the Organization and its Membership.

Now, we move on to a second Resolution in document C 2001/REP/1. As you know, this Resolution concerns the Use of Arrears.

If the delegates have no comment regarding this matter, we will take a vote right now. I hope that this time the voting procedure will be clearer than the previous one.

I would like to ask the Secretary-General to start the voting, if you do not have any comments.

Vote

Vote

Votación



Vote on:
Vote sur:
Votación para:

FOOD AND ORGANISATION ORGANIZACION
AGRICULTURE DES NATIONS DE LAS NACIONES
ORGANIZATION UNIES POUR UNIDAS PARA
OF THE L'ALIMENTATION LA AGRICULTURA
UNITED NATIONS ET L'AGRICULTURE Y LA ALIMENTACION

09/11/2001
11.14.29

USE OF ARREARS

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

	Present/ Présents/ Presentes	
Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	105	
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	71	
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	105	
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0	
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	1	
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	59	

Votes For:

Votes Pour:

Votos Favorables:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, C.A.R., Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo Dem.Rep, Congo Rep, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, D.P. Republic of Korea, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Korea Rep., Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, The F.Y.Rep. of Macedonia, Tonga, Tunisia, U.A.E., U.K., U.S.A., Uganda, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Votes Against:

Votes Contre:

Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:

Abstentions:

Abstenciones:

Haiti

No Reply:

Aulcune Response:

Ninguna Respuesta:

Albania, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cambodia, Comoros, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Kiribati, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Moldova, Monaco, Myanmar, Nauru, Nicaragua, Niue, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, ST. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincente and the Grenadines, Swaziland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanatu, Yugoslavia

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Draft Resolution .../2001: Use of Arrears (C 2001/REP/1), was adopted
Projet de résolution .../2001: Utilisation des arriérés (C 2001/REP/1), est adopté
Projecto de resolución .../2001: Utilización de atrasos (C 2001/REP/1), es adoptado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ahmed Ali Hummed AL-HAWRI (Yemen) (Original language Arabic)

The technical problem has not been fixed yet. The delegate of Venezuela managed to vote, but I could not vote. The Draft Resolution has been adopted, of course with a majority, but at least there is a legal matter I raised.

If you allow me, I would like to say the following. The Legal Counsel gave us an explanation. Well, I agree with him but I think I can give a different explanation.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Perhaps I was not so clear before, but I said that Yemen had lost its right to vote in this Conference. The General Committee did not restore the right to vote of Yemen, and therefore its system is blocked.

Ahmed Ali Hummed AL-HAWRI (Yemen) (Original language Arabic)

I have the document both in English and in Arabic. I have read them both. I have read paragraphs 6 and 10 regarding the Voting Rights of Yemen. I think Yemen has the right to vote.

Of course, you can deprive Yemen of using its right to vote, but please allow me to explain the matter.

I talked with Members of Commission II. I also sent a letter, a formal letter, to FAO. That letter was accepted, and I was told that the matter would be settled. Now I find out that the matter has been settled in a different manner to that which I expected.

I would like to tell all the Members of this Conference that I have the right to explain what happened and the Legal Counsel knows exactly what happened.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I simply refer to the Report of the General Committee. I believe that, with respect to letters that Yemen mentioned, they were not sent to the Legal Office, so perhaps Mr Mehboob may clarify this point.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

The Legal Counsel has made the situation clear and you said that you will be in contact with the Legal Office and we have taken note of your observation.

Mamadou DEKAMO (Congo, République du)

Je voudrais une fois de plus vous demander de bien arranger la publication du vote. Tout à l'heure nous avons vu qu'il y avait une abstention alors que sur le tableau nous avons le bouton rouge et il s'agit d'un vote contre. Il n'y avait pas d'abstention. Nous nous intéressons à ces questions-là parce qu'il s'agit là de vote, il faudrait que les résultats reflètent la réalité des votants.

Je voulais tout simplement dire qu'à propos des résultats de tout à l'heure, nous avons tous suivi qu'au niveau du tableau il y avait un bouton rouge. Le bouton rouge signifie un vote contre. Or, la secrétaire nous parlait d'abstention. Voilà ce que je voulais signifier.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

It is important for Members to understand and have confidence in this system. Therefore I will read the vote again.

Number of votes cast: 105; number of votes for: 105. There was one abstention.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

I did want to simply make one remark on the Resolution that we have just adopted on the proposed Use of Arrears.

I appreciate this has been the subject of long discussion in this body in the Council and in previous Conference meetings. I believe we have come up with some proposed uses for the arrears which would strengthen the financial health of the Organization overall and which meet the criteria that was laid out in previous discussions.

I believe that a very important project, which I know as the Oracle Project, aimed at upgrading the computer systems of the Organization is contained in this. If I understand the document correctly, in the list of one-time projects, the Oracle Project would be under Item 8, Corporate Administrative Systems, which is noted as having an estimated cost of over US\$25 million. I just would say that having participated in many discussions where there was not adequate provisions for the completion of this project, which required transfers to be made from Chapter 2 of the overall budget of the Organization, in order to continue to fund it, I look forward to a future where we would not, again, have to make such transfers. Hopefully, if the arrears materialize we would be able to use this funding in that way.

Perhaps the Secretariat could confirm my understanding of where the Item is contained. I just wanted to confirm in my statement my support for this very important project to the financial health of the Organization and administrative strength.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Le Représentant des États-Unis a parlé du fond, moi je voulais juste dire un mot sur la forme. Sur le vote, je crois que nous devons garder la sérénité, et je pense que le Secrétariat est là pour conseiller la Secrétaire générale et qu'on ferait mieux d'écouter très attentivement le Conseil juridique. La Secrétaire générale ne fait, à notre avis, que lire ce qu'on lui a présenté et si nous avons besoin d'explications techniques nous devons nous en remettre au Conseil juridique, ici dans cette salle, ou bien en-dehors de cette salle. Mais je ne suis pas habitué à ce genre de comportement, et je crois que nous devons garder la sérénité.

Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

I am responding to the question of the United States of America. I wish to confirm that the US\$ 25.5 million includes the finalization of Oracle Phase I which is the financial element. It includes Oracle's Phase II, which is the human resource element and payroll. It includes the planning system which replaces Plansys, the name PIREs and it includes small amount of resources to complete the Field Programme Management Information System. All of these systems are part of our corporate, administrative systems infrastructure which is built under the system known as Oracle, to which you referred.

The meeting rose at 11.35 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.35 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2 – 13 November 2001 Rome, 2 – 13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2 – 13 de noviembre de 2001
TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING DOUZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 12ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
9 November 2001

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00
sous la présidence de Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Presidente de la Conferencia

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS
QUATRIÈME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS
PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES

19. Election of Council Members and Independent Chairman of the Council

(C2001/11; C2001/11-Rev.1 (Spanish only); C2001/15-Rev.1 (Spanish only) C2001/15 Corr.1; C2001/LIM/19; C2001/LIM 21)

19. Élection des membres et du Président indépendant du Conseil

(C2001/11; C2001/11-Rev.1 (espagnol uniquement); C2001/15-Rev.1 (espagnol uniquement) C2001/15 Corr.1; C2001/LIM/19; C2001/LIM 21)

19. Elección de los Miembros y del Presidente Independiente del Consejo

(C2001/11; C2001/11-Rev.1 (sólo en español); C2001/15-Rev.1 (sólo en español) C2001/15 Corr.1; C2001/LIM/19; C2001/LIM 21)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We shall begin by electing the Council Members first. You have before you document C 2001/LIM/19. This is the Third Report of the General Committee of the Conference, which was adopted this morning. As you can see from reading paragraph 3, the number of candidates for each term and for each region is equal to the number of seats to be filled, with the exception of the Latin American and the Caribbean Region, for the period going from 1 January 2003 to November 2005. In this case, there are two candidates for one seat.

I suggest, therefore, that we begin with the regions and the terms for which there are the same number of candidates as posts to be filled, given that Rule X11-10(a) 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.

In document C 2001/LIM/19, you will find the names of the candidates and the regions as well as the terms for which they will be occupying their posts. If the honourable delegates have no comments to make on what I have just said, if there are no requests for clarification, we can begin with the vote.

Before we start with the voting, I should like to give the floor to the Secretary-General, and I should also like to ask the Legal Counsel to give you some clarifications before we embark upon the process of voting.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As you have indicated, we have a group of regions and periods for which we have the same number of candidates as seats, therefore Conference is allowed to elect these by general consent. However, as this is a vote, the Secretary-General will now ascertain that we have the quorum. Then if you wish you can proceed to the election by acclamation.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As is the practice, we move to establishing that there is a quorum. When I indicate I will ask you to press the green button. I am going to press the vote open, the vote is now open.

I will now press the close vote button, the vote is now closed.

I will now read the results. The number of votes cast is 141, we have a majority, there were no abstentions so we have a quorum established.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

The Secretary-General will now read the list of candidates for Africa.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For Africa for the period November 2001 to November 2003 the candidate is Kenya. For the period November 2001 to 31 December 2004 there are five candidates for five seats: Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ghana, United Republic of Tanzania and Tunisia. For the period 1 January 2003 to November 2005 there are four candidates for four seats: Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritius, Nigeria and Swaziland.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

If you have no objection, may I assume that the Conference approves the candidates for Africa.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The three candidates for the three seats in Asia for the period 1 January 2003 to November 2005 are India, Indonesia and Pakistan.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For Europe, for the period November 2001 to 31 December 2004, there are three candidates for three seats; Bulgaria, Portugal and Switzerland. For the period 1 January 2003 to November 2005, there are four candidates for seats, Finland, France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For the Near East Region, there are two candidates for two seats for the period November 2001 to 31 December 2004. Libya and Qatar. For the Near East, for the period 1 January 2003 to November 2005, there are three candidates for three seats, Egypt, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

North America, for the period November 2001 to 31 December 2004, there are two candidates for two seats: Canada and the United States of America.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For the Southwest Pacific Region, period 1 January 2003 to November 2005, there is one seat and one candidate, Australia.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For Latin America and the Caribbean for the period November 2001 to 31 December 2004 there are five seats and five candidates. The candidates are Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba and Mexico.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For this vote for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 1 January 2003 to November 2005, we will not use the electronic voting system. We will have a secret ballot, and I will read the procedures that we have to follow.

With the secret ballot, all delegates will receive a ballot paper with two boxes indicating the candidates. Delegates should place an X in the box that corresponds to their choice of candidate. Please note that in accordance with Rule XII-4(c), of the General Rules of the Organization, blank ballot papers will be recorded as an abstention. Please also note that, in accordance with Rule XX-4(d) of the same Rule, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.

We have appointed two tellers to supervise the secret ballot: United Kingdom and United Republic of Tanzania.

The Assistant Secretary-General will read out the names of the Members. On hearing your name, will you please proceed to the voting area.

Vote
Vote
Votación

C 2001/RS/14

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION 2003 - 2005
	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE


1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	144
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	10

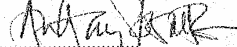
4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	134
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	134

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	68
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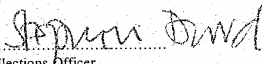
Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
Guatemala	82	Panama	52

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma

Mr C.R. MAHALU
Tanzania, U.R. of

Signature
Firma

Mr A. BEATTIE
UK

9/11/01
Date
Fecha


Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

RSLA

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I should like to congratulate the distinguished Representative of Guatemala as a new Member to the Council for Latin America and Caribbean Region for the years 2003 to 2005. We wish him every success.

We have finished the process of electing the Members of the Council. We shall move to the election of the Independent Chairman of the Council, in accordance with documents C 2001/LIM/15 and also C 2001/LIM18 and C 2001/LIM/21, the Second and Fourth Reports of the General Committee.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will proceed to establish the quorum, and then I will ask the Legal Counsel to speak about the voting procedure.

The number present is 138. We have a quorum.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Just a brief explanation on the vote, so that we are clear.

The provisions applicable to the election of the Independent Chairman of the Council are the following: Rule XII.3 of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the required majority for an election to fill one elective place shall be more than one-half of the votes cast.

Votes cast means the total number of votes expressed and shall not include abstentions and defective ballots. In an election by secret ballot, abstention means blank ballots or ballots marked "abstention". A ballot paper carrying notations or marks other than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote shall be considered defective. In addition, a ballot paper carrying more votes than positions to be filled – in our case it is one position – shall also be considered defective.

Let me give you a practical example of an election, such as the present one, where we have three candidates for one elective place. If candidate (A) obtains 30 votes, candidate (B) obtains 20 votes and candidate (C) obtains 10 votes and we have 10 abstentions and five defective ballots, the number of votes cast will be 60. The majority required shall, consequently, be 30 plus one. That is 31. In the case I mentioned, since no candidate obtained the majority, a new ballot is required.

In view of the decision taken by the Conference on the recommendation of the General Committee, this second ballot will not include the candidate having obtained the smallest number of votes. In our example candidate (C). In the event of a tie, between the two candidates having received the smallest number of votes, a new ballot shall be held among all candidates, as decided this morning by the Conference, upon recommendation of the General Committee.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

This voting procedure will be by secret ballot. The delegations will receive a ballot paper with three boxes, indicating the names of the candidates. The Representatives, here present, should place a (X) in the box that corresponds to the candidate of their choice.

In accordance with Rule XII-10(c), of the General Rules of the Organization, the Chairman of the Conference has appointed two tellers from among the delegations. Therefore, I invite Australia and India to proceed to take their positions as tellers in this vote.

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

Vote
Vote
Votación

C 2001/RS/17

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ELECTION DU PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL ELECCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	145
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0


4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	144
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	144

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	73
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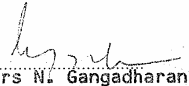
Elected - Elus - Eligidos	Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	Eliminated - Eliminés - Eliminados
	Mr Tjibbe Joustra 58 Mr Aziz Mekouar 49	Mr F. Zenny 37

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma

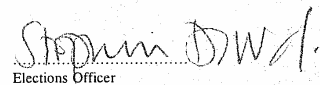

Mr P. Röss
Australia

Signature
Firma


Mrs N. Gangadharan
India

9/11/01

Date
Fecha


Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

SECRETARY-GENERAL

This means that we will begin again. We will have a second round of voting with two candidates, Mr Tjibbe Joustra and Mr Aziz Mekouar.

Juán NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Solicitamos en nombre del Grupo de los 77 quince minutos de receso para un rápido intercambio de opiniones con los Jefes de las delegaciones del Grupo de los 77. La misma será en la Sala del Caribe a la izquierda de esta sala de Conferencia. Reitero, solicitamos la presencia de los Jefes de delegaciones del Grupo de los 77 en la Sala Caribe y le solicito quince minutos de receso.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I should like to ask the Legal Counsel to clarify the request just made by Cuba.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Of course it is up to the Conference to decide but, from a legal point of view, the request of Cuba for a 15-minute break is perfectly legal. There is no problem because the vote that you are going to have afterwards is a new ballot, so there is no interruption in the voting procedure. The request of Cuba is a legal one, and it is up to the Conference to decide.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

If there are no comments, if there is no objection, then I believe we should give Cuba the time requested but it should not exceed 20 minutes.

The meeting was suspended from 17.45 to 17.55

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 45 to 17 h 55

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.45 horas a las 17.55 horas

SECRETARY-GENERAL

According to the established procedure, we will now set up the quorum. The instructions are as before.

The number of persons present is 130. We have a quorum.

We will proceed as before. The vote will be by secret ballot.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We would like to offer a warm welcome to the Director-General, Jacques Diouf. We will now resume our work on the Agenda Item on the Election of the Independent Chairman of the Council.

We have concluded the counting of the ballots and I would ask the Secretary-General to give us the results.

C 2001/RS/17/A

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ELECTION DU PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL ELECCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO
	1	


1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	144
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

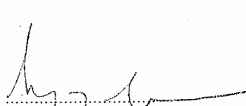
4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	144
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	144

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	73
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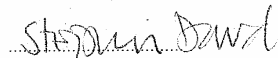
Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos		Eliminated - Eliminés - Eliminados	
Mr Aziz Mekouar	73	Mr Tjibbe Joustra	71		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma 
Mr P. Ross
Australia

Signature
Firma 
Mrs N. Gangadharan
India

2/11/01
Date
Fecha


Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

RSMP
ZX2073

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank those who took upon themselves the responsibility to tally the votes and I would like to congratulate Mr Mekouar, who is our new Independent Chairman of Council.

I would also like to thank Mr Tjibbe Joustra for standing for election. I trust and hope that he shall continue his very important collaboration and cooperation with this Organization.

Once again, Mr Mekouar, congratulations on your election to this post and I wish you full success in expediting your appointed duties. We know that you are going to take upon yourself very important tasks and responsibilities. Rest assured that you do have the necessary skills and competence to see your task through with success and this in close collaboration with the Director-General of the Organization and with the Membership thereof. In fact, it is the Council, as well as its various committees, that which actually nourishes the proceedings of Conference. The work of the Council is extremely important, as we all know and we are convinced, that you will deploy every possible effort to pursue and attain the aims of this Organization. These are lofty and noble objectives and aims, whose intent is to contribute to food availability and ensure food security to millions upon millions of people, as well as uprooting hunger, undernutrition and malnutrition in all countries of the world.

I would also like to congratulate the newly-elected Members of Council and I trust and hope that they will cooperate together with the Independent Chairman of Council, for the good of this Organization, its Members and the people it serves.

Once again, congratulations, and I wish you once again full success in your duties.

With that, I would like to give the floor to the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor. I wanted to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Secretariat, to thank the Member Nations who have conducted a very transparent and democratic process to elect the Members of the Council and, just now, the Chairman of the Council. It was a very close election. We saw that, with one vote, we would have found ourselves with a tie. This shows that this Organization works in a very democratic way and that countries provide their opinion conscientiously in the interests of the Organization.

I wish to congratulate the Members who have been elected to the Council. I also wish to congratulate the new Chairman and to pledge the full support of the Secretariat in ensuring that we work together to achieve the goals of this Organization.

I would also like to thank the candidates who have shown an interest in the Organization and indicated their willingness to make sacrifices for the Organization, because chairing the Council requires sacrifices. The Chairman not only needs to guide the work of the Council, but also he needs to be present at all the meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees, at the different Regional Conferences of the Organization, and naturally, at the Conference. It also requires much effort to bring together the views of the now 184 Members of the Organization coming from different environments, different backgrounds, different levels of economic development and different cultures, who are all striving to achieve the goal of ensuring the most fundamental of human rights, the right to food.

I would also like to thank the countries who have presented candidates, both the Netherlands and Jamaica, who have shown an interest in serving the Organization by presenting us some of their best professionals. I would like to express my gratitude to them and we, in the Organization, will always be indebted to them for their commitment to our common goals.

This Conference has also been, I must say, one of the best, if not the best, Conference that I have witnessed, in the spirit of which we have worked, in the fact that all decisions went through a long process of discussion, of exchanges of views, of arguments being given in favour of or against different approaches, with all having the same aim, of making this Organization successful.

The fact that we agreed by consensus on a new date for the Summit is one of the surest ways to make this Summit a success. The fact that we were able, after seven years of negotiations, to approve the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources is a second indication of success. The fact that we adopted our Programme of Work and Budget by consensus is again another indication of success. And our Voluntary Trust Fund, thanks to the generosity of Italy, but also to the commitments that have already been made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, by Venezuela and by Libya, has been given a good start. In fact, I was saying that we might even go beyond US\$500 million; I am starting to be very optimistic. You are making me become optimistic. All those and, naturally, the inauguration of so many facilities that have been provided by Member Nations to improve the environment of our Organization, with their own resources, all those are reasons for us to be encouraged and also to be grateful.

I, therefore, would like to thank each and every one of you for having made our Conference such a success. I am sure, with the same support and help, we will make the Summit the best of the summits of the United Nations System.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Aziz MEKOUAR (Président indépendant du Conseil - élu)

Je voudrais avant tout remercier tous ceux qui ont appuyé ma campagne, qui m'ont aidé au cours de ces derniers mois et tous ceux qui ont voté pour moi aujourd'hui. Je voudrais également remercier tous les autres, qui au moment de mon élection, dans un élan d'unanimité pour le nouveau Président, ont applaudi le vainqueur, disons celui qui a eu le plus de votes. Enfin, je voudrais remercier toute mon équipe; sans elle, je n'aurais certainement pas réussi à obtenir le résultat que j'ai obtenu ce soir.

Je voudrais remercier également Monsieur le Directeur général pour les mots qu'il a eu à mon égard et je peux l'assurer que je remplirai mes fonctions de Président indépendant du Conseil avec toute la détermination et l'abnégation qui est nécessaire pour aider l'Organisation à atteindre les objectifs qui lui ont été assignés par les Pays Membres au cours des différentes Conférences et différents Conseils.

Je voudrais répéter ce que j'ai dit à tous ceux avec qui je parlais au cours de ces derniers jours: comment je conçois le rôle de Président du Conseil. Je pense qu'il s'agit là d'un rôle essentiel, extrêmement important car il s'agit d'un rôle de trait d'union entre les Pays Membres, l'Organisation et le Secrétariat. C'est un rôle essentiel parce que le Président doit être à l'écoute des Pays Membres, comprendre quels sont leurs objectifs et leur volonté, essayer d'organiser le consensus et aider le Secrétariat dans son travail de tous les jours. C'est ainsi que je vois mon rôle pour les prochaines années où j'aurai l'honneur de présider ce Conseil.

Je peux vous assurer tous que je serai toujours disponible, à l'écoute de tous, et je suis à votre entière disposition. Je vous remercie encore de nouveau tous et à très bientôt. Dans les prochains jours, nous avons la première réunion du Conseil sous ma présidence. Encore une fois, merci.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We would like to congratulate Mr Aziz Mekouar and wish him every success in discharging his future duties.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 19.05 hours
La séance est levée a 19 h 05
Se levanta la sesión a las 19.05 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2 – 13 November 2001 Rome, 2 – 13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2 – 13 de noviembre de 2001
THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING TREIZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 13ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
12 November 2001

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 00
sous la présidence de Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Before we begin our morning's agenda, I should like to call on the Secretary-General to take the floor to give a few explanations.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

It is my task to draw your attention to an omission to today's journal. Attention of delegates is drawn to the fact that the adoption of the Report of Commission II will take place this afternoon immediately after the Conference completes its agenda items. That should have been included in today's journal but was omitted.

PART III - LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)**TROISIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES ET ADMINISTRATIVES (suite)****PARTE III - ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)****16. Payment by the European Community to Cover Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization****16. Paiement par la Communauté européenne des dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut d'État Membre de l'Organisation****16. Pago de la Comunidad Europea para sufragar los gastos derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización****Fifth Report of the General Committee (C 2001/LIM/25)****Cinquième Rapport du Bureau (C 2001/LIM/25)****Quinto Informe del Comité General (C 2001/LIM/25)****CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)**

Now I should like to call upon you to make sure that you have the Fifth Report of the General Committee dealing with the European Community, document C 2001/LIM/25.

As you may notice paragraphs 1 to 7 of the Fifth Report of the General Committee concerns the payment by the European Community to cover its expenses arising out of its Membership in the Organization. Paragraph 8 concerns a statement to the Conference by a representative of the FAO staff.

Are there any comments on this document? I see none.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

15. Scale of Contributions 2002-2003 (Draft Resolution)**15. Barème des contributions 2002-2003 (Projet de résolution)****15. Escala de cuotas para 2002-2003 (Proyecto de resolución)****CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)**

Now we move on to Item 15, namely the Scale of Contributions for the years 2002-2003.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In connection with this item, the Secretariat has been informed that a group of countries dealing with this matter wish to meet this morning. Consequently, it may be necessary, if the Conference so decides, to suspend discussion on this matter until this Group has had a chance to complete its consultations and until the Resolutions Committee has had a chance to finish its work on that particular Resolution.

If the Conference wishes, therefore, this matter may be taken up tomorrow morning.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Asi se acuerda.

17. Other Administrative and Financial Matters

17. Autres questions administratives et financières

17. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would like to add that arising from the decision that you just took concerning the Statement by the Representative of the Staff Association, the General Committee, as you noted, requested that the Staff Association be allowed five minutes to speak. The full text of the presentation by the Staff Association will be included in the Verbatim Records.

Blaise KUEMLANGAN (FAO Staff)

These are not easy times. The events of September 11 shocked the world and caused many people to re-examine their lives and take stock of their values. Most of the victims were dedicated workers who died simply because they had gone to their places of work that morning, as they did on every other morning. These people were the human face of the firms, businesses, and government services that employed them. I am sure many of you were especially moved, as we were, by the deaths of the firefighters who lost their lives attempting to save others. They died because they were public servants, in the truest sense of the word.

The staff members of FAO and WFP are international civil servants who also work to serve. We strive to assist countries in eradicating hunger, achieving food security, and reducing poverty. Staff members continue to carry out their duties with the highest professionalism and commitment, despite reduced budgets and staff cuts, and often with little regard for personal safety. Recent world events have made many of us recognise once again the fragility of life. Therefore, if we are going to risk our lives by coming to work, then we need to believe fervently in the objectives of the organisations we serve, and we do.

It is our passion for the mission of FAO and WFP that leads us to work with energy and dedication and strive to improve ourselves and our organisations. Staff members work on an incredible variety of subject matters within the FAO and WFP mandates. Our staff members have worked actively to distribute food in drought-stricken areas, to supply farmers with tools and seeds, to teach village workers about animal diseases and to educate families about nutrition, in large part behind the scenes. Although the World Food Summit: *five years later* has been postponed, our efforts to ensure food security continue. After such major meetings, the staff of FAO and WFP work tirelessly to implement the programme of work set by you, the representatives of our member nations.

In addition to our regular work, many staff serve their fellow staff members as elected staff representatives. My colleagues and I, representing the three staff associations of FAO and WFP, put into practice our commitment to our organisations by working as volunteers for the benefit of staff and for the improvement of our organisations. For example, we have worked with the International Civil Service Commission re-drafting the standards of conduct for international civil servants, which underline that every person has the right to be treated with integrity, respect, courtesy, and dignity. Staff safety and security continue to be an essential concern for all the staff of FAO and WFP. We have worked with the Federation of International Civil Servants Associations – FICSA – to develop security policies for UN staff. In fact, for the first time ever, international civil servants addressed the UN Security Council directly on the issue of staff security last year, demonstrating its importance in these times.

Regrettably, the opening statement of the UN Security Management System says: "The primary responsibility for the security of UN staff, their dependants and their property rests with the host government!" This statement permits an easy way out of possible security problems on the part of the UN. In reality many staffers have lost their lives because the UN was not able to judge whether in the prevailing conditions of country X or Y such primary responsibility could rest on the Host Country.

There are many shortcomings at the country-level such as security plans which are ineffective, or the reluctance of responsible officials to declare a deterioration of security for political reasons, thus exposing their colleagues and their families to unnecessary risks. In short, we believe that the UN should not leave the primary responsibility for staff's security to the Host Government, which in many cases is unable to provide it, but should take the initiative whenever the situation justifies the early adoption of adequate security measures by the designated UN Security Coordinator in consultation with the relevant national authorities.

In the past, security issues seemed more important to those working in far-flung field duty stations but recent events have proven that none of us is secure. All of us, from those actually distributing food to refugees, to those working here in the FAO and WFP buildings, to those staffing the gates of our organisations and those sorting the mail, have an urgent need for clear, rational, and systematically enforced security rules. Staff members need to feel that their organisations care about their safety, and that their organisations are striving to address these and other staff needs.

Once our organisations have addressed staff security needs, they must ensure that the overall working conditions draw the best from staff and provide the best to staff in return. It is well known that adverse working conditions can undermine the work and objectives of an organisation. Worse, such conditions can diminish staff members' commitment to their organisations and shake their belief in the organisations' mission. Undeniably, everyone loses where staff are unhappy and demoralised. By contrast, where staff are well protected, well treated, respected, and valued, everyone benefits.

Staff associations contribute effectively to the smooth operation of our organisations and to their overall objectives. As staff we participate in collaborative committees with management, revising and streamlining administrative procedures, addressing such issues as redeployment, social security coverage, health and environmental safety for staff, offering constructive approaches to appropriate remuneration, and proposing improvements in security at Headquarters, on duty travel, and in the field.

Another example is in the area of human resources. It takes years to become international civil servants. We dedicate our careers to our organisations, hoping to apply our talents and knowledge and to develop new ones. We also hone our diplomatic skills, developing the ability to work with people from different cultures and to convey internationally accepted information while respecting local traditions.

Good policy would assume that experienced staff form the backbone of our organisations, therefore, our organisations should strive to retain good staff and reward those who work hard. Regrettably, this is not always the case. In recent biennia, limited resources have translated into a reduction of staff costs through abolition of posts and downgrading with consequent effects on promotion opportunities and workload. The lack of both career development policies and consistent hiring practices in our organisations has meant that certain staff members can remain in the same jobs for years. Contrary to the myth that some international civil servants stay with their organisations because they enjoy the perks provided, in many cases staff members stay with their organisation only because of their commitment to the organisation and its goals. It takes a certain sacrifice to continue working efficiently and effectively despite the lack of promotion opportunities.

Given the considerable costs of external recruitment and orientation of new staff, good policy would suggest that managers give primary consideration to the development of existing staff and the full utilisation of their skills and experience. While new ideas and new blood are desirable to keep our organisations vigorous, this does not justify the somewhat marginal consideration being given to experienced and committed internal candidates.

Issuing internal announcements for professional vacancies rather than external can have the added benefit of decreasing the time that it takes to fill vacancies. Delays in hiring mean increased workloads and decreased quality of outputs. Such delays also mean functions normally assigned to established posts are increasingly performed by non-staff persons, including consultants, retirees, and volunteers who are less accountable than staff members for results. Increased reliance on external assistance can undermine the institutional memory found in those who commit themselves to the UN and its ideals.

Inordinate use of non-staff members does not put the UN among “best practice” employers since it enables organisations to continue to benefit from the competence and experience of these employees without according them any of the rights and privileges normally accruing to long-time staff. There are hundreds of people dedicating themselves to our organisations, but who live from short contract to short contract, never knowing whether they should cancel their apartment leases, whether they will be covered by insurance should they have an accident during the imposed break in service, or whether a visible pregnancy at the end of a short contract might mean the non-renewal for another term. Within the constraints of budget parameters, you can help our organisations create posts for these individuals who deserve our respect.

Staff members also have concerns about how to achieve diversity and gender balance. Except for some notable appointments at management levels, the number of Professional women at FAO in particular is unacceptably low. The numbers of women among the ranks of FAO Representatives, who are the face of our organisation in member Nations, remain low. The barriers to General Service staff – whether male or female - moving into the Professional ranks are pervasive and entrenched, and are likely to worsen as the loss of higher-level GS posts widens the gap between the two categories. In working toward improving gender balance it remains important to value internal well-experienced staff. Policy goals should not be pitted one against the other.

Speeches like this often start or end with the statement that “our greatest resource is the staff.” Certainly, we the staff know this to be true: we know that FAO and WFP staff are the organisations’ repository of institutional memory, of expertise, and of commitment to improving the quality of life for all the world’s citizens. But do all of us here today share this view or is it for some merely a platitude? If we are truly considered to be the most important resource of the organisation, then we trust our views will be solicited, heard, valued and acted upon.

In closing let me, on behalf of the staff and its representative bodies, thank the Director General of FAO and distinguished delegates for giving us the opportunity to address the Conference. I hope that through this address, you have gained a sense of some of our concerns, our commitment to our organisations and our passion to make them better. There are many snapshots of staff and their activities which I could share with you but time permits me to mention just a few. We can tell you about how we have urged management to keep the premises of FAO and WFP open till late so that we can work longer. We can tell you, regrettably, about staff members dying in the line of duty. We can show you how many staff members donate funds and assistance every time a natural disaster strikes or fund small development projects in Member Nations. With your help we can contribute in many more ways to the improvement of these organisations and this world we share. We would welcome stronger liaison in dealing with issues of common concern, not only with the management of our organisations but also with you – the Member Nations, for the benefit of our organisations and ultimately for the achievement of our common objectives.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I should like to thank the Staff Representative for the statement.

I now call to a conclusion our work deliberations for this morning to enable the Committee to continue its work and the Working Group to meet.

The meeting rose at 10.30 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.30 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2 – 13 November 2001 Rome, 2 – 13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2 – 13 de noviembre de 2001
FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING QUATORZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 14ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
12 November 2001

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours
Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 55
sous la présidence de Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 14ª sesión plenaria a las 14.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-Raqabani,
Presidente de la Conferencia

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
QUATRIÈME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS (suite)
PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

20. Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee
20. Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité de la Caisse des pensions du personnel
20. Nombramiento de Representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

We can begin our Fourteenth Session of Plenary by considering Item 20, Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pensions Committee. We will be considering Document C 2001/14-Rev.1. This document contains all of the information you need for this Item. Paragraph 7 includes the proposals submitted to the General Conference for approval.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Just to present to the Members, who are before us, for consideration: one Member to serve from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2004, to replace Mr Jirí Novák from the Czech Republic; an Alternate Member to serve from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2004, to replace Mr M Khalifa from Egypt; one Alternate Member to serve from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002 to replace and complete the term of office of Mr Gaspard Kabura, Premier Conseiller of the Republic of Burundi, whose country's embassy to FAO has been transferred to Paris; one Member to serve from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2005 to replace Ms Korntip Ratanakomut of Thailand; and finally, one Member to serve from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2005 to replace Mr Leonardo Matos Berrido of the Dominican Republic.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

For the proposals *vis-à-vis* paragraph 7, which the Secretary-General has just read out, we have received, for the period 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2004, the candidature of Mr Christopher Richard, Alternate Permanent Representative of the United States to FAO. This is the candidature for Membership in the Committee. In addition, one from Mr Milan Paksi from the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, as Alternate Member.

For the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2005, the candidature for Membership is from Mr Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali Harbi, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sudan to FAO. In addition, Mr Muhamad Nahar Sidek, Assistant Agricultural Attaché of Malaysia to FAO, as Alternate Member.

Additionally, we have received the candidature of Mr Kiala Kia Mateva, Permanent Representative of Angola to FAO, who has been nominated by the Africa Region as Alternate Member to complete the term of office of Mr Gaspard Kabura, Consul of the Embassy of the Republic of Burundi to FAO, until the end of December 2001.

Mrs Dolores Margarita Cedeño Pérez, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to FAO, has been put forward as the successor of Mr Juan Borg, nominated by Conference in 1999 as Member of the Committee until 31 December 2003.

Those are the candidatures we have received.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

You have heard the proposals and since you have before you five names to fill the five vacant positions, I should like to ask you whether the Conference agrees to these appointments.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

Michael TABONG KIMA (Cameroon)

I had expected that you would request us to make some comments when we listened to the Staff Bodies that presented their case this morning.

I consider this a very important issue because, as we know, the success in any enterprise does not depend only on the machinery involved but on the type of people that work them. In the Staff Bodies of FAO, I must say – and permit me to say from my experience because I have been here longer than most of you – there is a wonderful improvement, there is an excellent cooperation which we have witnessed, there is thoroughness in the presentation of documents. I would say, the staff have been pulling their weight. This is not the first time that the staff have raised the issues about their conditions of service. They have done so before and this Conference said, as I remember, this matter should go back to the Director-General to look into their case.

While tacitly I would say that there have been a lot of improvements, I would say there is still room to do more. This time I would suggest that we should not only say that it should go back to the Director-General, but we should also make a point that the Secretariat or the Director-General should later report to us the improvements that have been carried out.

They raised the matter of gender balance, they raised the matter of promotions within the service which is only normal if they are working. In every enterprise you expect to be going up. If there are vacancies first look within the house before you advertise these positions.

About gender balance, I would say that the Director-General has made a remarkable improvement in bringing in a few more female staff at high levels. We can see the Secretary-General sitting over there. There are few Assistant Director-Generals. There also is a lot of improvement in the field but this is still not enough.

We should very firmly recommend to the Director-General that the case of Staff Bodies should be looked into with greater attention because they are those who are making us work well. Without their presence, without their presentation, without their cooperation and their collaboration we will be nowhere. Even the messenger, who carries a message, if he or she does not carry that message you may have to rise up from your seat to carry that message yourself. Starting from there, it is very important. The guards, who also risk their lives for our security.

There is much to be said. I am suggesting that we put this on paper. Either you want a resolution or we must say something and let it have an effect so that we can request the Director-General the next time to provide statistics on improvements that have been carried out.

PART V - OTHER MATTERS
CINQUIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS DIVERSES
PARTE V - OTROS ASUNTOS

21. Date and Place of the Thirty-second Conference Session
21. Date et lieu de la trente-deuxième session de la Conférence
21. Fecha y lugar del 32º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)

Bien que la traduction soit un peu en retard, je ne voudrais pas prolonger le débat. Je crois que la question qui a été soulevée par Son Excellence, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Cameroun, est une question très pertinente que ma délégation fait sienne et appuie fermement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Concerning the dates proposed for the next Conference, the dates to consider are 29 November to 10 December 2003 and the place would be FAO Headquarters in Rome. That is the proposal before us.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Does the Conference agree to convene in the Thirty-second Session from 29 November to 10 December 2003?

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Asi se acuerda.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

I do not mean to hold up the proceedings but may I ask why the dates are so much later than this year? Are there other UN meetings or holiday periods that are being taken into consideration? When I go back to my capital I would like to have some sort of explanation, if I may, from the Secretariat please.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am told that we have to take into consideration the dates of Ramadan, which fall around that period, and adjust our timing accordingly.

Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate, I would have agreed to this change in dates but if it is related to Ramadan, I should like to express the following observation. Ramadan is a month of action and work and not cessation and suspension of activity and work. Most of the battles were waged in Ramadan and I, therefore, believe that this justification is unacceptable. If there are other justifications and reasons I very much welcome them.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I should like to ask if there are further requests for the floor.

Accordingly, the Conference agrees to the proposed dates for the next Session.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

When I saw the proposal my first reaction was the fact that the Conference was being pushed too far towards the end of the year. When I received the explanation from the Secretary-General I thought, yes, there may be some strong reason. But having heard what my distinguished friend and colleague from Sudan has said – who, by the way, is a very distinguished Muslim – I find the reasoning given by the Secretary-General a little unconvincing. I am, therefore, suggesting that we move the Conference to a date somewhat closer to what we had this year, unless there are other compelling reasons for this change.

Bandar Ben Abdel Mohsin AL SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic)

I fully agree that work does not stop in Ramadan. The problem is a problem of the delegations because there is the hour of breakfast in Ramadan, which is approximately 17:00 hours or 17:30 hours. That is why we have to adjourn our meetings before 17:00 hours or 17:30 hours and, therefore, this may be a justification.

There was a Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, namely to respect the religious considerations and habits of other countries. If we observe other hours, that is we start at 07:00 hours and adjourn by 17:00 hours in the afternoon, then we would have no objection.

Charles J. MATABWA (Malawi)

I simply wanted to support what Nigeria said but with the explanation given just now, affecting hours over suspending meetings, I do not know what to think. Otherwise, I was supporting Nigeria in that we push the dates closer to those of this year.

Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I believe in the ruling pronounced by Saudi Arabia but I also believe that, when the delegates are travelling or on a trip, then they are exempted from fasting and they can make up for it once they return to their homelands. Therefore, there is no objection to a person not fasting if he is travelling. If there are any other reasons, we would gladly abide by them. Ramadan is not a time for suspending any work. This is what we would like to confirm, and what every reasonable Muslim should confirm.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I am a Christian, but I have lived with Muslims, and Ramadan is very important to them. For those Muslims who reside in Rome, there is no problem if the Conference is conducted while they are fasting. However, most of the other delegates who come from their own capitals will be residing in hotels, so it will be very difficult to suspend or to fast at any other time. Had the Conference been for one, two or three days, it would have been all right, but this is for two or three weeks and therefore would not be justified. The delay from 29 November to 10 December is well thought out and the Conference should take place on those planned dates.

Tourad OULD MOHAMEDAHID (Mauritanie)

Je crois que les dates qui sont proposées sont assez correctes parce que le Ramadan est effectivement un mois assez difficile, c'est un mois de religion, c'est un mois de prière. Effectivement on peut travailler, mais particulièrement à Rome la journée se termine tard. On finit tôt le Ramadan, vers 5 h de l'après-midi, et je crois qu'il n'est pratiquement pas possible de suivre la Conférence et faire le Ramadan ensemble. Je crois que les dates du 29 novembre au 10 décembre sont de bonnes dates.

Bandar Ben Abdel Mohsin AL SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original Language Arabic)

What I wanted to say is that I did not pronounce a ruling, as mentioned by Sudan, but I merely expressed my view, namely, that during the month of Ramadan it would be rather difficult for some delegates to observe fasting.

I am in no place to issue a *fatwa* or to submit an official ruling and, if we work, we may very well work on until 19.00 hours.

Point of Order***Point d'ordre******Punto de Orden*****Krassimir KOSTOV (Bulgaria)**

I raise this point of order only to confirm the fact that we have opened a discussion on a matter upon which we took a decision. In fact, in the course of this very interesting and useful conversation – I see it that way – I have heard no reasoning why the Conference should not take place on the dates indicated. I think that we should respect the Secretariat.

The only thing that I wanted to say is that I have grown up in a half Muslim village and I have learned from that personal experience that all religions deserve respect, and in fact, the Muslims said the month of Ramadan should be respected. That is why I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for carefully looking into this and also the practice of the United Nations.

As we have not heard any arguments as to why the Conference should not take place on the dates that we have just sorted out, I just want to ask you to confirm that we have agreed to the dates proposed by the Secretariat.

Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Once more, I should like to repeat I am not against the postponement if there are other reasons than it being the month of Ramadan. If delegations are travelling or are on a trip, they are very well entitled not to observe the fast.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

In fact, it is only a matter of several days. The proposed dates are from 29 November to 10 December and, therefore, the difference in timing is a matter of days, not worthy of heated discussions.

Accordingly, I believe that the proposal submitted by the Secretariat enjoys the agreement and support of most delegations.

22. Any Other Matters**22. Autres questions****22. Otros asuntos**

22.6 In Memoriam

22.6 In Memoriam

22.6 In memoriam

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Since the last Conference Session, a number of our staff members have died while in service. It is my task to inform the Conference of their names, after which the Chairman will ask us to recognize their memory.

Ms Agnes Kayaya-Inambao, Ms Alice Chantal Uwimana, Ms Florence Chibale, Ms Micaela Longhi, Ms Mona Zaki, Mr I. Ouedraogo, Mr K. Senatsi, Mr L.D. Solo, Mr Lorenzo Delucia, Mr M.K. Agbemava, Mr Moorosi Raditapole, Mr S. Kassapu, Mr Simon Ndinzemenshi and Mr Y. A. Abdilleh.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

May I kindly request the assembly to stand for one minute of silence in observance of the memory of those staff members who died since our last Conference in 1999.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

Michael TABONG KIMA (Cameroon)

If I had been given the chance, I would have liked to have said something before we stood up for one minute.

What I want to say is almost in line with what we have just done. It is regarding a very sad event in one country in Africa, that is Algeria. Those of us who have watched the television and listened to the news will have seen that a natural disaster has just befallen Algeria: heavy floods have carried away 500 lives. Yesterday it was 300. I have just been following up; they are digging up the dead and there are now more than 500. This is a very sad loss. Many others are now without homes.

This disaster, as you will know, is again going to affect Africa and its food insecurity position, because there are many more lives missing. I would like to ask the Chairman to allow us to stand for another one minute for those who have just died.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Let us observe a minute of silence in honour of those victims.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

Ahmed HACHEMI (Algérie)

En ma qualité de Membre et de Représentant de la délégation algérienne, je voudrais tout d'abord remercier Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur du Cameroun, en sa qualité de Représentant et d'Ambassadeur de son pays en Italie, et de doyen du corps diplomatique ici à Rome, pour avoir été très sensible à l'horreur suite aux inondations qui ont affecté mon pays. Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour dire toute la douleur qui a affecté mon pays, qui a affecté les populations de mon pays, et dire combien nous avons été sensibles aux mots particulièrement touchants des délégations qui nous ont approchés dès ce matin pour exprimer leur sympathie et leur solidarité, surtout au peuple algérien, suite à ces inondations qui ont coûté la vie à des centaines d'algériens et d'algériennes.

Je voudrais également saisir cette opportunité pour vous faire part, et faire part à toutes les délégations qui sont ici présentes à notre auguste assemblée, pour dire que des efforts sont actuellement menés par le Gouvernement algérien pour faire face à cette nouvelle catastrophe nationale, et pour dire également qu'un appel à la solidarité internationale a été lancé suite à ces intempéries qui ont frappé l'Algérie et son peuple.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank the delegate from Algeria. There is no doubt that this is a catastrophe that hit Algeria and I hope that the Algerian people will be able to overcome this tragedy.

I am absolutely certain that the international community, which we represent here, will do everything possible in order to relieve the suffering of those who have been hit by these floods. I think every country will do everything it can in order to help Algeria through these difficult times.

To conclude this item, we are going to turn to the list of subjects given at the end of the agenda, document C 2001/1-Rev.1, on which information documents are tabled. You will recall that the General Committee, in its first Report, had recommended, as given in report C 2001/LIM/18, para 2, that delegates wishing to comment on these information documents be given an opportunity to do so under this item. The documents are C 2001/INF/17, C 2001/INF/13, C 2001/INF/10, C 2001/LIM/2, and C 2001/INF/21. Does any delegate wish to commit on any of these information documents?

Christian MONNOYER (Belgique)

A l'occasion de ce point, je voudrais m'exprimer au nom des États Membres de l'Union européenne.

Les manifestations parallèles organisées cette année par le Secrétariat autour de la Conférence se sont révélées très intéressantes. Nous les avons particulièrement appréciées. Nous souhaiterions attirer l'attention du Secrétariat sur un aspect d'organisation en vue des prochaines sessions de la Conférence et du Conseil. Ces sessions seront sans doute entourées, comme la présente, de telles manifestations parallèles ouvrant des débats sur des questions qui sont au cœur de la politique de cette Organisation et de ses Membres. Il serait avantageux pour ces derniers, et utile pour le plein succès de ces événements que ceux-ci soient annoncés avec un délai suffisant pour permettre aux délégations d'être composées en conséquence, au moment approprié, et de participer ainsi d'une manière plus adéquate et efficace à ces manifestations. Ceci est spécialement le cas pour celles qui ont un caractère interactif.

Nous invitons, dès lors, le Secrétariat à fournir aux États Membres une information précoce, même si elle est encore incomplète, sur les événements prévus parallèlement aux sessions de la Conférence et du Conseil afin de pouvoir en tenir compte utilement dans leur préparation.

Nous pensons également que les Membres de la FAO et le Secrétariat devraient réfléchir ensemble à la manière de rendre, à terme, l'organisation de la Conférence plus opérationnelle et davantage centrée sur les décisions politiques à prendre.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

Does any other delegate wish to take the floor?

We are going to move now to the adoption of the Report of Commission II. The two documents are C 2001/REP/7 and C 2001/REP/8.

I would like to ask the Chairman of Commission II to come to the podium in order to present the Report of Commission II.

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

**DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY, PART VII (FROM COMMISSION II) (C 2001/REP/7)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLÉNIÈRE, PARTIE VII (COMMISSION II)
(C 2001/REP/7)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA, PARTE VII (DE LA COMISIÓN II)
(C 2001/REP/7)**

**DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY, PART VIII (FROM COMMISSION II) (C 2001/REP/8)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLÉNIÈRE, PARTIE VIII (COMMISSION II)
(C 2001/REP/8)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA, PARTE VIII (DE LA COMISIÓN II)
(C 2001/REP/8)**

Carl-Josef WEIERS (Chairman, Commission II)

First, I want to present to you the Draft Report on the subject of Programme Implementation 1998-1999, which is under Item 10. This item was discussed in Commission II last Monday. The Draft Report gives the consensus successfully agreed upon in the Drafting Committee and was accepted last Thursday by Commission II in full.

I would like to present it to you and ask you for your acceptance of document C 2001/REP/7.

Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I attended some of the meetings of Commission II. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the role played by the Chairman of Commission II, Mr Weiers, his Vice-Chairmen from Sudan and Canada, and all those who took part in the Drafting Committee. I think the result of their work is very much appreciated.

On behalf of Sudan, I would like to thank them all for what they have done.

Carl-Josef WEIERS (Chairman, Commission II)

The second item we dealt with was the Programme Evaluation Report 2001, which is under Item 11. The subject was discussed in Commission II last Monday. The Report was drafted on the basis of consensus under the very able chairmanship of the representative of Afghanistan, and the result was accepted by Commission II last Thursday.

I present the result to you under document C 2001/REP/8, and would like to ask you to endorse this document.

*Draft Reports of Plenary, Part VII, including resolution, and Part VIII, were adopted
Les projets de rapport de la Plénière, Partie VII, y compris la résolution, et Partie VIII, sont adoptés*

Los proyectos de informe de la Plenaria, parte VII, incluida la resolución, y parte VIII, son aprobados

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I think we have concluded our work for this afternoon's meeting. We will continue with the adoption of the Report of Commission I at 10.30 hours.

I have to leave tomorrow morning so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and say the following.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, ladies and gentlemen: tomorrow we will be concluding the work of the Thirty-first Session of the Conference of FAO, after having worked in an excellent manner. I would like to thank you all for your perseverance and your patience during the last two weeks.

I would like to thank you for the good spirit and enthusiasm that prevailed at our meetings. I would also like to thank you for your cooperation in trying to achieve sustainable and agricultural development that will put an end to poverty and hunger in the world.

During the last two weeks, we have been honoured by the presence of some eminent persons. We heard from the ex-President of Chile, as well as statements by the Vice-President of Guatemala and the representative of His Holiness the Pope, in addition to the heads of delegations. These all enriched our deliberations.

We have also adopted the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources after seven years of discussions and it is now awaiting ratification. We have also accepted and adopted FAO's Budget, which is higher than the previous budget.

We have also been honoured by four new countries joining FAO.

Thanks of course go to the Government of Italy for the generous contribution made to the Trust Fund, which represents 20 percent of the budget of that Fund. We have also listened to the readiness of some countries to contribute to this Fund.

The statements made by all countries have led me to believe that we all take our work seriously and we are going to do everything possible in order to eradicate poverty and hunger from the world.

The World Food Summit held in 1996 said that in 20 years the number of hungry in the world would be reduced by half. This is a long period and the international community has not yet been able to achieve that objective. We hope that our political will will be higher in the next Summit and we will be able to make up for what we have not been able to achieve during the last years, in order to reduce the number of hungry in the world.

If we all have the political will, we will be able to solve problems and we will help increase the income of more farmers in their work. This will be done in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation. This is what is called for by the international community and all the UN Organizations, and we in FAO, as well as in IFAD and WFP, have done great things and they should be an example to be followed by the other UN Agencies.

I would like to ask you to allow me to thank Mr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of FAO, for his efforts and interest in agricultural development, raising the income of farmers in developing countries and achieving food security in those countries which are still striving to attain that security.

I would also like to thank my colleagues in the General Committee for their cooperation. Thanks to their recommendations, the Conference has been able to reach successful results.

I would also like to thank the staff of the Secretariat for their excellent preparations and I would like to thank all who have contributed to this success. There are many people who are working behind the scenes and they have contributed a lot to the success of this Conference. I would like to say a special thanks to the interpreters, because they have enabled us to deal with difficult matters.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the new Members of FAO. I would like to congratulate Mr Aziz Mekouar on his election as Independent Chairman of the Council, together with the other Members who have been elected.

I would have liked to be with you to the end of the Conference but I have other obligations and I have to leave early in the morning. Mr Francis Montanaro Mifsud, the Vice-Chairman and Ambassador to Malta and its Permanent Representative to FAO, will be conducting your deliberations tomorrow.

I would like to thank you all. I hope that we will meet again and I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me when you visit my country, the United Arab Emirates.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL

Je voudrais en cette période qui précède la fin des travaux que vous avez conduits avec une grande maîtrise, une grande sérénité, un grand savoir-faire, vous dire à quel point le Secrétariat de l'Organisation vous est reconnaissant pour la manière avec laquelle vous avez veillé à rapprocher les points de vue, à clarifier les questions qui étaient discutées, et à arriver à chaque fois à des décisions qui renforcent l'action de notre Organisation.

Cette Conférence, j'ai eu l'occasion de le dire, est certainement une des Conférences les plus réussies de la FAO, au regard du nombre important de décisions qui ont été prises, mais surtout de l'esprit de consensus dans lequel ces décisions ont été adoptées, et de l'atmosphère, de franche coopération qui a caractérisé les discussions. Je voudrais donc, au nom de l'Organisation, vous exprimer notre profonde gratitude, vous dire à quel point nous vous sommes reconnaissants du travail que vous avez accompli. Que ce soit en plénière, au sein du Bureau, ou dans les discussions en aparté, vous avez toujours apporté le leadership nécessaire au succès de nos travaux.

L'Organisation vous est donc très reconnaissante et, personnellement, je vous dois aussi une profonde gratitude pour ce que vous avez réussi au nom de l'Organisation. Je voudrais donc, en mon nom personnel, au nom du Secrétariat, et je suis sûr, au nom de toutes les délégations qui ont participé à ces travaux, vous exprimer tous nos remerciements les plus sincères.

The meeting rose at 16.00 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.00 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2 – 13 November 2001 Rome, 2 – 13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2 – 13 de noviembre de 2001
FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING QUINZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 15ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
13 November 2001

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.50 hours
Francis Montanaro Mifsud,
Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 50
sous la présidence de Francis Montanaro Mifsud,
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 10.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Francis Montanaro Mifsud,
Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

PART III - LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
TROISIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES ET ADMINISTRATIVES (suite)
PARTE III - ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

15. Scale of Contributions 2002-2003 (Draft Resolution)

(C 2001/LIM/8-Rev.1-Sup.1-Corr.1; C 2001/LIM/26)

15. Barème des contributions 2002-2003 (Projet de résolution)

(C 2001/LIM/8-Rev.1-Sup.1-Corr.1; C 2001/LIM/26)

15. Escala de cuotas para 2002-2003 (Proyecto de resolución)

(C 2001/LIM/8-Rev.1-Sup.1-Corr.1; C 2001/LIM/26)

CHAIRMAN

I call the Fifteenth Plenary Meeting to order.

As you all know, yesterday another tragedy struck New York. Some delegates, and I would like to associate myself with them, have asked that this Conference commemorate the victims. I would, therefore, like you to observe a minute of silence in commemoration of the victims of the air crash in New York.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

CHAIRMAN

As you see from the Order of the Day, we now return to Item 15, Scale of Contributions 2002-2003. The relevant documents are C 2001/LIM/8-Rev.1, C 2001/LIM/8-Rev.1 Supp.1 Corr.1. C 2001/LIM/8 contains a Draft Resolution. C 2001/LIM/26 also contains a Resolution, concerning an invitation to make voluntary contributions, submitted by the delegations of GRULAC, set out in document C 2001/LIM/26 and the Fifth Report of the Resolutions Committee. After considering C 2001/LIM/8, we will go to C 2001/LIM/26.

I would like now to give the floor to Mr Mehboob, Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department, to introduce this Item on which, as you know, there has been a Working Group which has been consulting informally.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

Document C 2001/LIM/8-Rev.1 really gives the background to this Agenda Item but, just to recapitulate, this matter was considered by the Finance Committee and the Hundred and Twentieth Session of the Council where, because there was a diversity of views and the Council was unable to reach a consensus, it had decided that the Finance Committee reconsider the issue and that the Secretariat should brief Permanent Representatives based in Rome on this issue, which was done. The matter was considered again by the Hundred and Twenty-first Session of the Council, which recommended to the Conference that it appoint a Working Group to study ways of alleviating the burden on Members as a result of the changes in the Scale of Contributions. This Working Group was established. It met about four times and I understand the Chairperson of the Group will make a verbal report to this Plenary Session.

As you have pointed out, there are two Resolutions, one for the adoption of the Scale of Contributions and another one presented by the Member Nations of GRULAC.

KIM KYEONG-KIU (Korea, Republic of)

The Republic of Korea delegation raised the matter of the Scale of Contributions during the last Council in June. At that time, we said that we had to discuss this because we were facing a totally new dimension of scales. During the last several months, the Secretariat prepared a very good informative document and presented it to the Members. We really appreciated it. During the

Conference Session, the Working Group worked very hard. We also thank the Working Group members and the Secretariat for this.

Now it is time to rev up our discussion and we have to make a wise decision. Unfortunately, we have neither enough resources to solve this problem nor much time to discuss it. Briefly, the Republic of Korea, although it is one of the countries which were hit most seriously by the new Scale of Contributions, has decided, as a responsible Member of FAO, and for the further success of the FAO Mandate, to accept the Secretariat's proposal for the Scale of Contributions for 2002-2003 without any further intervention.

We also welcome the Resolution on Voluntary Contributions.

CHAIRMAN

I would assume that if there are no other requests from the floor, and in view of what we have heard from the distinguished delegate of Korea, that the Conference approves the Resolution contained in C 2001/LIM/8- Rev.1.

The Draft Resolution was adopted

Le Projet de Résolution est adopté

El Proyecto de resolución es aprobado

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

I do not know whether the Chairperson of the Working Group wishes to make a verbal report.

CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of the Working Group, as I understand, is the delegate of Uruguay.

Sra. Laura GALARZA (Uruguay)

Voy a leer los resultados del trabajo sobre la Escala de Contribuciones. Con el mandato de estudiar la manera de aliviar la carga para los Miembros como consecuencia de los cambios en la escala de cuotas, el grupo de trabajo, integrado por los Estados Miembros y la Secretaría, considera los siguientes aspectos:

- Soluciones transitorias adoptadas por otras agencias de las Naciones Unidas: luego de analizar las distintas gestiones realizadas por otras agencias especializadas de las Naciones Unidas, orientadas a aliviar los efectos negativos de la disminución del techo de contribuciones de Estados Unidos, 3 por ciento, se determinó que no era posible identificar alternativas de financiamiento viables para la FAO que permitieran solucionar este problema.
- Contribuciones voluntarias: algunos de los Estados Miembros consideraron esta alternativa como la más viable para aliviar los efectos negativos de la nueva escala de contribuciones. Si bien atractivas en principio, pueden resultar inciertas y eventualmente no confiables; sin embargo, si se puede lograr un compromiso real y no meramente expresiones vagas de apoyo, esta solución podría ser ideal.
- Utilización de los fondos de reservas de la cuenta de capitales de la Organización: la Secretaría de la FAO informó que debido a déficit acumulados en las distintas partidas de las cuentas de capitales de la Organización, no era posible utilizar el fondo de reserva existente o futuro, o sea que los distintos montos a recolectar irán a cubrir déficit identificados.
- Uso de las ganancias vía tipo de cambio: la Secretaría de la FAO informó que la Organización contrató a futuro para cubrir los desembolsos estimados para el bienio 2002-2003, donde no ganará ni perderá por eventuales variaciones y la paridad Dólar-Euro. En cuanto a las otras monedas, la operativa podría arrojar tanto ganancias como pérdidas por la falta de un mecanismo adecuado y además no existe un procedimiento administrativo contable capaz de identificar y embolsar tales ganancias eventuales. Corresponde, pues, el descarte y este curso de acción.

- Reducción de los programas presupuestarios: esta alternativa fue descartada por todos los Estados Miembros presentes, o sea que ninguno de ellos desea afectar los programas ya fijados para el presupuesto 2002-2003.

- Utilización de pagos atrasados: la Secretaría informó que el Director General de la FAO había presentado una propuesta para utilizar los fondos provenientes de los pagos atrasados para financiar actividades extra-presupuestarias que ya estaban identificadas en la propuesta presupuestaria 2002-2003.

En conclusión, el grupo de trabajo no ha podido identificar un curso de acción que pueda aliviar la carga contributiva de los Estados Miembros con recursos auténticos, con la sola excepción de las contribuciones voluntarias, a condición de que se obtenga un compromiso valedero y se verifiquen en la realidad.

Me complace destacar, en otro orden, la seriedad y contracción de la tarea que han exhibido en todo momento los integrantes del grupo de trabajo, tanto los Estados Miembros como la Secretaría, en un esfuerzo de proporciones tendiente a encontrar alguna solución viable y asequible. La enorme dificultad que se trasunta del propio mandato no hace sino avalar esta apreciación, no obstante la relatividad manifiesta en la conclusión final precedente. Agradezco la confianza que me han conferido en presidir estas deliberaciones.

WEN QIULIANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

My statement concerns the adoption of the Draft Resolution concerning the FAO Scale of Contributions for 2002-2003. Concerning this Scale, while applying the UN scale of assessment, FAO did not give full consideration to para 3 of Section C of UN Resolution 55/5, which stresses that there is no automatic implication for apportionment of the expenses of the specialized agencies, nor paras 3 and 4 of Section B, applying transitional measures. Therefore, China wishes to express its concern. Although the Conference established a Working Group on reducing developing countries' burdens for increased contributions, it did not find a practical solution after several days' discussions. For this, China expresses its regret.

I wish again to make the following remarks on the FAO Scale of Contributions for 2001. Firstly, the Resolution adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference in 1999 on the scale of assessments for 2000-2001 was in breach of FAO Resolution 42/55 and FAO traditions. It was also in breach of paragraph 5.1 of FAO's Financial Regulations. It was exactly for this reason that China reserved its position on the Resolution during the last Conference.

Secondly, the Resolution adopted by the last Conference on the scale of assessment deprived FAO Member Nations of the opportunity to consider exceptional circumstances and special reasons concerning the changed UN Scale of Contributions. Furthermore, there was no opportunity for Member Nations to digest and absorb the spirit of UN Resolutions.

Thirdly, although the Chinese delegation reserved its position on the Resolution adopted by the last Conference on the Scale of Contributions, in order to continue its consistent support to the endeavours of FAO and of its Director-General, and to support FAO in its efforts to reach the goals of the World Food Summit to eradicate poverty and hunger, the Chinese Government has decided to settle China's 2001 contribution as soon as possible, according to FAO's current Scale of Contributions. Such a decision was made under very difficult circumstances.

CHAIRMAN

Before I ask Mr Mehboob to comment on the observations of the delegate of China, I would like to know whether any other delegates have asked for the floor on this question.

It appears that no other delegate has asked for the floor. Mr Mehboob has no comments. He has noted the observations. Does the Legal Counsel have any comments to make on the observations of China? No comments, but they are in the Verbatim, so they are noted.

Do we have any requests from the floor on the second Resolution on which the Chairperson of the Working Group has spoken and has given the background. Do I take it then that the second Resolution in C 2001/LIM/26 is also approved by consensus?

The Draft Resolution was adopted

Le Projet de Résolution est adopté

El Proyecto de resolución es aprobado

Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)

Now that we have adopted both Resolutions on the issue of the Scale of Contributions for 2002-2003, Brazil would like to clarify its position on this matter.

My country understands that the scale, which was adopted, does not constitute a fair and balanced model of burden-sharing of financial obligations among Member Nations of an international organization. It is unacceptable that Brazil, a developing country, will have to face an increase of more than 60 percent in its contribution, which corresponds to almost US\$2.5 million. Many other developing countries, including the majority of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, are facing a similar situation.

We have heard some colleagues saying that since we accepted the scale of assessments of the United Nations, we should also accept the one proposed by the FAO Secretariat. This is not totally accurate, since our acceptance of the Scale in New York was done in a very particular context, which included the application of transitional measures and also the inclusion of a clause stating that the Scale should not be automatically applied in the Specialized Agencies.

While we are not satisfied with the adopted Scale of Contributions, Brazil decided not to block the consensus on this issue. We reaffirm, in this connection, our commitment with the objectives pursued by FAO and our support to its work in fighting hunger and malnutrition. We have to state very clearly, however, that as a result in the sharp increase in our contribution Brazil will have to face tremendous difficulties to keep honouring its financial obligations to this Organization.

CHAIRMAN

Your observations are noted.

Any other requests from the floor on this Item?

It appears there are no other requests for the floor so I take it that Item 15 is concluded.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME

CHAIRMAN

We now move to the Adoption of Report of Commission I.

I would invite the Chairman of Commission I to present the Draft Report of Plenary Part X (from Commission I). The documents are C 2001/REP/10 and C 2001/REP/11.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY PART X (FROM COMMISSION I) (C 2001/REP/10)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFÉRENCE – DIXIÈME PARTIE (DE LA COMMISSION I) (C 2001/REP/10)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE X (DE LA COMISIÓN I) (C 2001/REP/10)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY PART XI (FROM COMMISSION I) (C 2001/REP/11)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFÉRENCE – ONZIÈME PARTIE (DE LA COMMISSION I) (C 2001/REP/11)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE XI (DE LA COMISIÓN I) (C 2001/REP/11)

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA, (Presidente de la Comisión I)

Comparto con usted y con todos los señores delegados mi agradecimiento en nombre de mi país Guatemala por el altísimo honor que se me otorgó al designarme Presidente de la Comisión I de esta Conferencia, honor que tuve el placer de compartir con los Vicepresidentes de la Comisión, los Representantes de Nueva Zelandia y de Pakistán así como con el Presidente del Comité de Redacción de la Comisión, el Representante de Canadá Sr. Hankey, con los representantes de los Estados Miembros del Comité de Redacción y con los representantes de todos los miembros de nuestra Organización que tan creativamente participaron en las sesiones plenarias celebradas en esa Comisión, incluyendo a los personeros de Secretaría, no sólo de la Comisión, sino también del Departamento Jurídico.

La Comisión celebró seis sesiones y dos sesiones su Comité de Redacción: Adicionalmente quiero recalcar que fue designado un grupo informal de trabajo que determinó la posibilidad de consensos, grupo informal que reitera la importancia de esta modalidad que permite mucho acercamiento, transparencia, sinceridad y eficacia entorno a los temas. Permítaseme hacer una digresión para señalar que el Embajador Fernando Gerbasí, de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, sentó cátedra en el tema de fitogenéticos con la modalidad de Amigos del Presidente por él introducida y que en tanto coadyuvara al éxito de su empeño. Hasta aquí la digresión y vuelvo al tema.

En manos de los señores delegados se encuentran los documentos C 2001/REP/10 y C 2001/REP/11. Sin restar importancia al trabajo de la Comisión realizado sobre los otros temas, quiero hacer especial énfasis en la revisión del Código Internacional de Conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas. Se dio el más amplio consenso pues su aprobación dependió del consenso unánime, atendiendo a la especial y contundente fuerza moral que debe de tener ese ordenamiento voluntario. La Comisión encontró el camino para que su aprobación, a falta de ese consenso unánime, no tenga que esperar dos años a la celebración de la próxima Conferencia, proponiendo que la Conferencia delegue en el Consejo y sea éste quien pueda aprobarlo el año entrante, reduciendo la demora al mínimo.

El trabajo, para hacer posible su aprobación por el Consejo el próximo año, se ha iniciado de inmediato y ayer mismo por la tarde concluida la Comisión, se reunió la Secretaría: la señora Louise Fresco, con su vigor característico y los presidentes de los grupos regionales para preparar la consulta técnica que permita superar las diferencias y pueda allanar el camino para que el código sea aprobado por el próximo Consejo en año entrante.

Creo que debemos sentirnos satisfechos de haber encontrado el camino que conduzca al consenso, que lleve a la aprobación del Código revisado en el menor tiempo posible y evitando cualquier sombra de sospecha que pudiese enturbiar la fuerza moral que ese Código debe irradiar.

Me refiero finalmente al Plan de Acción sobre Género y Desarrollo 2002-2007, impecable documento de Secretaría enriquecido en el debate, especialmente en cuanto a la necesidad de que se produzcan los suficientes informes de su ejecución que permitan la constante evaluación de resultados y observaciones puntuales, habiéndose tenido a la vista el informe sobre la ejecución 1996-2001.

Algo más que una anécdota para concluir. Alguien recordó que "la caridad empieza por casa", viejo aforismo hispano, que "el candil para brillar por fuera debe brillar por dentro" y que entonces nuestra Organización en su representación, en sus cuadros, debe saber reflejar la acción propuesta sobre género y desarrollo cuya aprobación queda pendiente.

Agradezco la ocasión que se me ha brindado de poder servir; espero que el resultado merezca su aceptación en esta Plenaria, lo que entonces gratificaría el empeño de la Comisión I de esta 31ª Conferencia.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Chairman of Commission I for presenting the Report.

Can we now look at C 2001/REP/10? Any comments on C 2001/REP/10? I take it, then, that C 2001/REP/10 is approved?

The Draft Report of Plenary, Part X was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie X est adopté

Le proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte X es aprobado

CHAIRMAN

We now go on to C 2001/REP/11. Any comments on C 2001/REP/11? I take it that C 2001/REP/11 is approved.

The Draft Report of Plenary, Part XI was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie XI est adopté

Le proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte XI es aprobado

The meeting rose at 11.25 hours

La séance est levée a 11 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.25 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-first Session Trente et unième session 31º período de sesiones
Rome, 2 – 13 November 2001 Rome, 2 – 13 novembre 2001 Roma, 2 – 13 de noviembre de 2001
SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING SEIZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 16ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
13 November 2001

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr Francis Montanaro Mifsud
Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Francis Montanaro Mifsud,
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 16ª sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr Francis Montanaro Mifsud,
Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN

Before we start our proceedings, I would be grateful if you could once again look at C 2001/REP/11. We approved REP/11 this morning, but I overlooked drawing your attention to the last item, that is Item 22, which refers to the Ministerial Meeting on Experiences with Foot and Mouth Disease. Some of you will have noticed that I had omitted to mention this particular item when we went through C 2001/REP/11.

Are there any further comments? Then the approval stands.

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

CHAIRMAN

Would delegates please check that they have all the documents for this afternoon's Session: C 2001/REP/2, REP/3, REP/4, REP/5, REP/6, REP/6-Sup.1, REP/9-Rev.1, REP/12, REP/13 and REP/14.

We now go to C 2001/REP/2, Item 22. Any comments on Item 22 which refers to the various awards, the McDougall Lecture, the Margarita Lizárraga Medal?

**DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART II (C 2001/REP/2)
LE PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – PARTIE II (C 2001/REP/2)
EL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE II (C 2001/REP/2)**

CHAIRMAN

There are no comments.

*The Draft Report of Plenary, Part II, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie II, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte II, es aprobado*

CHAIRMAN

C 2001/REP/3. This concerns the election of the various office bearers of the Conference: Item 1, Item 2, as well as Item 3 which refers to the Agreement with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.

**DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART III (C 2001/REP/3)
LE PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – PARTIE III (C 2001/REP/3)
EL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE III (C 2001/REP/3)**

CHAIRMAN

There are no comments.

*The Draft Report of Plenary, Part III, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie III, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte III, es aprobado*

CHAIRMAN

C 2001/REP/4. Item 3, Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session. Any comments?

Item 4. Applicants for Membership. This is all narrative.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART IV (C 2001/REP/4)
LE PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – PARTIE IV (C 2001/REP/4)
EL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE IV (C 2001/REP/4)

CHAIRMAN

There are no comments.

The Draft Report of Plenary, Part IV, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie IV, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IV, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN

C 2001/REP/5, Item 7, International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. I will give you a little time to look over this, just in case you have not read it already. If there are any requests from the floor, let us have them.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART V (C 2001/REP/5)
LE PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – PARTIE V (C 2001/REP/5)
EL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE V (C 2001/REP/5)

PARAGRAPHS 1-9

PARAGRAHES 1-9

PÁRRAFOS 1-9

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

The United States would like to correct the text of paragraph 4 in this document, C 2001/REP/5 to more accurately reflect our statement that was made at the time of adoption.

The new text would replace the first sentence of paragraph 4 and it reads as follows: "One Member regretted that, despite consultations, other Members were not at that time in a position to accept a new Article on Essential Security. The Member stated that absence of such an article would preclude its ratification of the International Treaty."

Dag BRISEID (Norway)

It is paragraph 3 that I would like to have a comment on, where it says in the second line: " ... in the name of the Group of 77 and China ... ". What is said here is correct, but I think we would like to have an addition.

The rest of this paragraph could continue as follows: "This proposal was given immediate and unanimous support by the European Regional Group." My proposal is to add this sentence to better reflect what the situation was.

May I also say that this report is, of course, not able to reflect everything of what was said and meant. There were some very important statements made, including those from the European Regional Group, that explained positions, arguments and reasons for joining consensus and working for it. I think, in this situation, it is important that we make special reference to these statements and to the verbatim records of that time.

I would therefore like to have a sentence stating something like this: "Several countries and regions made statements and interventions explaining their position. Special reference is given to these remarks and explanations as they are reflected in the verbatim." Only by saying so we can obtain the full picture of what delegations meant and said.

CHAIRMAN

Of course this does reflect the position, which was made clear, of the European Region and reference to the debates also does justice, not only to the debate, but to the work and the difficult negotiations that went into the gestation of this Agreement.

Juán NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Mucho me complace verlo en la Presidencia de esta importante sesión.

Durante esta sesión de la Conferencia hemos aprobado el nuevo Tratado Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Estamos orgullosos de que haya sido el Grupo de los 77 y China los que propusieron su aprobación contando con el apoyo de la Región de Europa, confirmada por la votación efectuada.

El Tratado es el resultado de siete años de negociaciones para la revisión del ya existente Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos en armonía con el Convenio de la Diversidad Biológica y el texto del Tratado establece que estará estrechamente vinculado a la FAO y al Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica. Por lo tanto el Grupo de los 77 desea proponer que sea el Embajador Fernando Gerbasi quien presente el Tratado a la Conferencia de las partes del convenio.

Solicito que esto se refleje en el Informe de esta Conferencia, una vez que sea adoptado con el siguiente texto, repito, una vez que sea adoptado con el siguiente texto: "La Conferencia invita al Embajador Fernando Gerbasi a presentar el Tratado Internacional a la Conferencia de las partes del convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica en su sexta reunión en La Haya en abril del 2002."

Repito, queremos que sea adoptado el siguiente texto: "La Conferencia invita al Embajador Fernando Gerbasi a presentar el Tratado Internacional a la Conferencia de las partes del convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica en su sexta reunión en La Haya en abril del 2002."

A través de todas las palabras que se han manifestado después de la aprobación de este Convenio, hemos visto que casi ha sido un consenso felicitar a la Secretaría de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Nosotros estamos promoviendo que la Conferencia también lo haga y agradezca al Profesor José Esquinas Alcázar por el incalculable apoyo que ha dado desde el inicio en todo momento para facilitar el proceso negociador.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)

Ma délégation se réjouit de vous voir présider cette dernière minute de notre Conférence et je suis sûr qu'elle se terminera comme l'a souhaité le Président hier. L'intervention de ma délégation concerne l'ajout qui a été présenté par une délégation qui nous a précédé et il s'agit du paragraphe 1, si j'ai bien compris. Je vais essayer de relire le texte, ensuite je vais présenter mes considérations. La délégation a dit qu'il fallait ajouter: un Membre a regretté que, malgré des consultations, d'autres Membres n'étaient pas à l'époque à même d'accepter un nouvel article sur la sécurité essentielle, je crois c'est ça. Le Membre a rappelé que l'absence d'un tel article empêcherait la ratification du Traité international. Si vous lisez le paragraphe 4, la première phrase dit presque la même chose: un Membre a déclaré qu'à l'issue des consultations bilatérales, il était apparu qu'un nouvel article sur la sécurité nationale qu'il souhaitait proposer était inacceptable pour la majorité des Membres et il a fait remarquer qu'il lui serait difficile pour cette raison de ratifier le Traité international. Je ne sais pas si, pour le même point, il faudrait une phrase répétée deux fois d'une manière ou d'une autre. Je m'en remets donc à vous pour voir si cette phrase a peut-être été répétée, je ne sais pas pourquoi. Ce qui est dit au 1er paragraphe, c'est ce que nous avons au 4ème paragraphe.

CHAIRMAN

It is my understanding that what the United States has read out would replace the first sentence. As it concerns the United States, I think it is only fair that it should be expressed in the way considered most appropriate by the country concerned.

Anyway, it is to replace, it is not an addition.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

What you have indicated to the Honourable delegate of Angola is correct, that this language that we had suggested earlier would replace the first sentence in paragraph 4 and, therefore, should not be redundant.

Going back to the point raised by the Honourable delegate of Cuba. I believe that what we are considering here is a record of discussions which took place in the Plenary and that we should not be adding new language that was not mentioned in that discussion.

If there is a proposal, the United States certainly recognizes that Ambassador Gerbasi has done a great service to the Organization in his work on behalf of this Treaty and, if there is a proposal for further action by him, we do not have any problem with the substance of the idea, so much as introducing new text that was not discussed in the Plenary. This is a draft report of discussions in the Plenary which took place. We are supposed to simply be drafting, looking at the draft of the language that reflects what was said at that time, not adding new ideas.

Perhaps you can inform me if I have a misunderstanding of the procedure.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

This is a reflection on the suggestion made by Cuba. I do not feel comfortable. I need some clarification on this Treaty, where it will be deposited and who will handle it. Is it the responsibility of the Organization, of FAO? Of course, we appreciate what Mr Gerbasi has done for the last seven years and this has been explained in the Report; but as to him being the depository of the Treaty, here we may need some legal advice. Who is authorized? Is it FAO, is it the Interim Committee or the head of the Department? If it is FAO, then the Director-General may authorize somebody on his behalf, or he himself may be the depository of the Treaty. We need some clarification. As the United States of America has said, it was not discussed. Is it legal practice, because so many treaties have been adopted here and do we leave it to the Organization to be the depository until the Secretariat's location is identified? We need some clarification on these aspects.

CHAIRMAN

You have answered some of your own questions, I think. However, the depository of the Treaty is the Director-General and, of course, it is FAO, presumably, who could designate somebody to represent it in the CBD. Of course, we all recognize the role of Ambassador Gerbasi in this long process which he has carried to fruition, and it is recorded in the text of document C 2001/REP/5. You will notice the recorded vote of thanks for his work throughout the years and the negotiation. His statement is also attached to the Report of the Conference. On the point as to how the Treaty is to be presented to the CBD, the Conference of the Parties, I would like to pass the floor to the Legal Counsel.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I wish, first of all, to confirm what you said, that the depository of the Treaty, as stated in the Treaty itself, and being a Treaty concluded under Article XIV of the Constitution, the depository functions will be exercised by the Director-General of FAO. This is from the legal point of view.

On the question of who should present the Treaty to the CBD, again I would say that this being a convention under Article XIV, the Constitution of FAO, FAO has a duty to present it, but this does not prevent the Conference associating anybody else in this exercise.

I was just looking at the Resolution to see whether something is said. Paragraph 6 of the Resolution that the Conference has already adopted reads: "Requests the Director-General of the FAO to invite the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to convey this Resolution to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity." I put this to your consideration as to whether the question is already covered there.

Also, Paragraph 7 reads: "Requests the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture acting as the Interim Committee to initiate the establishment of cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and, as appropriate, with other relevant international organizations and treaty bodies,..." Therefore, some questions regarding the presentation of the Treaty are already covered in the Resolution for your consideration.

Juán NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Sobre lo que ha manifestado usted, Sr. Presidente y aclarado la Dirección Jurídica, no tenemos que decir absolutamente nada. Estamos totalmente de acuerdo con lo aclarado y lo ponemos a consideración de esta reunión.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)

Había pedido la palabra antes de que el Asesor Jurídico hiciese uso de ella. Sin embargo, a pesar de que ha aclarado lo suficiente el punto, quiero hacer notar que efectivamente estamos en el momento de la aprobación de un informe que fue debidamente debatido; lo que se ha objetado es un tema eminentemente de procedimiento, no sustantivo. O sea, parece que hay el consenso de que sea el Embajador Fernando Gervasi quien haga la pertinente presentación.

Por otra parte, también se ha pedido y lo ha propuesto el Representante de Cuba, que quede constancia por parte de esta Plenaria, de la Conferencia, del reconocimiento a Don José Esquinas-Alcázar y a las demás personas que con tanto esfuerzo y profesionalidad llevaron a buen fin el Tratado Internacional desde el punto de vista técnico. Así pues, creo que el punto ha quedado aclarado por el Departamento Jurídico; simple y sencillamente son dos aspectos del procedimiento distintos, uno: la aprobación del Informe y, dos, lo que esta Plenaria puede decidir con respecto a los pasos sucesivos y a la constancia y reconocimiento a Don José Esquinas-Alcázar.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

I do not believe I received an answer to my question which I raised. I believe what we are discussing here is a record of the previous proceedings and that, at this time, we should not be entering into substantive discussions on future matters. I am not able at this time to agree with the delegate of Guatemala that there is consensus on this point. I ask the Secretariat to clarify what exactly we are doing here. I do not believe that this discussion can be included because it was not raised at the time the item was discussed. We are merely looking at the record, the record, of previously held discussions.

I would appreciate an answer to my question please.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Ce n'est d'ailleurs pas un hasard si vous présidez cette plénière au moment où nous adoptons le rapport sur le Traité international aux négociations duquel vous avez amplement participé, notamment dans la phase ultime et également au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Je crois que nous devons également vous rendre hommage.

Ensuite, peut-être serait-il bon tout à l'heure que le Représentant de la Norvège puisse répéter son amendement qui a été trop rapide afin que nous puissions le prendre de façon complète: amendement C au nom de la Région Europe.

Enfin, je crois qu'il y a des problèmes au niveau de l'interprétation de la langue arabe, parce que j'ai compris que la proposition d'amendement faite par les États-Unis d'Amérique ne concernait que la première phrase du paragraphe 4, alors qu'il semble que dans l'interprétation arabe, on n'ait pas exactement dit cela. Je crois qu'il faudrait que les choses soient claires et que l'amendement américain remplace la première phrase du paragraphe 4.

CHAIRMAN

I admire the way you can listen at the same time to Arabic and French, but I am sure we can verify that. The sentence proposed by the United States is an alternative to the text we have before us.

Thank you very much for your kind words, but I see so many, many people were involved in the long drawn-out negotiations on the International Undertaking, in the first place Ambassador Gerbasi, but many other people, and I also in a small way.

Regarding the point made by the United States on procedure, I would like to pass it to the Legal Counsel. However, as I see it, and subject to correction, we are considering the Report of the proceedings that have taken place. That is what the Report is on, unless we want to have new items.

LEGAL COUNSEL

We have to keep in mind that the Conference had already adopted the Resolution and the Treaty, so the Resolution and the Treaty is a matter already adopted. This was done on the second day of the Conference.

What is under discussion here is the first part of the Report. If you look after the Resolution, there are other paragraphs which reflect or are intended to reflect what happened during the discussion in the adoption of the Resolution and the Treaty.

I do not have any rule or provision, but it is logical to state that, in approving the Report, a body is normally approving what happened during the discussion. This is the meaning of the exercise of adopting a Report.

CHAIRMAN

I hope that is clear.

We are considering and, I hope, approving the Report of the proceedings on Saturday, 3 November.

Any requests from the floor on C 2001/REP/5?

Paul ROSS (Australia)

You asked if there were any other comments on C 2001/REP/5. I just wanted to respond to the proposal that is being made by the European Region for the insertion of a new sentence at the end of Paragraph 3. If I understood correctly, they are also asking for an additional sentence to reflect the statements that had been made by a number of countries when the Treaty was adopted.

On that latter point, there is in our report, at paragraph 7 which follows the text of the Resolution, a record that a number of Members and Observers made statements which were reflected in the Verbatim Record. So, I am wondering whether that would satisfy the European Region or whether they are seeking something in addition to that.

On the additional sentence that they have proposed in paragraph 3, as I heard it, it says that the sentence would read: "This proposal was given immediate and unanimous support by the European Region." I have no difficulty in accepting a reference to the support given by the European Region to the proposal, but I do feel uncomfortable with the words "immediate and unanimous" which, I think, adds a dimension to the Report that is at odds with the tone of the rest of our Report, which is largely factual and without that added dimension. Therefore, I would be happy to accept the sentence with the deletion of that phrase "immediate and unanimous".

CHAIRMAN

I would like to put this now to Norway. Would you be satisfied with paragraph 7 regarding your second suggestion? Would you be prepared to drop "immediate and unanimous", and perhaps substitute them by "full support", if that is acceptable to the representative of Australia?

Dag BRISEID (Norway)

When I again look at Paragraph 7 that Australia referred to, I think it covers what I intended to say, that it is so important in this case that readers go back to the Verbatim Records and read the statements that were made to get the full picture. I think it captures the idea.

With regard to the concrete proposal in paragraph 3, the reason why I used the words "immediate and unanimous" was that it reflects what took place right here in the Plenary, that the European Region immediately made this clear that they supported this, but this is not the big point. It was more to reflect the way it was done, immediately, and it was with full support from the European Region, therefore the word unanimous. If this is a difficulty and we can use the words, "This proposal was given support by the European Regional Group", I can live with that.

CHAIRMAN

Can we accept C 2001/REP/5? I also have a proposed addition from Guatemala explicitly expressing thanks to Professor Esquinas-Alcázar and Mr Stannard for their work and dedication. Can we include words to this effect? Because I do recall these expressions of thanks were made. This is not a new proposal, this is something that we all heard last Saturday.

Ambassador from Guatemala if you would leave this with the Secretariat we will include a sentence to this effect.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)

Queda en manos de la Secretaría, pero, haré llegar a la Secretaría el texto exacto que ha leído el Embajador de Cuba referente exclusivamente al tema de Don José Esquinas y la otra persona que también merece reconocimiento de la Plenaria. Usted bien lo manifestó durante el debate, esto ya fue mencionado. Así, que en otras palabras, no se hace más que recogerlo, lo cual es de estricta justicia.

CHAIRMAN

The Secretariat already have a text. Maybe they will edit it slightly but the substance will be included.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Ya está saldada mi intervención en el sentido de la intervención del Representante de Guatemala, no me había quedado claro si, finalmente, se había aceptado la inclusión de este párrafo de agradecimiento a la Secretaría.

CHAIRMAN

With those additions and amendments which we heard earlier, can we take it that C 2001/REP/5 is now adopted?

Paragraphs 1 to 9, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 9, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 9, así enmendados, son aprobados

The Draft Report of Plenary, Part V, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie V, ainsi amendés, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte V, así enmendados, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN

We now come to C 2001/REP/6, Item 5, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. Any comments?

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART VI (C 2001/REP/6)
LE PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – PARTIE VI (C 2001/REP/6)
EL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE VI (C 2001/REP/6)

PARAGRAPHS 1-8
PARAGRAHES 1-8
PÁRRAFOS 1-8

Dag BRISEID (Norway)

This is for the sake of balance and it is about paragraph 3. Where it says: "...adequate levels of investments, as well as of official development assistance,..". I would like to say to this that adequate levels of investment means: investments made by developing countries themselves; it also means, investments made by the private sector; and it also means, investments through official developing aid. I would like to say that this is the whole picture and this creates balance to what is being said here.

CHAIRMAN

Have you got any suggested wording or insertion?

Dag BRISEID (Norway)

I have not made any special wording on this. The main thing is to underline that this means the three things that I indicated. Certainly, I could find the wording to include this but that was not my intention, it was just to point out the balance that this means.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN (Sweden)

Allow me to echo my distinguished colleagues and to say that it is indeed very nice to see you in the Chair.

Sweden would like to make an observation for the record. As it is very well known Sweden is among the large group of countries that actively work for gender mainstreaming on all levels. This is an overarching concern that we, and others, come back to in all fora. Investments in women's education, health, and nutritional status are one of the best investments a country can make, in order to further its achievement.

As we carefully listened to the distinguished delegates throughout last week, these are some of the comments relevant to gender work that were heard and which are thus of great concern to the Membership. Laws and gender equality, FAO's plan for gender and development, the critical role for women to fight hunger and poverty, women's tangible contributions to national development, the importance of including the role of women in societal planning, national programmes for gender equality, including job opportunities, the importance of following up Beijing 1995.

Having listened to the debate, it is bewildering not to see gender work reflected in the Report on this item.

CHAIRMAN

You are aware that the FAO Plan of Action on Gender and Development C 2001/REP/10 was adopted this morning. You are referring to C 2001/REP/6?

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN (Sweden)

Yes, I am indeed aware of this fact and we wanted to point out, due to the very high level on Item 5, it is only just that the views expressed by ministers should also be reflected on this very item, Item 5.

CHAIRMAN

Have you any concrete proposal to make?

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN (Sweden)

Yes, one possibility might be at the end of paragraph 2. Add a sentence at the very end along the lines of "Investments in women's education, health, and nutritional status are one of the best investments a country can make, in order to further its achievement".

CHAIRMAN

Presumably we would preface your sentence by something like "...the Conference considered". Is that acceptable?

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

Some of the investment fields that have been identified seems to be qualified as that they are the "best" investment. What may be true for some countries may not be true for others. It is very difficult to say that it is the "best" investment. The word inserted in that statement may qualify for the needs in their country but not necessarily for others. Therefore, the word "best" investment should not appear in there.

CHAIRMAN

Eritrea may we say "...one of the best investments" to keep everybody happy? Sweden would you go along with "one of the best investments"?

Dag BRISEID (Norway)

First of all, I appreciate the proposal made here by Sweden, I think it is natural to get this into this item area.

May I also make a comment on point 5, about the HIV/AIDS?

There is nothing wrong with the text as it is, but it seems to concentrate one sidedly on the role of FAO and that is of course relevant and good. But, I know that in many interventions it was also reflected that this is a broad issue and a big problem so FAO has to work closely with others to fight this difficulty. As I recall UNAID was present here in the Plenary and made an intervention on this issue. What I would like to underline here is that I feel there is a lack of balance as to the role of FAO. We appreciate what is on the agenda but perhaps a reference to other organizations with a similar mandate should be included. Perhaps, propose that we take a sentence from the Council we had in June which read: "it was recognized, however, that many of the most urgent actions in this field are the responsibility of other organizations".

CHAIRMAN

Can we accept that addition? It would come at the end of the paragraph, presumably. No more requests for the floor?

So the only point we really have to clarify is the modification proposed by Norway regarding adequate levels of investment. Norway do you have a formulation, or do you wish to leave it to the Secretariat, assuming the Conference is in agreement?

Dag BRISEID (Norway)

I was concentrating on other issues. However, I have no formula but adequate levels of investment should be made by developing countries, the private sector and through investment by ODA. I would like to include something along those lines.

CHAIRMAN

Does the Conference agree to that?

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Perhaps the sentence could read "The Conference underlined the importance of adequate levels of private and public investment".

CHAIRMAN

Yes but I do not think it takes care of the whole of the Norwegian proposal. Is it agreed that we should have adequate levels of investment by developing countries? Phrased in some way that the Secretariat would take care of it. If there are no objections, I will take it that it is agreed?

Paragraphs 1 to 8, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8, así enmendados, son aprobados

The Draft Report of Plenary, Part VI, as amended,, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie VI, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VI, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN

We now have C 2001/REP/6-Sup.1, which contains Resolution Proposing International Year of Rice for 2004. This was agreed and I believe adopted.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART VI-Sup.1

(C 2001/REP/6-Sup.1)

LE PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – PARTIE VI-Sup.1

(C 2001/REP/6-Sup.1)

EL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE VI-Sup.1

(C 2001/REP/6-Sup.1)

CHAIRMAN

Any comments on the text?

The Draft Report of Plenary, Part VI-Sup.1, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie VI-Sup.1, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VI-Sup.1, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN

We now go to C 2001/REP/9, Payment by the European Community to Cover Administrative and Other Expenses Arising out of its Membership, Item 16. Item 18, Applications for Membership in the Organization.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART IX-Rev.1

(C 2001/REP/9-Rev.1)

LE PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – PARTIE IX-Rev.1

(C 2001/REP/9-Rev.1)

EL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE IX-Rev.1

(C 2001/REP/9-Rev.1)

CHAIRMAN

Any comments on any of these items? No comments?

The Draft Report of Plenary, Part IX-Rev.1, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie IX-Rev.1, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IX-Rev.1, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN

C 2001/REP/12 has the results of the elections to the Council and resolution relating to the Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART XII

(C 2001/REP/12)

LE PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – PARTIE XII

(C 2001/REP/12)

EL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE XII

(C 2001/REP/12)

CHAIRMAN

Any comments? I see none.

The Draft Report of Plenary, Part XII, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie XII, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte XII, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN

We now come to C 2001/REP/13, Other Administrative and Financial Matters. Item 17, we have the Statement by Representatives of FAO Staff Bodies, and a resolution concerning Liabilities for After Service Medical Coverage. We heard the representative of the staff, and I believe we agreed to this Resolution on After Service Medical Coverage. Any comments?

Then we also have C 2001/REP/13, Item 20, the Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART XIII

(C 2001/REP/13)

LE PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – PARTIE XIII

(C 2001/REP/13)

EL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE XIII

(C 2001/REP/13)

CHAIRMAN

No comments?

Unless there are any mistakes, I take it this is agreed. Item 21, we decided yesterday on the date of next FAO Conference. Item 22, the Commemoration of the Staff who died in service. Any comments? No comments.

The Draft Report of Plenary, Part XIII, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie XIII, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte XIII, es aprobada.

CHAIRMAN

We will now have a short break while waiting for C 2001/REP/14.

The meeting was suspended from 15.50 to 16.40 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15.50 à 16 h 40

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.50 a las 16.40 horas

CHAIRMAN

You should all have your copies of C 2001/REP/14, which deals with the business we concluded this morning, the Scale of Contributions 2002-2003, Item 5. You will see in C 2001/REP/14 the narrative of the discussion, followed by the two Resolutions which we adopted, one on the new Scale of Contributions and the other one inviting voluntary contributions.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART XIV

(C 2001/REP/14)

LE PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – PARTIE XIV

(C 2001/REP/14)

EL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTE XIV

(C 2001/REP/14)

CHAIRMAN

Any comments on the Report?

Do I take it the Report is approved?

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I do not have any problem in adopting the Report. What I require is clarification as to the voluntary contributions. In my understanding, in the General Assembly when they ask for voluntary contributions, it is because new treaties are deposited with the UN in the General Assembly, and until they are ratified, some activities are carried over. To cover the cost, the General Assembly usually asks for voluntary contributions. Here at FAO, when we ask for voluntary contributions, to what fund these contributions will be applied should first be identified. If it is to help those countries which have been affected by the new scale, then it should be explained to us. Otherwise, I do not understand how those who are wishing to contribute will know for what purpose that fund will be used. Is it to help those countries which are affected or is the money raised to be part of the budget? What I need is an explanation. I am not against the Resolution. If you could explain to us, I should be very happy.

CHAIRMAN

If we would look at the Resolution, I will read the last part, which says, to answer your question: "To mitigate the impact of the increases and the contributions of Member Nations resulting from the change in the ceiling rate of the Scale of Assessments for 2002-2003". That is the purpose. Does that answer your query?

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I can live with it. However, there are several countries which are affected. How much they need assistance should have been made clear or a list on a case-by-case basis of those countries which cannot afford the new Scale should have been added.

CHAIRMAN

I think you should look at the Scale of Contributions. It refers to the increases over the previous Scale, but maybe Mr Mehboob could enlarge on that.

It says quite clearly for what purpose it is. The countries are identified by looking at the lists to see whether there are increases. It is to mitigate those increases that these voluntary contributions have been invited.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

I think it is as you have explained; it is the countries which have had an increase in their scale. That is how the Resolution reads. Perhaps Legal Counsel, who helped in drafting this, could explain further, but I think what you have said is the correct situation.

LEGAL COUNSEL

This is exactly as has been explained by you, Mr Chairman, and by Mr Mehboob. There is nothing else to say. The Resolution will apply to those countries which have faced an increase in their contributions because of the new scale.

CHAIRMAN

I hope that that explanation satisfies. I see from the delegate of Eritrea nodding that he is satisfied.

Any other requests from the floor?

I take it then that we have approved the Report on Item 11 and C 2001/REP/14 is agreed.

*The Draft Report of Plenary, Part XIV, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Partie XIV, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte XIV, es aprobado.*

CHAIRMAN

That concludes the approval of the Reports of the Conference.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

At this late hour, and after all the speeches, I think the shorter my intervention is certainly the happier the delegates will be. Therefore, I just want to take the opportunity first to thank you, Mr Chairman, for the very able way in which you have conducted the work today and express appreciation to all the delegates and the representatives who, through their spirit of cooperation, their spirit of give-and-take and compromise, have allowed us to make this Conference, as I said the other day, one of the best Conferences we have had in the Organization. It is really a very important moral boost for us in the Secretariat to continue to work for you, the Member States, and to work to achieve our goal, which is to ensure that the hungry people around the world see their situation improved, and that agricultural development, agricultural trade, food security and food safety also be given the necessary attention and that we solve the very many and serious problems that we have seen arising in the recent months and years.

Again, thanks to all of you for your support. The Organization will continue to be open to your suggestions, your ideas and your advice, because the success of the Organization will be your success and we cannot achieve anything without you, without your knowledge and your goodwill, and also the expertise that is available beyond FAO in each of the Member Nations of the Organization.

CHAIRMAN

Does any delegate wish to speak before we close the meeting?

Zakariaou ADAM MAÏGA (Niger)

C'est juste pour signaler une petite erreur qui s'est glissée dans le REP/12, notamment les Membres du Conseil de la FAO pour la région Afrique, il y a, pour la période du 1er janvier 2003 à novembre 2005, quatre sièges pour l'Afrique et Maurice a été omis. Dans le document, il s'agit de la Côte d'Ivoire, du Nigéria et du Swaziland, or Maurice devrait être membre pour la période 2003/2005.

CHAIRMAN

In fact, I note that it is in the English text that I have been following.

Any other requests for the floor?

If not, I should like to thank all delegates for the assistance they have given me in chairing this part of the Conference. I wish a safe journey to delegates who will be returning home. I also recall that two of our dear colleagues will be leaving very shortly, the distinguished delegates of India and of Australia, so this is, as far as they can foresee, anyway, their last Conference. I should like therefore to wish them all the best in their home countries and thank them for the outstanding contribution that they have given to enlivening our debates, even of those of the many technical meetings.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

I hope I have not omitted other delegates who will be leaving in the foreseeable future.

I thank you all. I should like to thank the Secretariat, the interpreters, the messengers and all who have contributed to making this Conference a success, as the Director-General has recognized.

I therefore declare this Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference closed.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

The meeting rose at 17.00 hours
La séance est levée à 17 h 00
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.00 horas