

## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**C**

**C 77/II/PV**

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**Nineteenth Session  
COMMISSION II**

**Dix-neuvième session  
COMMISSION II**

**19º período de sesiones  
COMISION II**

Rome, 12 November - 1 December 1977

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION II OF THE CONFERENCE PROCES-  
VERBAUX DES SEANCES DE LA COMMISSION II DE LA CONFERENCE ACTAS  
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**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/II/PV/1

Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

FIRST MEETING  
PREMIERE SFANCE  
PRIMERA SESION  
(16 November 1977)

## II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION

## II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION

## II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION

### 10. Programme of Work and Budget 1978-79

### 10. Programme de travail et budget pour 1978-79

### 10. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1978-79

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Director-General, Distinguished Delegates: It is my honour and privilege to welcome you to the first meeting of Commission II at this 19th Session of the Conference. As you know Commission II has been entrusted to deal with first of all the Programme of Work and Budget, the review of Field Programmes and the Medium-Term Objectives. These are all matters of great importance to us and to the Organization and I look forward to an interesting debate in the days ahead of us and am confident that, with your cooperation, Commission II will be able to fulfil its important task and advise the Conference on the course of its activities in the forthcoming biennium.

The Director-General has been very kind to come and attend the opening session of the Commission and to address us on important points relating to our work. As you will appreciate the Director-General is very busy and will have to leave us very shortly, so I will straight away give the floor to the Director-General.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, you will recall that, two years ago, the Conference adopted unanimously Resolution 16/75 in which I was requested to review the programmes, structures and policies of the Organization in the light of the deliberations of the Conference. These deliberations referred generally to the implementation of a new international economic order and particularly to the effective deployment of the means of the Organization to meet the urgent and concrete requirements of all countries. Also, requested were a clear definition of our relationships with new United Nations and other bodies being established, the definition of steps towards an appropriate decentralization, and the use of national institutions.

I carried out that review and presented my conclusions to the Council, in document CL 69/2, at its Session in July 1976. In that document I proposed a new orientation and a new dimension to the work of the Organization, including a much greater emphasis on investment, the establishment of a Technical Cooperation Programme, and emphasis on decentralization at the country level. My conclusions were fully endorsed and accepted by a consensus which I have striven and will continue to strive to maintain in this Conference and all future meetings of governing bodies.

With particular reference to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978/79, I submitted a summary budget to the 71st Session of the Council. The basis for the summary programme of work and budget was consolidation and extension of the new policies and orientation approved in July 1976, the recommendations of the subsequent Regional Conference which adopted a series of declarations endorsing the new policies and programmes in the context of the regional and world situation, and advice given by the main Council committees and other important meetings.

The Council expressed general support for the proposed programmes and priorities in the summary budget. Now that the Programme and Finance Committees have seen the full Programme of Work and Budget, with supporting narratives and tables, this favourable reaction to the Programme contents has been confirmed by them and by the 72nd Session of the Council just concluded.

This favourable reaction of course covered the continued establishment of FAO representatives in countries and the consolidation of the Technical Cooperation Programme. Up to a few days ago, 54 official requests had been received for the establishment of an FAO office, 53 negotiating missions have been completed or are under way, 18 agreements have been signed by me and 11 representatives are in post or in the process of arriving. The position of the Technical Cooperation Programme is that 188 projects have been approved for a total of 14 million dollars. I will be making a special evaluation report on the Technical Cooperation Programme to the 74th Session of the Council next year, but I hope that, meanwhile, you have seen the small booklet we have prepared for explaining the Technical Cooperation Programme. Copies have been distributed in the pigeon holes of each delegation and I hope therefore that you have received that brochure which is meant to explain the purpose of this new programme and how it is functioning and to describe the various types of projects. Evaluation is something different which I am organizing and I will be reporting to the Council on this subject in November 1978.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that these two important elements in the Programme of Work and Budget as well as other activities of this Organization, will receive full support at this Conference.

There has also been, not surprisingly, a very favourable response to my continued policy of cutting staff, documentation and meetings at Headquarters and concentrating resources more on priorities and action programmes at the country level. As you will have seen from the explanatory notes in the Programme of Work and Budget, the Headquarters establishment is being reduced by 19 posts and the net increase overall is only one single post. The proportion of salaries to total expenditure, which I brought down last year by nearly 10 per cent, is being brought down by a further 5.6 per cent, so that is now 15 per cent less than it was in 1974/75. The cost of documentation is being further reduced by approximately 7 per cent and a further reduction made in meetings, excluding, of course, training activities. At the same time, allocations for consultants, national institutions and other contractual services will rise and, even more significantly, the proportion of expenditure in regions and countries will be 76 per cent higher than it was in 1974/75.

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Since the full Programme and Work Budget was published, I have had to take account of some new developments which were discussed in the Council last week. The principal one is the need to devote sufficient resources to successful preparation of the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, including the addition of further languages, such as Arabic and Chinese, the preparation and holding of a preparatory meeting and, above all, the mobilization of the interest and participation of governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals at a high level. Even with these additions, the total cost of the Conference will still compare very favourably with the cost of other world conferences. (In some cases, this has amounted to \$6 million and even \$9 million, not counting all extra-budgetary contributions.)

I have to consider other programme requests, which are justified to the extent that resources will permit, requiring increased provision for certain items. These include, for example, the Second Session of COFI, the Committee on Fisheries requested by the Council, initiatory support for the Center for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), which interests many countries in the region, further secretarial support for the Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA), and similar worthy programme items.

I had it fully in mind to absorb these latter items within the budget I had proposed. I estimate the cost of these various other items at about \$800 thousand, for which no funds are earmarked in the budget. I hope therefore, Mr. Chairman, that the Commission will not ask me to accommodate too many activities without providing the necessary additional funds, and, in any case, will allow me full flexibility. Even so I am quite sure that what is now proposed fully responds to the concerns and desires expressed by Member Governments at the last Conference, and is a rather modest but well balanced package of proposals fully adapted to the needs and exigencies at the present juncture.

Notwithstanding the many programme demands, what I am requesting represents a real programme increase of only 7 per cent for the whole of the biennium. This includes not only the additional costs of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, but also provision under the Regular Programme for major priorities such as prevention of food losses, control of African animal trypanosomiasis, seed industry development, AGRIS and CARIS, education and training, and commodities and trade, including cooperation with UNCTAD.

The greatest part of the budget increase is, unfortunately, the result of continuing inflation. We are not over-budgeted for this. As regards the currency question, at the time the budget was prepared the Lira/Dollar rate was around 888 and rising in favour of the dollar. It then stabilized for a number of months at around 885. Quite recently it changed to 878/879. As indicated by the Group of 77 to this Council, it has been the practice, on similar occasions in the past, for the Conference to adopt the rate prevailing on the day of decision. Therefore the Council has so recommended in the revised appropriate resolutions which it has transmitted to you, thus producing a budget level of \$211,350,000 at Lira 879 to the dollar.

I now strongly recommend that the Commission adopt this level of the Budget.

This does not end all our financial problems because the need for a Special Reserve Account, principally to guard against the effects of adverse currency and unbudgeted cost fluctuations during the biennium, remains as valid as before. In this connexion, it must be remembered that we do not have a mechanism similar to that of other agencies for supplementary appropriations during the course of the biennium.

This question, along with one or two others, has, as you know, proved controversial in the Council. I would stress once again my hopes that confrontations and challenges will be avoided in this Conference, and that a spirit of consensus will prevail. This applies particularly to the Programme of Work and Budget and associated financial proposals, upon which the effective, prompt and flexible action of the Organization depend.

There are other important items on your agenda which would merit more comments than I now have time to make. I have already referred to the importance of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. My concern for regular programme evaluation has been endorsed by the Council. The process of decentralization to the country and regional level is an evolving and dynamic one, as is demonstrated by the reduction of staff at headquarters, the increase in regional offices, the plan for FAO representatives in countries and, above all, the emphasis on action programmes at the country level, particularly through the Technical Cooperation Programme.

The review of field programmes will, I am sure, lead to important discussions, not only on FAO's large and far reaching extra-budgetarily funded activities, but also on FAO's role and functions in relation to other bodies. In this connexion, our relations with the UNDP and the particular problems of agency costs will be of special importance.

I hope, myself, to be present during the discussion of a number of items, if progress with other important questions in Commissions I and III allow. I have in mind, in particular, those concerning technical cooperation among developing countries and relations with other more recently constituted bodies.

In any case, I shall be closely following the progress of your work which, I am sure, will be very constructive, as well as instructive and fruitful for our successful efforts in the next biennium.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Director-General, for a very interesting introduction to our discussions. I am sure we shall all bear what you have told us in mind during our discussions in the days ahead.

Before we start our discussions, there are a few practical points and certain formalities to which I am supposed to draw your attention. First, the question of the Vice-Chairmen: the names of the Vice-Chairmen will be submitted to the General Committee this morning and then to the Plenary, probably this afternoon. As soon as they have been approved, you will be advised.

Secondly there is the question of the quorum. As FAO will now have 144 members, including the eight members who were elected the other day, the quorum for discussions will be 48. For voting purposes, the quorum will be 73.

On the question of resolutions, you are, of course, all aware that draft resolutions should go first to the Resolutions Committee. Delegates will find the procedures and criteria following the introduction and consideration of resolutions in Annex D to document C 77/12. As you know, the agenda was approved by the Council and Section II has been assigned to Commission II.

Delegates will have a check list for documentation-numbered C 77/INF/12 to which should be added Item 10.2, decentralization of FAO activities to the country level and its relationship to the regional offices. The document is numbered C 77/INF/14.

A document should be deleted from the check list concerning the World Food Council; instead, delegates will find the introduction to this item in the Report of the Council.

I should say a few words about the time allowed for discussions. Fifty-one hours will be available during 17 meetings in which to cover the eleven items and sub-items on the agenda. In addition, we should have six hours, two meetings, in which to adopt the Report. For 144 delegations this means on average about 27 minutes each in which to discuss all the eleven items. I mention this because delegates will appreciate that we might run into trouble over time.

This Committee is a working body, and as such, our interventions should be brief and to the point. I believe this is in the interests of us all because I know that delegates would like as little as I should to have night meetings or Saturday meetings if this can be avoided. I therefore count on your cooperation in this regard. I also reserve the right, if necessary, to introduce time limits.

Now we come to the time-table and organization of our discussions. Delegates will find in document C 77/12 the arrangements for the meetings, including the Commissions. I should like to draw your attention to the new document, 77/LIM/21-Rev. 1, which is a little different from the time-table in C 77/12. The main change, as you probably are all aware is that we shall work this coming Saturday and have Monday off. There are a few other changes, with which I need not bother you.

Regarding arrangements for the Commission's work, of course, you know that the main part is on the Programme of Work, the Review of Field Programmes and the Medium-Term Objectives. You will find these are listed in the arrangements for the sessions in that order and I think it is a good one which we should follow.

The Programme of Work and Budget has been planned so as to include three special topics. First, Item 16, which will be discussed on Friday morning and afternoon, is on the review of the arrangements for the World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Development.

Then there is Item 10.1, the Regular Programme evaluation, AGRIS, and Item 10.2, decentralization to the country level, which be discussed on Wednesday 23 November, all day.

Furthermore, Item 13 on technical cooperation among the developing countries is set out as a separate item, in response to Council Resolution 1/71. A special section of document C 77/4, Review of Field Programme, 1976/77, is devoted to this subject.

We then come to the item on our agenda for today, the Programme of Work and Budget. I suggest we divide this discussion on the work and budget into three or possibly four parts. We should start with the Director-General's introduction and the explanatory notes, and have a general discussion on that, perhaps touching on the budget level, if delegates wish.

During this round of discussions I would expect that most delegations would also touch on other points in which they are particularly interested, so that they will not have to come back to specific items. However, for those delegations who would like to take up such specific items, I think this should be done in the following way: we draw our attention to the chapters, perhaps taking Chapters 1 and 2 together, focussing on Chapter 2, the main substance of the work and budget, the technical and economic programmes. Then, perhaps, in a second round of discussions we take the other chapters, concentrating on the main ones, Chapters 3 and 4.

Perhaps finally we should come back to the question of the budget level where we also have to deal with the draft resolution which you will now find in document C 77/INF/17.

I should like to hear opinions on whether this would be convenient to you. I hope, in a day or two, to be able to appoint a Drafting Committee consisting of seven members, including a Chairman, to perform the important task of drafting the report for approval by the Commission and later by the Conference. As soon as final arrangements have been made, I will advise you.

That is all I have to say in introduction, and the floor is open for discussion, I now invite interventions.

S.JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): First, may I congratulate the Chairman most sincerely on his election to the chair to preside over the work of this meeting. I would assure the Chairman that we shall cooperate fully with him and follow his advice in guiding the discussions, as we shall follow the plan for the discussion of the various points on the agenda.

The observations made by the Director-General when he introduced this highly important document, the Programme of Work and Budget for the forthcoming biennium, are, to our mind, of very great importance indeed, because the Director-General was able very briefly to sketch out the contents of the Programme of Work and Budget, accentuating the major points in this large document.

Hence, I think we shall restrict ourselves to a discussion of those major points which were extracted from this large document for us by the Director-General, because these subjects have already been discussed by the Council during its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions.

Hence, I believe we are not going to go into the technical details or into discussion of an order of priorities. On the contrary, our work should concentrate upon the following points: first of all, let us note that the Director-General did not limit the number of posts in Headquarters but also wished to limit these posts in a wider domain. To our mind, this is an extremely valid policy indeed, because we have already said many times that Headquarters was indeed overstaffed. Hence, I believe we must support our Organization to the best possible extent on a regional basis. Therefore, the reduction of posts at Headquarters and the increase of posts on a regional or national basis are extremely felicitous initiatives.

Here I would remark that the Director-General must take this into consideration when he nominates those who are responsible for FAO offices and should assure himself that those responsible are competent so that they may fulfill the tasks which are entrusted to them. The FAO offices can only be useful on condition that the heads of those offices are highly experienced men.

We would also like to express here our wish that the use of national institutions in designing plans or in executing programmes in the developing world should be able to benefit from the support of all of us.

We have noted that the Programme of Work and Budget demonstrates that the FAO is going in effect to decentralize; it is not just mere words. However, the Director-General also said this document had been prepared a year ago, and hence it is only right and proper that during a year, twelve months, certain new aspects may have become manifest, for which reason the Director-General took them into consideration in his presentation. We congratulate the Director-General on the fact that within his programme he is going to attempt to absorb the costs of these new activities within the proposed budget, as I said. Nevertheless, we know that our possibilities are limited here and that the Director-General must have flexibility of command so as to be able to achieve new budgetary appropriations, new funding, in order that he can carry out certain activities which cannot be financed by the ordinary programme under the standard budget, for which we would support here the proposed increase which is in the resolution that we are called upon to adopt at the end of our discussions.

This is the eighth time that I have participated in the FAO's General Conference, and I am convinced that the way in which this Programme of Work and Budget document has been put together this time is by far the best way of going about our work. It is indeed the best Programme of Work and Budget that I have seen; hence I would like to offer my congratulations to the Director-General and to all his assistants, particularly Mr. West, Assistant Director-General, all of whom as a team have worked hard to set up this excellent document.

The last point is the Technical Cooperation Programme, and here I again think that this is the best programme FAO has achieved since it was set up, because this programme allowed FAO to get into field activities in the developing world, for which reason we would support this Technical Cooperation Programme fully, as we also support the idea of allocating \$2 to 3 million for his Technical Cooperation Programme so that it can have \$24 million during the forthcoming biennium 1978/79. I would also support all the essential components in this document, particularly the two resolutions bearing upon the budget and related matters.

J.S. KHAN (Pakistan): Since this is our first intervention, let me first of all congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Pakistan delegation on your appointment and assure you of our full and continuous support in the discharge of your functions. I intend to follow your suggestion to divide our discussion on this important item in three phases. In my current intervention, I intend only to speak on the Introduction by the Director-General and the explanatory notes and also to briefly touch upon the budget level, I reserve the right of my delegation to come back again on the detailed programme priorities when we take those up chapter by chapter.

First of all, our views on the structure and format of the document. The Pakistan delegation welcomes the new programme structure and format and it appreciates the concise and intelligible document which we think contains the ingredients which are necessary for examining the objectives of FAO and its internal management in a really integrated manner. We feel that a comparison at a glance is now possible of FAO's entire activities, both on the Regular and on the Field Programme side, and this would facilitate the task of Member Nations in reaching policy decisions. My delegation would therefore like to compliment the Secretariat on handling this difficult and complex assignment with competence and imagination, and we also wish to compliment the Programme and Finance Committees for their valuable contribution to the new look to the Programme of Work and Budget. My delegation finds the programme tables particularly helpful, and our only suggestion is that it would be helpful if in future brief details of the objects of expenditure for extra-budgetary funds under sub-programmes could also be provided.

If I may now turn to the second aspect of my intervention, which is the policy directions highlighted in the introduction by the Director-General. My delegation feels that the policy issues highlighted are on the whole realistic, and well-conceived, and we can support them. We also feel that the approach to present these objectives against a medium-term background within the framework of the New International Economic Order is a correct one, because surely the biennial Programme must be looked at within the longer-term broader perspective. We hope that such an approach presentation will continue in the future also.

Now I would like to briefly flag on a selective basis some features which are of special interest to us. First of all, my delegation appreciates the whole of the practical, field oriented action-oriented approach which is implicit in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978/79 and which is aimed at refining and consolidating the new dimensions which the Director-General talked of in his Introduction.

Secondly we support the increased emphasis on strengthening FAO's investment activities and on developing and refining its own investment capacity. New for thirdly, we welcome the reinforced emphasis not only on production but also conservation of agricultural output, particularly the programme and the fund to reduce food losses.

Fourthly, an item of special interest to us is the consolidation and extension of the Technical Cooperation Programme. My own country has benefited from this Programme and we can vouch for the fact that it is fulfilling its functions by responding quickly and effectively to urgent small-scale requests for technical assistance by governments which could not otherwise be met. The Programme is still modest but it has made a promising beginning and we would hope there would be no misgivings about this Programme.

Fifthly, we wish to emphasize the importance we attach to decentralization through the establishment of FAO Country Representative Offices. My own country expects to benefit from this shortly. There is only one additional point we wish to emphasize on this issue. It must be remembered that it is not only FAO which is meeting expenses. It is a joint effort, and developing countries, in spite of financial difficulties, are contributing to meet local costs of these offices. The establishment of these offices must be looked upon as a combined effort of both FAO and the beneficiary developing countries.

The sixth and final point on the policy directions which we want to mention is the importance we attach to the promotion of economic and technical cooperation amongst developing countries, which is implicit also in the programme.

Now if I may be briefly allowed to turn to the question of programme priorities, I mentioned earlier that we reserve our right to come back to this in detail when we consider the programme chapter by chapter. At this stage I would only like to say that we find ourselves in broad agreement with the order of priorities in the sections on the programme budget and we can support the Programme of Work and Budget as presented. There is however one area which in our view deserves more attention and even greater emphasis and this is the question of integrated rural development - the focus on the rural poor. By this we mean improvement in the economic and living standards and quality of life of not only the small farmers but also of tenants, landless labourers, the village artisans and rural women.

Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to what the Chairman of the Conference, the distinguished Minister from Indonesia, said on Saturday about this, particularly the role of FAO in this field. He talked of a policy of positive bias in favour of the most seriously disadvantaged sectors of the rural population and we think this concern, this positive discrimination towards the rural poor should underlie the totality of FAO efforts in the next biennium and it should be an additional new dimension in FAO's work in the future.

My delegation also appreciates the Director-General's efforts to economize on some of the relatively dispensable activities and to divert resources to activities of more direct and immediate relevance to the developing countries in the development of food and agriculture. In particular the attempt to substantially reduce the number of posts at Headquarters and to reduce the volume of documentation to a more manageable and purposeful proportion should and does have our commendation.

The Pakistan delegation is also relieved that no major organizational changes are being proposed over the next biennium and we are particularly satisfied to note that the proportion of salaries to total expenditure has been further pruned to 62 percent of the total budget for the next biennium. We hope and expect that this trend will be continued and further intensified.

We also strongly support the greater use which is proposed of consultants and national institutions, and we would expect that the maximum use would be made of the consultancy services and the national institutions which are available within the developing countries themselves.

If I may briefly now turn to the budget level. My delegation already had the opportunity to give its views on this important subject during the 72nd Session of the Council. At this stage we would only like to say that we are in agreement with the Finance Committee when it says there should be full budgeting and that the dollar lira rate prevailing at the time of the Conference should be a reasonable basis for calculation. We also support their view that there is a need for the establishment of a special reserve account in order to provide a cushion against adverse currency fluctuations and unbudgeted inflation. We think this reserve is necessary to protect the real programme and its delivery from any erosion. On the budget level itself we go along with the level proposed now at \$211.35 million. This figure is, of course, slightly higher than the earlier figure of \$206.8 million but we think that

this is for reasons beyond an individual's or an organization's control. In fact, the adjustment is largely consequential to the dollar-lira parity fluctuations. We also think that the more realistic allocation for the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, to which we attach great importance, is necessary for sound preparations. On this basis, and for the reasons explained by the Director-General, we hope the Conference would lend its support to the new budget level.

D. BASSIOUNI (Sudan): Our delegation would like to commend the excellent statement of the Director-General. We will have opportunity to intervene in detail in the course of the discussions in this Commission, we would like to draw some attention to certain aspects of the statement. Of particular attention to us is paragraph 14 on page 9 of the Director-General's Statement which clearly informs the Commission that the trend of food and agriculture production in Africa and for that matter in the Near East, remains discouraging. I think this is of particular concern to us, and I think the Commission should really give attention to this particular aspect of the statement. I am happy to see that a number of reasons have been given for this failure in improvement in the state of food and agriculture. A number of constraints have been identified, and it is hoped during the course of discussions here an attempt will be made to measure or determine whether the next programme, and the next biennium, or in this particular programme of work, will in any way, or has been designed in such a way that these constraints will be removed because we believe without removing these constraints the situation will remain unchanged. One particular aspect is, of course, lack of investments flow, and in paragraph 15 it is encouraging to realize in the Near East some effort is already being made by the Member Governments in this particular area, and I think this is a very encouraging sign. It constitutes the sort of cooperation which could also be copied in the other regions.

The Director-General's programme on Technical Cooperation; his initiative and effort which we all welcome. We think the Technical Cooperation Programme can be of extremely great need or use to the member countries, especially in solving ad-hoc problems. But we think that there is still a lot of room for improvement within this programme because we think it can operate more efficiently if it is given the added advantage of regulations and rules in which it can cooperate.

We have also seen and noted with interest the efforts being made to decentralize the Organization at the country level. I think this is the right direction, and I think the decentralization could also mean the passing of more authoritarian power to the regional offices so that they do not only act as clearing houses but they do serve the interests of the countries falling in their various regions, and a number of useful cooperative programmes can be carried out by strengthening these country offices.

We are also happy to note a number of country representatives have already been appointed. We would urge that more country representatives are appointed, but that these country representatives be given very clear terms of reference and job descriptions, so that we can avoid confusion and sometimes problems.

On the whole, Mr. Chairman, we think the programme the Director-General has outlined is worthy of our attention and we will at a later time intervene as circumstance dictates.

Q. HABIBUL HAQUE (Bangladesh): Taking the floor for the first time in this Commission my delegation compliments you for your election as the Chairman of this important Commission. I, on behalf of my delegation, assure you of our fullest cooperation.

In this intervention I would confine myself to general comments on the Programme and Budget. First of all, I would compliment the Secretariat on the documentation. We believe the presentation and the arrangement of the documentation this time is a definite improvement on the past. We also compliment the Programme and the Finance Committees for their useful work in assisting the Council and this Conference in its deliberations on the programme and budget.

Coming to the introductory statement of the Director-General I am reminded of the last Conference in which the Director-General was requested to review his Programme and Budget in the light of discussions in the Conference keeping in mind, in particular, the new international economic order. The Director-General taking office in 1976 in the first Session of the Council he attended, namely the 69th Session, presented his proposal for the review of the Programme and Budget. The two important elements in these proposals were presumably the decentralization aspect and the creation of the TCP. In the decentralization aspects there were again two elements: one was a reduction of cost on the staff and documentation, and the other was the country representation. We are happy to note in the introductory statement of the Director-General that he has been able to reduce the staff at the Headquarters. He mentioned while there has been a reduction of 19 posts there has been a net addition of only 1 at the Headquarters. He also mentioned that what he calls on the last one and a half years he has been able to reduce the salary



cost by 15 percent, and cost on documentation by about 7 percent. The main aspect of this point was to make this Organization field orientated; increase its involvement in the actual operations in the field by the nations in their efforts to improve agriculture. We believe that the step taken by the Director-General in reducing the cost on the Headquarters and appointing his direct representative to the nations will help him in involving this Organization directly with the nations in the field.

As regards the country rep. I am happy to inform this Commission we have already signed on behalf of Bangladesh for appointment of the country rep. and he is taking position by how. In this regard I would also mention that the Government of Bangladesh is also cooperating by contributing its share of its obligation for appointment of a country rep.. We hope in the near future my country will have benefitted from this arrangement of the appointment of a country rep..

Coming to the other important element, the Technical Cooperation Programme, I recall in July 1976 when allocation of 18,5 million dollars was made, there were doubts in our mind whether the Director-General could make Secretariat and other arrangements and then go forward to disburse this money for the emergent nature of programmes and projects.

We are very happy to know that as many as 108 projects have been approved so far, and a disbursement of \$14 million has already been secured. Taking this into consideration, we hope that the minimum level of \$24 million for the TCP in the next biennium will be accepted by this Commission.

My country has benefited from this Programme, and we are satisfied with this operation and the response by the Secretariat to our requests.

One specific point which the Director-General has mentioned is the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. I recall that when this Conference was conceived, it was thought that it would be a Conference of a purely technical nature. Over a period, we have come to realize that this Conference is dealing with a very vital and basic aspect of agricultural development- namely that deliberations on agrarian reform and rural development cannot be allowed to be confined only to technical aspects of the problem. Consequently the 1975 Session of the Council requested the Director-General to take steps to widen the scope of this Conference, and also to take other steps to make this Conference a success.

The first step suggested by the Council was to appoint a high level Advisory Council with experts from all over the world. Second was the appointment of a Secretariat. The third was that member countries should be involved from the very beginning in this Conference.

We are happy that the Director-General has come forward to fulfil the wishes of the Council. A consultative high level committee has already been appointed and has had its first session. Consequently the budget for the Conference has increased. It is interesting to note that despite this, the estimated budget for the Conference will be still less than for other conferences of similar or less importance organized by the UN system.

My last comment will be on the level of the budget. We note that the budget was prepared in the autumn of 1976, when the outlook for Lire was very depressing and the US dollar was stable. Now, the situation has changed. Today, Lire seems to be stabilizing against the dollar. In view of the additional expenditure on the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and of currency fluctuations in favour of Lira, the level of budget which was presented at the 71st Session as \$206.8 has gone up to \$211 35, at 879 Lire to the dollar.

In this regard we also note with satisfaction that the Director-General proposes to absorb into this budget an amount of \$ 800 000 for some miscellaneous expenditures, one of which is additional expenditure on the establishment of the Centre for Integrated Rural Government for the nations of Asia and the Pacific. We look forward to the establishment of this Centre and we hope it will be very useful to us in the area of rural development. We support this step by the Director-General.

The other matter is the question of a reserve account of US\$ 5 million to cater for currency fluctuations and unbudgeted accounts. The need for a reserve account for currency fluctuations requires no further elaboration or comment. As regards unbudgeted accounts, we have noticed that even in the current biennium the Director-General proposes to absorb US\$ 100 000. If there is no provision to meet further unbudgeted accounts, he would find great difficulty in absorbing further unbudgeted accounts. We feel that the proposal to have a reserve account of US\$ 5 million is realistic and deserves support.

With these comments, we support the budget level of \$ 211 350 000. We reserve the right for our delegation to intervene on specific items.

RAMADHAR (India): Since this is my first intervention in this Commission, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your appointment as Chairman. We extend our full support to you in the discharge of your functions here. My remarks this morning will be of a general nature. My delegation will confine itself to some broad issues, and will reserve the right of intervention on detailed programmes later.

Before I come to these broad issues, I would like to compliment the Director-General and his Secretariat for presenting us with this valuable document, particularly the inclusion of the chapters on recent progress for the ensuing biennium, which enhanced the utility of this document. The Director-General also deserves our congratulations for having revised the priorities for FAO work and having instituted new approaches to the Organization's work in the short period of two years since he took over.

My delegation is in full agreement with the revised policies which have been instituted in the Organization. The establishment of the Technical Cooperation Programme and greater emphasis on assisting Member Nations in their efforts to obtain financial resources for investment in food and agricultural production, and emphasis on decentralization from Headquarters to the country level, are steps in the right direction. The reductions in the number of meetings, publications and documents and of new posts at the Headquarters will no doubt provide additional resources for effective implementation of the regular programme activities.

The Technical and Economic programmes for 1978/79 presented in the document clearly reflect the anxiety of the international community at increasing agricultural production, especially food production, in the developing countries which will contribute to a wide range of objectives. Obviously, a pre-requisite for achieving rapid increases in production is increased and viable investment in well prepared programmes and projects fitting into the overall national development plans and policies of the developing countries and extensive participation of rural population in the development activities. The development and adoption of improved appropriate technology suited to local needs and resources of the developing countries is another pre-condition. Keeping these factors in view, the Director-General has rightly identified the main priority areas in the field of agriculture on which special attention will be focussed during 1978/79, particularly land and water resources and their use, improved seeds, fertilisers, plant protection measures and pest control, livestock production with special emphasis on control of pests and diseases in Africa, reducing post harvest food losses, rural development, nutrition, commodities and food security, fisheries and forestry.

The Indian Delegation considers all these programmes important but would like to emphasise that in the work on natural resources, a very high priority needs to be assigned to the development of irrigation which is a basic input for increasing and stabilising crop yields and diversifying agriculture. The developing countries have vast irrigation potential but they have not been able to exploit large ground and surface water resources due to paucity of funds. We agree with the general approach, especially the stress on water management and soil conservation, particularly for small farms. There is need for organizing training particularly for the development of small water reservoir and drainage in the irrigated area and management of small water shed.

Another important aspect of the use of new technology in agriculture is the increased use of non-traditional energy sources. In the traditional system of farming, human and animal power constituted the main source of farm energy. This tradition is beginning to change in favour of energy derived from the use of diesel and electrically operated machines. This change has upset the cycle of farm waste and by-product disposal. Crop residues like straw, bran, etc. was hitherto converted into energy by feeding these to the farm animals and the animal residues helped to fertilize the soil; thus in the traditional set up there was no waste. On the other hand, non-traditional sources of energy are nonrenewable. This is a situation which calls for immediate study. It is felt that alternative use of organic wastes amidst high cost of petroleum-based energy and a balanced use of both may serve a useful economic purpose. In view of the large agriculture-based economy of the developing countries, it may be highly desirable to give serious consideration to the establishment of a regional institute in Asia and the Far East to study the problem of recycling of organic wastes.

My delegation would like to express its full agreement with the programme of work suggested by the Director-General on crops. The proposed activities on reducing post harvest losses, development of seed industry and agro-industries development and mechanisation deserve priority. We would, however, suggest that increased emphasis should also be placed on genetic resource development and conservation which will greatly benefit the developing countries including our own. While a significant breakthrough in genetic improvement in some of the principal cereal and fibre crops has been achieved, the progress in horticultural and vegetable crops has either been slow or insignificant. The specific activities in this field may take the form of (i) identification of suitable materials for the development and conservation of improved genetic stock of horticulture and vegetable crops, (ii) monitoring export demand and its timing for fruits and vegetables, and (iii) assistance in the establishment of modern export oriented units for processing fruits and vegetables, etc.

Along-side crop production, programmes for development of subsidiary occupations among small and marginal farmers have to be developed. These programmes should be supported by adequate processing and marketing arrangements. The development of animal husbandry on scientific lines provide such a scope. My delegation will stress that in this field, programmes relating to health cover, crossbreeding, production of deep-frozen semen, feed, fodder and marketing would have to be intensified. The emphasis laid in the programme of work for promoting the application of improved technologies in grass land management as also on the inter-action between livestock development, crop land agriculture and integrated development of tropical pastures is greatly appreciated.

The progressive development of grass land will have a positive effect on the milk production and improving livestock production generally.

Regarding technological advance, we very much appreciate the importance being attached to the involment of the national institutions, and the role of FAO in providing coordination and exchange of technical information. We consider it necessary to test the findings on research under field conditions and suitably modify these before being passed on to the farmers in the form of practical recommendations for improving the productivity. More emphasis needs to be given to adoptive research.

In view of the changes occurring in the jurisdiction over fisheries arising from the negotiations on a new law of the sea, it becomes particularly necessary to provide expanded assistance to the developing countries to improve their capacity at exploitation and utilization of the livestock resources of the seas. My delegates therefore, appreciate the efforts made by the Director-General to streamline the programmes in the fields of fisheries information and fisheries policy and utilize additional resources towards fisheries exploitation and utilization.

The proposed programme of work in the field of forestry, no doubt, will prove beneficial to the member countries. My delegation would suggest however, that FAO also undertakes continous studies of markets for various products, particularly in the developed countries, so that the developing countries are enabled to take up action for promotion of trade in these products and also to identify and formulate investments in related aspects of forest industry.

We support the proposed activities of the FAO in the field of rural development including agrarian reform, small farmers, women in development and training. The rural poor are basically small farmers marginal farmers and agricultural labourers, and their direct involment in the programmes would be very essential. We feel that agricultural and rural development should be viewed together and any approach emphasising the farmer at the expense of the latter should be discharged. In this direction my delegation commends the efforts of the Director-General towards making the World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development a success.

Lastly on the level of the budget my Delegation fully supports the level of 211.35 million dollars which is a realistic proposition and is the minimum to achieve the objects set before the Director-General by the earlier Conference and earlier Sessions. Distinguished Delegates, this concludes our list of speakers for this morning. I would like to thank the speakers who have taken the floor this morning for following my request and being very brief and very much to the point. I think this looks very promising for our discussion in the days ahead.

CHAIRMAN: Before we adjourn I would just mention a few things which I propose to draw your attention to. First of all on the item of prevention of food losses, I should perhaps make it clear to you that the post harvest matter will be discussed extensively in Commission I and will also be touched upon in Commission III. In order to avoid duplication we should preferably not discuss this matter in Commission II, at least not in any detail, although there is a reference to it in the Programme of Work and Budget, Programme 2.1.2 on crops, pages 64 to 69 in the Programme of Work and Budget.

I also should mention that in connexion with the Programme of Work and Budget you are supposed to approve a list of sessions and a list of publications. You will find that in Document C 77/3 Sup.1 and 2.

Finally, I am asked to ask you that delegates who intend to read the statements or comment on various items of the Agenda are requested to give copies of such statements in advance to the Secretary so that they can be passed on to the interpreters. If you only have your original the Secretariat will take copies for you. The purpose of this is to assist the interpreters and delegates listening in to the language.

The meeting rose at 12.35 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.35 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/II/PV/2

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

SECOND MEETING  
DEUXIEME SEANCE  
SEGUNDA SESION  
(16 November 1977)

The Second Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours

J.H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 14 h 40, sous la présidence de

J.H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 14.40 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

10 - Programme of Work and Budget 1978-79 (continued)

10 - Programme de travail et budget pour 1978-79 (suite)

10 - Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1978-79 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We shall continue the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget.

R.S. KAMARA (Sierra Leone): My delegation would like to join others in congratulating the Chairman on his appointment as Chairman of Commission II, and we pledge our cooperation in making his task easier.

My delegation's intention at this stage is primarily intended to express our support for the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget. Many of the issues raised are already the subject of comment in my delegation's country statement, and I merely wish to make brief reference particularly to his action on agricultural investment, the technical cooperation programme and the measures to reduce post-harvest losses.

We believe these measures will significantly increase the level of agricultural development, particularly in the developing countries where capital is in short supply.

The Director-General's measures to reduce the overburdened Headquarters staff and the establishment of regional representatives at the country level, coupled with the reduction in the volume of documentation, whilst at the same time increasing the training programmes, are most reassuring as to the Director-General's awareness of our needs and aspirations.

Furthermore, my delegation notes with satisfaction the statement on the establishment of the Centre for Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific Region and we do look forward to a similar action being taken for the African region. In this connexion, my delegation wishes to state that the establishment of a Centre for Rural Development for Africa has always been of great interest to my country and would once more like to emphasize this.

Finally, my delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget at the level proposed.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, let me add our delegation to the others congratulating you on the assumption of the Chair, and pledge our support.

The United States considers this review of the FAO Programme of Work and Budget to be a key item on the Agenda of the Conference. Secretary Bergland who addressed the Conference today in Plenary has set forth the United States' comments on the future role of FAO. The purpose of my remarks is to elaborate on what activities we believe should be emphasized in the current biennium. My remarks in Commission II should be considered in conjunction with Secretary Bergland's statement and also with our statement on the agenda items on medium-term objectives and field programmes.

In our view, highest priority in the use of FAO's limited resources, whether derived from regular budget or extra-budgetary funds, should be accorded to those activities which best fulfill FAO's central objective of overcoming hunger and malnutrition. The focus of those activities should, of course, be the geographic areas with greatest need. This means a concern for marketing and consumption and for more equitable distribution. It is important not only that more food be produced but that greater incomes be generated; this requires programmes in employment and rural development.

I shall reserve our comments on specific chapters of the Programme of Work and Budget, but I should like to illustrate the types of activities on which we believe FAO should concentrate. We suggest that FAO should seriously examine whether its present attention to planning in the agricultural sector is adequate; substantially increase its programmes designed to identify the nature, causes and extent of malnutrition and to foster its correction in a range of activities in cooperation, where appropriate, with other United Nations agencies; select and evaluate the programmes and activities in

terms of the impact on the hungry and malnourished; further redirect resources and activities, as the Director-General has begun, from other activities which do not directly support FAO's efforts in agricultural development and the elimination of hunger and malnutrition; greatly accelerate activities on field and post-harvest losses with the aim of stimulating adoption of available techniques; and give special attention to the adoption of technology on farms.

Regarding format presentation, we welcome the new format and presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget but feel additional improvements can still be made. We understand that the Director-General has used zero base budgeting methods as he developed this programme document, and we strongly encourage the continued application of this approach. In order to ensure that FAO's central objective is being accorded high priority and being met in a cost-effective manner, we believe FAO should make some modifications in preparing future Programmes of Work and Budget.

We specifically suggest that the next programme document contain an explicit ranking of ongoing and contemplated programmes in terms of their effectiveness in meeting the problems of rural poverty, hunger and malnutrition. This process should be accompanied by improvements in the indicators available to measure progress in carrying out these programmes and should make it possible to receive disaggregated data in a more timely fashion. We would like to see more attention to objectives on what FAO seeks to do and less on global goals. What FAO intends to achieve in each area during the upcoming biennium should be stated as specifically as possible. What we are trying to obtain is a programme document that presents in as much detail as feasible a description of FAO's ongoing and contemplated programme.

The programme document now describes the regular and field programmes without identifying which programmes are field programmes. We would like future documents to identify, insofar as possible, these different but related activities. The objective of this suggestion is to have a clearer picture of FAO's total programme - regular as well as the extra-budgetary programmes - so that governments can evaluate whether the objectives are being addressed. We recognize that the level of extra-budgetary resources are subject to FAO influence.

In conclusion, let me say that we must find a way to receive documents related to the Programme of Work and Budget at an earlier date - in particular the Reports of the Programme and Finance Committees. These documents contain much valuable information which is helpful to our work but the effort and funds to produce them are in large part wasted if governments do not have ample time to review them before Council or Conference discussions.

C. THOMSEN (Denmark): I would also like to express the congratulations of my delegation, Mr. Chairman, to your nomination as chairman to this important task, which we assure you we will strive the best we can to assist you in performing.

My remarks will be in two parts, as I understand, at your suggestion, we will make some general remarks now and revert at a later stage to some more specific remarks on individual chapters.

First, I would like to make a few points about the presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget, the format of the document, as it is called, and among these I will take the positive ones first.

We have noted with satisfaction that the document now provides a more complete picture of the total efforts of FAO as proposed for the coming biennium, 1978/79, that is, including the extra-budgetary funds, even if these have to be estimated. We consider this to be a movement in the right direction, and we would hope that further progress in the details of this could be made.

The second positive point is about the tabular presentation of the major programmes as we have them both by regions, funds and administrative units, which we consider to be a very informative statement. Also, the presentation of the proposed programme changes by department and regional offices we welcome very much. In both cases this helps us to get a better picture of the proposed activities not only from the point of view of programme elements but also inside administrative structure of the Organization.

The third positive one is the inclusion of the medium-term outlook as sections under the major programmes. We welcome this, and particularly the part about the objectives of the FAO, but as it has just been stated by the United States of America we would like these, if possible, to become more specific in the future.

We will have some additional remarks about the medium-term outlook when we come to this item in the agenda.

Then I have one critical remark. That is this movement towards a total picture and a full and integrated programming should in our view also lead to the inclusion of activities under the heading of post-harvest losses. Whereas we support the activities and understand the special situations which arise when this is started, it is our considered opinion that these activities should become part and parcel of the total Programme, that is, include the Regular Programme and the extra-budgetary fund activities, also from the point of view of presentation. I will come back to this point later on.

Then I have a few remarks about the introduction and the explanatory remarks. First I would like to say that we very much welcome the declared intention to consolidate the policies and programmes which we adopted last year, and we would also like to emphasize our concurrence with the desire to reach the poor parts of the population and the small farmers.

I have a comment on the Technical Cooperation Programme, which we support as it was originally intended to be for urgent small-scale technical assistance activities, but with reference to the progress report we received on this programme, we share the view that has been expressed, I believe, in the Programme Committee, that the grouping which has been called miscellaneous should be reduced in future presentations so as to give a better picture of this considerable part of the total activities under this Programme. We very much welcome the proposed evaluation of this Programme, and we shall look forward to seeing the results of it.

Then on decentralization to the country level, we have some concern for the need for continuity in the functions of the country representative as there is now this considerable change not only in persons but to some extent also in status, that this should as far as possible not have any negative effect on the functions of these country representatives.

We have in this connection been somewhat surprised at the proposed expansion under the Programme of the Regional Offices as we understand it to be decentralization to the country level which is the prime objective, and we are concerned about the risk of overlapping with Headquarters if there was to be a trend towards several small FAO's, as it has sometimes been expressed.

About the practical actions at grassroots level we very much support this as part of the priority activities, and particularly among these the need for training at the lower levels. I could in this connection refer to the COAG special support which was given to training, education and extension. We realize that this is an activity which cuts across major programmes but we would like to be able to see better from these programmes how this priority is reflected in the coming programmes.

About organizational changes I just want to say we welcome the fact that these have been as proposed, limited mainly to consolidation of related activities. We support the transfer of the evaluation service as it is indicated, as well as the proposed consolidation of fertilizer activities and, if I can term it this way, research activities.

With regard to the changes in the number of posts at Headquarters and regional offices, which is to some extent linked up, we welcome the reduction in the numbers at Headquarters, although we have some concern with regard to the increase of the higher grades. If you look at the table in the document you will notice there is a considerable reduction in the lower grades, but when you come to the higher grades the picture is different. Also in line with what I have just said a moment ago about the regional offices we would like to express some concern about the increase in the number of posts at the regional offices.

Then I come to a few remarks about the budget level at this stage. We would have liked, in fact we would have preferred to see the post-harvest loss activities, as I have already stated, considered part of the Regular Programme extra budgetary fund activities, and if we consider these 20 million dollar activities as part of the net real increase proposed, well then the proposed percentage increase will, of course, be considerably higher than the 7 percent which was indicated earlier. We would support, or we could support the proposed level of the budget at 208 million dollars on a lira rate of 900, but we feel the latest proposal for 211 million dollars on a lira rate of 879 should be considered in connection with the outcome with regard to the suspense account of the present biennium, because if you look in isolation at this it is evident it was set up to form a sort of buffer to meet the contingencies on these exchange rate variations, and until something has been decided about that we find it a little difficult to have a final attitude towards the proposed rate of lira which is expressed in a total sum of 211 million dollars. We would like to be informed, if possible, about the outcome in this regard.

Also I feel that it is proper to express concern about the cost increases although these are beyond the powers, outside the discretion of the Organization, it does call for even more exercise of attempts to improve efficiency, and it is not made easier when you have such important rises in costs.



As I said earlier we would like to come back to some more specific remarks in a second intervention.

CHAIRMAN: Before giving the floor to the delegate of Afghanistan I would like to inform you that the Plenary lacks a quorum and cannot begin. Delegates who are able to leave should please go to the Plenary in order to enable them to start their discussions there.

A. MAJID (Afghanistan): First of all I would like to congratulate you as the Chairman of this important Commission. I would like also to congratulate the Director-General and the Secretariat for presenting this excellent document.

We are happy that the Director-General has not only conceived but would be executing the re-organization of the FAO with great understanding and objectivity. The Afghan delegation supports this re-organization as it aims at cutting the dead wood and tuning up the overall performance of the Organization. Under the re-organization duplication of activities is avoided, emphasis is laid on decentralization from the Headquarters to the country level to forge closer and more fruitful contacts, theoretical and long-term studies are substituted by practical and short-term actions. Efforts are directed to obtain financial resources for investment in food and agricultural production. It is heartening to learn that a technical cooperation programme would give the FAO a new immediacy and flexibility and stimulate greater investment in development.

We congratulate the Director-General on the Programme outlined to continue the process of reducing the non-effective activities and also cut down the meetings and documentation to make them more purposeful. The emphasis on concrete activities at the field and country level is most welcome. We would, however, like that this new approach is reflected in the proposed allocation which needs to be given a tilt in favour of the technical cooperation programme.

We consider the present policy of according priority to developing nations to be continued but we would like to emphasize the need for giving greater preference to least developed and landlocked countries.

The Afghanistan delegation would like to support the Programme of Work and Budget at the level of 211,350,000 dollars for 1978/1979.

S.M. RICHARDS (Liberia): First of all I would like to congratulate you on behalf of my delegation on your succession to the Chairmanship of this Commission.

On our first intervention we would like to make a few points and reserve the option of coming back to specifics.

First of all we have studied with care and interest the Programme of Work and Budget of the Director-General and we comment on his efforts in this line. We have noticed with keen interest the Director-General's interest in the re-organization of the Organization, and we welcome this move. As I have indicated we will make a few points and come back at a later stage.

We welcome the Technical Cooperation Programme and above all support, I repeat, we support the budget level of 211 million dollars.

We feel that the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development is of importance, and this should claim the attention of all Member Nations as we move towards our agricultural production. We also have to think about the rural area because that is where our problem lies. We would like to see that in our good faith support be given to the Director General's present budget level.

We welcome his proposal for the prevention of food losses and we hope that this matter will be given keen attention in terms of the Director-General's request for the suspense fund of 10 million dollars be used for this purpose.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I spend part of the first minute out of 27 given to each of us, of course, in joining others in expressing to you and your Vice-Chairman to be elected yet our congratulations on the high post you have been elected to.

I would largely obey the comment of the Committee that we must avoid discussing those themes which are designated to the Commission I for detailed discussion and only say a few words on the format and structure of the Programme. We completely share the views expressed here that the new format and structure as presented by Dr. Janha marks substantial improvement over the past efforts. We are especially enthusiastic that for the first time the Programme of Work and Budget contains both Regular Programme activities and at this stage, of course, a tentative assessment of the extra-budgetary activities of the Organization but, anyhow, gives a clear picture of the integral part of all activities of FAO.

Our Plenary speech delivered by Mr. Kustrak this morning clearly indicated our general position of Yugoslavia Government and Yugoslavia delegation vis-a-vis all main features of the Programme of Work and Budget, so I am in a position only to reiterate at least a few points.

The best way of expressing our general position would be to refer through you, Mr. Chairman, to the distinguished delegates, that the Yugoslavia delegation very actively indeed supported the Director-General's proposals for the new orientation of the Organization in the Council, and only to repeat in a few words we supported substantial reduction of originally proposed new posts and then also reduction in the costs of publications and documentation. Even more we supported, if I may say so, the positive side of the new orientation that means the establishment of the Technical Cooperation Programme which always thought it was necessary for FAO to have a really needed flexibility in responding quickly to the small-scale need of developing countries and which certainly should not be conceived as a kind of substitution for decreased resources of the UNDP.

We also support the gradual establishment of country offices of FAO as a first and very important step towards the de-centralization of the organization's activities.

We are positive that the new orientation as proposed by the Director-General and which met with the full approval of the Council, is fully reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget, and by improving some basic features of the new orientation. I would state our positive attitude as far as the Programme of Work and Budget proposed by the Director General is concerned.

I would like to announce that my delegation, together with a number of other delegations, is preparing a draft resolution, which would of course be submitted first to the Resolutions Committee and then to the Commission. Our intention is to reflect the accord reached by both the Paris Conference on International Economic Cooperation and the Third Session of the World Food Council in Paris and in Manila, with regard to the need for substantial strengthening of the FAO Seed Improvement and Development Programme. After reaching that accord, our intention is, if our resolution is accepted - hopefully today or tomorrow - to appeal to the Member Governments to pledge contributions of at least US\$ 20 million to the programme. And of course we would like the Conference to request the Director-General to take the necessary steps in that regard.

I would like now to only briefly touch upon some programmes, and reserve the right to discuss in detail when we come to consider Chapters, or the appropriate part of the programme and budget.

First, I would like to make known our full support for the FAO Special Fund intended to launch action concerning harvest and post-harvest losses. In that regard we would very much appreciate a full consensus reached here in this Commission, and then by the Conference itself.

As well as specially stressing the problem of strengthening the FAO Seed Improvement and Development Programme, I would like to indicate the support we give to the importance of the programme of agriculture towards the year 2000, which was very specifically mentioned in the introduction by the Director-General. We feel that such an endeavour is a real necessity for the Organization, not only to respond actively to the system-wide activities with the means to support actively the preparation of the third development decade, but also a necessity for the Organization itself.

I would like to say a few words to indicate the substantial importance that my delegation attaches to technical cooperation among developing countries - and of course speak in more detail later on.

To conclude, a few words about the level of budget. It seems to us rational to accept the existing dollar/lira rate, as it was the practice of previous Conferences. That means, in the light of what I have said so far, that my delegation is fully prepared to support the budget level as presented by the Director-General. Within that context, we would also like to render our full support to the establishment of a Reserve Account intended to cover two purposes: currency fluctuation and unbudgeted cost increases.

S.H. PRAKOSO (Indonesia): My delegation would also like to congratulate you, Sir, on your appointment as Chairman of this Commission and we are confident that with your able and wise guidance this Commission's deliberations will come to a fruitful end.

We wish to confine ourselves at this stage to general comments.

First, we wish to reiterate our support for the integrated set of policies of the Director-General, which has been endorsed by the Council at its Sixty-Ninth Session in July 1976, and which he has further explained in his introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget, and which he proposes for the next biennium.

We also fully agree with the new approach launched by the Director-General, which focusses on action at country and grassroot levels, as it is there where actual work has to be done. We gratefully welcome the decentralization from Headquarters to regional and country level, as the Director-General has re-emphasized in his introductory statement this morning, and we would welcome further reduction of Headquarter's posts and strengthening of the regional and country offices. This new decentralization should also mean decentralization of authority and initiative. Particularly Member Nations are expected to take more initiative rather than passively accept whatever the FAO Secretariat puts before them.

This means that the member countries should participate more actively in FAO's work, so that FAO is really a living symbol of active cooperation among all Member Nations rather than an organization steered by a few.

We are glad to note that our Director-General is determined to pursue his policies and his new approach. We fully realise however that it will take some time for the Director-General to completely implement his policies, as it is not only a matter of administrative and organizational reforms and indeed de-bureaucratization of procedures. It also requires - this is much more difficult - a change of mental attitude of the FAO apparatus.

Turning to the Programme of Work and Budget which the Director-General proposes for 1978/79, we are glad to see that it is now organized in such a manner that it shows in a single volume not only the programme budget proper, but also programmes by region as well as the budget by organizational unit.

We are indeed happy that programmes by region have been separately shown in sufficient detail as Annex I. This means that the Director-General fully recognized and sincerely respected the decisions and recommendations made by the Regional Conferences, which are the ministerial level fora of FAO in the regions.

Otherwise ministers of agriculture and top-ranking government officials would be wasting their valuable time in attending Regional Conferences.

However, there is still much room for improving the programming exercise of the Organization so as to ensure that all Member Nations, big and small, have the full opportunity and chance to actively participate in it.

This can only be materialised if the programmes are systematically built up from lower geographical levels up to the global level.

We all know that it is not possible to discuss thoroughly the Programme of Work and Budget in this Commission in view of the limited time available. And perhaps it is not intended to either. One may argue that the building materials for this Programme have been prepared and discussed at the sessions of the Council's Committees such as COAG, COFO, COFI, etc. But not all Member Nations can afford to send adequate representation to those global meetings. Besides it is practically not possible to reach satisfactory agreement on priorities at these global level meetings, since ecological, economic, social and political conditions and situations differ widely from region to region. We are therefore strongly of the opinion that - as we said earlier - the priorities should be systematically built up from lower geographical levels. They are, however, to be synchronized and consolidated at higher levels, and to be complemented by priorities programmes covering problems, the scope of which goes beyond each individual region, which are namely of inter-regional or global nature.

In this context we consider the FAO Regional Technical bodies dealing with the main sectors of agriculture, such as the Regional Forestry Commissions, Regional Fisheries Commissions, Regional Livestock Commissions and the like, constitute the most appropriate mechanisms at sufficiently low geographical levels to determine the regional or sub-regional priorities in their respective sectors.

These Commissions are usually well attended by the heads or top-ranking officials of corresponding sectoral agencies of Member Governments, and together these representatives are therefore the most competent authorities to jointly review and determine the sectoral priorities in their respective regions or sub-regions.

Subsequently, these regional or sub-regional sectoral priorities are to be reviewed, synchronized and consolidated into overall regional agricultural development priorities by the respective Regional Conferences as these conferences are meant to be attended by agriculture ministers and/or high level representatives of the ministries to which the sectoral agencies who are represented at the Regional Technical Commissions belong. These consolidated overall regional agricultural development priorities can be complemented or supplemented by the Regional Conferences with priorities in important aspects of agricultural development - not covered by the regional technical bodies and with whatever important policy matters the regional conferences may wish to bring to the attention of the Director-General or the governing bodies through him. Naturally and logically there should be a close linkage between these regional technical bodies and the respective regional conferences, not only functionally but also organically.

I am not dealing with the question "What should be the functions of the Regional Conferences?" as such, but I just wish to point out that the Regional Conferences should be an indispensable and integral link in the priority programming exercise of the Organization.

The Council's committees will then deal with the consolidated overall regional priorities as far as their respective sectoral responsibilities are concerned.

It is the task of the Council's committees to review and synchronize the respective regional sectoral priorities and to complement them when and where necessary with inter-regional and global priorities which cannot be dealt with by individual regions. We believe strongly that in this matter there will be a systematic and stagewise build-up from lower geographical levels to the global level, and by doing so confusion of discussions on priorities at the global level meetings will be avoided. We wish to point out that by this stagewise programming exercise we do not mean the biennial programming exercise, but it only deals with priority problem areas which are of medium or longer-term nature, although they have to be reviewed biennially in view of possible changing situations. Since these priorities are of medium or longer-term nature, they also constitute valuable source material for the Director-General to formulate the Medium-Term Objectives.

In addition to the important role which the Regional Technical Commissions can play in the priority programming exercise, they also constitute excellent formula for promoting inter-country cooperation; in other words for promoting technical cooperation within the developing countries programmes. Countries can jointly discuss and agree upon inter-country cooperative projects for external as well as domestic funding.

I may mention a good example in this respect in the Asian Region, namely the inter-country projects developed under the framework of the Regional Animal and Health Commission for Asia and the Far East and the South West Pacific which are financed by national funds of the Member Countries themselves.

In summing up, Mr. Chairman, while we fully recognize that it is and it should remain the prerogative of the Director-General to formulate his biennial Programme of Work and Budget, we strongly believe that the Director-General should be provided with a set of priority areas upon which he can draw up his biennial Programme of Work and Budget with sufficient flexibility. These priorities should be systematically built up from lower geographical levels, where all Member Nations, particularly developing countries, are in a better position to participate fully and more actively.

We are aware that this has been done to some extent, incidentally or particularly, but we consider it more appropriate if the Conference structure of the Organization be reviewed and reshaped, and procedures adjusted and streamlined to that effect in order to ensure that FAO is a real cooperative endeavour of all its Member Nations, and not only a world Organization steered by a few.

As to the budget proposals for 1978-79 we can go along with the Director-General, with regard to the level as well as to the appropriations to various items as indicated by him in his introductory statement this morning.

Mr. Chairman, we would be most grateful if you would allow us to intervene again if the Commission will be discussing the Technical and Economic Programmes and other Chapters in more detail in the course of our deliberations.

H. EL-AKHRASS (Syria) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to repeat what has already been said by those who spoke before me in respect of the improvement in the working and budgeting programme, and the very efficient manner in which this was put forward. We shall, all of us, be giving our views at the appropriate time. Nevertheless I wish to stress one matter which was raised by the Honorable Delegate from Sudan. I refer to the Assistant Secretary, Regional Office of FAO. We are happy with the initiative that has been taken in order to decentralize and create a national bureau, and there again support must be given to the regional offices. We must survive in funds. These regional offices must derive greater and more extensive competence. As representatives of a Middle Eastern country we believe that the recent office at Cairo must bear the responsibility for directing and implementing national and regional projects which are being financed under the cooperation programme of the Near East countries, and of course Headquarters may supervise these activities. The Regional Representative should really be responsible to the Director-General for the implementation of the projects. Mr. Chairman, such a procedure will allow us to benefit from this programme and to make the best of it.

There is just another matter I wish to raise if I may, and I would like the Secretariat to advise the requirements secretary. The item I raise relates to the duplication of efforts by various international organizations. Some activities are already being implemented by the FAO Regional Office, by FAO Headquarters and by the Joint FAO and the Economic Community for Western Asia itself. This is just by way of example and I shall say no more. Such a procedure, Mr. Chairman, merely depletes the funds that have been allocated and will lead to chaos.

To end, I wish to express the support of my delegation to the Programme on Technical Cooperation. This Programme has shown that it is efficient during the fairly brief time in which it was set up.

B.P. DHITAL (Nepal): May I join with other colleagues to congratulate you on being directed Chairman of this Commission,

Since this is our first intervention I shall be brief in my general comments while reserving our rights to come back on the subjects we shall be discussing later. We have gone through the proposal and the review of the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium of 1978-79. We have noted with satisfaction the emphasis placed on the Technical and Economic Programmes. We support the new format of Programme and Budget presentation while, of course, recognizing the scope for further improvement, particularly in areas related to the regional and field programmes. The explanatory notes presented in the document provide a clear picture, although further details would have made more clear some of the specific objectives we have. We do realise that this might not have been possible at this stage.

The organizational changes as proposed are welcome. The reduction of posts proposed at Headquarters is reasonable. At the same time we would like to see that the regional and country offices are further strengthened, and also that there is proper decentralization of authorities to make the regional and country offices more effective. We are happy, that Nepal has been one of the first few countries to have the new FAO Country Representative offices.

Coming to the level of budget, we fully support the proposal. We also support the proposal for the creation and the utilization of Suspense Account and particularly the proposal for creating funds for the prevention of post-harvest losses. We strongly feel that this should be given high priority.

The establishment of Technical Cooperation Programme, we believe, will go a long way to meet the needs of the developing countries. We do hope that this approach will be further strengthened.

Before I close I would like to repeat what the distinguished delegate from Indonesia mentioned in this Commission, that the regional and sub-regional sectional priorities should be fully reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget. We would also like to emphasize that the regional conferences should play a major role in the shaping up of the Programme of Work and Budget so that we can have proper representation of views and needs of small and big nations together.

F. MOUNDOUNGA (Gabon): La délégation gabonaise est heureuse de se joindre aux orateurs qui l'ont précédée pour vous féliciter de votre désignation à la présidence de cette importante commission; vous pouvez être assuré qu'elle vous apportera toute la collaboration nécessaire pour le plein succès de nos travaux. Elle tient également à féliciter le Directeur général pour l'oeuvre qu'il accomplit, ainsi que le Secrétariat pour les documents qui nous sont soumis. La présentation claire et concise de ceux-ci aidera sans conteste la Commission II à aboutir aux solutions indispensables à l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire dans toutes les parties du globe.

Il importe à notre avis de féliciter les différents comités qui ont aidé le Conseil dans l'examen des divers points du Programme qui nous est proposé pour le biennium 1978-79.

Dans le contexte général, les propositions présentées ont tenu compte des différents problèmes importants que connaît notre monde. Il est particulièrement réconfortant de constater que ces propositions essaient de mettre en relief les efforts de la FAO en vue de l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international. L'importance accordée aux opérations sur le terrain marque une nouvelle dimension qui rencontre notre approbation. Dans le même ordre d'idées, le programme de coopération technique est un élément d'assistance technique appréciable parce qu'il permet de répondre plus directement aux besoins urgents et à court terme des Etats Membres.

Les restrictions budgétaires importantes opérées, la décentralisation des services du Siège, toutes ces mesures traduisent le souci du Directeur général d'avoir un Programme de travail et budget cohérent, souple et peu coûteux.

Ces quelques considérations nous amènent à appuyer sans réserve le niveau du budget tel qu'il nous a été présenté par le Directeur général. La délégation gabonaise souhaite seulement que ce Programme de travail et budget soit exécuté par un personnel compétent.

La délégation gabonaise se réserve d'intervenir le cas échéant, au cours des débats qui suivront.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): If I may introduce a note of dissent into this Committee, it is that I am not sure whether I should congratulate the Chairman or commiserate with him. It is very early in the work of the Commission, but I am not sure that the role of Chairman is all that fun, but I hope he has a very successful and favourable tenure of office.

On that note, may I say that on the United Kingdom's behalf I have eight points or general observations to make. In the first case, we would like to welcome the presentation of this document. It is clear, easy to comprehend and the division into three main sections showing the programmes themselves, the programmes by region and the spread of budgetary resources among organizational units within FAO, points up FAO's main activities and priorities.

If I may say so, the Director-General's introduction is particularly helpful. We give wholehearted support to the recurrent theme that efforts to increase agricultural production and food security must include greater investment, increased and better use of inputs and agricultural training, supported by the appropriate pricing policy, marketing and the greater availability of credit.

Secondly, we have no disagreement with the programme outlined in document C 77/3, and applaud the emphasis placed throughout the document on the training of skilled manpower. As investment funds are made available for development, we believe that the shortage of skilled personnel is the major constraint on progress. Hence, the United Kingdom places special importance on the training programme.

Thirdly, the Programme of Work and Budget has been subject clearly to close scrutiny at all stages of its development. We have all been conscious that under the new Director-General, FAO is undergoing a major reorientation of policy. We ourselves have been concerned to establish firstly that the new policies do not conflict with our own development priorities, and secondly that the Organization did not move too far too quickly and thus overstretch its resources.

In the light of both those considerations, we believe that the document which emerged merits our full support. The diversion of resources from work of a theoretical nature to practical work in the field further reflects the new policies endorsed by the Sixty-Ninth session of the Council. As the Director-General reminded us in his introduction, these placed emphasis on assisting Member Nations to obtain financial resources for food and agricultural development. It emphasized the Technical Cooperation Programme, the decentralization from headquarters to country level and the more practical short-term action at country level.

Fourthly, we note that significant steps have already been taken in the transfer of staff from headquarters to posts in the field. The estimates on page 36 of document C 77/3, which illustrate the organizational changes between the budget for the current biennium and that proposed for 1978/79, show in the first place, that there have been a marked increase - as has already been noted - in support at the country level; secondly, a sharp increase in the programme support for investment, a move to country level activities, particularly through the Technical Cooperation Programme and cuts in administrative costs. All this we see as clear evidence that the new policies for which we have already expressed our support are to be put firmly into effect.

Fifthly, we note that it is proposed to establish the 54 FAO Country Representatives by the end of 1979. This now accounts for a large percentage of the overall programme increase, and we have slight reservations here. We would want to be satisfied that this time-table is achievable and that resources are not being unduly optimistically allocated. It is, in our view, of particular importance that the establishment of independent country representatives should be carried out in close consultation with the United Nations Development Programme and should not conflict with the role of the existing UNDP Resident Representatives, who continue to have a primary role at the country level.

Point six is on the Technical Cooperation Programme. We note with approval the plans to consolidate rather than to expand TCP. The carry-over of uncommitted funds is expected to be between \$2 and \$3 million (slightly less than the figure shown on page 154 of the main document) giving a probably lower figure than the proposed \$26.5 million for the next biennium.

We are pleased to note that an evaluation exercise on TCP is to be carried out and a report presented to the Council in the autumn of next year. We would, however, have welcomed a more detailed breakdown of projects financed than the four "category" summaries which are given on page 154. There is a slight mystery about a miscellaneous item which accounts for about a quarter of the allocated funds.

Point seven: the proposal to combat post-harvest losses will, we know, be discussed in detail in Commission I. I would just like to say that the programme has our complete support. We attach considerable importance to its success.

Finally, point eight: since the main document was finalized several additional programme requirements have arisen and have been reported to the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. This as we know resulted in the recommendation for the budget level to be increased by at least \$ 1.2 million, to meet administrative costs for the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Production.

The Director-General originally anticipated that all costs for this Conference could be absorbed within the regular budget. I do not want now to discuss the merit or otherwise of establishing a self-contained secretariat for the Conference or the need for making provision for preparatory meetings and documentation and all that stuff. This, no doubt, will be given close scrutiny when the subject is discussed under item 16. I must say that we are, however, concerned with the escalation of costs and the rather late decision to exclude these items from the budgetary level agreed at the Seventy-First Council.

G. ERICSSON (Sweden): Mr. Chairman, may I first congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. You can rest assured of the support from our side in your fulfillment of this important task.

On behalf of the Swedish delegation I would like to start with a few words on the presentation and format of the Programme. There has been a considerable change for the better since the last Conference, and we are grateful for the efforts in the Secretariat to make it easier for us as Member Countries to analyse the substance of the FAO activities in the Programmes and sub-programmes as well as the resource allocation for these activities in the different Departments and Divisions. It will help us to put greater emphasis on the content of the Programme and priorities within it and less on matters of administration and formalities.

In this respect we appreciate the clear intention by the Director-General to relate in the presentation field activities as well as other extra-budgetary activities of the regular Programme. This is something we have advocated for a long time. Sweden has gradually increased its extra-budgetary support to regional and interregional activities of the FAO. Our concern has been that we have not always seen a distinct relation to the normal work of FAO and those projects supported by other countries within the Government Cooperative Programme.

There is an obvious risk if extra-budgetary resources and activities are allowed to grow out of the control of the decision-making bodies and the top management of FAO. They draw upon staff resources in the different divisions and they may disturb the line of priorities set in the Conference, the Council and the Committees of the FAO.

The Director-General has called for extra-budgetary resources as a means of making FAO more ready to respond to requests from member countries. On these grounds Sweden stands ready to continue its "multilateral" financing of certain activities, but we welcome the ambition of the Director-General to take a firmer grip on extra-budgetary allocations to secure that they form part and parcel of the regular FAO activities. If programmes and projects for extra-budgetary financing are clearly indicated in the Programme of Work and Budget, the member countries will have an opportunity to discuss them and to express priority. For Sweden it is important, too, that projects and programmes for extra-budgetary financing fall within priorities expressed in the General Assembly of the United Nations and the ECOSOC, and that there is a coordination with UNDP funding.

With reference to the general feature of the present Programme of Work and Budget, we have noted with great satisfaction the strong poverty orientation. The Director General put this forward clearly, both in his introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget and in his inaugural statement to the Conference. This is in line with Resolution II of the World Food Conference and was further developed in the Manila Communiqué. This must be the basic principle behind all FAO activities, whether they are production-oriented or more socio-economically oriented. Despite all resolutions and declarations and all efforts towards development, we have seen how the gap between rich and poor countries has increased, as well as within many countries the gap between the richer and poorer parts of the population. Sweden has committed itself to the New International Economic Order aiming at an equitable distribution of resources among the countries of the world. As a member of FAO and as will also be stated by our Minister of Agriculture in his Plenary statement, we support the Agency in its efforts to increase activities aimed at the rural poor. We will further elaborate on this subject under item 16, the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, but to the specific issues of the Programme of Work and Budget as presented in Chapter II we will come back in a later intervention.

Let me, Mr. Chairman, end this round of the discussions by stating that we have no problem in accepting the level of the budget. In connexion with specific questions of the budget, we may wish to come back.

K. CHOUEIRI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de notre Commission. Je me contenterai ici de me référer à l'introduction que nous a faite le Directeur général pour le Programme de travail et de budget portant sur le biennium 1978-79.

Je me réserve le droit de reprendre la parole pour exprimer notre position concernant les autres points de ce document.

Je voudrais d'autre part féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'excellent document soumis aux travaux de cette Commission. Le Programme de travail et de budget est en fait un programme réaliste et équilibré, qui reflète la nouvelle stratégie adoptée par la FAO, stratégie qui met l'accent sur les différentes priorités de ce Programme: la coopération technique, la décentralisation, les programmes d'investissement et les activités tendant à l'augmentation de la production agricole et à la limitation des pertes après récoltes. Nous sommes persuadés qu'une telle stratégie permettra à la FAO de jouer un rôle beaucoup plus positif pour le développement de l'agriculture dans le monde.

En ce qui concerne le niveau du budget, ma délégation appuie celui proposé; à notre avis il s'agit là d'un niveau minimum susceptible de répondre aux besoins des pays en développement. Etant donné le taux de change décidé au moment où le budget est adopté au sein de la Conférence générale, nous estimons que ce nouveau niveau du budget est acceptable. Nous pensons également que le Programme de coopération technique a fait ses preuves en raison de sa souplesse et de son élasticité.

Pour ce qui est des investissements dans le secteur agricole, nous appuyons pleinement le Directeur général qui souhaite augmenter ses investissements et trouver le financement nécessaire pour l'accroissement de la production agricole.

Ma délégation se félicite de la décentralisation et de l'allégement bureaucratique, mesures qui iront au bénéfice des programmes de terrain au service des pays en développement, et cela a représenté une augmentation de 76 pour cent par rapport au biennium précédent. Ma délégation est convaincue que la décentralisation déjà entamée au niveau régional a été bénéfique. A ce propos, je voudrais dire que le bureau créé à Beyrouth est excellent et a déjà porté ses fruits. Je suis certain que ces bureaux dans les pays et les bureaux régionaux vont oeuvrer au bénéfice de tous nos pays.



Pour nous résumer, nous appuyons pleinement la politique ici proposée qui se reflète dans le Programme de travail et budget. Nous formulons l'espoir que l'occasion nous soit donnée de commenter les différents points à l'ordre du jour de cette Commission.

G. WEILL (France): Monsieur le Président, je me suis demandé si, en prenant la parole, je ne vous adressais pas les félicitations de la délégation française, vous y verriez quelque réticence. Pour dissiper cette impression que vous auriez pu avoir, je dirai que je me joins bien volontiers à tous les collègues qui m'ont précédé pour vous adresser nos félicitations.

Monsieur le Président, je me conformerai à l'indication que vous nous avez donnée pour me borner, à ce stade, à présenter quelques observations d'ordre général. Ces observations se référeront à l'exposé qu'a fait le Directeur général en introduction et aux notes explicatives qui précèdent le gros document sur le Programme et Budget.

Je voudrais tout d'abord dire notre satisfaction de constater, ainsi que le rappelle le tableau M des notes explicatives au paragraphe 6.6, que le pourcentage des dépenses consacrées aux postes ouverts, par rapport au budget total, a décliné régulièrement depuis son maximum durant le biennium 1974/75 de 77,2 pour cent à 67,8 pour cent pour 1976/77, et dans le budget qui nous est soumis ce pourcentage baisse à 62,2 pour cent.

Le Directeur général lui-même y a fait allusion ce matin. Nous sommes heureux de constater là les résultats des efforts du Directeur général pour une réduction des coûts administratifs au bénéfice des activités de type plus opérationnel.

Le paragraphe précédent 6.5 comporte un tableau: modification totale nette des tableaux d'effectifs en 1978/79. A ce propos, comme la délégation danoise l'a fait remarquer, si nous pouvons marquer notre accord pour la relative stabilité des effectifs, nous devons, avec ceux de nos collègues qui ont en fait la mention, constater que la stabilité des effectifs s'accompagne d'une progression des effectifs vers les grades les plus élevés, aussi bien en ce qui concerne le personnel des services généraux que les services du cadre organique. Il s'agit là de cette fameuse pyramide dont on a déjà dit - et ce n'est pas original de le répéter - qu'elle tendait véritablement à affecter la forme d'une toupie. Nous ne sommes plus assez jeunes pour aimer jouer à la toupie, mais je constate qu'il s'agit là d'une évolution qui devrait être contenue.

Un mot maintenant sur la présentation du Programme et Budget dont on a dit avant moi les mérites.

Je dirai qu'un mérite particulier de cette nouvelle présentation est de réduire dans un seul volume les documents se rapportant au Programme et au Budget qui antérieurement ont été présentés en deux volumes. Mais cette relative concision s'accompagne, à nos yeux, à la fois de certains avantages et de certains inconvénients.

Les avantages tiennent essentiellement à une présentation au moins globale de ce qui a trait aux activités de terrain. Ils tiennent aussi au fait que les activités régionales sont mentionnées.

En plus de cette remarque soulignant les avantages de la présentation actuelle du Programme, je dirai qu'il y a le revers de la médaille, c'est une plus grande concision quant à un certain nombre d'indications que nous aimons trouver dans les documents soumis à la Conférence.

J'ai pu faire la comparaison entre le Programme de travail et budget qui nous est soumis et le document qui était le sommaire du Programme qui a été présenté à la 71ème session du Conseil. Ce document porte la cote CL 71/3. Je voudrais me référer à un poste qui nous paraît fort important et que le Directeur général a mentionné dans son introduction. Il s'agit en particulier de la représentation dans les pays et des bureaux régionaux.

Je dois dire, Monsieur le Président, que je n'ai pas trouvé dans le gros document Programme de travail et budget les informations plus détaillées dont nous avons bénéficié dans le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget sur un point qui, je le répète, a retenu l'attention de ma délégation et éveille quelques préoccupations.

Le Conseil, à sa 69ème session, a donné son accord au Directeur général pour affecter progressivement dans les pays des représentants plutôt que de développer les bureaux régionaux.

Effectivement, la situation qui se présente à l'heure actuelle tend à évoluer. Nous avons présentement en poste 62 Conseillers agricoles principaux représentants dans les pays qui sont pris en charge aux deux tiers par le budget du PNUD. Selon les perspectives de notre Organisation, ces 62 postes de représentants conjoints, dirais-je puisqu'ils sont pris en charge en partie par le PNUD-devraient cesser comme tels d'être en fonction en 1979.

Au lieu de cela, la FAO propose de mettre en place, dans le cadre de son programme ordinaire sur le biennium 1978/79, 47 représentants dans les pays, secondés par 170 agents des services généraux. Je cite ce chiffre de 170 agents des services généraux, car c'est une précision qu'on ne trouve pas dans le gros document sur le Programme de travail et budget qui précise l'infrastructure de la représentation dans les pays que la FAO envisage de mettre en place.

Une autre indication que je ne trouve pas dans le Programme de travail et budget, c'est le coût de cette mise en place des représentants dans les pays. Mais le document que nous avons eu au Conseil indique que le coût de cette mise en place des représentants de la FAO dans les pays est de 9 831 000 dollars, en augmentation de 5 100 000 dollars sur le budget qui lui est actuellement consacré.

Simultanément, on nous a dit, dans les différents documents que nous avons sous les yeux, que l'on renforcerait les bureaux régionaux et que cela se traduirait par une augmentation de près de 1 million de dollars. Cela n'est absolument pas en harmonie, ce renforcement de bureaux régionaux, avec la doctrine qui avait été retenue par le 69ème session du Conseil. D'ailleurs, dans le document qui a été soumis antérieurement, on nous dit: ".....on reconsidère d'un oeil neuf et encore plus attentif le rôle et les fonctions dans les bureaux régionaux afin de poursuivre la débureaucratisation et la décentralisation à partir du Siège, et de renforcer l'impact des activités au niveau des pays." C'est effectivement l'objectif qui avait été fixé à l'Organisation par le Conseil à sa 69ème session. C'est un objectif auquel la délégation française continue de souscrire.

Pour conclure sur cette question de la représentation dans les pays et le renforcement simultané des bureaux régionaux, il nous semble que la mise en place de ce nouveau dispositif pourrait sans doute être plus progressive. Cela n'est pas négligeable dans la conjoncture actuelle. Du fait de cette progressivité plus grande, l'augmentation de crédits que j'ai dite pour le prochain biennium, c'est-à-dire 5 100 000 dollars plus 1 million de dollars, pourrait sans doute être plus modérée.

Monsieur le Président, je suis en train d'empiéter sérieusement sur les 27 minutes que vous avez données à chaque délégation. Je voudrais cependant, puisque vous avez mentionné ce matin les deux documents importants qui vont avec le Programme de travail et budget, à savoir la liste des réunions et la liste des publications, dire que nous apprécions l'effort de compréhension qui est poursuivi par le Directeur général. Mais je vous demanderai la permission, probablement en fin de débat, de revenir sur cette question lorsque l'on considérera et que l'on adoptera, je pense, les listes d'ensemble.

Un dernier mot pour me joindre une fois encore au délégué du Danemark et pour regretter d'avoir eu si tardivement les rapports du Comité du programme et du Comité des finances auxquels nous attachons beaucoup d'importance.

H.L. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela): Trataré de ser tan concreto como es mi estilo y tal como ustedes esperan. Me referiré antes que nada a su elección a la Presidencia de esta Mesa que con gran alegría nuestra delegación aceptó y por ello lo felicita a usted muy sinceramente.

En segundo lugar, quisiera referirme al Informe del Director General que fue presentado en esta sala esta mañana el cuál goza de las simpatías de nuestra delegación pues él mismo refleja en forma concreta la seriedad con que el Director General ha tomado el mandato que le dio el Consejo, el histórico Consejo, que se celebró en esta casa en junio del año pasado. Quiero también por su intermedio felicitar a la Secretaría por la excelente documentación y el excelente formato que en esta oportunidad se nos ha presentado a consideración, especialmente el Programa General de Labores y Presupuestos para 1978-79. Es un formato que a nuestra delegación le complace enormemente pues simplifica muchísimo el trabajo en relación con las anteriores conferencias.

Entre los puntos concretos que nuestra delegación quisiera resaltar de la intervención del Señor Director y del Programa que se nos presenta a consideración - sin menoscabo de que posteriormente nos permita usted referirnos a ello concretamente cuando la ocasión se presente - quisiéramos en líneas generales apoyar la propuesta del Director General de sus políticas que fueron diseñadas en esta mañana ligeramente, y las cuales en mayor profundidad encontramos en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Participamos de la idea, por supuesto, de que para incrementar dichas políticas es necesario requerir de mayores fondos. En esta medida, apoyamos el aumento de presupuesto a los niveles que fueron presentados por el Director General; consideramos que son cifras cuyo nivel no rebasa la aspiración del Director General y que por lo demás son necesarias para atacar las políticas que él mismo ha diseñado. Entre esas políticas merecen nuestro especial apoyo la de descentralización y la reducción de la planta a partir de la Sede. Igualmente, queremos reiterar de nuevo en esta casa el apoyo de la delegación de Venezuela a los programas de representantes de la FAO en los países, ligeramente. Hay un punto al que nuestra delegación quisiera darle un especial apoyo y reiterar la simpatía con que la delegación de Venezuela lo ve, y es el Fondo de Prevención a las Pérdidas de Alimentos. Reiteramos, sin entrar en profundidades, el apoyo que dicho Fondo goza de la delegación de Venezuela, pues considera que él mismo va dirigido a subsanar una necesidad dramática y real que vive en los países en desarrollo.

El programa de la agricultura para el año 2 000 es también proclive a la simpatía de nuestra delegación y así se lo otorgamos. Por ultimo, señor Presidente, nuestra delegación desea apoyar muy sinceramente el nivel de presupuestos otorgado para la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria proyectada por el Director General para 1979, pues considera que este evento es de una real importancia para el mundo en desarrollo de hoy, y que sin los fondos necesarios no lograrían cumplir con la cabalidad irreal que el Director General ha estimado, y nosotros lo concedemos.

M. SALEY (Niger): Comme les délégations qui m'ont précédé l'ont fait, ma délégation vous félicite, Monsieur le Président, de votre nomination à la présidence de nos travaux.

La décentralisation, la coopération technique et celle des pays en voie de développement, la Conférence mondiale pour la réforme agraire et le développement rural constituent un important pas en avant et des innovations de grande portée pour notre Organisation, et nous ne devons pas manquer de souligner les mérites du Directeur général et du Secrétariat.

Cependant, les autres points, à savoir: le Programme de travail et budget, la suppression de vingt-neuf postes au niveau du Siège et la réduction de la documentation et de certaines réunions, ne sont pas moins importants.

C'est donc une satisfaction que ressent la Délégation du Niger en attendant de pouvoir étudier paragraphe par paragraphe le document dont nous sommes saisis.

Le Directeur général, lors de la présentation très claire et concise de nos travaux, voulait donner à notre Organisation, une nouvelle dimension, une dynamique pour qu'elle puisse répondre pleinement aux besoins des Etats Membres.

Enfin, le montant du budget fixé à 211 millions de dollars atteint un niveau que la délégation nigérienne considère comme le niveau minimum, et ne soulève donc aucune objection de notre part.

B.F. DADA (Nigeria): My delegation would like to join with previous speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on your election as Chairman of this Commission. We pledge our full cooperation for the success of these deliberations.

Nigeria generally endorses the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978/79 proposed by the Director-General. In particular, we support the re-orientation of the FAO activities towards the achievement of practical results in the field.

It is in this light that we would like to consider the proposals put before this Commission. Specifically, the Technical Cooperation Programme, the Action Programme for Prevention of Food Losses, encouragement of investment in agriculture and food production, and decentralization of FAO's activities, are considered as major steps, among others, towards achieving the new policy objectives approved by the Council in 1976. We are therefore pleased to note the useful coverage of the budget in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

I would like to make observations on two specific issues at this juncture.

On the proposed Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the position of my delegation has been clearly explained in statements presented by the honourable Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development of Nigeria yesterday. I only need to stress that we advocate that expenditure on this item should be limited to the barest possible minimum compatible with the new priorities.

On decentralization, we note the steps taken to appoint FAO Consultative Representatives. My delegation would like to see the Representative for Nigeria appointed as soon as possible.

With these preliminary remarks, I would like to express the support of my delegation to the level of the budget proposals for 1978/79.

G. ESCARDO PEINADOR (España): Ante todo quiero unir mi felicitación a las ya dadas por los delegados que me han precedido. Estoy seguro del éxito en su misión en esta ardua tarea que le hemos encomendado y por mi parte y por mi delegación haremos todo lo posible por hacerla llevadera. La delegación española ha manifestado ya diversas veces la gran satisfacción que le ha producido el planteamiento y orientación que el Director General ha dado al Programa de Labores que nos presenta para el próximo bienio, y nos es especialmente grato ya que esas ideas coinciden plenamente con las opiniones expresadas por nosotros en diversas ocasiones. No necesito, por tanto, repetir cuanto ya hemos dicho anteriormente en relación a este tema y me limitaré únicamente a decir unas breves palabras referentes al documento que estamos estudiando.

En primer lugar, quisiera dar las gracias al Director General por habernos liberado ya en esta su primera Conferencia de la enorme carga de la documentación en peso y volumen, que habitualmente caía sobre nosotros, los delegados, al discutir este importante tema del Programa y Presupuesto. Es muy de agradecer que el Director General haya sido capaz de darnos cuanta información necesitamos sobre este tema de una manera tan concisa. No podemos por menos de decir aquí "it is small, it is beautiful". Nos complace, además, ver en la presentación del Programa la tendencia a seguir las líneas tradicionales de la estructura orgánica de FAO.

Para nosotros, funcionarios tradicionales que estamos acostumbrados a nuestros Presupuestos estatales, un presupuesto cuanto más se ajusta a la estructura administrativa de la Organización es mucho más comprensible y manejable.

En cuanto al Programa quisiera felicitar también al Director General, no sólo por lo que contiene, sino también por lo que no contiene. Según mi opinión, la nota más notable de este Programa - y que quiero destacar especialmente - es que no sólo están incluidas en él las medidas esenciales que la FAO debe llevar a cabo para enfrentarse con los problemas que tiene planteados el mundo agrícola actual, y muy especialmente en los países en vías de desarrollo, sino sobre todo que estas medidas las encontramos bastante equilibradas, sin que se sacrifiquen unos en beneficio de los otros. Y esto lo digo como delegado veterano en estas Conferencias, ya que en programas anteriores se nos daban unos llamados grandes proyectos que rompían la armonía y el equilibrio de todo programa compuesto de múltiples actividades.

Por ello nos congratulamos que el Director General haya sabido contenerse y no nos presente esta vez un gran proyecto desproporcionado con el resto del Programa. Aunque quizá sea un tanto difícil que el programa de la agricultura española hacia el año 2000, si bien quiero dejar bien claro que mi delegación, no sólo está en contra de esta idea, sino que la apoyamos con tal que se sepa mantener dentro de las justas proporciones y que no sea a costa de la buena marcha del resto de la Organización, como ha ocurrido en ocasiones anteriores.

Apoyamos en líneas generales la gran importancia que se da a todo lo largo del Programa a una cuestión que es primordial y acuciante para los países en desarrollo: La cuestión de las inversiones en agricultura. Aunque esta organización no tiene fondos para financiación, creemos que debe poner todos sus medios

y recursos para ayudar a mejorar la situación. Por ello estamos de acuerdo con la propuesta de dar una mayor envergadura al Centro de Inversiones para que este Servicio sea capaz de proporcionar asistencia en todas las fases de los proyectos. No sólo en su identificación y preparación, como viene haciendo ahora, sino también en su evolución y supervisión. Esperamos que estas funciones del Centro de Inversiones sean llevadas a cabo, como lo promete el Director General, en estrecha colaboración con otras dependencias de FAO y que la ampliación del Centro no sea para aislarse más de los restantes servicios técnicos y económicos de la Organización, mucho más ahora que el nuevo Programa de Cooperación Técnica tiene entre sus funciones la preparación y orientación de los mismos.

La importancia y urgencia de las inversiones ha hecho que todos los organismos internacionales estén interesados en esta cuestión. De ahí la proliferación de Organismos y departamentos que de una manera u otra tienen como función primordial las inversiones en el mundo en desarrollo. Esta proliferación de organismos nos trae a colación una preocupación que ya hemos expresado repetidamente y que mi Jefe de delegación quizá en estos momentos esté repitiéndolo en el debate general. Las relaciones, la coordinación entre todos estos Organismos y el papel fundamental que la FAO debe desempeñar en todo desarrollo agrícola.

Creemos que, a pesar de los proyectos de acuerdos con algunos de estos Organismos, aún queda mucho que aclarar en la práctica sobre las respectivas funciones de los mismos.

Hay una cuestión en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, que no sólo como delegado de España, sino también como Presidente de la Comisión Europea de Agricultura, me interesan implantar: y me refiero al desequilibrio que veo en el programa europeo. Ahora bien, después de oír las intervenciones de algunos Jefes de Delegación, le anuncio que hemos presentado un Proyecto de Resolución y espero que en el momento oportuno las aclaraciones que pueda dar permitan que sean tomadas en consideración por esta Comisión.

Como ya lo hicimos patente en el Consejo, mi delegación apoya el nivel de presupuesto que presenta el Director General, así como los medios que se asignan para la proyectada Conferencia de Reforma Agraria. Nos hemos dado perfecta cuenta de que el Presupuesto ha sido preparado cuidadosamente por el competente Secretariado, y estudiado con todo detalle por el Comité de Finanzas y que lo hemos discutido en el Consejo. Quizá nos haya sorprendido un poco las excesivas precauciones y salvaguardias que el Secretariado ha tomado con los posibles cambios de valoración de los costos. Creo que es un poco pesimista el Secretariado ya que ha partido de un supuesto índice global de inflación que consideramos excesivo y que no concuerda con las previsiones que la Organización ha hecho en el campo económico. Sin embargo, es mejor curarse en salud y pecar por exceso que no por defecto. Esperemos que los cálculos le den al Director General suficiente margen de seguridad en la realización del Programa, Programa que estamos en líneas generales de acuerdo con él, y aunque vayamos a hacer algunos comentarios en el detalle durante su discusión, apoyamos plena e incondicionalmente.

F. GOMES DA SILVA (Portugal): La délégation portugaise, M. le Président, se joint à toutes les autres délégations qui vous ont déjà exprimé leurs félicitations pour votre élection au poste de Président de cette Commission. Nous sommes certains que tous les travaux vont bénéficier de votre grande qualification.

Nous apportons l'appui total de la délégation portugaise au Programme présenté par le Secrétariat, aussi bien sur son contenu que sur la forme dans laquelle il a été établi.

En particulier nous voudrions apporter notre appui sur cinq points que nous considérons vraiment très importants. Tout d'abord nous nous arrêterons sur l'économie envisagée en faveur de l'effort direct fait sur le terrain au véritable bénéfice des pays.

En ce qui concerne la décentralisation régionale et l'installation des représentants dans les pays, cela nous paraît être une mesure importante en vue de l'accomplissement des objectifs que la FAO se propose à l'égard des pays en développement. Nous voudrions en tout cas affirmer que l'activité des représentants de la FAO dans les pays doit être soigneusement coordonnée avec celle des représentants du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, de manière que l'on retire tous les avantages de l'activité de ces deux organisations.

Nous voudrions affirmer aussi que nous considérons comme très utile le Programme de coopération technique dont nous avons eu une connaissance directe. Nous avons déjà largement profité de l'efficacité de l'action et de sa rapidité, qui permettent de répondre aux demandes formulées par les pays.

Le Programme d'investissements nous paraît être très utile comme document de préparation des programmes d'investissements dans les pays en développement permettant une meilleure répartition des fonds disponibles pour l'investissement dans le secteur agricole.

Enfin, le Programme de réduction des pertes alimentaires après les récoltes nous semble être également très important et permettra certainement d'obtenir des résultats spectaculaires pour une production plus importante des denrées alimentaires disponibles.

Le Portugal donne aussi une très grande importance à tous les programmes et à toutes les actions conduisant directement à l'augmentation de la production, en particulier à une amélioration de la technologie de production par l'exploitation des ressources naturelles actuellement insuffisamment utilisées. Enfin nous considérons comme essentielles la coordination et la planification des services indispensables à l'augmentation de la production, c'est-à-dire le crédit, la commercialisation et la vulgarisation agricole.

Mon pays pense aussi qu'il est très important d'améliorer l'information statistique disponible, soit au niveau national, soit au niveau international, portant sur la production agricole, de manière que l'on puisse améliorer les méthodes et les résultats obtenus par la programmation des objectifs visant à l'approvisionnement en denrées alimentaires, de manière à obtenir d'une façon plus sûre des éléments nous permettant d'aboutir à des chiffres plus précis.

D'autre part, Monsieur le Président, le Portugal considère la Conférence sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural comme très importante alors même que nous développons dans notre propre pays un processus de réforme agraire. Nous sommes donc très intéressés par les résultats et les conclusions de cette Conférence à laquelle, je le répète, nous donnons une très grande importance.

En conclusion, la délégation portugaise apporte tout son appui au budget présenté s'élevant à la somme de 211 350 000 dollars.

J. RUTKOWSKI (Poland): Mr. Chairman, our delegation would like to congratulate you on election and we also want to congratulate the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Secretariat for the preparation of a very clear and concise document C 77/3 containing proposals for work and budget of our Organization.

I find it a bit difficult to comply with your recommendation to divide our discussion into three parts, because in the statement of the Director-General there is a reference made to all important programmes, but as I do not intend to take the floor again in the future in discussing different parts, I hope you will allow me to refer to some important programmes now.

The Programme presented to us correctly reflects the 69th Session of the Council. In our opinion it is a continuation of the ideas presented by the Director-General last year and is directed towards the same aims. In our opinion the Programme corresponds to the views of most of the Member Countries regarding priorities of action for the coming two years. It also takes into account the most urgent needs of the developing countries which suffer food deficits and need help for the development of their agricultural production.

We especially welcome the concentration of means and efforts on the improvement of crop production which is the most important factor in the food Balance of most developing countries. Specific programmes regarding crop protection, seed production, increase in yields, fertilizer application and reduction of post-harvest losses are well formulated and their implementation could be of real value to many countries.

We consider as very useful the action undertaken by FAO and UNDP concerning the conservation of plant genetic resources. It is a proof that apart from immediate technical problems the Organization is devoting its attention to the future and more general question of great importance to our members.

We also support the Programme concerning research which might have great impact on the future shape of world agriculture. We also hope that FAO will provide a valuable contribution towards the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We are under the impression that social problems connected with rural development and their impact on the volume of production did not receive enough attention in the past in our Organization. We expect that with the new Programme and the views expressed in some FAO papers that this imbalance will now be corrected. Coming to the Programme related to the agricultural policies we would like to stress the importance of the work done by the Committee on Commodity Problems and Inter-governmental Commodity Groups.

We note that the Study "Agriculture towards 2000" will include the final stages of commodity projections which might be very useful. We would like to express the wish and the hope that this Study will also include an analysis of the long-term trends in social structure and social reforms related to agriculture. There is a statement on page 97 that this study will examine the alternative strategies for world agricultural development. However, different strategies are necessary for different countries and regions of the world. We are of the opinion that FAO could undertake more specific studies of alternative strategies to suit the conditions and possibilities of specific groups of countries. These sorts of studies could be of real help to governments searching for new solutions.

We should devote more attention to the problem of how to attract the small farmers and incorporate them into overall rural development. Questions of the motivation and initiatives of the people concerned are sometimes as important as the money for investment.

The increase of FAO activities in the field of investment by providing the necessary expertise is, in our opinion, of the utmost importance.

There are three aspects of this programme to which we would like to draw the attention of the Conference and the Secretariat. First, that the knowledge and experience of local experts should be used to the maximum possible extent, to avoid the formulation of unrealistic projects. Secondly, that coordination is necessary with other international bodies in order to avoid duplication of the work. Thirdly, that periodic evaluation of the investment should be undertaken in order to take into account the opinions of the countries concerned and to draw the necessary conclusions for the future.

The amount of money allocated to the TCP has grown to US\$35.6 million, although the appropriation for the period 1976/77 has not been fully utilized. We understand that the reason for that was the short time which had elapsed since its inception.

In many international fora Polish delegations have represented the view that aid should be financed from voluntary contributions and not from the regular budget. However, as this programme is related to food production, we do not question its necessity. We think that the viability of this programme and its role in the development of agriculture should be carefully analysed and developed in the future.

While understanding the need for FAO Country Representatives in many developing countries, we would like to draw the attention of the Conference to the steep rise in the costs connected with decentralization.

We would therefore like to advise that before establishing new FAO country offices, careful analyses should be made as to the possible use of this to the host countries and to the Organization. We do not need to stress that we attach great importance to a reduction in the administrative costs of the Organization,

Finally, I would like to offer a few comments on the regional programme for Europe. This programme is implemented jointly by the FAO and the ECE in the spirit and according to the principles laid down in the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation. We hope that FAO will be able to make an important contribution towards the further development of cooperation between European countries in the field of agriculture.

In our opinion, FAO activities should be concentrated on scientific, cooperation, research networks, land use planning and the facilitation of trade between the countries of the region.

Whilst understanding the priorities set forth in the programme, we have some doubts as to whether financial means in the budget for Europe are sufficient for its successful implementation.

To sum up, we support the Programme of Work and Budget, hoping that our remarks will be taken into account by the Conference and by the Secretariat of the Organization.

K. ITANO (Japan): First of all we would like to associate ourselves with the congratulations to the Chairman on his election. We would also like to congratulate the Secretariat and the Programme and Finance Committees on preparing the documents before us.

As mentioned in the general statement of the head of our delegation, in the plenary session, our delegation appreciates the efforts made by the Director-General in trying to curtail less important expenses as much as possible.

However, my Government is deeply concerned with the general trend of budget increases in the UN Agencies. In particular, we are concerned about the real growth rate of the budget which is higher than that of other UN Agencies. For example, if we are correct, the increased rate for ILO for 1978/79 was 2.74 percent whereas for Unesco for 1977/78 it was 4.2 percent.

In this connexion, our delegation takes it that a detailed examination of each item of the budget should have been done for the discussion by this Commission. Incidentally, as a general comment on the budget, we wish to touch on some of the major items of the budget briefly.

In the first place, with regard to the establishment of Country Representatives, we are inclined to feel that since this item carries the biggest increase in the budget, our concern is that the tempo of the increase in the number of country representatives, it seems to me, should be slowed down. Furthermore, as the delegate of Sudan pointed out this morning, the terms of reference of the Country Representatives should be defined clearly from the viewpoint of keeping a close relationship and cooperation between FAO and UNDP.

Secondly, with regard to the TCP which is now being implemented on an experimental basis, we welcomed the evaluation to be carried out from now on and to be submitted at the autumn session of the Council in 1978, where an in-depth examination is expected. From this point of view, taking into account the carry-over of the TCP budget in the current biennium to the next biennium we are rather inclined to say that the real increase of the TCP in the next biennium should have been kept as low as possible.

Finally, with regard to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, we recognize the importance of agrarian reform and rural development. Nevertheless, in regard to the \$1.2 million increase for the Conference, we should like a detailed explanation of the information before we make a decision.

We would like to come back to each item in detail in the course of the discussion, at a later stage.

B.E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Señor Presidente, mi delegación desea expresarle su felicitación por la elección de usted para la Presidencia de esta Comisión, así como a los Vicepresidentes.

Deseamos felicitar a la Secretaría por este importante documento que nos presenta en el cual consta el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1978-79.

Desde el punto de vista metodológico consideramos muy exitosa la elaboración de este documento, pues ha racionalizado el mismo en muchas maneras. En su presentación considera tres aspectos principales que son: por programas; por regiones, y las dependencias orgánicas. Esto permite establecer un claro cuadro de las relaciones entre el programa ordinario y los fondos extrapresupuestarios, no sólo por fondos, sino también por programas y regiones. Asimismo, nos da una indicación del cambio en la tendencia de las actividades de la Organización dirigidas a obtener resultados prácticos y concretos.

Dentro de estas reflexiones, consideramos que esta presentación de los programas de la Organización obedece a un enfoque constructivo y responde a las necesidades de los países miembros de la Organización, particularmente de los países en desarrollo.

Mi delegación interpreta que muchas de estas iniciativas, tal como la propuesta hecha por el delegado de Japón de crear un sistema de información y de alerta y la implementación de las actividades de la FAO, obedecen también a las necesidades que se van presentando.

Mi delegación apoya los conceptos enumerados en la página 7, párrafo 28, en cuanto se refiere a los nuevos objetivos y programas que la Organización va a iniciar en sus aspectos generales.

Nosotros consideramos que, en relación al programa de cooperación técnica, es muy importante la función que la FAO puede desarrollar en el sentido de mejorar el nivel técnico de las instituciones nacionales y regionales de los países en desarrollo. Así también, creemos que esta asistencia dada por este órgano multilateral puede y debe llegar a coordinar la asistencia bilateral, ya que de esta forma se prevendría la duplicación de funciones y el desperdicio de recursos.

En cuanto a la descentralización, nosotros deseamos brindar todo nuestro apoyo a este concepto, en cuanto consideramos que es uno de los requisitos esenciales para el mejor conocimiento de los problemas, tanto desde el punto de vista regional como a través de la existencia de representantes nacionales de FAO en los países, ya que les permite tener un conocimiento más exacto y más rápido de los problemas que aquejan a los países en desarrollo.



Deseamos también apoyar las actividades a corto plazo referidas a dar una mayor capacitación a las masas en las zonas rurales. Mi delegación desea apoyar lo expresado por la delegación de Pakistán en el sentido de que deben encontrarse métodos de capacitación para aquellos agricultores que no tienen propiedades de tierra. Estos programas deberían ser orientados particularmente en estas áreas que existen en todos los países en desarrollo.

En relación al párrafo 16 de la introducción del Programa, no compartimos totalmente las conclusiones a que se llega en este párrafo en relación a nuestra región y en el cual se da una indicación muy positiva sobre el supuesto balance favorable que existe en esta región en función de nuestras exportaciones agrícolas.

Mi delegación cree, que en las consideraciones generales relativas al comercio agrícola y las exportaciones de los países de mi región, se está aquejando, como dice el párrafo 13 cuando se refiere a otras regiones en desarrollo, de los mismos problemas como son: el acceso a los mercados, la fluctuación de los precios y una cuantía no suficiente de fondos de inversión que nosotros consideramos como factores que influyen negativamente en la balanza comercial de nuestra región.

En cuanto a los párrafos 22 y 23 nosotros deseamos hacer una observación de carácter marginal, en el sentido de que en los programas de fertilizantes, si bien dice el documento que aunque se ha disminuido la relación precio-producto por fertilizantes a una función razonable, consideramos que el mercado de los fertilizantes todavía está aquejado de fluctuación en los precios y también creemos que dentro del marco de este programa se debería incrementar la utilización de fertilizantes orgánicos y desarrollar la capacidad de producción en los países en desarrollo.

En relación al párrafo 23 mi delegación considera también que es muy importante el estudio de los efectos de los pesticidas en el medio ambiente, en la población y en los alimentos de consumo.

En cuanto al nivel del Presupuesto, mi delegación desea apoyar la propuesta hecha por el Director General, por un presupuesto de 211 350 000 dólares de Estados Unidos al tipo de cambio de 879 liras por un dólar. Deseamos también felicitar la estimación del incremento de la inflación hecha por la Secretaría que, a criterio nuestro, quizá no compartido por otras delegaciones, nosotros consideramos que la estimación fue bastante conservadora.

Dentro del marco global del presupuesto nosotros deseamos apoyar los costos que se incluyen en éste para la preparación de la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Creemos que es una conferencia muy importante para todos los países y que todos sus aspectos necesitan e involucran un estudio amplio de todos los factores que influyen en el desarrollo. Deseamos también en relación a la preocupación expresada por una delegación, de que quizá la Secretaría podría actualizar la información pues tiene entendido que la preparación de esta Conferencia es inferior a otras que ya se han realizado dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y lo único que cabría sería congratularse con la Secretaría por el concedimiento de los costos en la preparación de la misma.

En cuanto al superávit en el presupuesto, en cuanto a las cuentas suspendidas del mismo por un total de 15 millones de dólares, nosotros deseamos apoyar también la propuesta del Director General para la creación de un Fondo Especial para la aprobación de pérdidas por cosechas, consideramos sí, que esta cifra permite solamente el inicio de este Programa, pues no creemos que pueda ser entendido en otra forma. Y así mismo, deseamos apoyar la creación del Fondo Especial de Cuentas por el saldo de los 5 millones de dólares de remanente, ya que permitiría cubrir y evitar que el presupuesto sufriera las fluctuaciones en el tipo de cambio y los efectos de la inflación.

S.A. MADALLALI (Tanzania): Mr. Chairman, I would like first of all to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this important Commission. My delegation is certain that your wisdom and ability to lead our deliberations in this Commission will be further strengthened by the cooperation of my delegation and indeed of all delegations of this Commission.

Without going into details of a specific nature, I would like to indicate my Delegation's support of the major proposals as put forward by the Director-General. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Director-General for the good presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium. There is indeed a lot of improvement in method of presentation, and I believe that further Programmes of Work would include more specific information on the major and the most urgently needed outlooks necessary for furthering agricultural development in the developing countries.

My delegation would also like to register its support for the opening and strengthening of regional offices in order to enhance more close technical coordination of projects and their implementation.

This would therefore be carried out through a system which would give sufficient autonomy to these regional country offices and could be an effective way of coordinating FAO, UNDP and other agencies' projects with a view to avoiding possible duplication of projects by the different organizations.

My delegation wishes to support the Technical Cooperation Programme proposal firstly as a readily available tool for solving immediate technical requirements for regional projects, and secondly, as a supporting service to the strengthening of the regional offices.

I would also like to support the proposal for the prevention of post-harvest losses and stress that the importance of this proposal deserves a lot of emphasis and immediate attention, because the current magnitude of such losses should not be underestimated. My delegation strongly supports the cognition of this aspect of the presented Programme of Work.

My delegation supports the proposal for an Agrarian Reform Conference scheduled for 1979. We see the proposed Conference as the best medium for discussing rural development strategies.

My delegation wishes to agree with the level of the budget in general and will make further comments when discussing specific items in detail.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): Mr. Chairman, first of all, I should like to congratulate you as Chairman of Commission II of the Conference, and I am confident that under your Chairmanship this Commission will perform rather well. I should also like to take the opportunity here to express my appreciation to the Director-General of FAO and his staff for the dedicated and comprehensive work in compiling the documents on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978/79. The document is a well-balanced analysis of problems and enables us to make constructive suggestions and observations. The primary point of view in studying the Programme of Work and Budget was to what extent its objectives serve the implementation of priorities and tasks proposed by the Director-General. We believe that the paper before us is in line with these ideas, and therefore the budget level envisaged for the forthcoming biennium is acceptable to us.

It can be seen from comparison of the detailed items of estimates - I am referring to page 36 of document C 77/3 - that priority has been given to programmes directly affecting agricultural development in developing countries, like the Technical Cooperation Programme, Development Support Programme and so forth, and these programmes have a larger share than heretofore. We feel this is a proper tendency. The table referred to indicates that within the cost item Technical and Economic Programme, the amounts envisaged for development in fisheries, forestry and agriculture are generally higher, but their weight in the total budget drops from 47.3 percent to 44.8 percent. It is quite clear to us that not only this part of the budget serves progress in agriculture, the food industry, etc., but also the amounts represented by other chapters of the budget. I would raise the question, therefore, if there is any possibility in the Programme of Work and Budget, within or without the present entries, to summarize all expenditures and programmes providing direct support to agriculture, forestry, food and fisheries or assisting the development of infrastructure in these sectors. This would facilitate any judgment of the delegations which may wish to offer any comments or observations regarding this item.

We agree with the fact that in FAO activities, the projects to be implemented with the support of national institutes and institutions have been given high priority. The implementation of these programmes requires definite and firm support.

My delegation gives its support to the idea that the bulk of resources available to FAO should be allocated to assist the developing countries. I should also like to draw your attention to the well-established and successful cooperation in research work among European countries which helps not only these countries but its results are also available to developing countries which require them. At this point, I would like to state that Poland has our full support about the subject he referred to just before. My delegation would therefore welcome the Secretariat paying attention to this programme.

We support the recommendations that the status and subjects in the preparatory work for the World Conference for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development should be investigated and specified as extensively as possible. My delegation attaches rather high importance to this Conference and, if I may add, to the subject. To this end, it would be advisable to strengthen departments and bodies concerned with rural development, agrarian reform and cooperative movement. In our view, savings which may be achieved during the two-year period should also be devoted to further progress of these projects and efforts.

We agree with the idea of the Director-General that no further reorganization seems to be necessary, and we approve of the idea of a partial decentralization of Headquarters in Rome after giving greater authority to Country Representatives and Regional Offices.

I would like to make one observation, however: that the representation of countries with centrally planned organizations in FAO Headquarters is extremely low as compared with their activities and contribution to FAO. My country intends to continue its cooperation with FAO which has proved successful so far and thereby increasing its support to agricultural development in developing countries. Some months ago we sent a proposal to the Director-General in which we specified several possibilities of how Hungary could transfer its expertise and experiences via FAO to developing countries in such areas of agriculture and food as farm cooperative development, animal health, plant protection, inland fisheries, forestry, irrigation, water management, farm engineering, soil science, and so forth.

There is an observation in the Programme of Work and Budget submitted to the Conference, to the effect that the practical content of FAO organized training and the adaption of agricultural experiences in developing countries should be strengthened and made more intensive; this gives a special timeliness to our ideas. We are completely confident that the Director-General and his senior staff will give due attention to our proposals, which can be of benefit, and will be of benefit to developing countries as well.

Finally I would like to state that the Programme of Work and Budget is acceptable to my delegation and we hope that our comments will be given due consideration. I am convinced that this Programme is a good basis for the planned and efficient work of the Organization.

M.S. ZEHNI (Libya) (interpretation from Arabic): First of all, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this important Committee, and through your wise directions I hope our work will be crowned with success.

In view of the shortage of time, and the nature of the present discussion, the remarks I shall be making at present are within the framework of the general remarks, because the detailed remarks on particular points will have their points when we shall be discussing the various subjects. I hope that we shall then be availed of the opportunity of taking up those points in general.

We notice with satisfaction and an amount of appreciation the efforts of the FAO, and of the Director-General, in preparing the proposed Programme of Work and Budget in substance and in form. We ourselves have no difficulty in accepting the present budget level except for certain particular financial aspects, such as those of post harvest, which we should be convinced of after having conducted the consultations on this subject.

There is a subject which lacks clarity, namely decentralization. At the same time we find action at the level of country representatives is an excellent and a welcome idea, and that decentralization is something to be wished for, yet when we relate this to the role of regional offices then the duties and functions of the regional offices should be clarified because any weakening of the regional offices will cause dispersion of the work and then lack of clarity and responsibility. Therefore, we hope that we should fully and soundly evaluate the proposals in connection with this decentralization as related to the regional offices in the proper manner. Whilst we support decentralization this support on our part should not be taken as an open support, for we want the principle of decentralization to be implemented gradually in order to maintain a balance between the role of country representatives, the regional offices and Headquarters.

There is another point related to the Conference of Agricultural Reform and Rural Development. This is a Conference which we support both in substance and in practice, particularly as my country, Libya, is undertaking considerable efforts in this field, which I could say, very modestly, our experience could be an example to other regions. Yet our eagerness for the success of this Conference makes us request very strongly that the Conference should be at the level of being able to give the results we expect.

We want to see in this Conference two elements, imagination and courage. We want imagination in order not to find another traditional Conference, and courage because we want to move somewhat away from the present prevailing opinions on agricultural reform. We consider this subject both from the human and social point of view, because it is the human aspect that is our main point. Another subsidiary subject is documentation. It is often said that the decrease in documents is welcome. We quite agree with the Director-General when he says he wants to cut down documents which he does not believe are so important, but here it is a question of quality and not quantity. Cutting down publications should not be at the expense of quality and the standard of the documents that are being presented.

Another remark I wanted to put forward - I thought that it would have been my own remark, yet after having listened to the other speakers I see that it is something general - namely the early arrival of these documents to us. I believe if these documents are not sent to us in time then maybe the Director-General's efforts had better be concentrated on deleting these publications altogether, rather than our receiving them late,

M, DESSOUKI (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, I wish to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this important Commission, and would wish you every success in directing our discussions and debates.

With respect to the major point presented by the Director-General in introducing our discussions, first of all I wish to congratulate the Director-General and the Secretariat for the manner in which this document has been presented to us, for it has made it easy for us to follow the activities of the FAO and its programmes, and concentrate on its major objectives without going into too many administrative and financial details with which the Council Committees deal at full length.

We also welcome the efforts of the Director-General for cutting down costs and the application of the decentralization policy which he has started in FAO, although this word has often been repeated year in and year out at our Conferences, and its materialization has taken a long time. This can only improve the efficiency of FAO and direct its true attention to field activities.

We have attached considerable importance to the agrarian reform and rural development conference and find the budget allocation to this Conference is adequate considering its importance not only technically but also socially.

Likewise we look forward with particular interest to the development of the Technical Cooperation Programme initiated by the Director-General. We expect a great deal from this Programme in order to improve the opportunities of developing countries to go ahead with their agricultural development projects, and we believe that it is fully in line with the objectives of the Organization. This leads us to support this Programme and to provide it with the full flexibility it requires to fulfill its role in the best possible manner.

J, L. SAULT (Australia): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Australian delegation I also would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of this Commission. We join other delegations in welcoming the new presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget as set out in Document C 77/III.

The two innovations which are perhaps the most significant are the disclosure of the amounts of extra-budgetary funds applying to programmes, etcetera, alongside the Regular Programme funds and the breakdown of expenditure by region and by organizational unit. These innovations, when read with the standard programme presentation enable a fairly detailed analysis of FAO activities, although in a broader programme sense, but still enabling a clearer picture of what is going on than was possible hitherto.

As regards programme priorities we are in basic agreement with the Director-General's proposals. In particular we would wish to see high priority given to the reduction of food losses especially to post harvest losses in rice in Southeast Asia. On the other hand we consider that further explanation is required of the need to increase the provision for the Conference for Agrarian Reform, or that if the increase is unavoidable, offsetting savings cannot be made elsewhere. For example, the problem of finding country representatives of the right calibre is likely to slow down their rate of appointment, and savings in programme 3.4 seem probable.

Those, Mr. Chairman, at this late stage in the day, are some fairly brief general remarks on the Programme of Work and Budget. We would wish to make further comments during subsequent discussion of the various chapters.

D.M. ULNES (Norway): As my Minister expressed already in a statement to the Plenary, my delegation has welcomed the Director-General's set of priority policy lines to be pursued as they appear in the introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget. We would also like to express our great appreciation of the comprehensive way the Director-General has prepared and worked out this Programme of Work and Budget, which stands as an example to be followed. We similarly and particularly are pleased to note

that the Director-General has placed the concern of bringing about a new international economic order as a predominant basis for this proposal, a concept my government feels strongly committed to. The Programme of Work and Budget in general presents a reasonable and balanced programme package which my delegation can adhere to. We are aware that this course of re-orientation above all is meant to reactivate FAO and bring it in closer touch with the problems where they exist.

The emphasis on decentralization from Headquarters level to the country level, working in close relation with the UN Resident Representative, can give FAO a new impact which can work two ways: in adding more immediately, as well as improving contacts between Member Nations and the Organization in bringing about a stronger concrete action at the world level.

A well-balanced Technical Cooperation Programme as part of the regular programme within this context, we realize, can work as a gap-filling, as well as responding quickly to urgent short-term needs in Member Nations - provided that projects to be financed are recommended by the UN Resident Representative.

In the light of the Director-General's set of priorities, we feel that there are, within the Work Budget certain activities which we find lacking appropriate attention. Among these is one which I would like to mention at this stage. The efforts to do away with hunger and malnutrition also include a higher priority to nutrition. We find it worth mentioning that we have noted with concern that nutrition is hardly dealt with in the Director-General's introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget. Similarly, we are concerned that the activities of FAO in this field are being given a reduced role in the budget. However, like some other speakers, we feel generally that the proposed level of the budget is somewhat high, especially bearing in mind that it was the clear intention of the Director-General from the beginning, in line with his proposal to crystallize a programme of priorities, to limit other activities of the Organisation with a lower priority. The rationale behind this should be to re-allocate the financial resources within the present level of the budget for the financing of fields of priority action. We realise that this has taken place to quite some degree, but we would urge that rationalization of the Organization and re-allocation within the budget should be pursued further toward this end.

Having said this, let me also express that my delegation has sympathy with those delegations which may have difficulty in accepting certain other key issues in the budget. We too have our apprehensions about changes in the budget being brought to us at such a late stage. I would however like to clearly point out that, although we have expressed these apprehensions, that does not mean we are opposing them as such. On the contrary, I strongly give our firm support to the Director-General's proposals for good preparation of the World Conference for Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, and would urge that appropriate financial priority should be given to the preparation of this conference.

In offering these general comments, I would in conclusion say that if the budget is given wide support, my delegation is prepared to accept it as it now stands - although I would like to reserve my right to come back to make specific comments on some of the particular points at a later stage.

O.M. SELIKANE (Lesotho): My delegation would like to join with other delegations in congratulating you, Sir, on your appointment. My delegation has no difficulty in expressing our sincere appreciation and acceptance of the Programme of Work and Budget as presented by the Secretariat.

To single out a few items: We fully support the Technical Cooperation Programme. I should point out that in Lesotho we have already benefited from this programme, in reduction of sheep scab and other sectors geared to improvement of agricultural development.

We fully associate ourselves with the distinguished delegate of the United States, that there should be increased programmes towards nutrition planning, and a sequence of programmes especially for needy people.

As for decentralization, we need not over-emphasize the importance of this. Previously it was obvious that one office in the region representing this Organization for more than two countries in the sovereign region of Africa could not cope with certain activities, and as a result action and implementation of some programmes could not be taken simultaneously. However, it is our hope that coordination will be maintained throughout. We shall be able to elaborate more on this in the Plenary, if given a chance to do so.

Lastly, I would like to say that we wish to draw attention to careful examination and reinforcement of the relative capacities of every recipient country.

B. INOUSSA (Haute-Volta): Monsieur le Président, à ce stade des débats des points de l'ordre du jour, on ne peut s'empêcher de faire des redites. Malgré tout, la délégation voltaïque ne se déroberait pas à son devoir en prenant la parole pour tout d'abord vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de notre importante Commission, et ensuite féliciter le Directeur général et son Secrétariat pour l'excellence des documents. La très bonne présentation du document par programmes, et sous-programmes permet une bonne compréhension et facilite le déroulement des débats. Ma délégation appuie les nouvelles orientations dynamiques proposées par le Directeur général. Je me dois d'assurer au Directeur général le soutien de la délégation de la Haute-Volta pour son idée de décentralisation régionale et de création de représentants FAO auprès des pays. Nous sommes convaincus que ces représentations FAO par pays constitueront des instruments positifs de développement, pour peu que les responsables soient compétent, qualifiés et pleins d'expérience. Nous félicitons le Directeur général pour les mesures de compression tant au niveau du personnel du Siège qu'au niveau du nombre des réunions et des documents, et nous osons espérer que les économies réalisées profiteront davantage aux pays en développement.

Ma délégation appuie sans réserve les programmes de coopération technique qui sont proposés et la Haute-Volta attend beaucoup de ce Programme.

Je voudrais souligner que le niveau de budget proposé mérite un appui vigoureux d'autant plus que nous estimons que c'est le minimum indispensable pour un bon travail de base.<sup>1</sup>/

CHAIRMAN: That concludes the list of today's speakers. Before I adjourn the meeting, I would like to tell you the names of the four Vice-Presidents who have now been appointed to this Commission. They are Mr. Shefrin from Canada; Mr. Mansuri from Iran; Mr. Machayo from Kenya; and Mr. Laowhaphan from Thailand. I congratulate the vice-presidents on their appointments and look forward to cooperating with them.

The meeting rose at 17.50 hours

La séance est levée à 17h50

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.50 horas

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/II/PV/3

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

THIRD MEETING  
TROISIEME SEANCE  
TERCERA SESION  
(17 November 1977)

The Third Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours, J.H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 9 h 50, sous la présidence de J.H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 9.50 horas, bajo la presidencia de J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

10. Programme of Work and Budget 1978-79 (continued)

10. Programme de travail et budget por 1978-79 (suite)

10. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1975-79 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I call the third meeting of our Commission to order. Yesterday we had rather a good discussion, I think, 34 delegations took the floor and today we continue our discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget.

I would remind you first that we are having a general discussion on the Director-General's Introduction and Explanatory Notes. Would those who want to speak on this subject please register with us?

When we have concluded this general round of discussion, we shall go on to the substance of the chapters, taking Chapters 1 and 2 together and focussing on the Technical and Economic Programmes, sub-items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, agriculture, fisheries and forestry and so on.

E. DIAS BUSTABAD (Cuba): Gracias señor Presidente, dado que es la primera vez que hacemos uso de la palabra en este Comité, deseamos felicitarlo por su elección al cargo así como a los restantes miembros de la Mesa.

El tema que nos toca debatir constituye el primero de este Comité y a la vez uno de los más importantes que deberá examinarse en esta Conferencia. El Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la Organización constituye las directrices fundamentales que la misma deberá acometer para el próximo bienio, y es por ello que la responsabilidad que asumimos en la discusión del mismo es de suma importancia.

El Programa de Labores, y por ende su correspondiente presupuesto, debe contener directrices claras que permitan a la FAO lograr su objetivo primordial, el de ayudar a los países en su desarrollo agrícola, pesquero y forestal y que esté orientado a lograr un incremento sustancial en los niveles nutricionales y alimenticios de sus pueblos, así como a cambios cualitativos y cuantitativos sustanciales en sus desarrollos económicos y sociales. Vale recalcar que este objetivo primordial deberá estar priorizado hacia los países en desarrollo y enmarcado en la aplicación del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional.

Para el logro de este objetivo, la FAO se ha trazado un conjunto de políticas necesarias tendientes a atribuir una mayor importancia a la prestación de asistencia a los Estados Miembros en la obtención de financiamiento para la inversión en la producción agrícola y alimentaria; un Programa de Cooperación Técnica que le confiera una mayor rapidez y flexibilidad para responder a las necesidades urgentes y de corto plazo que demanden los Estados Miembros; mayor descentralización de las actividades de la sede con vista a que los contactos de su personal con los problemas específicos en los países puedan ser más estrechos y fructíferos y reducción del número de reuniones, publicaciones, documentos y puestos en la sede, que permita todo lo anteriormente expuesto en un marco presupuestario.

Tomando algunos párrafos de la Introducción que nos presenta el Director General en el Proyecto de Presupuesto, podemos valorar la situación actual que enfrentan los países en desarrollo en la agricultura y la alimentación.

El incremento medio anual de la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo, desde el comienzo del decenio de 1970, es solamente del 2,6 por ciento, cifra muy inferior al objetivo del 4 por ciento fijado en la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo para el Segundo Decenio de las Naciones Unidas y corroborado por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación. El futuro es más desalentador cuando se comprueba que los aumentos de asistencia exterior han descendido en 1976 con relación a los dos años anteriores. Las asignaciones totales de ayuda alimentaria de cereales para 1976-77 fueron aproximadamente de 8,3 millones de toneladas, muy por debajo del objetivo anual de 10 millones de toneladas recomendado por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación. Las asignaciones para 1977-78 de unos 8,6 millones de toneladas, tampoco alcanzaron este objetivo. A pesar de haberse pronunciado las Naciones Unidas por el establecimiento del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, las relaciones de intercambio de la mayoría de los países en desarrollo han empeorado, habiendo avanzado poco en los acuerdos sobre los Productos Básicos, de los que dependen la mayoría de nuestros países, lo que incide desfavorablemente



en nuestra Balanza de Pagos. Todo esto fundamenta los trabajos de la FAO encaminados a mejorar esta situación, sobre todo con la asistencia del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, como una vía para resolver necesidades urgentes del desarrollo. Vemos como cada día se hace más imperante el que los países desarrollados contribuyan significativamente a incrementar su ayuda a los países en desarrollo, sobre todo aquéllos que tienen una responsabilidad histórica heredada del colonialismo.

Es por ello, que aprobamos la propuesta que nos hace el Director General para el Programa de Labores de la Organización y su correspondiente Presupuesto, que constituyen la expresión de los acuerdos adoptados por los principales comités del Consejo en 1977 y por el Consejo en su 71° período de sesiones. Las propuestas que se nos hacen recogen - a su vez - las nuevas políticas y programas que se aprobaron por el Consejo y las Conferencias Regionales en 1976.

Vemos con satisfacción cómo el Consejo en su 72° período de sesiones, celebrado hace apenas una semana, recomendó a esta Conferencia la aprobación del proyecto revisado de presupuesto ascendente a la suma de 211 350 millones de dólares en el cual se tuvo en cuenta la necesidad del incremento en el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, y el incremento para la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria.

Asimismo, entendemos que el Fondo de 10 millones de la cuenta de reserva debería utilizarse como contribución inicial al Fondo de 20 millones, con vistas a disminuir las pérdidas antes y después de la cosecha. Aquellos países que han expresado que debe ser un fondo voluntario, tienen la oportunidad de hacer su primera donación, renunciando a que se les reintegre la parte proporcional que les corresponde de acuerdo a su aporte al presupuesto, como establecen los Reglamentos de la FAO. Recordamos que la creación de este fondo fue aprobada en 1974 por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación y posteriormente se solicitó una reducción de un 50 por ciento en las pérdidas de alimentos para 1985 por la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas en su séptimo período de sesiones Extraordinario. Respondiendo a este llamado, en noviembre de 1976, el Consejo de la FAO pidió al Director General que presentara una propuesta para constituir un fondo de 20 millones de dólares. Han transcurrido dos años y ésta es la propuesta que se nos presenta: dejar en manos de la FAO una parte del excedente presupuestario de 10 millones de dólares como fondo inicial que permitiría acometer de inmediato esta tarea. Instamos a los países que han mantenido su reserva a esta propuesta a que depongan su actitud y se sumen a los que ya la han apoyado. Esperamos además que la cifra propuesta de 20 millones sea ampliamente sobrepasada mediante las donaciones voluntarias.

En este sentido, nos solidarizamos con las posiciones del Grupo de los 77 encaminadas a destacar que las propuestas que se nos hacen reflejan realísticamente el apoyo que se le quiere dar por la Organización a los esfuerzos que realizan los países en desarrollo en aras de acelerar el proceso de desarrollo agrícola que redunde en beneficio de sus pueblos.

Asimismo, se plantea el apoyo a la política de descentralización como medio para lograr una acción práctica y efectiva en el terreno; lo justificado que está el incremento de los fondos para la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria, señalándose que aún esta cifra no corresponde a las exigencias de un evento de esta naturaleza por cuanto constituye una Conferencia no meramente técnica sino de mayor alcance, que debe analizar los progresos alcanzados por los países en esta esfera y proponer medidas concretas en base a las experiencias obtenidas con posterioridad a la celebrada en 1966; y la necesidad de utilizar los 10 millones de dólares del remanente de la cuenta en suspenso para ser transferida como aporte inicial al Fondo Especial para la Reducción de las Pérdidas en las Cosechas.

A todo ello nuestra delegación ofrece su más firme apoyo y esperamos que en este Comité los Estados Miembros den su anuencia a las propuestas del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto como muestra de la voluntad política que debe existir si realmente ella está orientada a satisfacer las necesidades de los países en desarrollo.

No queremos hacer más extensa esta intervención, posteriormente haremos uso de la palabra durante el debate de este tema cuando se analice en detalle.

A.G. AL-SULAIMAN (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, may I express my thanks to you for the opportunity to make a few statements with respect to our opinion on the Programme of Work and Budget. But first of all, of course, I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the post of Chairman of this Committee.

My delegation is making every effort in order that the activities of our Organization may progress, because we are convinced of the importance of FAO's activities to the benefit of the developing countries. In view of the short time allotted to us, I shall limit myself to a very few brief remarks on the Programme of Work and Budget, and I should like to reserve the right to come back to various items on the Agenda during the course of the discussion.

We agree with the initiative undertaken by the Director-General with a view to reducing the number of posts at Headquarters, and we are sure that FAO will benefit from this and progress along the lines of decentralization and broaden the terms of reference and competence of the Regional Offices so that they may do a better job. When we are drawing up regional programmes, national experts should be allowed to participate with FAO experts in the preparation of these programmes so that the interests of all may be served.

I would like to remind you also of what our Minister of Agriculture said, that is that FAO should give equal opportunities to Representatives of Member Nations to occupy vacant posts at Headquarters and within the Organization in general.

We are very happy to see the Technical Cooperation Programme, and we hope that FAO will consolidate this programme further so as to aid the least privileged or most affected countries.

We also agree that FAO should endeavour to reduce bureaucracy and administrative costs and overhead. For that reason we do not agree with the idea of the creation of the Fund for reduction of post-harvest losses. Of course, it is necessary to reduce these losses, but we feel that this should be carried out within the existing programmes such as the World Food Programme or the Technical Cooperation Programme.

We fully agree with the guidelines which have been laid down in this Programme of Work and Budget, and we would like to congratulate the Organization on this document.

F.D. MAAS (Israel): I would like to join with the others to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election and with your assistance I hope we shall go through our Agenda in a good way.

Regarding a general statement on this Programme of Work and Budget, I hope you understand it is not easy for a Member Country not sitting in Council to digest all these many data and figures and really valuable statements within it, and we appreciate it very much, especially being an English-speaking country, the reddish-brown cover promises good sales for avocados and oranges and other crops, so this is quite valuable for us. The booklet is light in weight but unfortunately heavy in dollars. However, we understand that this budget has to be decided upon whether we like it or not. It is not up to me, it is more up to our Treasury people, and even if you have a contribution of 0.3 percent, it comes up to more than \$600 000 for a country like mine, which derives its net income from family farmers who are going to assist with their income. It is a necessary undertaking, and I hope they will enjoy it because they believe I enjoy my stay in Rome, so I hope we shall come through.

We have studied this entire booklet, about 240 pages of information, and also the 64 pages of additional statistical information. In this respect we have two comments: first, if it would be possible in coming years to number the tables. I have seen an attempt was undertaken to number these tables, but suddenly it stopped at page 31 with Table Q, and then all the other tables are without numbers. If this were done it would make it easier for people like me to understand it better.

Also, I can concur with the United States that a form should be looked for to highlight the Action Programme. I mean it is very good to have a description of objectives and past activities, but the main thing are the actions proposed and maybe there would be a more readable or understandable form to present it in connexion with budget figures.

Altogether, after having studied it, I pay my tribute to Mr. West and his office for its preparation, and I would say, if you will allow me, that this edition of the budget is an improvement. If one looks at the content, it has to be related to objectives which are stated in the booklet on page 7, five objectives of the Organization, as stated by the Director-General, and I would like to say a few words on that. The first says that greater emphasis should be given on assisting Member Nations in their efforts to obtain financial resources and so on. Now, this really is a thing which concerns

all of us, and it is discussed also in Plenary. We have figured out that during the next meeting in 1979 the world will have increased by 150 million people, and if we even take the very low figure of an investment of \$100 per additional citizen in this world, we easily see that capital in the magnitude of \$10 to \$15 billion has to be raised, and this is an enormous task in which FAO has to assist. We strongly believe, as the Director-General also seems to believe, that this capital-recruiting campaign will be one of the most important tasks of FAO, and attention has to be paid to it.

Regarding the establishment of the Technical Cooperation Programme, we have read with great interest of its first anniversary. We hope this nice booklet in the future will be in a more business-like style, but it is the first birthday and the child is still in its infancy. However, this makes a nice presentation and it goes along with our beliefs.

We would stress ongoing activities in the field of extension and investment investigations.

Coming to decentralization, we support this. I can tell you I think we are the first country within FAO to have, already back in the early fifties, a Country Representative. It was Dr. Black from the United States, and he has done very useful work for us in agriculture and has helped us, with FAO's assistance, and if the Organization can select people like Dr. Black, I am sure that all these 49 or 50 countries will be very happy, and it pays: Dr. Black had a long-lasting effect; he has trained Mrs. Roman whom many of you know, and she is still with us.

Regarding the theoretical studies which have been criticized here, we do not believe that without such studies, even if they are called theoretical studies, we can move along. Certainly, we have to use our hands and our brains as well, and we think that this undertaking of Agriculture: Towards 2000 has great value.

Coming to the last objective, reduction in the number of meetings, publications and documents and of posts in Headquarters, here we do not always go along. First, we see the objective said "Reduction of Meetings" but on page 31 we find that in this biennium we had 253 meetings and in the next we shall have 288, including some training activities, but anyhow this reduction of meetings is not a very low one. The same applies to publications. But we do not criticise as others do, because we believe that meetings and publications, if they are useful and if they are well prepared, are one of the means that FAO possesses to disseminate information.

It is stated on page 162 of this booklet that now the annual production of information comes up to 1.5 million editions from all the institutes. These are of great value, but it is the task of this Organization to bring to everyone's attention at the right time information which is available or to organize meetings among interested parties to ensure progress of agriculture, and therefore we are a bit critical sometimes of the contents of meetings and publications, but we could go along with their role within the Organization.

Finally, like other speakers from the European region, we have a very high regard for activities in the European region, not only for the Europeans alone, but we believe that this European production, agricultural scientific production, is of great value for all regions of FAO and therefore we think highly of it and we also would support the Resolution in order to strengthen it.

J. LIJODI (Kenya): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me a chance to make a few general remarks on this important subject, and also for the Director-General's introductory remarks yesterday. We too join the other delegations in attaching a great deal of importance to the Programme of Work and Budget and we think that as much time as possible should be allocated for a thorough discussion on it, because we will not have enough time in future to scrutinize it in detail.

The Programme of Work and Budget, as set out in this document, is based on the five major policies, and our comments will be along the same lines.

First of all the Director-General intends to give greater emphasis on assisting Member Nations in their efforts to obtain financial resources in food and agricultural production. Whereas finance is just one of the important inputs in food and agricultural production the terms of lending, and arrangements for repayment are of great importance to projects of this nature. FAO should, therefore, attempt to obtain funds on concessionary terms and refrain from lending institutions which treat small scale farmers on the same basis as commercial concerns which have more flexibility in dealing with very drastic price changes and other international developments.

The small-holder projects, to which our country gives more priority, are very vulnerable to international market conditions and the type of finance we would like for these projects should be such that it is possible for them to remain viable regardless of violent economic changes.

On the Technical Cooperation Programme we have not had sufficient time for this programme to be properly evaluated effectively. However, we do have sufficient experience from our other programmes to convince us that this programme can be an important input in our production programmes. My delegation would like to echo the original intention that it should actually assist in filling the gaps in the resources available for development, and not to act as an outlet for the FAO resources, such as staff who are not wanted elsewhere in the activities we are involved in now. A Technical Cooperation Programme should be a direct production orientated project whose results should be able to be seen within a short period. If this is not done then we shall not be achieving the original objective of it. In this respect the TCP should utilize as much as possible the locally available staff in the Member Nations, so that most of the funds are used for the financing of direct inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, and other planting materials; storage, transport and also training facilities.

On the question of decentralization and appointment of country representatives the move by FAO to the country level is something we have been fighting for for many years and we are pleased to learn that this is now under implementation.

Experience has shown that project identification and preparation is still a bottleneck in the majority of the developing countries. The country offices should, therefore, be staffed in such a way that this service can either be provided for immediately when it is required, or arrangements can be made with the Headquarters to provide them. We feel that the new country representatives to be appointed should be people who have had considerable experience in programming and project appraisal work. While we welcome the implementation of the decentralization programme we would like to caution that the relationship with the regional representatives offices should be clearly defined in order to avoid misunderstandings.

On the question of reduction of the number of meetings, publications and posts at Headquarters, while we support these proposals in principle we would like to add that the abolition of some of the posts is an exercise which should be preceded by a clearly worked out list of priorities, and the type of personnel that will be required for the various field activities. It would be futile if the new field posts were to be filled by people who have been left over at Headquarters, regardless of the relevance of their qualifications.

Finally, we would like to support the proposed Programme of Work and Budget in principle, but we will have more details to make on the specific chapters later on.

SANG WOO PARK (Korea, Rep. of): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the delegation and the Government of the Republic of Korea, I would like to add my congratulations to you on your unanimous election to the Chairman of the Commission. I hope and trust that, under your able leadership, this Commission will produce fruitful results.

This Commission is especially important because we discuss the Programme to materialize the Director-General's creative and vigorous ideas. By analysing the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1978/79, my delegation was very much pleased to see that the Programme of Work and Budget reflects the new sets of policy guidelines and contains concrete and effective action programmes. I believe that these are very well conceived and realistic approaches to tackling the world food and agricultural problems.

Since it is my first interruption, we are at the initial stage of our discussion, I will confine myself to briefly stating my position on the programme. I will go on in detail when we deal with each programme. Among many programmes in the document, investment in food and agricultural production, Technical Cooperation Programme, and decentralization from Headquarters to country level especially draw our attention. I believe that decentralized and debureaucratic implementations of the FAO programmes will produce rich fruits. My delegation, therefore firmly supports.

My delegation also pledges its best cooperation and fullest participation in fulfilling the FAO activities.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, I hope that this Commission will provide the Director-General and staff of FAO with a sound basis to implement the proposed policies through our sincere discussions.

E. BRETZ (Germany, Federal Republic of) (interpretation from German): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First I would like to join the other speakers who have congratulated you on your election to the Chairmanship of Commission II. We are convinced that under your leadership the deliberations of Commission II will lead to constructive and useful results. This is fully in keeping with the tradition of an honest and fruitful cooperation which we highly appreciate and wish to continue.

Mr. Chairman, I should first like to repeat something that was stated by the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestry of the Federal Republic of Germany in Plenary on the 15th of this month. The Programme of Work for the biennium 1978-1979 which the Director-General has submitted to us in time and in a clear form aims at expanding the activities of FAO and at orienting them more strongly to practice related measures in member countries. My Government, in principle, can support these objectives. My Government endeavours that highest attention is attributed to the problems relating to nutrition of all people in the world and to the development of agriculture in the least developed countries which are mostly the countries which have the most serious food shortages. These countries, Mr. Chairman, require our assistance. This is one important reason why my Government has increased over-proportionally the expenditure on development aid. As has been pointed out by my Minister the Federal Republic of Germany will not oppose a consensus with regard to the question of financing. However, we should not forget that the budget proposed by the Director-General has the greatest increase in all of the UN agencies. We wonder, like many other countries, whether this rate of increase is fully justified. It is my belief, Mr. Chairman, this is a question we should all put to ourselves. The question which must be put to ourselves again and again is in my Delegation's view whether these expenditures are absolutely necessary to achieve the objectives set by us. The excessive expenditure for one or another activity could perhaps be used elsewhere with more effectiveness and this might be in the interest of the countries which most urgently require our assistance.

This, Mr. Chairman, leads me to pointing out the following points. We harbour certain doubts with respect to the question as to whether the rates of inflation on which expenditures are based are correctly assessed. As we just heard from the Delegation of Italy, it seems that in the case of the expenditures expressed in lire, which account for more than half of the budget, substantial reserves exist. Accordingly, we believe that it would be possible to significantly diminish the amount of overall expenditure without affecting in any way the activities. The Special Reserve Fund which is proposed by the Director-General provides for substantial funds to compensate for currency fluctuations. In view of the exchange rate of 1 dollar: 879 lire this would necessarily lead to over-budgeting.

Our attitude with regard to the suggested fund to diminish post-harvest losses is known to you. The basic work for the proposed programme should be financed from the regular budget of FAO. For the projects as such we believe that it should be possible to get financial support from international financial agencies or bilateral donors. There is no doubt that potential donors will react to concrete project proposals in a positive way. The establishment of a special fund is, therefore, in our opinion not useful. We have basic doubts about an obligatory transfer of funds from the Suspense Account of the budget 1976-77. We believe that a financing on a voluntary basis would be the better solution. We shall not oppose a reasonable consensus for initial financing.

Now, turning to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We believe that we should do everything possible to avoid additional cost. It seems to us thoroughly possible to implement the preparatory work with the staff which is available.

With respect to the estimate for travel cost, we are quite surprised about the increase of 41 percent. We believe that without curtailing activities it would be possible to diminish expenditure here if greater account than so far were taken of the principles as recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit.

We are pleased that the Director-General has not suggested any increase in the number of posts. However we are quite astonished that a great many upgradings are envisaged at the same time. This applies particularly to the longer term financial effects going beyond the present biennium and to the relationships in the United Nations system.

With respect to other points of detail regarding the Programme of Work and Budget, we shall, with your kind permission, Mr. Chairman, request the floor again at a later date.

These are the only comments I have to make at present. It is together that we all want to achieve these objectives for which we all strive together. I am convinced that in the future as well we shall find common and reasonable solutions with respect to questions of financing in accordance with our Organization's tradition; in the future we should continually ask ourselves whether all expenditures to achieve our common objectives are absolutely necessary.

V. BALINGA (Cameroon): My Delegation wishes to associate itself with others in congratulating you on your election to the arduous task of Chairman to this Commission. We give you all our support in every way.

We also congratulate the Director-General for the excellent Programme of Work and Budget he has laid before us. This only reflects the able team with which he has worked, and his ability to choose his lieutenants well.

We are encouraged to hear about the decentralization and hope that adequate study was carried out beforehand so that finally we do not find ourselves in a predicament.

We look forward to the Rural Development Programme and the Agrarian Reform Conference, and wish them success.

We believe that the goals which the Director-General has set will not succeed if infrastructures are not created in the developing world. My country's Delegation raised this point in the North/ South dialogue and we are happy that the Hungarian Delegation has raised this point. Poor farmers will continue in their islands if we do not envisage roads to enable them to come out with their produce, and also make it possible for international experts to reach them. It is our wish that the question of infrastructure be given more attention in the budget.

We are also of the opinion that the bulk of the budget should be used to support programmes in developing countries, and hope that developed countries will look at this with favour. These measures will aid us in our programme of preventing post-harvest losses.

We totally accept the level of the budget, and reserve our right to speak further later on specific Chapters, as the need may arise.

J. GARCIA E. (El Salvador): Mi delegación desea aunarse aquí a las que le han felicitado por su nombramiento como Presidente de la Comisión II y en atención a su llamada seremos breves en nuestra declaración. Nos referiremos a algunos aspectos de la declaración introductoria del Director General; consideramos que dentro de las consignaciones presupuestarias para 1978-79 la edición de 1 200 000 dólares para la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural están plenamente justificados, tanto por la naturaleza de dicha reunión, que ha generado grandes expectativas en los países del tercer mundo, como por su costo relativamente bajo comparado con reuniones similares como ha sido señalado por numerosas delegaciones durante la celebración del 72º período de sesiones del Consejo de la Organización.

Fruto de la visión del Director General ha sido la continuación del Programa de Establecimiento de representantes de la FAO en los países que nuestra delegación apoya en forma decisiva la descentralización de las actividades de la Sede, convencidos de que la designación de representantes de la FAO se traduce en una mayor prontitud en la acción, y una presencia más directa en las actividades del campo. Con las copiosas solicitudes que he recibido del Director General para el establecimiento de estas representaciones se demuestra el interés manifiesto de los países y constituye la réplica más fuerte a quienes dudan de la eficacia de las mismas.

En lo referente al programa de Cooperación Técnica por experiencia propia conocemos la bondad del mismo, por lo que un presupuesto de 20 millones de dólares nos luce equilibrando para un futuro próximo un acrecentamiento de los fondos para él asignados, estando plenamente acordes con el agregado del remanente de fondos no comprometidos de 1976-77.

Los aspectos presupuestarios referentes a la cuenta especial de Reserva y la creación del Fondo Especial para la Prevención de las Pérdidas de Alimentos merecen nuestra más válida aprobación. En el primer caso, la falta de un dispositivo de ajuste automático que contrarreste las fluctuaciones monetarias y en el segundo, porque constituye la puesta en marcha de un programa que debe consolidarse con asignaciones presupuestarias fijas, no sujetas a eventualidades que impedirían la concretización de la acción.

Finalmente, merecen nuestro apoyo las iniciativas tendientes a disminuir la adopción y reunión de la Sede, medidas de sana administración que facilitan la concentración de recursos hacia los programas de los países. Termino mi intervención apoyando el nivel presupuestario solicitado en un número de 811 millones de dólares de los Estados Unidos por su contenido pragmático, realista, y confiamos en su pronta aprobación.

Sra. D.I.Di GIOVAN DE SUAREZ (Argentina): La delegación argentina desea en primer lugar felicitarlo por su elección y le aseguro al señor Presidente que después de una jornada y media en que hemos presenciado su eficiente dirección de los debates, esto no es una mera formalidad. Deseamos hacer algunos comentarios generales sobre el C 77/3, donde se somete a la Conferencia el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la Organización. Adhiero a lo que han manifestado otras delegaciones sobre las mejoras introducidas en cuanto al formato y presentación del documento así como a la forma completa y detallada en que se han individualizado los programas. Lamentablemente también deseaba asociarme a algunos comentarios que se han hecho para que se acentúen los esfuerzos, para que se haga llegar este documento, en general todos los documentos, con la anticipación necesaria a fin de que se puedan aprovechar cabalmente los esfuerzos realizados por los funcionarios de la Organización en la preparación de estos interesantes documentos.

En términos generales, mi delegación está de acuerdo con los delineamientos generales que entendemos responden a las orientaciones indicadas por la 18a Conferencia y por el Consejo en su 69° y 71° período de sesiones. Creemos que existe en el documento presentado reales y positivos indicios en materia de preferencia por actividades pragmáticas y de corto plazo descentralización y acercamiento de la FAO al campo, disminución en gastos de reuniones y documentación, producción de fondos asignados a puestos de plantilla, etc. Estas orientaciones se traducen en términos numéricos en el presupuesto en algunos aspectos, en algunos aumentos, y en algunas reducciones que mi delegación se complace en destacar. Permítanos señalar, en primer lugar, nuestra satisfacción por el aumento registrado en los recursos asignados al Programa de Apoyo al Desarrollo y al Programa de Cooperación Técnica así como a la reducción registrada en el capítulo de Política y Dirección y en el capítulo de Servicios de Apoyo. Nos permitimos simpatizar estos aspectos porque ellos fundamentan el apoyo de mi delegación al monto del presupuesto sometido a la Conferencia. Deseo que conste que este apoyo se hace justamente en base a estas consideraciones que tienden a acercar a la FAO al terreno y el hacer más práctica y efectiva la labor de la Organización y a pesar de la directiva general del Gobierno argentino de no alentar el incremento presupuestario de las organizaciones internacionales. Ya sabemos que el presupuesto incluye un incremento considerable con relación al bienio anterior - y también en comparación a los aumentos que se han previsto en otras organizaciones internacionales. Sin perjuicio de este apoyo general a los lineamientos y al monto del presupuesto sometido, mi delegación hará en su momento algunas solicitudes de aclaración con respecto a cómo se harán estas economías y a los detalles de algunos programas.

Así mismo tenemos interés en que se nos aclare algunas transferencias y reajustes al presupuesto que se ha propuesto para hacer frente a decisiones del Consejo en su 71° y 72° período de sesiones y a las decisiones de las Conferencias Regionales. Estamos interesados en especial en la contribución de la FAO a la Conferencia sobre Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo, y si bien confiamos en que la incidencia que resultara de esa contribución que ha sido decidida por el Consejo por la Resolución 71/1, decíamos, si bien confiamos en que esa incidencia presupuestaria no sea importante y pueda ser fácilmente absorbida, hemos depositado grandes expectativas sobre las contribuciones que la FAO puede hacer para identificar áreas de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en el ámbito de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Para terminar, permítanme referirme al escepticismo manifestado en el día de ayer por algunas delegaciones con relación a la utilidad del establecimiento de representantes en los países miembros. Mi país recuerda que ha sido la Conferencia en su 18° período de sesiones y el Consejo en varias oportunidades se ha pronunciado reiteradamente en favor de la descentralización. Entendemos que ésta es una vía idónea para lograr ese objetivo. Pensamos que los representantes en los países pueden contribuir a identificar eficazmente las auténticas necesidades y prioridades de los Países Miembros, y que ello se traducirá en una acción más eficaz y directa y de impacto inmediato de la FAO en el terreno.

D. BASSIOUNI (Sudan): Mr. Chairman, my intervention will be very brief. On page 18, paragraph 2.2, the explanatory note informs the Commission of the transfer of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme to the Land and Water Development Division by the establishment of the new division for Fertilizer and Plant Nutrition Service. We have been under the impression that the best place for a Fertilizer Scheme is in such a division, and we would like really to be assured that this new division will not in any way adversely affect the programming and the effectiveness of the Division to be established.

On the Extra-Budgetary Funds it is expected that donors will respond favourably to this budget. One would really have felt that some pledging on the part of the donors would have been necessary so that the forecast would be more realistic than the one we have in our hands right now. The forecast in our hands is based entirely on the supposition that donors will be coming forth with the funds on this particular aspect. A number of speakers mentioned yesterday the need to update the budget since it was

drawn up a few months back. One would be especially interested to see in view of the recent developments whether there is any improvement in UNDP financing and what the share of FAO is in this financing. This would help us to update and see where we stand as far as UNDP financing is concerned and this is important since a sizeable portion of FAO budgeting comes under UNDP. The table on page 23 shows a substantial rise in trust funds from 1974 to 1976. This is encouraging and we are made to understand in paragraph 3. 22 that this trend will continue. One would have really liked also to have the assurance that there are real pledges to confirm that the trend will be kept.

A. BIN YUNUS (Malaysia): Mr. Chairman, since this is the first time that the Malaysian delegation takes the floor, on behalf of our delegation I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. We assure you of our full support in the discharge of your functions.

Mr. Chairman, at this stage we would like to make a few general observations. Firstly, we offer our congratulations to the Director-General and the Secretariat for presenting a very comprehensive and manageable Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium 1978-79. We concur with the other distinguished delegates that this Programme of Work and Budget is certainly an improvement over those of the past. We welcome the Director-General's proposed reduction in the Budget with respect to publication and documentation and a number of meetings.

Mr. Chairman, Malaysia notes with interest the emphasis given by the Director-General on decentralization from the Headquarters to the country level. We support the reduction of posts at the Headquarters and the subsequent strengthening of the regional offices. We believe that the regional offices have an important role to play in coordinating programmes at the regional and country levels.

With regard to the appointment of the FAO country representatives, we would like to stress that the functions of the country representatives should be clearly defined so as to avoid duplication of functions with those of other UN agencies such as UNDP.

Mr. Chairman, we are happy to note that in the Director General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79 high priority is given to training activities. In this respect FAO's contribution and assistance can be challenged for one, training of personnel as well as training of trainers. This can be achieved through fellowships or training programmes. Two, short-term investments in terms of providing experts or specialists for a period of time while the personnel is being trained to do the job. The short-term specialists are especially needed for planning, project identification and preparation, management and project monitoring and evaluation.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we support the budget level as proposed to the Conference.

CHIN FENG-CHU (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation endorse the budget level of 211 350 000 dollars. We would like to take this opportunity to make a few comments on the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization.

First as a developing socialist country, China cares very much for the Third World countries, the benefits from the Organization's budget and its various programmes of work. As we all know in the 1976-1977 biennium allied with the decision of the 18th Conference and the concrete proposals made by the new Director-General, the proposed number of new posts was cut down from 519 to 189, meetings and publications by about a third, and some items of work were appropriately adjusted, thus saving a considerable amount of funds for the establishment of the Technical Cooperation Programme. The efficiency of the Organization was not diminished; on the contrary such measures won the support of Member Nations. This example shows that the efficiency of work is not just determined by the amount of funds allocated, but depends to a considerable extent on the policy and the conduct of the work. It is our consistent view that institutions and the staff should be changed and expenditures economized as much as possible. Efforts should be made for a continuous improvement in the Programme of Work and in increased efficiency to protect the Organization's limited funds to assist Third World countries solve selective and urgent problems involved in the development of food and agricultural production.

Secondly in our effort to achieve the first objective, we are of the opinion that FAO's financial resources should be used in a yet more selective way, and now with the changes in the situation and in the Programme of Work, education for various programmes should be increased or cut down in the light of active circumstances. The amount of funds thus saved from some programme or item of FAO's unit may



be transferred to other or more cogent needs. In this way the budget level which has been rising by fairly big margins over the recent years would no longer go up on a large scale from one biennium to another.

Thirdly, what we care most about is how effective are the services the Organization renders to the Member Nations, especially the Third World countries.

The final accounts of this biennium and the year of work of FAO give a general picture of FAO's activities. Of late it has been made the rule to evaluate the level of programme. We hope that an earnest evaluation will provide a more concrete understanding of the actual results produced and the problems existing under the various programmes, so that its result can be summed up in concerted efforts and that use can be made of the human and financial resources of the Organization with a view to making greater contributions to the development of food and agricultural production in the Third World countries.

F. D'ALMEIDA (Bénin): Monsieur le Président, ma délégation est heureuse de vous adresser ses félicitations pour votre nomination au poste de Président. Nous adressons également nos compliments au Directeur général et au Secrétariat pour la présentation du document qui, à notre avis, est réellement plus concis que par le passé.

Dans notre intervention, nous voudrions parler du problème de la réduction du personnel, et il nous est très agréable d'adresser nos compliments au Directeur général pour cette réduction de personnel. Certaines délégations pensent que cette réduction au niveau de la base est une bonne chose, mais il semble qu'au niveau du sommet, il y ait un regroupement. Nous voulons voir en cela une espèce d'investissement intellectuel au niveau de la FAO qui permettrait au Directeur de recruter un personnel plus qualifié et plus adéquat pour que l'Organisation puisse aller de l'avant.

Nous apprécions aussi les nominations qui ont été faites, en ce sens qu'il nous paraît s'agir de personnel jeune, et peut-être cette jeunesse donnera-t-elle également une jeunesse à l'Organisation, ce qui la rendrait plus dynamique et efficace.

Nous avons constaté également qu'il a été fait une place importante, dans l'Organisation, au département de la campagne mondiale contre la faim, mais nous n'avons pas vu, dans le programme proposé, les activités destinées à cette division. Nous nous souvenons que la campagne mondiale contre la faim a, pendant un certain temps, au niveau de la FAO, entre les années 1960/70, été l'un des organes les plus actifs, puisqu'elle a permis dans nos pays de mieux faire connaître les activités de la FAO et de sensibiliser un certain nombre de personnes aux problèmes réels de la famine et de la malnutrition. Nous aimerions que l'on nous dise à quoi sert maintenant cette division, et quelles sont les activités qu'on envisage de lui confier.

Dans la mesure où nous estimons qu'il faille mettre l'accent sur les cultures vivrières et la production vivrière, nous pensons que la division de l'alimentation et de la nutrition doit jouer un rôle très important.

Il nous semble que dans le domaine de la formation une action particulière doit être entreprise au niveau des pays en développement, en particulier de l'Afrique et surtout de l'Afrique francophone où cette formation est vraiment désuète. Nous souhaiterions que la FAO se penche sur cette formation au niveau moyen, parce que ce sont les cadres moyens qui nous manquent dans ce domaine. Puisque la FAO envisage d'être beaucoup plus proche des populations rurales, nous pensons que cette formation serait la bienvenue.

En ce qui concerne l'action en direction des femmes rurales, nous applaudissons à cette activité, car nous pensons que la formation de la femme rurale contribue à l'évolution du milieu rural, et il nous serait agréable qu'un certain nombre d'actions soient faites dans la direction des femmes rurales pour la formation en économie familiale et en économie domestique. Nous souhaitons qu'il ne s'agisse pas simplement d'un vœu, mais que réellement des séminaires, des rencontres, des voyages d'études soient organisés à l'intention des femmes rurales, afin qu'elles se rendent compte des activités qu'elles pourraient mener dans ce domaine.

Nous appuyons aussi la Conférence sur la réforme agraire, mais il ne faudrait pas que cette conférence reste lettre morte, parce que la réforme agraire est l'expression d'une politique donnée. Il ne s'agit pas de réunir des personnes à grands frais pour qu'une réalisation ne se fasse dans ce domaine.

En ce qui concerne le niveau du budget, nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer les propositions du Directeur général, mais nous pensons qu'il faudrait un large consensus de la Conférence pour arriver à se mettre d'accord et trouver les moyens pour réaliser ce budget.

En ce qui concerne les pertes de récoltes, nous nous réservons d'intervenir plus tard, mais nous pensons que lorsqu'on parle de pertes après récoltes il ne s'agit pas simplement d'un problème d'emmagasiner et de silos, on doit aussi penser aux problèmes de la conservation et de la transformation rurale et domestique. Nous voulons donc que l'on songe à cela et que l'on mette un accent particulier sur ce problème.

Nous appuyons le niveau du budget proposé pour cela et la création d'un fonds spécial. Nous pensons que c'est également par consensus que nous arriverons à obtenir ce résultat.

O. DIALLO (Mali): Tout d'abord, comme les autres orateurs qui m'ont précédé, je vous adresse mes vives félicitations pour votre élection qui vous amène à diriger les débats de cette commission. Soyez persuadé, Monsieur le Président, que ma délégation apportera sa modeste contribution au succès de votre commission.

L'occasion est bonne pour féliciter également le Directeur général et son Secrétariat des louables efforts qu'ils ont déployés pour la préparation des importants documents mis à notre disposition. Sans entrer dans les détails, ma délégation n'éprouve aucune difficulté pour accepter le niveau du budget tel qu'il nous est présenté.

Pour ce qui concerne la décentralisation proposée et déjà amorcée, ma délégation approuve cette formule qui permettra, j'en suis convaincu, si on accorde les moyens nécessaires, une coopération plus étroite entre les activités du PNUD, de la FAO, et des autres institutions spécialisées. A cet effet, mon pays souhaiterait qu'un représentant lui soit affecté, si possible dans les meilleurs délais.

Ma délégation appuie la création d'un fonds spécial pour les pertes après récoltes, mais elle estime qu'il faudrait tout autant se pencher sur les aspects également importants de la production de ces récoltes. C'est dire que chez nous, au Sahel, les récoltes du paysan ne peuvent être sécurisées que par la réalisation d'aménagements souvent coûteux, susceptibles de pallier les insuffisances pluviométriques.

Les économies réalisées sur de nombreux postes tels que réunions, documentation, etc. ont été très appréciées par ma délégation.

M. A. M. ABOUTALEB (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): In the name of Allah, the Merciful and Compassionate, may I thank you Mr. Chairman and congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of this Commission. I am certain that under your leadership our efforts will bear fruit.

First I should like to express our support for the Programme of Work and Budget which has been worked out so excellently. Secondly, we also share the point of view expressed by other delegates who stressed the need for the decentralization of the regional offices and the balance or equilibrium which should exist between Headquarters and the regional offices.

Thirdly, as regards the post-harvest losses, we agree as far as the principle is concerned which emphasizes the need to limit these losses and to set up a fund, but there are other funds concerned with this question also, such as the Fund for Agricultural Development. So we do not think that a separate fund needs to be set up, because it would mean simply dissipating the very scant resources that we could use, and perhaps using them for other purposes. We should like to reserve our right to come back on other items on the agenda as they arise in the discussion.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): The Netherlands Government has agreed in general with the review of the policies set out in paragraph 2 of the Director-General's Introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79. I would have preferred that Mr. West could have heard these comments but we take it that the central role of the UNDP in the financing and coordination of technical assistance as agreed upon in 1970, in the so-called consensus will be kept in mind.

Secondly, as the Programme Committee stated in paragraph 2. 11 of its last report, many activities of FAO are of importance for all Member Nations.

Thirdly, some so-called theoretical long-term studies will continue since they are of importance as a basis for the daily activities of the Organization, and of the many Member Nations, and for the support that FAO needs from the general public.

Therefore, my delegation agrees with the Director-General's remark that the New International Economic Order is not an empty slogan. My Government has committed itself to it many times.

It is therefore hoped that the FAO will give sufficient priority, also in the sense of the necessary qualified personnel, for the project "Agriculture: Towards 2000".

I am sure I do not have to remind you, Mr. Chairman, that my Government like yours, has made available a substantial financial contribution to the preparation for a new United Nations development strategy. The Director-General refers to the importance of investment and the increases in commitments of external assistance for agriculture. The Netherlands Government is in complete agreement with this and has acted accordingly by tripling its voluntary commitments for agricultural development in the last three years, including very substantial contributions to such important FAO programmes as the Food Security Assistance Scheme - about \$8 millions - the Fertilizer Programme, the Programme for Dairy Development and now \$2 million for the Post-Harvest Food Losses Programme.

We share, however, the feelings expressed by the Swedish delegate yesterday that a real burden-sharing, for all necessary activities is a must.

Therefore, my delegation welcomes the fact that more of these programmes are financed from the regular budget, as long as they are well-coordinated with the activities of the United Nations system.

Because of the many field activities of FAO, my delegation sees merit in a fair, FAO representation in developing countries. We agree, however, with the United Kingdom delegation that the proposed increase in the budget might be too high and that the establishment of FAO representatives should be fully coordinated with the United Nations Development Programme Resident Representatives.

We also share the views of the Danish delegation in support of the Technical Cooperation Programme and agree that the projects should be small, urgent and less miscellaneous. We do welcome the suggested evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme in the hope that it will be an effective evaluation. My delegation, not so surprisingly, endorses wholeheartedly the remarks made by the Norwegian delegation.

My delegation will go into more details during the following stages of the debate. I would like to finish my statement with a small suggestion and some general remarks on the structure and format of the budget and on its level.

The small suggestion concerns the joint financing of the CGFPI by FAO, UNDP and the World Bank. These sponsoring agencies will make an evaluation on the CGFPI by the end of the year but have now to continue its financing. Can the Secretariat give me some more information on this? My delegation welcomes the format of the present document and especially the fact that some indications of extra-budgetary resources are given. We have requested this for many years. We would, however, also agree with the remarks made in the Programme Committee that information should be given on progress made in a particular programme or sub-programme when these are significant causes for revision in the execution of major items referred to in the previous Programme of Work and Budget. Only then can the Conference really assess the proposed programmes.

Finally, as to the budget level, my delegation has stated from the beginning that the proposed real budget growth is in our opinion too high. This position has not changed. The arguments for this growth are not convincing. The extra raise as a consequence of the important preparations for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and adjusting the appropriations rate at 879 lire to a dollar are acceptable, since these are logical consequences of decisions that have been taken earlier by my Government. The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development can be very important if it is concrete and action-oriented, and if it is well prepared. We therefore welcome the priority that the Director-General has given to these preparations.

G. DE MICHELIS (Italy): Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to the problem of the level of the budget and values of rate of inflation, but as it is the first time the Italian delegation is taking the floor, let me first congratulate you on your election and at the same time express my appreciation to Mr. West and his staff for the work they have accomplished in the difficult task that has been given to them.

As far as the values of rate of inflation are concerned, I am afraid that we will have something to say in the sense that these values are a little high, and especially if we consider that the position of the Italian Government has to be in accordance with the commitment that we have undertaken with the International Monetary Fund.

We have here our advisor from the Treasury, and with your permission I would ask you to allow him to speak and express the views of the Treasury on this particular aspect of the problem.

G. GUERRIERO (Italie): Nous avons lu très attentivement le document qui nous a été soumis. Et nous avons vu dans l'introduction du Directeur général, que "le cadre financier 1978-79 se trouve en grande partie prédéterminé par les majorations des coûts qui se sont produites à différentes époques durant l'exercice 1976-77, et qui doivent maintenant être projetées sur la totalité des vingt-quatre mois du prochain exercice."

Après avoir considéré un certain nombre d'éléments tout à fait objectifs et les liens pour chiffrer en dollars les éléments qui ont été produits, nous devons dire que tout en reconnaissant que les augmentations de coût pour les mêmes années ne pouvaient être calculées uniquement d'après le taux d'inflation prévu dans cette période pour le pays hôte, nous savons que 65 pour cent des dépenses doivent être prévus en liras et qu'environ 35 pour cent des mêmes dépenses se feront dans des monnaies autres qu'italienne.

A la page 28 de l'introduction, nous voyons que le Directeur général estime "que le taux général d'inflation a dépassé 20 pour cent dans le pays hôte en 1976, et les prévisions officielles les plus récentes pour 1977 sont du même ordre. Pour l'ensemble de la période biennale, le total pourrait se situer autour de 45 pour cent".

A cet égard, je dois déclarer que dans la lettre d'entente que mon Gouvernement a adressée au Fonds monétaire international, l'Italie a prévu pour 1978 un taux d'inflation de 14 pour cent. Si nous relient l'inflation au taux de croissance prévu de 2 pour cent, nous avons un taux d'inflation réel de 12 pour cent seulement.

C'est dans cette optique que mon Gouvernement et en particulier mon Département voudraient que soit lu le budget.

A cet égard, nous devons considérer qu'en général le programme d'activité des agences spécialisées des Nations Unies selon la tendance manifestée de la part de certains pays, devrait prévoir dans un délai assez rapproché d'atteindre une consolidation du budget concerné. Cette attitude devrait être réalisée pour la FAO à partir du biennium 1984-85, elle pourrait être supportée et même aidée dès maintenant tout en lisant le programme et budget pour le biennium 1978-79 suivant cette même direction. Et à cet égard, je pense que la valeur indiquée pour le taux d'inflation, de même que les autres indications, pourraient avoir des répercussions sur certains arguments tout à fait individuels et spécifiques.

C'est pour cela que la délégation italienne aimerait que le projet de programme et budget soit lu tout en tenant compte, soit de la sélectivité des programmes, soit des possibilités des compressions de personnel, soit - et cela vient en troisième position, mais en premier lieu - par l'harmonisation et la coordination, pas seulement au niveau des fonctionnaires de la famille des Nations Unies, mais aussi du comité du programme et de la coordination.

En conclusion, nous aimerions que dans la poursuite des débats, soit au niveau du programme et budget, soit au niveau de chaque programme, le comité du budget et en deuxième instance les organes de la FAO qui doivent décider, aient à l'esprit cette considération de la délégation italienne quant au niveau du taux d'inflation prévu pour l'année prochaine et même pour le prochain biennium.

L. KABUYI (Zaïre): Comme les collègues qui m'ont précédé, je voudrais vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection à la tête de cette importante commission.

Ma délégation désire faire quelques commentaires sur ce point de notre ordre du jour dans le débat général à savoir le programme de travail et budget. Je reviendrai sur certains points au cours des discussions particulières consacrées à l'examen de ce point de notre ordre du jour.

Du point de vue de ma délégation, le programme de travail et budget que nous a présenté le Directeur général représente le minimum de ce qui peut être fait au cours de la prochaine période biennale.

Nous pensons que ce programme doit être accepté parce qu'il rentre dans les objectifs assignés à l'Organisation et des déclarations faites en séance plénière, il est apparu que tous les pays souhaitaient voir la FAO rendre plus de services aux pays qui en ont besoin.

En ce qui touche le programme de coopération technique, nous savons qu'il s'agit d'une très bonne initiative. Il permet d'entreprendre de petites opérations dans un laps de temps plus rapide. Cela ne peut être considéré comme un gaspillage ni comme faisant double emploi, parce que dans les pays dits en voie de développement, il y a énormément à faire. Pratiquement tout est à faire, et les ressources ne sont pas suffisantes pour qu'on puisse parler de gaspillage. Nous estimons qu'il s'agit d'une très bonne initiative prise par le Directeur général et approuvée par les différentes sessions du Conseil consacrées à ce problème.

La possibilité de décentralisation a notre entier appui, parce que nous estimons que l'Organisation doit être le plus près possible des Etats Membres. Nous appuyons surtout le principe qui tend à recourir aux institutions nationales, ce qui a pour effet de réduire considérablement les coûts que représentent les rémunérations des experts étrangers qui s'élèvent généralement à 80 pour cent du coût des projets de terrain.

On peut alors se demander si les pays censés bénéficier de l'assistance en bénéficient effectivement, parce qu'actuellement les pays ont plus besoin d'équipements et de fournitures auxquels les ressources devraient en grande partie être consacrées.

Au sujet du Fonds spécial pour la prévention des pertes après les récoltes, ma délégation appuie la proposition du Directeur général et souhaite que les pays qui ont exprimé des avis contraires, tant à sa procédure qu'à sa constitution, acceptent de considérer les indications avancées par le Directeur général pour que ce Fonds puisse être constitué rapidement.

Concernant le niveau du budget, ma délégation estime qu'il devrait pouvoir être accepté; en effet comme l'a dit M. le Directeur général, le taux d'accroissement réel n'étant que de sept pour cent, ce projet de budget devrait pouvoir recevoir notre accord. Or, certaines délégations estiment que ce taux d'accroissement est trop élevé. Dans ces conditions, la délégation zaïroise souhaiterait que le Secrétariat put faire une présentation comparative des niveaux des budgets des différentes organisations de la famille des Nations Unies, ce qui permettrait de nous faire une idée plus précise.

En ce qui nous concerne, nous proposons à la Commission d'approuver ce projet de budget et de le recommander à la Conférence générale.

P. LAOWHAPHAN (Thailand): Mr. Chairman, could we first of all add my voice to the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to the post of Chairmanship of this very important Commission.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation also want to compliment the Secretariat for the great endeavour in the preparation of a very informative and analytical document 77/3 for our deliberation.

My delegation have studied and looked into the documents with great attention, even so we have not had time to study them thoroughly. In this connexion we just want to make a very brief general comment emphasising the points that would be of most interest to my delegation, without going into detail, as we intend to intervene at a later stage on particular points of interest.

The establishment of the Technical Cooperative Programme has proved itself meaningful and highlights the interest of all Member Nations since its inception in 1976. The government of the Kingdom of Thailand wants to put on record our sincere appreciation to FAO, in particular the Director-General, in response to the urgent need and prompt action to the request from my Government. This programme is self-explanatory; how it is of benefit to the developing world, particularly to the most seriously affected countries. It will doubtless need more strengthening.

We also support the statement of the Director-General delivered to the Seventy-First Session of the FAO Council in appointing the senior consultants to carry out the valuation of this programme for future appropriate recommendation.

The second point I would like to touch upon is the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We firmly believe that the information and recommendations to the structure and step of development concerning the land reform and rural development, would be of the utmost importance to developing countries. So that, Mr. Chairman, my delegation is looking forward to participating in this meeting.

Mr. Chairman, we also learned with great satisfaction of the decentralization which FAO had performed so far, the gradual appointment of FAO country Representatives now in progress. The government of the Kingdom of Thailand has shown keen interest in establishing the office of Country Representatives and now it has almost come to the final stage of preparation for appointments.

My delegation would like to associate ourselves in proposing the level of budget for 1978/79 as a whole, but we reserve our right to intervene in some detail, with your Commission, when it comes to the particular attention of my delegation.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): Mr. Chairman, we would like to congratulate you on your being elected as the Chairman of Commission II. I trust that you will be able to maintain a good humour right to the very end of this Commission.

The leader of the Canadian delegation in his statement to the Plenary yesterday afternoon expressed satisfaction with the positive role played by the Director-General in developing a new approach to the FAO that is highlighting action programmes. He underlined this concept several times in his statement. We agree with the reduction in the number of documents and meetings and other similar, types of activities connected with delegations and secretariat meetings. We feel that the Director-General's two years have been very effective. He has shown tremendous drive and determination.

We find ourselves agreeing with the delegation of China which says the real measure of FAO contribution is the work it does in the third world countries. I think this is the real test of the work of FAO, not the number of publications we issue, or the number of meetings that we hold.

I will touch on a few points of the Programme of Work and Budget. Most of our points will be raised in the form of questions for further information. I don't ask to be answered immediately, but perhaps during the discussion chapter by chapter an answer could be provided to us. It is the view of the Canadian delegation, and I have this advice from our people that have been involved very actively in the work of pesticides in the FAO and they attended the meetings recently, that the support given to these pesticide activities by the administration of FAO is not adequate. They feel that there is room for more manpower and a higher priority should be given to this activity.

The second point that I would like to raise is we feel that the nutrition programme should have a higher priority.

The third question that arises, and we have read the Programme Committee report and also the comments of the Director-General, refers to the industry cooperative programme. We are not quite sure what is happening to this programme, whether it is one that will be phased into the FAO; phased out of FAO; phased into some other UN agency, and here again we are reluctant to express comments. Having seen a reference made to this several times, perhaps we could have some clarification on the thinking of the Director-General to help us understand what is happening. One of our very large industries in Canada is an active member of this programme and they have expressed a strong interest in the future of this activity.

Another concern is in respect to cooperatives we had a feeling when we read the report and compared it with earlier ones, there has been a bit of lessening of the activities in the areas of encouraging and creating cooperatives. Again I may be wrong about this. Maybe we are not aware of some of the work that is being done in the field, but the impression we got making comparison was there had been a lessening activities in the field of cooperatives. I do not want to go into a long lecture why we consider cooperatives very important, that is obvious and, therefore, we would be very grateful for further information.

As regards to the Technical Cooperation Programme, we appreciate very much the report given by the Director-General providing us with further information, and we are looking forward to the evaluation report. I believe it is due at the end of 1978. We want to express our appreciation.

With respect to the Programme of Work and Budget we find the Director's Programme of Work and Budget is very well prepared. It reads well. We can find the information we are looking for, but one could be critical and say no matter how much information you give there is always a desire for more information, or perhaps there may be an awful lot of information for some people but too little for others. Having said that we must say that we found it a very useful document and not only that but the way it is written, it kind of encouraged us to seek for further information.

On the budget itself, Mr. Chairman, we would like to make a few comments. As you know this is the place where Member Governments get their chance once in a while, once every two years and in the Plenary, to indicate their views on the subject. I think this is the right of all Member Governments to do so, and it is also the place where after we have had considerable discussion between Members themselves, and take into consideration the views expressed by the head of our Organization, we try to arrive at some generally agreed position. As is well known budgets are never fully acceptable to anybody at any time. They are the cause of some of the hardest debates in international agencies; and in Parliaments of various governments. So the kind of discussion we have here, reflecting different opinions, is a good thing. Even if we don't agree with the contributions, they are good contributions, and should be looked upon as contributions, as points of view.

The first point is the change submitted to the last Council, the change in the value of the lira and the increase in the budget level. We do not see the rationale for this situation. You know this question of who gets the better of a change in the currency rate, is difficult to answer. More analysis is needed in respect to determining the value of the lire in relation to the US dollar.

Mr. Chairman, in looking at the budget we would like to raise a few questions and to try to understand what is happening. We feel, for example, so far in the budget what has not been identified are the deductions, the items that have been deducted, because they will not be continued from this budgetary period to the next budgetary period. In other words certain work is finished and has stopped, and that is the end of it. What has happened to the resources connected with this? Do we have a reduction in the budget or not? We had a feeling this has not come through. Maybe it has but if it has we have missed it, and we would be very glad to get the information from the Director-General or his representative. I think it is important we look at it in terms of measuring the rate of growth, Mr. Chairman. In respect to the inflationary costs, and the suggestion that these costs may increase: first of all I have the impression - and I may be wrong - that the Director - General was using the full budgeting system, in other words not a semi - full but a full budgeting system, which means an attempt to anticipate every increase which we already know which may be due to changes in wage relationships; changes in price structure; changes in rates, etcetera, and also taking into consideration the possible rate of inflation growth.

We have already had a view as to what the rate should be from the Italian experts, so perhaps we need a little further understanding as to whether the present budget has taken inflation rates fully into consideration, or whether there is a justification for asking for more money because we believe that inflation could be lower than anticipated. With the help of the Italian experts, we may get some better information which may lead to some change in the total of the budget.

Another point which we would like to raise is that on the basis of the information provided in the Programme of Work and Budget, it would appear that no account has been taken of achieved improvements in efficiency. We assume there must have been some improvements in efficiency over the past two years in the productivity which took place in the present biennium, and perhaps there is anticipation for 1978 - 79 could be higher. Perhaps that is not possible, but we would like a little information on this. We are not saying "Why haven't you done it? - Why did you do it this way? - You are wrong" - we just want some more information on this.

Also, we are unable to find whether, in trying to establish the new budget for 1978-79, any consideration has been given to programme changes: for example, in the area of projects which have been anticipated to finish at end of this year but finish before the end of the current budgetary period, or whether there are programmes which have had to be stretched out, and therefore the amount of expenditure will be lower than anticipated in the budgetary period.

We raise these points, because when we questioned the level of budget the other day, we were asked to give more details. We are not saying that we are right in all these points - we are saying that we would like some answers to help us in our thinking and to make a final decision.

Listening to the discussions today, there is obviously a variety of views. Many delegates have supported the Director-General's proposed budget of \$ 211 million; others have been more cautious, saying there is room for consideration; and a few have problems with the level of the budget. Our view is that, in the light of the present discussions, we should be thinking in terms of the original budget figure of \$ 206.8 million proposed by the Director-General, rather than the \$ 211 million.

Our view on the suspense account in the case of currency fluctuation – “the new term is the Special Reserve Account” - is that we can support this. We feel that that \$ 5 million is being set up to anticipate a changed relationship between US dollar and the Lire, and therefore we have some difficulty in seeing why that \$ 3 million adjustment is required now. It should not be used for inflationary costs.

Furthermore, although we recognize the importance of the Conference on Agrarian Reform, the figure of \$ 1. 2 million is a very substantial one, and we have not been informed exactly how much of this is additional to what the Organization will in any event be doing in regard to this Conference. The feeling among our officials in Ottawa has been that this \$ 1. 2 million can be absorbed, with an existing budget of \$ 206. 8 million.

I would like to express our appreciation for being given the opportunity to raise these points. We are only seeking for further information which will help us to become part of the overall consensus at this Conference.

E. B. MONGA (Zambia): On behalf of my Delegation I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the Chair of this very important Commission, and would like to express its total support and agreement with the proposed Decentralization Programme which, as the head of my Delegation pointed out in his statement, would help to bring FAO activities closer to the people.

I would also like to echo the views expressed by the Delegation from Kenya on the Technical Cooperation Programme. My Delegation's view is that this programme should aim at direct production projects, rather than mere theoretical studies.

We do not wish to repeat the views that many delegates here have already expressed, which in many respects are the same as ours. We shall, however, wish to make further interventions where necessary when individual Chapters come up for discussion.

H. HUBAYSHI (Yemen, People's Dem. Rep. of) (interpretation from Arabic): May I first of all, along with others who have expressed similar sentiments, congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of our Commission. We should like to extend these congratulations also to the Director-General and his staff on the effort they have made in preparing this Programme of Work and Budget. My Delegation would like to give its support to this Programme of Work and Budget, and in this connection we would like to reiterate our support for the policy which the Director -General has commenced and which is already under way, with a view to allowing the developing countries to benefit further.

We also agree with the Programme of Technical Cooperation and Progress, and with the transfer of unallotted funds to a Transfer Budget.

We are also in favour of the principle of decentralization and the creation of Country Officers and Country Representatives, and of the extension of the Terms of References of the Country Officers and Regional Officers. But we must be quite sure that there is no overlapping or duplication between the work done by the Regional Country Officers and the Headquarters so that our programme will not suffer from this.

We must also leave to one side purely theoretical studies, and rather lay a stress on field activities.

We are also prepared to agree to a need for reducing the number of meetings and publications.

We would also like to support the idea of the creation of IFAD, and we hope that this Fund may make it possible for those countries unable to import foodstuffs to do so under better conditions. We hope that the Fund will not encounter the same difficulties as those which have formed an obstacle for other funds.

We also approve the idea of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and my country has already commenced preparatory work for this Conference.

We would also like to approve the Director-General's suggestion for the creation of a fund for post-harvest losses.



G. CHACON (Ecuador): Mi país en término general apoya el Programa y Presupuesto presentado por el Director General, cuya labor dinámica ha merecido el respaldo y la simpatía de la gran mayoría de miembros de esta Organización, prueba de lo cual es que esta Conferencia la han presidido más de 90 Ministros encargados de agricultura, de alimentación, de desarrollo rural.

El Presupuesto bienal de la FAO en general es modesto en comparación a lo que se utiliza en otros rubros, que no son precisamente los de esta necesidad primaria de toda la especie humana: la alimentación. Lamentablemente las decisiones en los organismos mundiales y a nivel de países, muchas veces están en los sectores que piensan únicamente en el mejoramiento del sector urbano y menosprecian lo que se haga en el sector rural y lo que se haga por producir los alimentos. De tal modo, que consideramos que con ligeros cambios, con alguna modificación de cifras, de rubros, este Presupuesto merece la aprobación de las delegaciones que asisten a esta Comisión.

Consideramos nosotros de gran importancia el Programa de Cooperación Técnica por su afinidad, y en cierta forma, por la cantidad reducida de dinero que emplea. Creemos que en los rubros considerados para los Programas de Cooperación Técnica, deberían circunscribirse en algunos casos a las provisiones de equipo e insumos que necesitan nuestros países, pero en aquellos otros sí será necesaria la cooperación de consultores que impartieran para la preparación de proyectos de inversión, de factibilidad de organismos más internacionales. Creemos que para la Conferencia de Desarrollo Rural, podría efectuarse un reajuste siempre y cuando todos colaboren los países a nivel regional en las Conferencias que se realizarán en 1978, ya analizaremos cuidadosamente estas materias tan importantes.

En el caso de América Latina, tenemos la próxima Conferencia a finales de 1978 y ya podremos llegar a un consenso de nuestra región. Apoyamos la descentralización que realmente dinamice la comunicación entre nuestros países y la FAO. Desearíamos que en todos los proyectos existiera, a más de la agilidad, una evaluación de los propios países de las oficinas o representaciones nacionales de la FAO y las regionales, de tal manera que podríamos evitar los problemas y los estancamientos que puedan existir en la ejecución de proyectos de campo. Por último, nos reservamos el derecho a emitir nuestro criterio cuando se traten ya asuntos específicos del tema que nos ocupa.

Y. LIKE (Ethiopia): I would follow the other speakers in congratulating you on your election to chair the Commission. I would also like to congratulate the Director-General, the staff and the whole Secretariat for the well-consolidated Programme of Work and Budget.

While 1975-76 saw some improvement in the overall agricultural production, food production in developing countries fell below the Second UN Development target of 2.8 percent. Their terms of trade deteriorated as a result primarily of poor prices in their exports. Secondly, systems including the development assistance on concessionary terms reached a low ebb during the last biennium, thus contributing to widen the already wide gap in the standard of living between the developed and developing countries. The Eighteenth Session emphasized the need to transfer to developing countries at least 8.3 billion dollars at 1975 prices of resources if agricultural production in developing countries is to grow at a minimum level of 4 percent.

The preliminary estimate of resource transfer is put at 32 percent lower in 1975, and 43 percent lower in 1976. Not only is the size low, but the trend does not appear encouraging. It is allied with its past achievements and failures that we have to judge the Programme of Work and Budget of the Director-General.

We support fully the Director-General's objective as laid down in his introductory statement on the Programme of Work and Budget document. Special note should be taken of his decentralization effect of FAO's activities. We believe that the expulsion of countries' representation will give FAO and hence Member Nations actual agricultural conditions in the respective countries, thus contributing to realistic objectives, programmes and superior results of action implementation.

We are therefore concerned about comments made by certain delegations here about their concern at the increase in countries' representation in the next biennium. We hope they will have a second look at this.

We also support the 211.3 million dollars budget proposed by the Director-General. The need for this size of budget cannot be over-emphasized if FAO's role to stimulate agricultural production to the desired level is to be effectively undertaken. We do not therefore share the view that the budget is high, which is held by some delegations. We also support the Director-General's request of 5 million

for Special Reserve Account. We believe without this fund, enforcing fluctuation in FAO's income may negatively affect timely implementation of its activities.

We cannot over-emphasize the need for a minimum level of 20 million on the post-harvest losses if these losses are to be cut by about 50 percent. Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, if we cannot approve this small financial need to save what is produced, how can we argue for increased production in yet another big investment towards this achievement.

Last but not least, my delegation is fully behind the Director-General's emphasis on rural development and the measures such as training and CCP proposed for its attainment. This is the key factor in increasing food production to feed not only the expanding world population but if the level of nutrition over 500 million people is to improve. In this regard we look forward to the impressionable stage of IFAD and to FAO's sponsorship of the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development scheduled for July 1979.

We reserve our right to come back for comments on specific issues at the appropriate time.

L. CEYSSSENS (Belgique): A ce stade de notre débat, mon commentaire sur le Programme de travail et budget qui nous est proposé pourra être à la fois général et bref.

En premier lieu, dans sa présentation, le document qui nous est soumis est nettement meilleur que ses prédécesseurs. Il est concis, clair, complet, intelligible, ce qui n'était pas toujours le cas dans le passé.

En second lieu, l'orientation des activités proposées pour le prochain biennium est généralement conforme à nos vœux. Nous en rendons hommage au Directeur général, Monsieur Saouma, dont la gestion lucide et dynamique a été jusqu'à présent digne d'éloges.

Enfin, l'enveloppe budgétaire globale qui nous est proposée est importante. Sa progression d'un biennium à l'autre est plus rapide que dans les autres institutions du système des Nations Unies. Je ne souhaite pas prendre aujourd'hui position sur le niveau du budget, mais exprimer uniquement à ce stade la préoccupation de ma délégation.

R. W. M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): I just want to speak briefly on our position with regard to the level of the budget. I can be brief as I do not wish to go into detail regarding the Programme as a whole at this stage; many speakers have covered the topic in detail. It seems to be the general consensus that FAO is moving in the right direction by concentrating on practical assistance at the field level and investment activities rather than on less practical work, and we can endorse this consensus.

However, we do wish to make a few general remarks on the level of the proposed budget for the next biennium. My delegation wishes to join with other delegations who during the Council Session, the Plenary and this Session, have expressed concern about the proposed budget level of 211 million dollars. This level is nearly 27 percent higher than the budget, for the previous biennium in cash terms, and around 7 percent higher in real terms. We understand this rate of increase is the highest in all the UN's major specialized agencies.

Mr. Chairman, our wish to register concern about the substantial increase in FAO's budget is not motivated by disapproval of FAO's Programme of Work. On the contrary, as our member said, during the Plenary, we believe FAO is doing effective and valuable work under the leadership of the Director-General.

Our concern is over the fact that the projects of all UN bodies continually escalate, not only as a result of inflation and exchange rate changes but also in real terms. With such increases in real terms we would certainly expect extra results as a reward for this new allocation. We are hopeful therefore that for future budgets it will be possible for FAO and other UN agencies to restrain the rate of increase in the budget by making more strenuous efforts to make savings by eliminating low priorities and ineffectual activities, and by streamlining operations.

Hopefully, we will be commenting further on the individual items at a subsequent stage.

Ms. M. DEHARENG (Observer for International Confederation of Free Trade Unions): My Organization, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, represents over 55 million workers organized in 119 affiliated organizations. Our members come from 88 countries of vastly differing levels of development, political systems and culture.

We are glad that the Director-General in document C 77/23 has reaffirmed that the basic needs of the rural poor are now rightly receiving attention, and that therefore there is no danger that the FAO will ignore the fact that the provision of money, seeds, fertilizers and machines will not of itself improve the lot of the poor.

However, he expressed concern that the basic needs strategy should not become an instrument of pressure, partial and paternalistic in its support of the needs and desires of the Third World.

Our concept of the basic needs strategy could not be further removed from paternalism. Indeed, paternalism is alien to the trade union philosophy.

As an international trade union organization, the realization of full employment in conditions of economic and social justice is at the centre of our concern. The right of employment is an integral part of the basic needs strategy. That is the right to a job in a private or public enterprise, but also the right for the small farmers and the self-employed workers to earn a decent income from their work, and to benefit from services enabling them to satisfy their basic needs. In this context, the basic needs concept is relevant to the FAO activities and we are glad to note that in the Technical Cooperation Programme emphasis has been placed on projects enabling the participation of the majority of the rural population concerned.

Rural workers' organizations in the broad definition of ILO Convention number 141 have proved effective instruments to determine the needs of the rural working population and to bring about their satisfaction. This organization must, however, be allowed to exist.

Workers' and peasants' organizations in our opinion and in our experience are the motive force of rural development. They lead to a more equitable distribution of income, stimulate productivity, and develop internal markets. Measures restricting the activities of such organizations do not solve problems; on the contrary, they create more poverty and intolerable tension.

We think, therefore, that the FAO should closely cooperate with the ILO in implementing Convention Number 141, and that more emphasis should be placed, in various budget items, on cooperation at all levels with representative organizations of peasants and workers.

We should like, for instance, to see them being able to take an active part in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and we regret the silence on this subject of the government on the review of arrangements for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

With regard to the Investment Centre, we do not doubt that it is very useful. However, we have some doubts about the value of the participation of private capital in the FAO Bankers' Programme. It would be interesting to see to what extent the projects they finance really contribute to the development of the countries in which they invest, and what benefit the majority of the population derives from these projects.

The last point on which I would like to comment is the question of the agro industries. Too often their impact in developing countries has been linked to the introduction of techniques which have led to the reduction of jobs, the expulsion of tenants, the over-production of export goods at the expense of products for local consumption, and because of profit repatriation which leads to the slowing down of asset formation. That is why we find that the privileges granted to the multi-national companies in FAO, through the Cooperative Programme, intolerable and far in excess of the consultation framework admitted by the UN system.

We hope there will finally be an inquiry into the activities of the programme, as demanded by the Eighteenth Conference and that it will be replaced by an appropriate consultative structure in which both sides of the agro industries - that is capital and workers - will be able to advise and assist FAO and its Member Nations in order to ensure a better balance between the economic and social objectives of development in a new international economic order.

E. M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): I am grateful for the opportunity, at the end of this general debate, to offer some information and comments on points raised which I hope will facilitate the remainder of the debates.

I am sure the Director-General will be gratified - as indeed his staff are - at the kind remarks made about the format. It is a great relief to find that at last at this stage we have a great measure of common agreement with the format and satisfaction with the information provided. I can assure delegates that this will not be used as a basis for complacency; we shall go on trying to improve the information given, the clarity with which it is given, while at the same time keeping down the volume of documents.

I shall not, therefore, reply to any of the specific points raised on that, but shall certainly take them into account in formulating the next Programme of Work and Budget.

The first matter I should like to take up, since it comes at the beginning of the document, is the interesting question of our forecasts for extra-budgetary funds, in particular the UNDP, which was raised by the delegate of the Sudan. He is, of course, quite right to question the accuracy of these forecasts; for many years we were anxious to avoid having to provide such figures, precisely because we knew that they could not be accurate. They could only be projections based on trends and indications, and that is specifically stated.

I can, however, give some further indications, particularly about the UNDP.

We think that as regards trust funds and the various arrangements we have, we are justified in some optimism, particularly if we get voluntary contributions to the proposed Special Fund for the Prevention of Food Losses.

On the other hand, on the UNDP, I am afraid that the latest information is not encouraging, even less encouraging than indicated in the document. Although there has been an improvement in the resources available to the UNDP, the recent pledges indicate that the increase in the level of resources provided to the UNDP will barely cover the rate of inflation expected. So that the real programme resources available to the UNDP will hardly increase.

Furthermore, for a variety of reasons, some of which are complicated, the amount of funds being allocated to FAO for new projects indicate that there will be an inevitable shortfall in our delivery as compared with the past, in the coming year.

The allocation of funds for new projects is very important to determine the trend of expenditures. If the approvals of new projects are slow, then there is quite a time lag in getting projects into operation, to replace those which are coming to an end.

There is another discouraging factor, although it may only be temporary and not have significance: at least I hope it does not have significance. Out of the total allocations being made in 1977, we are seeing a much smaller share than we have had in the past coming to FAO. In the past we have averaged around 30 percent, sometimes more, sometimes a little less. So far, up to July, we were getting only 24 percent as compared with 30 percent in the past.

We have not got the figures for the whole year yet, and of course there may be some improvement, but it is a worrying factor. So, far from being able to reassure anybody on these estimates, I have to confess that I have more doubts than when these figures were provided. However, it is a matter which the Director-General has taken up with the Administrator of the UNDP, and I hope that as a result we shall see some improvement.

The delegate of Argentina made some references to the Director-General's proposed plan for programme adjustments and savings in the next biennium, to cover some of the things that he has to deal with. He mentioned in the Council a decision that he has in mind to implement, to cut back allocations, including those for travel, which will help to reassure another delegate who raised the question of the increase for travel. Otherwise, we have to rely very much on vacancies to pick up savings, and it is not to predict all the vacancies which will occur. So I am afraid it is not possible to answer the question in detail.

The Director-General will take measures, from the beginning of the biennium, to ensure that savings are made, and in areas where they least hurt the programme which he needs to carry out and which you ask him to carry out.

Another important issue which was mentioned was the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Some people supported this strongly some were doubtful; I do not think there was any particular regional or other balance in the comments made; opinions varied from region to region. This is a separate subject on your agenda, but I hope you will concentrate on the actual arrangements rather than on the budget. In that direction, I would like to give you some details about the additional budget for the World Conference now.

The Director-General referred to this in the Council and in his statement to the Plenary. It is necessary to take account of the establishment of a Conference Secretariat, the appointment of an advisory group on experts which was requested by the Council last June, a preparatory meeting and an increase in the duration of the Conference from six to eight days, as well as the provision of documentation in Arabic and Chinese, as well as English, French and Spanish.

The costs of the Secretariat, including personnel costs, general operating expenses, at cetera, will be around \$690 000.

The Advisory Committee on Experts will cost in the region of \$100 000, assuming they meet in 1978 and 1979. They have already had one meeting, so it will be three meetings in all.

The Preparatory Committee will cost - depending on decisions to be taken by this Conference - in the region of \$70 000. The documentation and interpretation will cost an additional \$650 000, and the remaining \$240 000 is made up of substantive support for the Conference, mostly through contracts with national institutions and with consultants for the preparation of case studies and other documentation.

It has been suggested that this sum might be absorbed, but as the Director-General indicated in the Council, he is already having to absorb a large amount in the budget, and he does not consider that this item either could be absorbed or even should be absorbed.

At this point I should like to pick up also a comment made by the last speaker who seemed to imply some disappointment about relationships with the International Labour Organization in general, but in particular in relation to the World Conference. I have a letter here from the Deputy Director-General of the ILO, on behalf of the Director-General, to Mr. Saouma, in which he says:

“We are particularly pleased to note the FAO's determination, as is well expressed in your introduction and in the various references throughout the programme texts - ”

He is referring to the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Objectives - “to the satisfaction of basic needs, to join forces with the ILO and other UN agencies to combat rural Poverty. ...We are therefore encouraged by your intention to pursue a common poverty-oriented rural development approach. The forthcoming FAO World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, in the preparation of which the ILO intends to participate fully, the follow-up work to implement the recommendations of the ILO's World Employment Conference aimed at satisfying the basic needs of the rural poor, and the ACC Task Force on Rural Development should provide opportunities to develop such an approach together, and to test the effectiveness of our actions. “

So I am obliged to reject any suggestion of criticism of FAO on that score.

Next, I should like to refer to various programme issues, before coming finally to the financial framework of the Programme of Work and Budget. References were made to the question of food losses. Some of them, I felt on behalf of the Director-General, surprisingly negative, in view of the unanimous support in the Committee on Agriculture and of the Council in 1977, and again of the Council in its recent session just a few days ago. Also, from the Plenary statements so far made it would seem that there is almost general support, unanimous support for the aims and objectives of this Programme.

Now, as for including it in the Regular Programme, I was surprised also to find that some delegations who have spoken here or in the past about the desirability of not including funds for technical cooperation projects in the Regular Programme, saying that provision should be made in the Regular Programme instead of having a Special Fund for a programme of projects on prevention of food losses. Perhaps privately they will reassure me that there is no contradiction in their attitudes. I should like to be able to explain it to the Director-General rather than leave him with the impression that here is a contradiction, especially on the part of those delegations.

Having said that, I would point out that the Programme of Work and Budget does in fact provide around a million dollars for support of food loss prevention programmes and projects in Member Countries. This is the technical back-stopping logistic support for project action. It would have been open to the Director-General to include this \$10 million in his Regular Programme. In fact, there were voices which suggested this would be a good thing. It would even increase the base for future Programmes of Work and Budget. However, I do not think it would have been appropriate to include it in the provision that I just mentioned of a million dollars for support of the scheme. It could well have been added to the Technical Cooperation Programme, but for reasons which I think many delegations are aware of and much concerned about at this very moment in the corridors, we are discussing the establishment of a Special Fund for this purpose, in which perhaps the voluntary principle may be fully enshrined to the satisfaction of those who insist on the voluntary principle. It is my expectation, quite frankly, that we shall in fact reach a widely supported consensus on this issue, provided, of course, there is a consensus on the whole issue of the Programme of Work and Budget and provision therefor.

Having mentioned the Technical Cooperation Programme, I will just refer briefly to one point raised by the United Kingdom and others about the provision for miscellaneous projects in the TCP. I think perhaps this is more due to the name "Miscellaneous" than to the projects that figure there under. When my wife accuses me of various crimes and I ask her to specify them, her answer is generally "Miscellaneous". I prefer that to having them particularised, because there I think her criticisms might be more effective. This is one area in which I expect that the evaluation report when it is received next year will provide very valuable information to delegations, and I would therefore hope that judgment can be suspended on that particular issue until you see what the evaluation has to say about this particular class of TCP projects. If necessary, I am sure the Director-General will think of further sub-divisions which could dispose of any mis-conceptions that might occur on this account.

Turning now to another very important area of the Programme of Work and Budget and FAO's new directions, I would refer to the question of FAO Representatives and Regional Offices. One point I did not understand too well was references to the need for clear definition of the responsibilities of the FAO Representatives in relation particularly to the UNDP Resident Representatives. The Council was informed, last summer in fact, that the Director-General and the Administrator of the UNDP had been in full consultation on the terms of reference of the Country Representatives and that there was agreement between them on this. In fact, in his address to the last Governing Council of the UNDP, the Administrator, Mr. Morse, expressed satisfaction with the agreements which had been reached on this precise point, so perhaps some delegates are not as fully in touch with the UNDP. I can assure you that it is not a controversial issue. Furthermore, I can assure you that we are very happy with the relationships which have been established at the country level with the UNDP, and we feel that everything is working very well at the country level.

As regards the question of the Regional Offices, this I feel is more clearly open to some feeling that there is a lack of definition and a lack of clear vision about the future, shall we say. Well, there is a separate sub-item on your Agenda about this so I will not go into it now, except to stress again the point made in the Programme of Work and Budget that the provision for the Regional Offices is very much for the support of the work of the FAO Representatives and is in effect decentralizing support that might otherwise have been included in Headquarters. Rather than putting it in Headquarters, we have located it in the regions.

On the FAO Representatives, the other main point raised by a number of delegations: United Kingdom, France, Japan, Australia, was that perhaps we could slow down the appointments of the FAO Representatives in consultation with the UNDP, partly to save money and partly perhaps for some other reasons. I hope in fact that we will not be able to save money on this not only because we are under pressure from a very large number of governments to appoint FAO Representatives, but also because the UNDP is getting rid of the SAAR's faster than we can replace them. It is the UNDP which from the beginning has made the pace about disposing of the present arrangements, and by the end of this year there will be virtually none of the old-style UNDP Senior Agricultural Adviser /Country Representatives left. The UNDP does not want to pay for them any more; they want to work with FAO Representatives wherever they are appointed. So I hope that in fact we can speed up our appointment of FAO Representatives rather than slow them down.

One delegation, the Netherlands, asked about the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment. Their future is under consideration. I think that the World Bank and FAO are very much of the same mind at the present moment. Nevertheless, the provision is included under Programme 3. 2 and if required it will be available. If not, it will be a saving and will be deleted from the budget as one of those deletions which Canada referred to as being necessary. Where we have made such deletions of a major character, we have mentioned them, for example, for the World Food Council. I will come back to this point in a moment, if I may, Mr. Chairman.

I think it was Canada who raised various points or questions - he courteously put them as questions rather than points - on certain priority programmes in the Programme of Work and Budget. On Pesticides he said did it not need higher priority? There are some controversial aspects to that question, but I think this is best taken up when we discuss Chapter II.

On Nutrition, I would like to say that many of us share his concern. We have taken a number of steps to give this the priority it deserves. We have high hopes of new institutional arrangements with the United Nations and the other Agencies, including the World Food Council. We still have some problems, but we hope to deal with those in the near future.

Cooperatives: is there a lesser emphasis? I think he is right in discerning in the texts less emphasis than has been given in the past. There are not, however, less resources or concern for cooperatives. I think rather that the specific aspect of cooperatives has become subsumed in this more general emphasis on rural development and rural credit. There has been in fact rather a tendency in the last year or so to put more emphasis on credit, but I take his point and perhaps we can deal with that at a little more length when we come to that item.

On the Industry Cooperative Programme, I would not like to deal with it at length at any stage because I would like the Director-General to have the opportunity to come forward in response to the request of the Programme Committee, which in fact has been endorsed by the Council, with his proposals next year. I only want to say that certainly his new proposals will in accordance with his already declared views change the particular status which the ICP has hitherto enjoyed in FAO. If I refer to two points only, in particular, one is symbolic, but nevertheless important, and that is the inclusion of a programme for the ICP in the Programme of Work and Budget, notwithstanding the fact there are no Regular Programme funds involved. I see no need to do that in future. The other important issue will be the status of staff, which again is very anomalous and must be changed.

The third point I would make is that there must certainly continue to be cooperation with agro-industry, perhaps intensified, but probably on a more sub-sectoral basis, as exists in certain sectors already, then in the form that we have now, which many find unacceptable.

If I do not refer to all of the particular technical issues involved, I apologise, but I am aware we must leave something to be said in the debates on the other Chapters, although I would hope not too much. I just want to conclude with some remarks on the general financial framework. Canada referred to efficiency, reductions, slippage; this technique is employed as part of our zero-base budgeting approach and will be intensified in the next biennium, and whilst we cannot give details on all the detailed changes within sub-programmes and work programmes, we take the point that it will help delegates to know more about this as we go along. We will try to do that to the extent we can.

On travel, I just mention in reply to Germany that we did put into operation practically all of the recommendations of the Inspector of the JIU who visited us some years ago to the extent that he now quotes us as a model to other Agencies, and notwithstanding that we are still having a large increase in the budget, but we do not see how we can carry out increased investment activities in particular since they involve large missions, without an increase in the budget.

On cost increases, there is nothing I would say or would want to have interpreted as as in contradiction of what Italy, our host country, said. It would be very imprudent of us, and we are very conscious of this, to say anything in our documents which would appear to be at odds with the undertakings and the public statements of the Italian Government, particularly in relation to the IMF.

I would, however, make the following points very briefly, although they are very technical. Since a large part of the budget has now been set aside for the Technical Cooperation Programme and for FAO Country Representatives whose establishments are abroad and not here, the proportion of expense in lira to the total budget has gone down from 65 to around 60%. It may be a little less, depending on each particular programme of work and budget. Forty percent in dollars and marks, or swiss francs and other currencies is quite a considerable amount. Things like pension fund contributions are in dollars. These go up, so we must not assume that the FAO budget is directly and proportionately related to the rate of inflation in the host country, not by any means. What we are giving are figures for our total cost increases and not figures for cost inflation in Italy. Furthermore, what we have said about carry forward from 1976-77 is incontrovertible. We are carrying forward what has occurred and we cannot avoid it. Even if the rate of inflation in Italy is brought down very substantially in 1978, those costs are still there. They have to be carried forward for the full twenty-four months of the next biennium.

Thirdly, the figure was given of a fourteen percent cost increase for 1978. That was the figure provided by the Italian delegation. If you take the rate of conversion of currency applied even at nine hundred in this budget you will find our annual cost increase for 1978 is about 8 percent. So I do not think we can be open to any misunderstanding by the Italian Government that we are producing figures which are an embarrassment to them, except in the reverse sense to which they intended. I think we are suggesting their cost increase should be lower than the one they are officially estimating to the IMF. Of course, it brings in the whole question of the currency rate. I can only say that speculation about the currency rate is a recipe for bankruptcy. We have always adopted the one prevailing. In fact we are now calculating at 879 although yesterday, and I believe this morning, the rate is 878. 25 in Milan. If you wish I can give you each day at round about four o'clock the fixing in Milan, but I think you would not wish me to do so in case it goes down to 877, which it may well do. It will fluctuate during the biennium but no one can say with any degree of certainty that it is going to fluctuate on average by a certain amount. The Director-General considers it is absolutely indispensable to have some protection against adverse fluctuations. The exact terms by which this might be provided are a matter of active consideration in the corridors, and I would not want to say more than that about it right now. Finally, Mr. Chairman, on the level, which some delegates have indicated is tied in their minds to satisfactory solutions on other issues, some delegates have suggested quite straight forwardly that it is too high. I conclude with an answer, if I may give it to the distinguished delegate of Germany who raised the question, is it really necessary? Well, this will be indicated by a vote of the Conference. Before then it will be indicated by the views expressed in the Commission. I think we have already heard a majority of delegates saying it is not too high. It is perhaps in some cases said to be too low, so I do not need to reply to the distinguished delegate of Germany on that point. It is for you, Sir, and your distinguished delegates to provide that answer.

G. GUERRIERO (Italie): J'aimerais dire quelques mots en réponse aux commentaires de l'assistant du Directeur général sur le Programme de travail et budget.

La délégation italienne était intervenue sur la question du taux d'inflation non seulement pour tenir compte du fait qu'en Italie l'augmentation prévue est de 14 pour cent l'année prochaine, mais surtout en considérant que le Programme de travail et budget pour le biennium prochain doit tenir compte de ce que les prévisions de budget doivent se relier à la prévision la plus réaliste possible des augmentations de coûts.

En Italie, nous avons le headquarters de la FAO où travaillent plus de 3 600 personnes. Nous avons beaucoup de dépenses au titre des dépenses générales pour le personnel. Je pense que le système des salaires des Nations Unies qui s'applique à la FAO doit tenir compte du fait que le coût pour le personnel comme post-adjustment, c'est-à-dire non seulement comme taux de change mais aussi coût de la vie, est influencé par les diminutions relatives en baisse du taux d'inflation en Italie. Pour cette raison, nous pensons que les prévisions de budget doivent enregistrer ces faits, c'est-à-dire qu'il y aura une réduction en Italie, où travaillent plus de 3 600 personnes, et pour la première fois le système de diminution de post-adjustment, qui jusqu'à maintenant n'a pas été appliqué comme cela a été souligné à la cinquième commission des Nations Unies, pourra être appliqué pour la FAO.

C'est dans cette optique qu'il faut tenir compte du fait qu'en Italie, pour l'année prochaine, et peut-être le biennium, le taux d'augmentation de la vie, c'est-à-dire le taux d'inflation, sera beaucoup plus faible que celui indiqué par le Secrétariat soit pour l'année prochaine, soit - avec une certaine réserve - pour le biennium complet.

The meeting close at 12. 55 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 55 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/II/PV/4

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

FOURTH MEETING  
QUATRIEME SEANCE  
CUARTA SESION  
(17 November 1977)

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 14. 55 hours J. H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding  
La quatrième séance est ouverte à 14 h 55 sous la présidence de J. H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II  
Se abre la cuarta sesión a las 14. 55 horas, bajo la presidencia de J. H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

- II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
- II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 10. Programme of Work and Budget 1978-79 (continued)
- 10. Programme de travail et budget pour 1978-79 (suite)
- 10. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1978-79 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: As agreed we will start now on the discussion of the chapters in the Programme of Work and Budget, chapters 1 and 2, and we will then later discuss the other chapters from chapter 3 onwards, but before I do that I would just draw your attention to a Draft Resolution which has come out and which has passed the Resolutions Committee. You will find it in document C 77/LIM/5 dated 17th of November, and I propose that one of the speakers will probably introduce it during our discussions this afternoon.

H. MAURIA (Finland): During the first part of our discussion on the Programme of Work and Budget my delegation did not make any statement because I think that we have made ourselves quite clear during the two last Council meetings regarding our support of the format of the Programme of Work and Budget, and also regarding policy and priority issues introduced by the Director-General.

It would go too far now and take up too much time to go through scrutinizing all the various programme issues, but I would still like to point to some programmes which are of particular interest to my delegation. My remarks regarding programmes will cover not only the period of the next biennium, but will have also a medium-term aspect. Therefore, I shall promise, Mr. Chairman, to avoid coming back during the item on medium-term objectives when they are produced under programme choices.

Under agriculture I would mention especially the following programmes which we feel deserve high priority. First the farm management, and in the context of this programme, the training programmes.

Another programme is production and utilization of quality seeds. Regarding reduced or post-harvest food losses, my delegation has already, on various occasions, stressed its view about the priority of this programme.

A further programme is crop genetic resources, which is very important in our view, and the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development, in which my country has been actively involved over a number of years.

I would further mention rural development which was particularly mentioned by my Minister in the Plenary earlier this morning. In this connexion, I should mention the scheme for agricultural credit development, SACRED, which we are all so involved in.

Nutrition is a programme where we agree fully with what the delegate of Norway said yesterday. Under fisheries, we are in agreement with the main issues in the last Committee on Fisheries and with the manner in which they are reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget. Under forestry, first and foremost we are in full agreement with the concentration of resources which has clearly been undertaken. The resources will now be directed to a few major programmes which we wholeheartedly support, mainly the Programme on the Development of Tropical Forestry and, further, the establishment of medium and small scale forest industries in development countries, the strengthening of local institutions in forestry, and the developing role of forestry in rural development. These are all issues on which we have commented at earlier Council meetings this year.

In connexion with all these forestry programmes, we would stress the great need for training, particularly at the intermediate and worker level. We see this list of programmes as being particularly important and the presentation of the programmes in general in the Programme of Work and Budget is clear and concise and has been a great help to us.

We find the medium-term outlook in connexion with each programme very explicit and the presentation of extra-budgetary funds estimated to be available is also a very welcome improvement which should merit further elaboration on the part of the Secretariat.

As regards the level of the budget, we have already given this our support in the Council meeting last week, but we may still have reason to come back to this item and to the issues involved at a later stage of the discussion. I trust this will be possible.

CR. BENJAMIN (United States of America): Regarding chapter 1, General Policy and Direction, we would note that FAO's regular budget is supplemented by trust funds and other extra-budgetary funds, but it is often burdened by these funds from other sources. In a number of cases there are waivers, reductions or under-costing of overhead costs. There should be greater consistency in the shares borne by source, and we believe that all trust funds should share in the costs.

We question why Programmes 1. 1. 1, 1. 1. 2, 2. 1. 9 and 2. 3. 9 should not be funded by extra-budgetary resources. Another example appears in Programme 1. 3 where only the WFP and the UNDP assist in financing. We would note, too, the statement of the Director-General concerning his efforts to increase the number of women on the professional staff. The United States will continue to try to nominate qualified women candidates and we encourage other Member Nations to do the same. Without the strong leadership of the Director-General and the policy-making bodies of the FAO, progress will continue to be very slow.

Turning to chapter 2, regarding agriculture, FAO should take more active steps in the selection and design of programmes to improve the status of rural women and to recognize their involvement as equals with men in the agricultural process. In addition, FAO's overall programmes should be reviewed to see if they can contribute to UNFPA or FAO population programmes.

FAO needs to strengthen its own nutrition activities, as has been mentioned, I believe, by others, and to provide full support to the initiatives that the developing countries have taken with respect to a range of activities aimed at improving the state of those who do not have the means or cannot obtain adequate food for their subsistence. The presently inadequate level of nutrition activities is reflected in the low level of resources anticipated for field programmes in the table on page 89. Were it not for OSRO activities, the extra-budgetary support would be extremely small.

We have some specific suggestions on the steps that FAO might take to move more positively in that direction: (i) review all elements of the Programme of Work, to estimate their impact on the nutrition of people in the affected countries; (ii) develop mechanisms for assessing, monitoring and evaluating such programme impacts; (iii) develop rapid and relatively inexpensive criteria and measures for assessing the extent, seriousness and causes of malnutrition in population segments most at risk, and report progress both to the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition and the next session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies; and (iv) consider progress and results in relation to the above in FAO's regional conferences and in COAG.

The United States has always supported FAO's basic work in the gathering, analyzing and dissemination of agricultural information, Programme 2. 1. 7. These programmes have been increasingly beneficial as FAO has moved towards universality of membership. The limited extra-budgetary resources projected in the table on page 92 indicate that countries have given the strengthening of statistical activities no priority in the country programming process. In the future, the United States would welcome more attention by FAO to statistical information that would support its emphasis on a poverty-oriented strategy.

The role of FAO in commodities policy, Programme 2. 1. 8, is an important one. We endorse the supportive efforts of FAO with respect to the UNCTAD Integrated Programme for Commodities. We believe these activities should be continued, although constant evaluation is required so that FAO can assess its own commodities programme. We are aware that a substantial amount of personnel resources is devoted to this area. The completion of the preliminary phase of UNCTAD's IPC in February might provide an appropriate time for reassessment.

Going back a little to Programme 2. 1. 1, the United States suggests that FAO resources might be more effectively utilized if (1) a study of irrigation potential would be concentrated on specific, localized problem areas rather than on a global scale; and (2) if training activities in fertilizers would be aimed at strengthening national extension programmes, rather than conducted directly by FAO at the farmer level, if that is proposed.

Realizing the need to place less dependence on chemical pesticides, and to encourage the use of alternative pest control techniques, we would recommend that FAO might reduce, in budgetary terms, its emphasis on the provision of chemical pesticides, and increase its spending on technical and training assistance within the limitations of available resources.

Such assistance might include: (a) the establishment, operation and improvement of integrated pest management systems; (b) the establishment, operation and improvement of schemes for the regulation of pesticide usage; and (c) the collection of use, efficacy and safety data on pesticides.

Regarding Programme 2. 1. 2, we would hope that the emphasis of FAO's work on farm mechanization, storage and structures will be on the identification and promotion of techniques that are appropriate for the small farmer, as should be FAO's assistance in livestock production, Programme 2. 1. 3.

We would ask: to what extent are the Meat and Dairy Development Schemes, originally funded from extra-budgetary resources, now dependent upon the regular programme? We were unable to tell.

With regard to research support activities, Programme 2. 1. 4, the United States would stress the importance of assistance to countries in the development and strengthening of their own research capacities.

With regard to Programme 2. 1. 5, it would be helpful if information could be supplied on the extent of Regular Programme budget support for population activities. Have FAO programmes, for example, been reviewed to see if they can be adapted, to foster population programmes and complement the work of other bodies in the UN system?

On page 85 of document C 77/3, the large allocation of fifty-seven man years for programme management suggests a top-heavy management structure for which we would appreciate an explanation.

Regarding Fisheries, we believe that FAO should strengthen the national fisheries programmes through its regional bodies. The objective is to develop, utilize and manage the living marine resources of developing nations with the extended fishery jurisdictions.

Greatest emphasis should be placed on (1) development and improvement of small-scale fisheries at the local level through strengthening local extension programmes including aquaculture; (2) improvement of data collection and analysis capabilities for developing nations through the resources evaluation programme; and (3) increasing the capability of FAO regional bodies through the resources management programme to coordinate assessments of fishery resources, collect necessary statistical information and, where appropriate, perform a resource management function.

Finally, with regard to the Forestry programme, Programme 2. 3, we note that forestry activities can provide opportunities for rural employment. We would like a close examination by the Director-General to see if these programmes are in keeping with that objective.

G. ERICSSON (Sweden): At this stage of our discussion, we want only to highlight a few specific issues with regard to chapter 2 of the Programme of Work and Budget. Regarding agriculture, we have two comments. Our main statement on the Programme of Post-Harvest Losses has been given in Commission I. In connexion with the Programme of Work and Budget, we want, as we already did in the last Conference, to emphasize the importance of action in this field which deals with handling and storage of harvest on the farm and village level to the consumers' level. Sufficient Regular Programme resources must be allocated from the beginning. In the longer perspective, we do hope that a bigger share of the total allocation will be from Regular Programme resources.

There is, however, one field of action; some may look upon it as two separate fields, which justifies an increasing interest in the FAO work programme. This is the question of land capability and water potential and the proper use of land and water resources. They go together and they form the basis for land use planning aiming at the sustained use of our national resources. Land and water are dealt with in several different sections of the Programme of Work and Budget. What we now are proposing is the concentration on a more integrated approach, and we want to see such an approach further developed in the FAO Secretariat during the period of work we are now discussing.

Coming to Forestry, Sweden welcomes the new dimensions in the Programme of Work and Budget on forestry development. A closer technical cooperation between the agriculturists, water and land use planners and foresters is of the utmost importance. It is only through a balanced long-term approach to our national resources that we can meet the demands required by agriculture.

It is gratifying for Sweden to notice that one of our joint activities with FAO, the programme for village forestry, is now coming into a phase of practical implementation. We feel sure that all parties concerned can find ways and means of making this programme successful. Technical, social, political and administrative coordination is a difficult task anywhere, but in the international area, certainly FAO encompassing almost all of these aspects should continue its leadership role.

Regarding Fisheries, our delegation is somewhat concerned about the reduction in the budget for fisheries development. New political development on the rights of the sea, new techniques in fish cultivation, all these would justify a higher resource allocation to this sector. However, we do not now suggest any reallocations within the Regular Programme budget, but we hope that our comments will be taken into consideration by the Secretariat, and further we are prepared to continue our cooperation with the Department of Fisheries on a trust fund basis during the biennium.

G. ESCARDO PEINADOR (España): En relación con el capítulo primero y segundo que estamos discutiendo, nosotros tendríamos que hacer un comentario de tipo general sobre las diversas actividades en los programas, ya que los encontramos en general bastante equilibrados. Solamente al ver las asignaciones que se hacen a la región europea, me ha despertado una inquietud que comparten conmigo otras delegaciones y que me ha movido a presentar el Proyecto de Resolución que sometemos a la consideración de ustedes. Este Proyecto de Resolución está basado en los siguientes hechos.

Nosotros hemos mantenido siempre, y constantemente se ha repetido en esta Conferencia, la necesidad de una cooperación técnica entre países y entre regiones. Somos unos convencidos de la necesidad de la transferencia de tecnologías de unos países a otros, y así se ha expresado también en la última Conferencia Regional de Bucarest. Como ustedes conocen, tenemos establecidas dentro de la Oficina Regional Europea unas redes científicas de investigación sobre determinados productos y actividades. Recientemente hemos tenido en mi país unas reuniones evaluatorias de las redes ya establecidas y he podido comprobar la presencia y la colaboración de representantes de países fuera de la Región - quiero recordar entre otros, Egipto, Ghana, Irán, Irak - que han cooperado en todos los debates que hemos tenido y han mostrado un interés muy principalmente en las redes referentes al girasol y el olivar.

Como consecuencia de esto, al contemplar el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que se nos presenta y al ver que en general a la región europea se le asigna una cifra que en su totalidad es el 0,8 por ciento del presupuesto total, yo me pregunto ¿de qué manera podemos seguir nuestras actividades que no sólo tienen utilidad para nuestra región, - actividades tales como el riego, las referentes a estructura agraria y las anteriormente citadas redes de investigación de productos, tales como el olivo, girasol, maíz, avena, trigo duro, etc. -, la lucha por la fiebre aftosa, estableciendo zonas tapón para evitar propagaciones con todas estas escasas cifras que se nos asignan?

Movidos por estas preocupaciones y en mi calidad de Presidente de la Comisión Europea de Agricultura, visité al Director General y le expresé mis preocupaciones, haciéndole bien patente que de ninguna manera solicitábamos un aumento en el presupuesto, sino que dentro de las disponibilidades existentes se posibilitasen las formas de continuar desarrollando las actividades europeas. El Director General con ese sentido de ecuanimidad que le caracteriza, se dio cuenta de las razones que le expongo, y ello es lo que nos ha movido, con el apoyo y conocimiento de otras delegaciones presentes - Francia y Bélgica principalmente, que han tenido la amabilidad de apoyarnos - a presentar a ustedes este Proyecto de Resolución en que no solicitamos absolutamente ningún aumento en las cifras presupuestarias, sino que se solicita la forma para que la Región Europea pueda seguir desarrollando la labor que hasta ahora viene haciendo, no sólo dentro de las áreas menos desarrolladas de la región, más deprimidas, sino también en aquellas otras regiones con las que podemos cooperar y llevaremos a cabo con ellas uno de los fines constitutivos de esta Organización.

S. H. PRAKOSO (Indonesia): In general, we can support the programme of work under Major Programme 2. 1, namely, on agriculture. Our delegation would like to set forth a couple of points relating to the very serious problems most developing countries are now facing, which we find rather elusive in the programme.

That is the problem of rain-fed agriculture referred to briefly in our country's statement in the Plenary. We do not mean to say that irrigation is not important and that we have no problems in this field. Yes, we still have many problems related to effective and efficient use of water and land for productive cropping in irrigated agriculture which we would like FAO to give due attention to.

But rain-fed agriculture covers the biggest part of the cultivated areas, at least four times the irrigated agriculture, in developing countries, and in these rain-fed regions there are cultivation practices which are wasteful and detrimental to the productivity and potentials of natural resources.

I would like to mention two wasteful cultivation practices in this regard. One is the generally known shifting cultivation, and the other is what I would prefer to call creeping agriculture. It is true that shifting cultivators are destroying valuable forest resources because of the "slash and burn" practices, but they usually do not till the soil, so that the danger of soil erosion is less serious -except in steep terrains in heavy rainfall regions - than in the case of "creeping agriculture".

In this latter case, farmers are more advanced in cultivation techniques and tilling the soil more intensively year in and year out, and stay for many years in the same place. But lack of soil conservation, and deprived of services and facilities which their fellow farmers in irrigated areas have been enjoying, such as extension, credit, fertilizer, feeder, roads, marketing facilities and so on, these farmers are not in a position to maintain the fertility or productivity of their lands.

So after a number of years their lands are rapidly exhausted, and moreover, particularly in sloping terrains, erosion brings fatal consequences also to lower regions, causing disruption of the water régime of river basins and silting of irrigation systems and lower parts of rivers, which aggravate the danger of floods. So this problem of rain-fed agriculture is becoming very urgent and acute in most developing countries. We therefore urge FAO to give the highest priority in its Programme of Work to this problem, particularly rain-fed agricultural development in the higher watersheds of river basins. We know that some start has been made by FAO but somehow it seems that it comes to a dead end. We are aware, of course, that various elements or aspects of this complex problem are being dealt with by some offices or units or disciplines, but it seems to us that there is no focus on this problem, and no proper mechanism exists to coordinate and integrate the various activities, particularly as it also needs coordination with the activities in other major programmes, namely Forestry.

Another point we wish to raise is in respect to the question of reduction of post-harvest losses. We read in document C 77/3 on page 67, and paragraph 18(b) that the activities under this programme will cover all stages between harvesting and delivery to the consumer- in our opinion there is still a serious gap which has to be covered - namely after the raw food materials, raw foodstuffs, have been bought or obtained by the families. The treatment of the foodstuff in the homes kitchens has to be looked after properly because it is there where much of the valuable foodstuff is also wasted, in terms of nutritional value, in quantity as well and quality.

One may argue that this problem is covered by the home economics and/or nutrition programme, but if you want to launch an overall attack on the problems of post-harvest food losses the last leg of the journey of the food before it is consumed, as we just mentioned, should also be included.

Touching on nutrition, we wish to raise one point. When planners speak of diversification of agriculture they usually think only in terms of agricultural commodity exports, namely to diversify agriculture in order to fit better into changing international market situations. But never did they deal with this question of diversification in relation to the nutritional needs of the local community where the crops are grown, they never link cropping patterns and plans with nutrition improvement programmes of local communities. How can we improve the nutrition in local communities efficiently and effectively if food of adequate nutritional value is not locally available, particularly if we deal with poor rural people? We hope that the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO does not overlook this important problem too. And also here again it is a matter of proper coordination and interlinking of programmes of various units in the house so as to arrive at a comprehensive approach to the complex food problems we are facing in developing countries.

Mr. Chairman, in regard to rural development we wish to reiterate what has been stressed by the Chairman of the Conference in his opening statement, that there should be a policy of positive bias in favour of the most seriously disadvantaged sectors of our rural population, also referred to by the distinguished delegate from Pakistan yesterday. So far technical assistance activities of FAO and other agencies have been concentrating on the improvement of the delivery of mechanism systems such as extension, input services, credit, etc, to farmers. But one overlooks to help the farmers to build up and strengthen their receiving mechanism so that farmers, particularly small farmers, tenants and landless labourers will be enabled to make full and effective use of the inputs, advice, credit, etc., made available to them. This means organizing farmers into functional groups so as to enable them to finally help themselves and to build up systematically their cooperative or collective efforts into cooperatives and the like. In this regard we wish to commend the initiative by the regional office for Asia and the Far East to launch the Small Farmers Development Programme, based on the aforementioned principles and which has been progressing very encouragingly. We are hopeful that the establishment of CIRDAP will give a further boost to this excellent programme. Commenting on the major programme on fisheries, Mr. Chairman, if we read it from document C 77/3 it seems everything is fine. But our past experience has witnessed, at least in Asia and the Far East, that there was a considerable imbalance between marine fisheries and inland fisheries, including aquaculture, in regard to financial resources, budgetary as well as extra-budgetary. We all agree that marine fish catch should be increased, and the trend is that it has been increasing all the time. But the majority of the people who suffer from protein under-nourishment who live in rural areas are not in the position to eat marine fish. It never reaches them. The marine fish products are only acceptable to urban dwellers, particularly well-to-do people, of course, except in small fishermen villages along the coasts, but they are generally still mal- or undernourished too. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, unless aquaculture and inland fisheries are forcefully enhanced in the rural areas of developing countries so that enough fish is locally available, the strategy formula, as mentioned under paragraph 3 (a) (ii) on page 102 of document C 77/3 which reads, I quote, " increase and improve their availability and consumption of protein from fisheries" remain a lip service.

There is great potential in the rural areas, particularly in humid tropical regions for aquaculture development. We know that something is said about aquaculture on page 109, paragraph 19 of the same document. But we wish to emphasize strongly that aquaculture should be given the highest priority.

There is a dearth of experience and wisdom among rural people and farmers in a number of developing countries in the field of aquaculture. We suggest, Mr. Chairman, that FAO make a scientific but practical study on these aquaculture wisdoms of farmers, not just for the sake of academic exercise but to form a basis or spring board to disseminate them widely. Let us not be ashamed to learn from the small farmers, and let us not pretend to know everything and maintain paternalistic attitudes.

Let us, therefore, share responsibilities with Member Nations and have close consultations at grassroots levels as outlined by the Director-General in this regard. Mr, Chairman, Regional Fisheries Commissions are most suitable and appropriate fora or mechanisms to promote Technical Cooperation among developing countries. This can be realized if more initiative be left to the member nations and full opportunity be given to them for active participation in the programme formulation and implementation, so that they really feel responsible for the joint endeavour with FAO, and not feel that FAO is something separate from themselves.

In regard to forestry, Mr. Chairman, we have one or two comments. We fully agree with the concentration of resources under this major programme on assistance to Member Nations on the four points mentioned under paragraph 8 page 111, particularly in regard to the last point, namely to make more efficient forestry's role in rural development and employment. We wish to raise a couple of points. In the past in most, if not in all developing countries policies in the various sectors of agriculture, such as forestry and livestock, fisheries, crops etc. , were seldom properly interlinked, so were forest policies completely separate from rural development policies. Forest management objectives and activities were usually overlooking the local communities surrounding or adjacent to forest areas. They were usually orientated towards contributing as much as possible to the GNP and to foreign exchange earnings or savings rather than contributing in a direct way to the welfare of the local communities. Only if forest operations need manpower, only then they think of the local people who are expected to supply the labour forestry needs. We wish to emphasize in this connexion that unless there is an integration, or at least a synchronization of forest policies and rural development policies, valuable forest resources will become an easy victim of the struggle of farming populations for survival in rain-fed areas, particularly in higher water-shed regions of river basins. In other words unless local communities can derive direct benefits from the forests in satisfying their needs for securing a minimum level of living, farmers will consider forest areas merely as land reserves to be encroached upon sooner or later for their survival as their farmland is exhausted. It is not only in terms of timber and fuel wood, as mentioned under paragraph 8 (d) on page 119 that forests can contribute to local communities, but also we should not overlook that forests constitute an arsenal or organic material. This organic material is a new material par excellence for making compost, organic fertilizer and good for maintaining or improving soil standards. As we have pointed out earlier it is the problem of not being able to maintain soil fertility that motivates farmers in rain-fed areas to destroy forests in search of new land. Of course, services and facilities such as extension, credit, fertilizers, pesticides, feeder roads, etc. , should reach those backyards of the country as soon as possible, otherwise forestry will not be able to protect itself completely against the struggle for survival of rapidly expanding farming population.

Besides, Mr. Chairman, the introduction of systems of agri-silviculture will contribute additional food for the local people, and this was mentioned under paragraph 8 (d) page 119, but agri-silviculture can only be successful if there are experienced farmers available who are able to practice rather advanced farming methods and techniques. So shifting cultivators are not in that advanced stage. In other words settlements of shifting cultivators is a separate problem to be tackled if we want to save our natural valuable resources. We are glad that this new orientation of forest policies, namely forestry for community developments, the underlying idea of which was born for the first time back in Asia in 1973, is now gaining ground and gradually foresters as well as international institutions and aid agencies all over the world are adopting this new policy and approach. I am happy to mention here, Mr. Chairman, that the Swedish Government, through CIDA, in close cooperation with FAO is organizing a workshop in Indonesia on Forestry for Local Community Development.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, this momentum will culminate next year when the 8th World Forestry Congress will be held in Jakarta in Indonesia in October 1978 and the theme is Forests for People.

J. S. KHAN (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, yesterday in our intervention we expressed our broad agreement with the order of priorities in the sections on the programme and budget and we have also supported the Programme of Work as presented. My delegation has also given its views on FAO investment activities on the TCP, on decentralization and on post-harvest losses in our earlier statement and also in Commission I. So in this current intervention I intend to confine myself to our views on areas of particular interest to us or those which we think require greater attention and emphasis in chapter 2. Mr. Chairman, on the major programme of agriculture we have five points to make. The first on irrigation and water. My delegation strongly supports paragraph 23 at page 61 of document C 77/3, which places particular emphasis during the next biennium on the rehabilitation and improvement of existing irrigation schemes and reclamation of waterlogged and saline soils.

Mr. Chairman, we think that better off-farm and on-farm water management could improve land and water productivity levels at relatively nominal costs, and this activity is parallel with the activity now being followed regarding prevention of post-harvest losses. Under that, while FAO must continue to pay attention to increased food production, there is also growing concern for saving what is produced.

Similarly, while there must be attention and importance given to new irrigation schemes, at the same time we must save water and improve existing irrigation schemes. This must have equal importance.

The second point is on crop production, where we support the overall priority to food crops. However, within this, we think that the emphasis on seed development programmes is commendable, because we are convinced of the immediate gains from the timely evaluation, multiplication and distribution of good quality seed in developing countries.

Our third point on this is regarding fertilizers. Here we support the continuation of the IFS as well as the consolidation of the fertilizer activities in a new Unit. We also wish to draw attention to the good work being done by the Fertilizer Commission, which has become a valuable focal point for discussing the international fertilizer situation, and we would like to draw attention to the recommendation of the 72nd Session of the Council, that adequate resources should be made available to the Commission for carrying out this work. It is not clear from the document whether this is being done, but we would urge that adequate resources be provided to the Fertilizer Commission.

The fourth point is regarding livestock. Here we support the continuation of the ISCDD, as well as the late development scheme. There is only one additional point, we would like to stress the need for more emphasis on the development of rural poultry in developing countries.

The fifth and final point on agriculture is regarding rural development and a rural poor strategy. Of course, we have given our general views on this in our earlier intervention, but we would like to "flag" some points in addition.

First of all, we welcome the assumption of the leading role by FAO in this field from 1 January 1978 - which is as it should be. We think that the stress on strengthening of agricultural education, extension, credit and marketing, together with training at grass-roots level, is correct, because we think these are fields in which FAO can play a particularly useful role.

Another point on rural development - and I think this was flagged by Canada this morning - is the need for more emphasis on development of cooperatives. We think that cooperatives are of paramount importance, not only as a means of improving agricultural productivity, but also as an instrument for improving agricultural marketing and of improving agricultural credit facilities.

My delegation noted the clarification given by Mr. West on this point, but I still think it could do with emphasis, because we think that cooperatives are an important means of improving and ensuring the access of small farmers to modern technology.

One final point on rural development: I think there should be more concern with the area approach to rural development, and while FAO is attempting to improve productivity by small farmers through an integrated approach, it should also pay attention to the less favourable environment such as the rain-fed areas and the semi-arid areas and the mountainous regions.

With regard to the programme on fisheries, we broadly support the proposed programme, by my colleagues from Indonesia. We wish to stress that more importance should be placed on inland fisheries,



because they have enormous potential. Within this particular field, we think FAO could do more to help us in the development of fish culture - for example, in saline waters and in waterlogged areas. I think this is a problem common to many countries in the Near-East region.

Finally, on the programme on forestry. Here again, we are in broad agreement with the proposed programme, but, as was emphasized by my leader in his statement to Plenary yesterday, we only wish to flag three points:

Firstly, there should be more emphasis on quick afforestation, but it is important to bear in mind the need for more acceptable ecological balance, for soil preservation, and for improving growing needs for wood, timber and fuel.

The second point is the importance which we attach to improved logging techniques and efficient forest exploitation, and the third point is the importance we attach to upland watershed management and rehabilitation of forestry.

That is all I wish to say for the moment. We may come back on the other chapters.

H. REDL (Austria) (interpretation from German): As this is the first time I have spoken in this Commission, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, very warmly on your election and to assure you of the full support of the Austrian delegation. I wish also to congratulate your Deputy and to thank the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of our work.

I would like now to return to what we were doing yesterday, and to say that we support what has already been said by the delegates from Spain, Poland and Hungary. We believe that the activities of the European regions should be enhanced for the greater good of all. The inclusion of national institutions in the work of FAO is something which we very much welcome. In the European region, we have seen that scientific cooperation and forestry cooperation has shown how very useful such cooperation is, not only for the European region, but also for the developing countries.

The delegate for Nicaragua yesterday also mentioned the special importance of the work in connection with pesticides. Austria very particularly supports this work within the framework of FAO, and thereafter within the framework of the scientific network for pesticides of the European Agricultural Commission.

We have also heard with great satisfaction that the means available for the development of grains has been increased. Austria has been supporting FAO for many years in this connection, and I would like to point out that something like \$ 164 500 000 is being used for work in Africa, for training courses in Asia, and also the training of teachers. The Director-General is asking for further support for this Programme. I would like to point to the statement made by the head of the African delegation on Tuesday, 15 November.

May I be allowed to express a few criticisms in respect of home economics? We have listened with satisfaction to the statement that the work of farmers' women should be regarded with respect. However, we find that this work, especially in the European region, is not really being sufficiently recognized in the FAO Budget. As far as counselling and training are concerned, we do support the activities which are provided for there. We base our opinion on the experience of the first Forestry Training Course in 1975, in Austria. At the present time, together with the relevant department of FAO, we are preparing a second training course in 1978. There again, we feel that - especially where forestry is concerned - training, education and counselling should be given more attention than in the past.

We also support the activities suggested in the fertilizer sector. We believe it is desirable to create an administration to facilitate the best possible use of fertilizers.

I wish also to point out that the Austrian delegation is in full support of the resolution in document C 77/LIM/5, and I would like to speak on this subject again when that matter is raised for discussion.

R. S. KAMARA (Sierra Leone): As the debate on the Programme of Work and Budget has just commenced I would be grateful for the opportunity to speak further on this subject later, and make only a brief remark now.

My delegation finds little need to contradict the introductory statement of the Director-General and the general remarks now being made on the budget presentation chapter by chapter.

The West Coast of Africa may not be considered to rate highly in potential for animal production, compared with other regions of Africa, but the fact still remains that certain progress has so far been made for increasing animal production in the region. Whilst we join other speakers in appreciation for the provisions made to boost livestock productivity by FAO, my delegation would like to see more attention focused on West Africa to supplement national efforts now taking place. We wish to record our joy at the steps being taken towards the control of Trypanosomiasis. But, bearing in mind the difficulties associated with the practicability of this undertaking in the humid tropics, my country, like others similarly affected, consider the need for increasing the production of Trypanosomiasis-tolerant breeds of cattle, much more relevant and profitable for the region. We would therefore like to see FAO's programmes in this direction, such as the International Meat Development Scheme, as well as others undertaken by member nations of the region, through either bilateral or multilateral contacts, greatly strengthened.

Our comments for tick and tick-borne disease control for the region are also similar to what I have already expressed. In other words, Mr. Chairman, it is my delegation's considered opinion that not enough is being done for West Africa in the field of livestock production, even though much is being done by FAO elsewhere. One reason may be because West Africa is often considered a difficult region but we must bear in mind that even people in the polar regions have also a right to survive, and the recent experience of drought in the Sahel should make us double our efforts towards self reliance for livestock products in West Africa.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, with regard to forestry, and the forestry sectors of the Programme, my delegation fully agrees with the observation made by the delegate of Indonesia. It is true that forestry should be made to serve people at all stages of their development if proper meaning could be given to rural development and the role of forestry in the everyday activities of the rural population.

As I have said, Mr. Chairman, I do not want to bore you, and we hope that we can always come back and ask that you continue to be friendly disposed towards us.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): Now, Mr. Chairman, we find ourselves in full agreement with the general proposal made by the delegate from Indonesia when he said that the FAO Programme should be directed more and more to the poorest or the poorer people. This is the position we have taken in Canada in our aid programmes bilaterally, and also which we have emphasized in the international agencies. We fully agree with the delegate of Indonesia when he puts that emphasis, and it may be that the Director-General in the next few years will find himself re-orientating his own programme more and more in that direction.

This morning I raised a number of questions. I think, quite rightly, I said I was not asking for an immediate answer, and Mr. West said let us discuss them when we are discussing the Chapters, and the delegate from Pakistan anticipated with me (and I am glad we agree) that on the question of cooperatives there is a partial answer given by Mr. West which I cannot argue with, when he says some of this work is being absorbed in the area of the rural development and farm credit. That does not quite answer the question and the role of the cooperatives, especially in development. As you know, Mr. Chairman, just recently the World Food Programme submitted a report to the Committee for Food Aid in which the whole concept of food aid and cooperatives was discussed, and how the food aid could be used to assist in the development of cooperatives. I hope that perhaps we can have a little more explanation from some of the officials concerned with this item.

I also made a reference this morning to pesticides, and here I will read a statement which was prepared for our use by our pesticides experts. This important role played by the FAO/WHO Experts Committee on Pesticide Residues in establishing acceptable daily intakes of pesticide residues is generally acknowledged. Attention has been focused several times on the inadequate support given by the FAO pesticide programmes. Suggestions for the improvement in the efficiency in this Committee were made by the 8th Session of the CODEX Committee on Pesticide Residues and these were supported by the 11th Session of the CODEX Alimentarius Commission and by the FAO Committee of Experts in Agriculture. The ad hoc Government Consultation on Pesticides in Agriculture and Public Health, Resolution X, requested the Director-General of FAO to take remedial action to strengthen the programme. This has not been done in fact, according to the note of my colleague who attended the meeting about three weeks ago in Rome. It seems there has been a decrease in emphasis. There are essentially only two people working in the pesticide unit with the aid of a research assistant. The developing countries are the losers in the long run since they are anxious to have the benefits of developed countries' experience in pesticides. Many of the recommendations from both the ad hoc consultations are of vital importance to these countries as well as to developed countries, and especially the developing countries because they are the hardest hit by the pesticide shortages and lack of standardization of registration requirements, etcetera. I hope as I said earlier this morning, as I spell out in more detail the views of our colleagues who are the experts in this field, we may be able to get a more specific answer in this respect.

Now let me go on to some of the other points of the Programme. In the past support for the genetic resources activity within the FAO has varied. The activities are thought to be essential, although it is felt it would be difficult to meet the stated objectives with the resources allocated to it. The impetus of the formation of the International Board of Planned Genetic Resources has initiated a new push in this area and the FAO Programme has been integrated with this. Canada has participated in the international programme and will be providing storage space for use in the long-term seed preservation of genetic stock with responsibility for millets and oats. We would like to have a little more of an explanation and background on this activity in the FAO.

In the case of the grassland forage and feed resources activity, it is correctly pointed out by the FAO experts that the feed base is a prerequisite for improvement of the overall livestock programme. There is a tendency to place too much stress on the number of livestock and to take for granted the required feed supply. Actually the feed supply and water should regulate any production increase, and the feeling is appearing in the FAO paper - and again I give this reaction - that we must increase livestock production looking at the problems related to the increase of livestock production, but just do not increase it for the sake of it being a good thing.

The estimate is made that the carrying capacity of the geographical area under consideration for increasing livestock is that of 120 million head of cattle. Our people feel that although they have no detailed knowledge of the areas, on the basis of the information provided they think those figures are far too optimistic, and the feeling is that we should not have too many optimistic forecasts that provide promises which may not be able to be fulfilled in this respect.

While the control of animal health is an essential aspect, animal nutrition and genetic resistance to parasites and disease should receive careful attention. Thus there would be a slight shift from animal health to genetic resources which would provide a more balanced programme for the long-term time period.

In respect to nutrition, the feeling of our people is that in essence the FAO nutrition programme is satisfactory as far as it goes, and they take into consideration the fact that the division has not had a Director for some time, although the Acting Director has done a splendid job and is very complementary in what he is trying to do. As to the potential for success, all the nutritional programmes seem to have set aims which they can attain in the biennium. There are not enough details to evaluate whether the techniques which will be used will be appropriate. With respect to the resources needed to meet the objectives, these seem to match very well the programme of the objectives stated. As far as management goes, it seems to be good in terms of matching the objectives of programmes and budget.

The other point I would like to raise, Mr. Chairman, relates to the present development in respect of the joint activity between WHO and FAO, and the understanding of the establishment of a joint WHO/FAO unit in nutrition. We would like to have more information on the most up-to-date developments in this area.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission, my colleague, Mr. Steneker, would like to say a few words in respect of forestry, so if I may I will turn over the microphone to him.

G. A. STENEKER (Canada): The Canadian delegation likes to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to say a few more words on the subject of agro-forestry. What I have to say is for the purpose of information in that it deals with the establishment of the International Council for Research in Agroforestry. The subject was already discussed, I believe, at the Forestry Committee Meeting in October. It is an activity which is not mentioned in the Programme of Work and Budget. However, as agro-forestry is an important aspect of the Forestry Programme, I would like to take this opportunity to bring this up.

In July 1975, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a Canadian Crown Corporation, set up a project for the identification of new research initiatives in tropical forestry which could significantly improve tropical land management, which would furthermore assess the inter-dependence between forestry and agriculture in low-income tropical countries and which could propose research for optimizing land use.

The IDRC project report "Trees, Food and People - Land Management in the Tropics", identified a number of tropical forestry problem areas of major importance. The study led to the conclusion that first priority should be given to agroforestry, the management system which combines agricultural crops, tree crops and forest plants and/or animals simultaneously or sequentially.

Despite the growing awareness of the need for "hard facts" to apply agro-forestry effectively, relevant research remains sporadic, widely scattered and largely uncoordinated. The IDRC project report therefore recommended the establishment of an internationally financed support unit for agroforestry, now known as the International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF).

The primary role of ICRAF was envisaged as being supportive and catalytic. It would not carry out research itself but would collect, screen and disseminate hard facts relevant to agroforestry. It would recommend to interested donors the financing of research in appropriate institutions or itself contract for research.

It was proposed that ICRAF be established by charter as an autonomous, international body, governed by trustees, managed by a small staff of experts in the essential disciplines and employing consultants when required, to broaden its field of competence. The overall annual cost was estimated at \$2.1 million.

The need for such a service has been appreciated and the initiative was well received by a number of international agencies. A Steering Committee agreed, in June 1977, to proceed with the establishment of ICRAF.

A Board of Trustees of the Council has been appointed consisting of equal representation from developing and developed countries. FAO will hold a permanent seat on this board. Permanent headquarters are now being sought by the Council in a developing country.

D. VASILIU (Roumanie): Ainsi que le chef de la délégation roumaine l'a fait remarquer en séance plénière, nous partageons l'opinion que le Programme de travail et budget pour les prochaines deux années, tel qu'il a été formulé par le Directeur général, correspond aux nécessités actuelles et futures de l'activité de la FAO. C'est pour cela que nous sommes favorables à son adoption par la Conférence.

En même temps, nous avons remarqué que certaines améliorations possibles et d'autres aspects d'importance indiscutable auraient pu être mieux reflétés dans le Programme pour la période que je viens de citer. En disant cela, nous pensons à l'élaboration des programmes par régions et notamment la région européenne. Il aurait été possible, à notre avis, de mettre mieux en évidence l'existence en Europe aussi des pays en développement dont les problèmes, et notamment ceux de l'agriculture, sont différents de ceux des autres pays de la région européenne.

D'autre part, il aurait été souhaitable de mieux faire apparaître le rôle que pourrait avoir la coopération européenne dans le domaine de l'agriculture pour le soutien des efforts de développement agricole des pays en développement d'autres régions du monde.

C'est en partant de ces remarques que nous considérons que l'on aurait pu ajouter, à côté des actions proposées dans le document cité, d'autres actions d'une égale importance.

Les recommandations de la 10ème Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe auraient dû être davantage prises en considération. Lors de cette Conférence, la Roumanie, ainsi que d'autres pays européens, a présenté toute une série de propositions concernant des domaines qui constituent des priorités dans la coopération et l'activité de la FAO en Europe. Il n'est pas nécessaire d'entrer dans les détails puisque ces propositions sont présentées dans le rapport de la Conférence régionale, à savoir le document ÎRC/76/REP.

Ce que nous voudrions souligner c'est que ces priorités devront être reflétées de façon plus élaborée dans les programmes de la FAO, sinon pour 1978/79, tout au moins dans les années qui suivront, tout en tenant compte de leur intégration appropriée dans les objectifs à moyen et à long terme de la FAO.

C'est dans ce contexte, Monsieur le Président, que la délégation roumaine donne son appui au projet de résolution qui vient d'être soumis par la délégation espagnole et qui nous est présenté par le Secrétariat dans le document C 77/LIM/5.

Toutefois, en analysant la résolution, nous avons vu qu'il existe certaines différences entre le texte français et le texte anglais. Notamment dans le cinquième paragraphe du préambule, dernier alinéa, dans le texte français on utilise le terme "pays en développement" tandis que dans le texte anglais on utilise l'expression "pays moins industrialisés".

Nous sommes d'avis, Monsieur le Président, que l'expression "pays en développement" devrait être utilisée dans tout le texte. Cela serait d'ailleurs en conformité avec l'acte final de la CSCE, ainsi qu'avec les recommandations de la 10ème Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe.

CHAIRMAN: We have taken note of the comments of the delegate of Romania that we should use the French text as the basis for these words instead of the English text. As the delegate correctly pointed out, the English text reads "the less industrialized countries of the region" whereas the French text reads "en particulier celles qui bénéficient aux pays en développement? If everyone agrees, we shall use the French text as the basis. There seem to be no objections to this. We shall continue our discussion.

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I wondered - none too seriously - whether to propose that if we started our sessions a quarter of an hour late, we could exercise a self-denying ordinance and only speak for 10 minutes. If we started 30 minutes late, then we should limit ourselves to 5 minutes. Since we started about 20 minutes late this afternoon; I have five pages of tightly written typescript before me, therefore I shall try to limit myself to 10 minutes.

First, I have to waste two minutes to refer back to what was said this morning in the summing up. Like one or two other speakers, I regret that the person concerned is not here, but I did not say this morning that the United Kingdom was opposed to the setting up of country representatives. I said I doubted if, in fact, the total number could be achieved as quickly as was set out in the budget. I want to make it quite clear, I was only talking about the realism of budgeting for that number.

Secondly, Mr. West reminded me of the arrangement made with the UNDP two years ago. I see Mr. West is now present, I wanted to remind him that in my statement I was reminding FAO of this agreement, and I hope he has now got the message.

I shall now proceed with the other matters of substance. On Chapters 1 and 2 I shall deal with forestry first because I can dispose of it more quickly. That is not to say that I regard forestry as less important. We regard it as of the utmost importance.

I think I can reduce my comments to four points; in doing so, the detailed matter I shall hand over to the officials concerned, but the four points I want to make on forestry are firstly to underline the special needs of arid zones and the role of fodder crops; secondly, to underline the protective role of forests in sustaining rational land use as an area of emphasis in rural development; thirdly, that there should be increased emphasis on forest management, especially of the tropical high forest; and fourthly, special emphasis on the training of middle management personnel, particularly, I think, in Latin America.

Those are my four comments on forestry, I have a lot of other detailed comments which I shall not bore this meeting with, but which I would be very happy to pass on to the officials concerned, should they like to have them.

Now I turn to the rather more difficult question of agriculture. I shall not remark on the paragraphs with which we agree, and there are very many. My first comment is on paragraph 2. 1. We find the section on the medium term outlook unexceptional; it says the right things in the right way. But I hope that pious postulations will be followed by practical deeds which will put the FAO objectives into effect.

Secondly, with regard to paragraph 2. 1. 1. , we think we should give more attention to the development of farming systems appropriate to hillsides in the wet, tropical countries; possibly a workshop on soil conservation, management and shifting conservation in Asian countries might be timely in conjunction with Forestry Department.

Thirdly, in regard to paragraph 2. 1. 2, we are glad to see that in the action proposed-paragraph 18, of cetera - there is an attempt to set out priorities in terms of sectors in which it is believed the greatest impact can be made in the immediate future.

We note and agree that the needs of small farmers are paramount, and whilst so many of them are working mainly at subsistence level, we doubt whether they will change to a cash level, thereby selling larger surpluses, until marketing systems exist which are capable of absorbing the surpluses, without disastrous effects on prices.

My next point concerns livestock, a specialism which is the direct responsibility of neither the agriculturist nor the veterinarian. Closer integration, in our view, is needed internationally in all livestock projects. We are particularly interested in the International Meat Development Scheme as a means of coordinating bilateral effort and multilateral input in a defined programme for any particular country. Although the approach is a good one, and we believe it will work, the present methods of producing country reports leave much to be desired. Frequently a report on a country with a list of recommendations for projects has been allocated before some interested donors have even received the report, or it avoids being seen before it reaches the country representative in Rome.

We think a better system of informing interested donors is urgently needed, leading to greater understanding on the allocation of projects to interested parties.

The next point is on the question of African trypanosomiasis. We are pleased to see that this programme will be given increased priority. Nevertheless, we would prefer to see the programme carried out on a more coordinated basis and that FAO should produce a more defined programme as well as doing more to coordinate bilateral efforts.

The problem of trypanosomiasis is an international one in Africa and it cannot be tackled successfully on any other basis if lasting continental-wide control is to be achieved.

I think I am almost through and I think I have got another couple minutes to go, so I will go on to another point.

Paragraph 2. 1. 4. on rural developments: We are rather disappointed on the notes in paragraphs 16 to 28 about marketing. There seems to be a lack of appreciation that for the small farmer it is the local market that matters, where he sells his surplus and buys what he wants. Export crop prospects are less important in this regard. I am just wanting to make that point and I hope whoever is concerned will pick it up.

Finally, with regard to the information service, paragraph 2. 1. 7, we note the note of realism in the statement that many countries do not have a comprehensive system of collecting agricultural information, but if I may say so, it is an open question how far poorer countries can afford this or indeed how necessary it is to collect this information on a national basis, and we would hope that the demand for information to feed the computers will be kept to the absolute minimum.

C. THOMSEN (Denmark): With regard to Chapter II, my first remark is related to the Programme on crops; particularly in view of the remarks made by Mr. West before lunch, we feel it necessary to reiterate that we very much support the activities proposed concerning post-harvest losses, both in the medium-term and in the coming biennium, as action proposed here, but that in our view is not incompatible with some concern about the way arrangements are being made for financing these activities, and as I have already tried to indicate, we would have preferred in the presentation as it

appears for the proposed programmes on page 69 that this post-harvest loss activity had been included in the table itself instead of being referred to in a footnote, and we can see no reason why it should not enter into the table in the future. I mean even if there are uncertainties about the final amount available, we understand that the extra-budgetary indication in any case is an estimate. That is really what we had in mind.

My second remark is related to livestock. I would like to confirm that we continue to support the importance of training in animal and milk processing, particularly as part of the milk and meat schemes, and here I would like to join in the remarks just made by the United Kingdom.

My next remark is related to the programme on rural development and under this, first to agricultural education, extension and training, we fully support that the FAO should give high priority to training activities, as it is stated in the medium-term outlook part. We have also noted with satisfaction that under the action proposed, training extension and education will be an integral part, or shall I limit it to training or foremost training will be an integral part of all programmes and as such will receive high priority.

We also support the proposal for coordination of training activities within the FAO. We agree that there is a need for this. It seems to us that this is perhaps more than anything else a problem of management of operations, and I shall follow the experience of the proposed focal point in the Human Resources Division with great interest.

I move on to the section or sub-programme on agrarian reform and rural development. Although the emphasis in the programme proposed is on the World Conference, we believe that it is equally important to build up capacity in the Organization to assist countries with their problems in this area, to be able to take advantage of the awareness which we hope will be created by the World Conference, and furthermore, FAO will have a special obligation as a lead agency of the ACC in the agency task force in this matter. We therefore consider it important that the services concerned, in particular the Human Resources Division, should be strengthened to be able to perform these tasks. At the same time, we realize that rural development is not limited to this particular Division but should be a matter of concern for many parts of the Organization. In this sense, the Organization is also here faced with a managerial problem, and an approach similar to that proposed for education and training should be considered.

I move on to the programme on nutrition. As far as the nature of the problem here is concerned, we would like to make the remark that we of course agree that it is of utmost importance to increase food production in countries or areas where there are shortages, but at the same time it is very important to ensure that the increased production will benefit the poorest parts of the populations, and for this reason my delegation takes a great interest in the nutrition programme. In the past the role of nutrition in the work of the Organization has been modest if you look at it as a percentage of the total budget, and this small percentage which is devoted to nutrition activities would also include expenses for such items as food standards and food science services. At the previous Conference my delegation spoke in favour of strengthening a nutrition input in the FAO, but we have noted that the development has been in the opposite direction. This percentage of the Regular Programme budget now presented which is devoted to nutrition has in fact declined compared to the previous biennium, if you look at the food Policy and Nutrition Division. The staff of this Division has been reduced, and as referred to by Canada, the Division has been without a director for some time now.

We also note that the meeting activities and the proposed publications within this field are very few. We find that this is an unsatisfactory trend if the Organization is going to take up its role as the lead agency among the United Nations Organizations in the area of nutrition, and we hope that in the future it will be possible to pay more attention to this area. In this connexion, we fully agree with the recommendations stated by the United States delegate in his statement on nutrition.

I shall then move on to the programme on forestry and first state our general agreement with the new orientation of this part of the programme. With regard to the programme on forest resources, like other delegations before me, we consider it to be most important that the emphasis here is moved from large industrial plantations to smaller village community plantations. This is just as much for the provision of fuel and building materials as it is a source of employment, but we would like to emphasize the importance of training at grass roots level in this connexion.

With regard to the programme on forest industries, we feel it is important to continue the activities with small-scale forest industries, as they may provide a solution to many developing countries, particularly if suitable technology can be found not only for sawmills but also for small-scale paper mills. Investment support services may play an important role for this development, possibly by way of subcontracting, and again training and education of workers and technicians for the interested parties concerned will be of paramount importance.

However, generally we feel that it is perhaps well to urge a note of caution when we talk about forestry.

Experience has proved that it takes a long time to implement plans and ideas in this field to get results, and we should not be over-optimistic in our expectations in the short run or else we risk disillusion and disappointment.

I would like to make a few remarks on Chapter 3 as well, Mr. Chairman, if you think this appropriate. It is in relation to the section on investment, and I would like to say here that I am authorized to speak on behalf of all the Nordic countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland and my own.

CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, we had intended to deal with Chapter 3 in the next round, so if you would agree to wait until we go to the next round.

K. CHOUERI (Liban) (interpretation de l'arabe): Nous venons aujourd'hui d'aborder les détails du chapitre 1. 2 de ce document; nous sommes d'accord sur les allocations budgétaires consacrées au programme: politique, direction générale. Ces allocations sont dues surtout à l'utilisation de la langue arabe.

En ce qui touche le chapitre 2 relatif aux programmes techniques et économiques, je vais essayer de traiter de certains de ces programmes. En ce qui concerne l'agriculture (grand programme 2, 1), nous savons que ce programme tend à l'augmentation de la production agricole, cela au moyen des investissements accrus. Nous sommes d'accord sur le montant alloué à tous ces programmes.

En ce qui concerne le programme 2. 1. 2, des ressources naturelles, nous sommes d'accord pour mettre l'accent sur l'aménagement des sols, sur les engrais et également sur l'étude concernant l'irrigation. Et à ce propos, nous reconnaissons la nécessité d'élargir l'emploi des engrais, puisque le revenu de ces engrais permettra aux pays en développement de reprendre des programmes qui tendent à l'amélioration du niveau de vie des petits agriculteurs.

En ce qui concerne le programme 2. 1. 2. , nous sommes d'accord sur les allocations budgétaires à ce programme puisqu'elles tendent à la production de plantes et semences améliorées.

Notre délégation voudrait également mettre l'accent sur le programme de la réduction des pertes alimentaires après récolte. Et sur l'évaluation des programmes de lutte contre les effets néfastes de certains de ces programmes.

En ce qui concerne le programme 2. 1. 5. , : développement rural, nous l'appuyons puisqu'il tend à la formation, à la vulgarisation, au développement agricole et à l'investissement.

Nous voulons ici mettre l'accent sur l'investissement, puisque la mise sur pied d'une stratégie nationale et d'allocation de crédits aux banques bénéficie de notre appui.

Je voudrais enfin vous féliciter des initiatives prises par le Directeur général en vue d'organiser le séminaire sur la planification agricole qui aura lieu à Rome, en 1978, et qui tend à mettre l'accent sur l'investissement agricole, conformément à la résolution de la Conférence régionale qui s'est tenue à Tunis.

G. WEILL (France): Le délégué de l'Espagne a présenté avec beaucoup d'éloquence un projet de résolution relatif à l'activité en Europe. Il a souligné à cette occasion l'efficacité d'un dispositif mis en place à l'échelon européen pour favoriser la diffusion des informations en matière agronomique et pour faciliter la publication des résultats de recherches. Ce projet de résolution, si bien présenté par le délégué de l'Espagne, est également présenté par la délégation de la France. Je n'y insisterai pas sinon pour retenir cet aspect particulier de l'activité ainsi soulignée, je veux dire le renforcement de la recherche agronomique. Cette activité nous paraît extrêmement importante et nous sommes très favorables au Programme 2. 1. 4. qui a précisément trait à la recherche.

La recherche agronomique est incontestablement un facteur de développement de la production agricole; c'est également, à notre avis, un domaine privilégié de la coopération internationale, et la FAO a un rôle important à jouer dans ce domaine. Certes, les modalités de cette recherche internationale peuvent varier énormément. Nous avons entendu le délégué du Canada nous parler de la mise en place d'un centre international de recherche en matière de forêts, mais il faut être conscient de l'intérêt de la formule, souple, légère et ouverte, mise en place sous l'égide de la FAO pour favoriser les contacts entre



chercheurs, pour favoriser les échanges en matériel végétal et pour favoriser la publication des résultats. Comme cela a été très bien dit par le délégué de l'Espagne, cette coopération n'est pas limitée aux pays européens; elle s'étend aux autres pays ayant à traiter des mêmes problèmes.

Je dirai, en voulant rester bref que la lutte contre la trypanosomiase ne figure pas aux programmes 2. 1. 3 et 2. 1. 4. Mais je voudrais, comme l'un des orateurs précédents, souligner son importance dans les pays africains. Il est incontestable qu'elle nécessite un effort de coopération internationale auquel la FAO peut et doit concourir.

Enfin, je voudrais faire, en ce qui concerne la recherche internationale elle-même, une suggestion, à savoir qu'en matière végétale il y aurait incontestablement un plan fort important de cette recherche se rapportant au palmier; comme le délégué du Canada, je dirai que je suis trop heureux de pouvoir utiliser la compétence de nos instituts de recherche car il s'agit du palmier *melanococca* à propos duquel il faudrait favoriser la prospection et la recherche de matériel végétal. De même, il semble qu'un effort international puisse et doive être entrepris en matière de défense des cultures; pour le cocotier par exemple il serait souhaitable d'entreprendre une étude d'un prédateur contre un parasite appelé *Aceiria Guerreronis* que l'on rencontre aussi bien en Amérique centrale qu'en Afrique et dans certains pays du sud-est asiatique. C'est donc véritablement le type de parasite contre lequel une action internationale doit pouvoir être utilement entreprise sous l'égide de la FAO.

F. D. MAAS (Israel): Mr. Chairman, first I would like to support the declaration for assistance of commonwealth european countries on the initiative of the Spanish delegation. I have stressed on various occasions the importance of European work for European countries and also for FAO as a whole, and I hope this can be accepted.

Coming now to our subject, first I noted, maybe some explanation can be given, at least percentagewise, the programme is number two on agriculture, forestry and fishery, percentagewise came down in this biennium. The budget allocation was 47. 3 percent and in this coming year it is 44. 8 percent. Maybe through inflation it is even more or less, I cannot say, but this is a fact that is inside the book.

Coming to some details which I would like to mention: first regarding the dissemination of information which one can find on page 90, 91 and 92. This information on production and prices on the market is very important in view of the fluctuations which we realize since the last time. Certainly FAO material is not the only source which countries receive, we too have our daily information service from the outside world, but I am asking if it would not be possible to dispatch some of these price reviews by telex for countries interested, and not by post when it arrives two or three weeks later and sometimes it takes even months, I mean in the modern world the telex should be used, and I understand that costs are involved but maybe there are countries which would be interested in this type of information to get it as quickly as possible.

My second remark is connected to pesticides; pesticides which have been mentioned several times. In the English text it is page 68. Mr. Chairman, my delegation is not very happy with the action programme proposed and numbered 23, but I do not want to go into details, I mean it was also said during the discussion; one has to be careful with pesticides, and so on and so on. I agree to all this but pesticides play an important role and if we speak on crop losses and special action we know at least fifty percent of the losses which occur in developed and developing countries are during closed period, it cannot be changed and pesticides play an enormous role. I agree, I mean, pesticides are like alcohol and tobacco, they are not very healthy but they give a good feeling to mankind or to plants and we use them, and we cannot overcome this input by wording and definitions of integrated control and resistant varieties and all such things which have their value, but if we look very carefully on the scenery, the agricultural scenery and what happens in the fields it would be better if FAO and countries would give their due respect to the application, the right application of pesticides and related fields, and not to waste too much money on very important things for the future to come but certainly not for today and for tomorrow. At least this is our opinion, and we have also assisted in the past FAO with pesticides application courses and support and we shall go on with this if so desired.

Finally I have a question, Mr. Chairman, which maybe can be answered somewhere?

On various occasions, both during Plenary and in today's discussions, people have rightly said that FAO activities should be applied to the farmer in the field - to the small man, at grass-roots level, and so on. Certainly I agree with this: but I ask myself, how far can this Organization go? We find difficulty even when talking at country-representative level, and that level certainly does not go

down to the farmer or grass-roots level. We do not reach these people at the first, second, third or perhaps even fourth or fifth level. These discussions are very important but they are not directly for the farmer. My question - if it can be answered - is, where is the limit of FAO activities towards the farmer? - What can the Organization do for the farmer? Is it restricted to a kind of world ministry for the assistance of agricultural ministries in other organizations?

J. L. SAULT (Australia): We would in general support the proposals which are outlined in Chapters I and 2, but we do have some comments on specific items. Taking these roughly in the sequence in which they appear in the document:

Firstly, we have already registered our view that the reduction of food losses should be given high priority.

As regards the programme on nutrition, we note that there has been a modest increase proposed, and we would hope that adequate funds for the food standards and quality control work will be ensured.

We also note that one of the difficulties of coming to grips with the subject of nutrition is the number and complexity of the networks and organizations involved. This seems to be thrown into relief in the Programme Committee's Report.

Looking at some of the economic programmes, we support the work of the Food Information Service and the programme supporting the UNCTAD negotiations. Australia subscribes to the concept of rationalizing all aspects of activity in international fora, and therefore we support FAO's aims of providing information on agriculture, fisheries and forestry projects within its Charter. This information assists in formulating acceptable solutions on production and distribution problems to be negotiated in UNCTAD. We believe that communication of statistical and other relevant information is one of the important functions of FAO.

On world food security, we subscribe to the principle in the mode proposed in the international undertaking. We support the continuation of FAO's activities in this field.

Looking at the proposed study, Agriculture Towards 2000, while we see some merit in considering development issues twenty years ahead in a broad way, we have serious reservations about the value of detailed projections as far ahead as this. Our doubts stem from our own experience and the innumerable factors on a world scale which influence the course of developments in agriculture. As recent history has shown, random events outside the agricultural sector can have immense consequences for agriculture and the increasing inter-dependence of national economies increases the probability of the occurrence of such events. Such consideration suggests that a pragmatic approach should be exercised over the amount of resources put into a study such as Agriculture Towards 2000.

Regarding the major programme on fisheries, we have one query to raise here. We have noted that the fisheries policy expenditure on item 2. 2. 3, is severely reduced. There is a drop of about \$411 000 in real terms on a budget of just over \$1. 9 million for the last biennium. Possibly this is part of a drive to make regional fishery bodies financially self-supporting, but we would seek clarification on the reduction, and whether it is the result of a reduction in expenditure of FAO regional fisheries bodies.

J. RUTKOWSKI (Poland): I would like to say just a few words with reference to the Resolution presented by the distinguished delegate of Spain.

First of all I would like to say that we fully support this Resolution, and I would like to appeal to the delegates from other countries to support it as well and adopt it.

We have problems in Europe, in spite of the fact that that may sound a little strange - immediate problems for immediate solution and problems for the future. We attach great importance to scientific cooperation, and we believe there is a potential in Europe. There is traditional cooperation, and there is the will to do it, and I think we can do it in the European region in cooperation with other countries of the world, for the benefit of all of them. I do not want "examples" of this cooperation because such examples are well known too, and have been mentioned by, other delegates.

When we organize this cooperation, some support is needed from the Organization - some logistic and some financial support. If there are some activities connected with FAO, then we cannot ask the Government to allocate additional money for them, because the Government would normally say "this is done within the framework of the Organization for which we are paying a certain contribution ". Therefore, I think that the budget for Europe is a very modest one. We are not trying to obtain more money in this Resolution, as I understand it, but to get some understanding of our problems for the future, and as much help as possible. The amount of money allocated for Europe - 0.8 percent - is very small. I am naturally not relating it to the contribution of the European region, because they are different criteria; but one could wonder why we are considered so unimportant in the programme of FAO.

The delegates of Spain and France have so eloquently presented this problem and this resolution, that I do not need to say anything more about it,

A. LOPES RIBEIRO (Portugal): The Portuguese Delegation strongly supports the draft Resolution submitted to this Commission by the Delegation of Spain. It is needless to emphasize the importance of such a draft Resolution, not only for the European region but for the Organization as well - as several before me have said.

RAMADHAR (India): In my intervention on Chapter 2, I would like to raise some issues which are common to other Chapters also. I would also like to touch on the particular subject of rural credit, at page 82 of chapter 2 of document C 77/11.

My delegation welcomes the recent attempts by the Director-General in reorientating FAO's activities towards making them more relevant to the needs of the developing countries. How far FAO's activities are actually relevant can, however, be best judged by using certain well-defined criteria. I may mention here some on which there is broad agreement. These are:

1. Does it facilitate technical cooperation among the developing countries?
2. Does it encourage the use of "national institutions"?
3. Does it promote self-reliance in technical and financial matters?
4. Does it lead to decentralization within FAO'S programme?

Let me briefly discuss each of the four criteria serially.

First is the issue regarding technical cooperation. It is now widely recognized that the old type of technical assistance promoted in the 1960s is now far outmoded. A new dimension in technical assistance is that of facilitating technical cooperation among the developing countries themselves. Any institutional arrangements from any programme which facilitates technical cooperation should therefore be an important element of FAO's Programme of Work and Budget. For example, the recently set up Asian and Pacific Regional Agricultural Credit Association would go a long way towards facilitating technical, economic and financial cooperation among the countries of the region. We therefore welcome FAO's initiative in promoting the associations of this type and urge the Director-General to give all possible assistance to enable these associations to be self-reliant in the shortest possible time. I may mention that in the case of the Asia and Pacific Regional Agricultural Credit Association, not merely financial institutions such as agricultural development banks have sought membership, but also central banks and, more importantly, government ministries. In this sense these associations are much more than non-governmental bodies. They have many of the characteristics of inter-governmental organizations. Hence it is proper that FAO should give these bodies all the assistance it can within its Programme of Work and Budget.

The potentials of using national institutions is one subject which has been much discussed, but it is not clear whether this potential has been fully exploited by FAO. Do the technical divisions within FAO really take all precautions not to send an expatriate expert to a country where there is adequate capacity within the national institutions to undertake the technical work? Does FAO really make a sincere effort to sub-contract work to such capable national institutions? An assurance from the Director-General on this issue would be very welcome. I am, however, glad to note that there are some notable examples of FAO making commendable advances in sub-contracting work to national institutions. Our delegation is particularly pleased to note that in the field of agricultural credit and banking in the Survey of Training Facilities for Bank Personnel, promoted by the Agricultural Services Division with SIDA assistance, the main work has been assigned to the national institutions in Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Nepal. The Indian Delegation is also pleased to note that under the Scheme for

Agricultural Credit Development (SACRED) FAO will try to mobilize bilateral assistance specifically for strengthening national agricultural credit institutions, SACRED, together with the four Regional Agricultural Credit Associations, which form the two mutually supporting elements of the Agricultural Banking and Credit Programme, will go a long way towards using fully the potentials of national institutions. We welcome this type of FAO activity and trust that in other fields, such as economic research, agricultural education, agro-industries, etc. , FAO will be able to develop similar programmes with greater emphasis on the use of national institutions.

Promoting self-reliance in technical and financial matters is yet another criterion which should be used in judging the relevance of the Programme of Work of FAO. It is sometimes sad to hear that development projects, after the completion of their life-cycles of five years or more, often leave the country without leaving behind appropriate infrastructure or institutions which are capable of continuing the good work undertaken by these projects. It is important to realize that the development projects are specifically aimed at encouraging the local capacity to implement the project, rather than merely an arrangement for demonstration effect. Here again, the type of activities which it is envisaged will be undertaken under the Regional Agricultural Credit Associations and SACRED are the ones which need to be encouraged. If the national agricultural credit institutions are adequately strengthened they would serve not merely as efficient channels for international assistance in the field of agriculture but, much more importantly, they would help mobilize local resources and, as is well known, the development of local resources is a precondition for achieving self-reliance in the developing countries. It is only through the mobilization of domestic resources that investment in the agricultural sector can be accelerated for achieving our declared objectives.

Decentralization is yet another criterion which is often lost sight of in judging the effectiveness of FAO programme. There has been general agreement in the Council as well as in the Conference that decision-making within FAO should be progressively relegated to the regions, sub-regions and finally to the countries themselves. Here again, the pattern of arrangements which is envisaged under the Regional Agricultural Credit Associations should particularly be noted. Much of the work of these associations is expected to be undertaken in the region with active assistance from the FAO Regional Offices. This will encourage the FAO Regional Offices to have direct contact not merely with the governments but also with the financial institutions and central banks. In turn this will assist the FAO Regional Offices to know what the needs of the countries are, and thereby help improve the programming function within FAO.

Mr. Chairman, the time has now come for FAO to be more innovative in evolving institutional arrangements for seeking greater involvement of countries in FAO's programme. Unless there is involvement of countries and national institutions in FAO's programme it will be very difficult for FAO to stop and reverse the deepening process of irrelevance of FAO's programme to the needs of the developing countries. It is in this context that the Indian Delegation has welcomed and fully supported the programme for setting up of Regional Agricultural Credit Associations, and we trust that in view of overwhelming support that FAO has got through the widespread participation of countries in the two meetings held in Asia and Africa, the Director-General will find it possible to give these associations all the support which they have asked for and very well deserve.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, once again. There are other issues related to these chapters, on which my delegation would like to intervene later.

The meeting rose at 17. 25 hours

La seance est levée à 17 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 17. 25 horas

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/II/PV/5

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

FIFTH MEETING  
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE  
QUINTA SESION  
(18 November 1977)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 9. 50 hours J. H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La cinquième seance est ouverte à 9 h 50, sous la présidence de J. H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la quinta sesión a las 9. 50 horas, bajo la presidencia de J. H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

10. Programme of Work and Budget 1978-79 (continued)

10. Programme de travail et budget pour 1978-79 (suite)

10. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1978-79 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We continue with our discussion on the Programme of Work and Budget, Chapters 1 and 2, and you may also comment on the Resolution that was introduced yesterday on the activities of the European Region, document C 77/LIM/5. If we have the time we will go on to discuss Chapter 3 and possibly Chapter 4, but since we have to adjourn our meeting at 11 o'clock, there will hardly be time for that, I think.

G. P. TIGGELMAN (Netherlands): A few remarks first about paragraph 2. 1. 2, Crops. We welcome the increased attention given to food crops and particularly the proposed activities to increase and improve the production of good seed and planting materials. I hope it will be possible in the near future to cooperate on a larger scale with FAO in this field.

With reference to what has been mentioned in paragraph 1. 4. 1, Crop and Post-Harvest Protection Needs, we may suggest that particular attention will be given to the FAO Council Recommendation to examine thoroughly the entire subject of pesticides and plant protection with emphasis on supply and demand as affecting developing countries. We hope that the necessary funds for this work will be made available to the relevant departments and bodies of FAO; particularly the productivity of the bodies seems to be hampered by the lack of adequate manpower for the work.

Regarding the Livestock Programme, we would like to underline the importance of training. and appreciate that also in the coming biennium training will get much attention.

In the Food and Agriculture Policy Programme it is mentioned that the Food Security Assistance Scheme will give greater priority to preparing projects which strengthen the production capacity of developing countries. If possible, we would like to receive some more information about this shift of emphasis in the Scheme.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to draw your attention to the European Cooperative Network on Pesticides as undertaken by the FAO Regional Office in Europe. It seems to us that some overlapping exists with the World-wide Programme on International Standardization of Pesticides Registration Requirements, with the activities of the FAO/WHO CODEX Committee on Pesticide Residues and with the Government Consultation with respect to the environmental impact of pesticides. We believe that available resources for these important purposes should be used for a global approach, also covering the needs of the developing countries, and that the ongoing programme in Europe should be re-adjusted accordingly.

D. BASSIOUNI (Sudan): The intervention of my delegation will start with Project 2. 1. 1 on Natural Resources. We think the outline of the Project is good, and we are particularly interested in the proposal for making logical assessment of agrieological zones, but we think in order to guard against competition between plant and animal it is necessary that FAO should encourage Member Governments to undertake master land use plans. This we think is necessary, because it will guarantee that our development programme on a national and regional basis will not in any way conflict with the resources which are available.

On crops, we are particularly encouraged by the attention being given to the cropping pattern farming system, the small-holder system of farming. We think these are very important elements, and the modernization of traditional agriculture cannot be effectively undertaken without really doing further work on cropping patterns and farming systems.

On livestock, we are interested in the programme on the control of African animal trypanosomiasis. It is true, as has been mentioned clearly in the report, that quite a sizeable tract of land in Africa cannot be used for raising live-stock simply because of the prevalence of trypanosomiasis in these particular areas. Whereas we support the establishment of the sub-regional centres to serve as centres

for tick control and also for trypanosomiasis, we would propose that countries which have not in the past received any attention as far as the control of trypanosomiasis is concerned should be given higher priority in this particular programme.

The programme on livestock, too, does not touch on marketing. We think live-stock marketing is a very important element because it is only through marketing that we can increase the uptake and the future of the livestock economy depends much on marketing if we are to move the pastoral people into a cash economy, so we think marketing should be part of the programme.

Speaking of range management, I think less attention has been given to water development, which I think are tied up, water development and range management are inseparable, because without water, development of range lands especially in areas where water is still a problem could still continue to be a problem.

On research support, as said in the beginning we would like to see action-oriented applied research because we think this will accomplish quicker results, especially for the farmers, and particular attention to research on the farming system and cropping patterns should be given due importance.

On rural development, we agree that marketing and credit are very important components of our services, especially to the rural poor, but it is now a fact that a number of lending institutions in the countries because of the system of lending which they have been practicing over the years are no longer relevant to the needs of the small-holder farmer. We think there is a need for reorganization of national credit institutions with the help, of course, of FAO to institute favourable and liberal lending policies, and I think work should be done in this regard. The budgets on credits and marketing we note have received lesser importance, or lesser allocations than the rest of the other components. We think since these are important elements in the service of the rural population they should have been given some higher importance.

On Forestry we think there are two important lines of action which should receive our attention. The Forestry inventory is most important because without knowing our resources and their location it may be difficult for us to really take these resources meaningfully. Secondly, training to us in forestry is an important element and should receive every attention.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission my colleague will supplement what I have said.

Y. I. MEDANI (Sudan) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, I have a few comments to make on Chapter 2. 2, Fisheries, Recent events in this area are reflected in territorial jurisdiction decisions which were taken recently. These extensions make it necessary for the developing countries to step up their efforts regarding the exploitation of territorial waters. International organizations should help the Member Nations in attaining this objective. This is why we should like to stress a number of strategies and policies which are designed to develop the efforts made by the developing countries with a view to exploiting their fishery resources. These points may be listed as follows: first of all it is necessary for the existing regional bodies dealing with fisheries to become more competitive and competent, and for them to carry out the new activities required by the extension of territorial waters. The Pacific Commission covers vast expanse of waters, this is why its activities in the Red Sea are virtually non-existent. We believe, therefore, it is necessary to establish a new committee which would deal with the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. This is also applicable to the other committees. Furthermore, it is necessary for us to develop training activities with respect to the management of this sector. It is also necessary for us to make a new inventory to see which areas are well-stocked with fish, and it is necessary for us to adopt a policy which is appropriate to deal with the situation. Fourthly, it would be necessary for the countries that work or exploit the same areas to undertake a joint effort and to cooperate one with the other.

As regards 2. 2. 1 Information on Fisheries we believe that it is necessary to provide the requisite information to the developing countries, more particularly to those countries that do not have financial or staff resources required to obtain such information, and we would like to repeat a point which was made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia, and other delegates as well, in referring to the need for stressing fisheries' production in the inland seas, so as to enable us to provide the proteins we require.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): At the end of your list I will be reasonably brief and, of course, being aware of the time limit of 27 minutes. I do not think, Chairman, I have anything special to say on Chapter 1 except perhaps to say that the real term increases in resources seems reasonable.

On 2. 1. 1 Natural Resources, though my country has no direct experience the arguments presented by a previous speaker on problems of rainfed agriculture merit our support.

In our first intervention we have already defined our position on two basic components of 2. 1. 2, that is seed harvest and post-harvest losses. With regard to 2. 1. 3 Livestock, two brief comments only: first, we highly value the work done on foot-and-mouth disease control in Europe, and since it represents, if I may say so, a rare FAO activity of direct immediate benefit to my country, we certainly wish to see this work continued and, if possible, slightly strengthened.

Coming now to 2. 1. 4 Research Support, let me first indicate our accord with the priorities (a), (b) and (c) under action proposed. I am referring to paragraph 18. In our view (d) is not a priority by other organizational measure, to which we certainly agree. However, we have some doubts about the usefulness of (e).

May I turn your attention now to the issue that seems to us very serious indeed. I am referring to the concern voiced in the report of the Programme Committee in paragraph 2. 45 to 2. 48 of the CL 72/4. My delegation fully shares the views expressed there. We strongly feel that an initiative, unfortunately now well under way and institutionalized by the constructive group on international agricultural research, and that establishment of an international service for culture research means, in our view, nothing but duplication of services FAO is fully capable of providing. Consequently, it could only lead, we feel, at least, to further proliferation of national institutions, and hence to waste of money. One should, however, admit that the total resources of FAO for 1978/79, both regular programme and extra-budgetary resources are far from being adequate compared to the real need of 3 000 research institutions with somewhere around 15 researchers in developing countries, as shown in paragraph 4, and also possibilities of those countries to strengthen their own efforts in that field, but if additional extra-budgetary resources are available FAO is no doubt the only institution qualified to get the job done. I can say my delegation suggests the Conference voice very clearly its concern, in a sense, proposed by the Programme Committee.

Mr. Chairman, I failed in my first intervention to underline an issue to which Yugoslavia has always attached the utmost importance. Most likely it happened just because I tried my best not to overlook it. I mean our inescapable need for progressive reliance on FAO national and regional institutions, in developing countries. I am very glad my negligence was fully compensated by a number of speakers, especially by the excellent intervention of my Indian colleague yesterday afternoon. I have nothing to add, but to subscribe myself fully, 100 percent, to what he said. My delegation lends its unreserved support to the intention of the Director General, shown throughout the narratives of the Programme of Work and Budget, to take decisive steps to end that in the next biennium, thus implanting a really new avenue in the FAO work. We want him only to persist.

I hope that I have clearly defined our position vis-à-vis 2. 1. 7 and 2. 1. 8 in my first intervention and what I have already said. I would now only add we highly appreciate work done by FAO in the commodity field. May I mention also that we are very directly interested in the commodity work, especially as far as meat is concerned, so we would like that active part of commodity activities to be at least slightly strengthened, in view of the continued crisis in meat markets all around the world.

Finally, may I say a few words on Europe. Were I not a European, I might have quite easily got the impression that the European problems were over-stressed in debate, but I think we Europeans are fully aware of the fact that Europe has not been, and moreover should not be the prime concern of the Organization, yet, Mr. Chairman, on the basis of our own experience my delegation can testify to the useful job done in Europe, especially through established research networks - foot-and-mouth disease control, etc. We particularly appreciate the close and fruitful cooperation between FAO and ECE. We also think that European activities could be of substantial value to developing countries, and that these countries ought to be further encouraged to participate actively in European programmes. So we Europeans are not brought in this - I am absolutely sure - our intention is merely to underline what we have been doing in Europe and we want to do to the benefit of not only European but of perhaps many developing countries in bordering regions. With this in mind, my delegation wants to indicate its support to the draft resolution introduced by Spain.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you in particular for giving me the floor at this late stage still to make some general comments which unfortunately I was not in a position to do yesterday, due to the arrangement in the Conference.

Perhaps before making some specific comments, it would be appropriate for me to remind our colleagues in the Commission that as a Group of 77 we have taken a clear stand on the overall aspects of the budget for the coming biennium. As is well known, we made a common joint statement at the time of the 72nd



Session of FAO Council, when we had the opportunity to repeat our position of support of the budget and programme proposals. Specifically, at the time of the 72nd Session of the FAO Council, we gave support to the figure of \$211 350 000 for the coming biennium. We feel, in the Group of 77 that this figure is, in fact, the very minimum to carry on a programme which we attach particular importance to, a programme which we feel to be the minimum response on the part of FAO to a renewed priority to agricultural development and a renewed concern to the questions of food and nutrition. We feel that it is in fact a conservative approach if we take into account the actual requirements of developing countries. We feel also that the adjustment from the figure presented at the June Council to the figure which we have now before the Conference is a necessity, a necessity which requires adjustment for the Conference on Agrarian and Rural Development, an adjustment consequential to enlarge the scope of the Conference, and also an inevitable adjustment in the light of the fluctuation of the currency, the dollar-lira relationship, between June and November.

We would like also in the name of the Group of Seventy Seven to remind the Commission that we fully support the general trends reflected in the programme proposals in terms of de-bureaucratization, decentralization and transfer of activities to the country level, and to technical cooperation activity with emphasis therefore on field programmes. Those are trends which we feel to be absolutely appropriate and correct.

We have also given our support, as is well known, to the proposal for the establishment of a special fund and the manner in which the initial contribution to that special fund will be made out of the Suspense Account, but that is a problem we have to discuss in Commission I and I do not need to dwell on it here.

That being said Mr. Chairman, I would like to make now some additional comments as the Brazilian delegate. My first comment on the overall distribution of resources is made in the light of the table which one sees on page 187 of the English text, the general allocation and distribution of funds between regions. I must say that by the figure of total resources allocated to our region, Latin America, the figure corresponding both to the regular programme and to extra-budgetary resources is very low. In percentage terms it does not give more than twelve percent, and in fact we are therefore, after Europe, the region with less benefits received from the allocation of the resources.

This figure of course is an average figure and is reflected in the different chapters. If one sees the figure on research, the situation becomes even worse because we have not more than four percent which is incredibly low. One can see for instance on page 79 of the programme of work, in the English text, that Latin America has not more than four percent if we take into account budgetary and extra-budgetary resources. I would say that it is indeed a very low percentage allocation, especially if one takes into account the efforts of Latin America to develop and promote agricultural research. Therefore, we feel there is not a counterpart from FAO to our own regional efforts, and we would very much appreciate, if it is possible, to have a larger allocation on this particular chapter on research, and I insist that in this particular case there is a tremendous effort in Latin American countries, including my own, to promote agricultural research and we feel therefore that there should be an adequate counterpart.

His excellency, the Minister of Agriculture of Brazil for instance in the general debate in the Plenary referred precisely to the actual amount provided by Brazil for research which is in fact over one hundred million dollars per year by now, and we do not feel there is any adequate counterpart on FAO's side here, and we feel constrained to make this observation.

Now on Chapter 2 which I understand is the exact point of our discussion right now, we have some specific remarks but also general observations. If one sees under page 53 of the English text, Major Programmes on Agriculture and the distribution of programmes, we see that both take into account separately purely regular budget programme, and considering the total funds in both accounts we see a very low emphasis on nutrition. If my accounting is right, nutrition is the seventh in priority if taking into account the regular programme, and sixth in priority if we take into account the total resources. We would estimate there are around seven hundred an fifty million undernourished people in the world. We feel that it is hardly an adequate response to a situation which has to be improved if we want to help those most in need. That is the overall comment on the Programme for Agriculture.

Also we feel that the emphasis on research again is very low. It is eighth on the Regular Budget, and the seventh taking into account total funds. We feel that research is very important for all our developing regions if we want to increase production productivity and therefore we are inclined to believe that it would be appropriate for greater emphasis to be on research. So nutrition and research in our opinion should have been moved up on the scale of priorities within the major programme on agriculture.

Now a couple of observations within the Chapter on agriculture still. We feel that the Organization will have to take care to have a kind of balance. At the same time we are happy to see the emphasis on

the reduction of losses. We cannot detract from the work of the Organization directly orientated for increased production. We have to follow as kind of between approach; production on the one side and reduction of losses on the other side. Both are valid and both are necessary.

We feel that there must be a special emphasis on investment at this stage. We in the developing countries feel, and we feel as Brazilians, that in a number of cases we have the knowledge and we have sometimes the natural resources. We require the financial resources and support to develop our own potential. So investment is necessary. Also what is necessary, and this relates to my previous comments, is a special emphasis on research. In this regard I must say that my delegation is very happy to see the references in support of the work of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology, and in fact we feel that this Conference should suggest ideas for consideration at the Conference. We understand the preparations for the Conference are already underway, and their initial work at governmental level is starting as far as I know by the beginning of next year, so it is important that we give our ideas on how FAO can contribute and what we expect from the Conference as far as agriculture and food production are concerned.

We also feel Mr. Chairman in the chapter on agriculture the emphasis on training is very important, including training at grassroots, and here we fully agree with the proposals of the Director-General.

On harvest losses we have already in Commission I given some ideas. Our feeling there is very clear in the sense that the work of the Organization should cover all kinds of crops and the emphasis should be on staple foods, roots and tubers; but not only those kinds of crops but all crops require attention and support from the Organization. We also feel that harvest losses problems have to be tackled in an integrated manner from the production to transportation and marketing, and not in isolation on just one aspect of the programme.

We also feel as we indicated in Commission I that all developing countries require support for their own efforts. Of course the priorities in food deficit countries surely deserve a special priority, but in fact each developing country requires and deserves support for its own efforts.

Now still on comments on this chapter on agriculture, if you will allow me Sir, on rural development we are reasonably competent in the light of the comments presented to us in the document, the Programme of Work, that the issues on rural development will be taken care of in a comprehensive manner, taking into account that a number of the policies are relevant. We have to see the contribution of the cooperatives, the contribution of rural credit, contribution on training, contribution on marketing, health, education, agrarian reform which does not have only one instrument but has many, and we are competent that the proposals before us seem to indicate that FAO is taking this kind of integrated approach which we feel is necessary.

Relating to rural developments, we would still like to make a comment on rural women. I would slightly depart from the observations of the document before us, the Programme of Work, as we still feel there is too much emphasis on home economics. In the Organization, in FAO, for a long time we are speaking about how to integrate women in rural development but we are all the time bogged down on how to go beyond home economics. We very much hope that programmes will allow us to see how to better integrate women into the whole production process in a general manner, and not only in home economics.

We also feel that it is quite important to work on fertilizers, and we are very happy to see the Commission on Fertilizers addressing itself to the specific point of price stabilization and removing the differential of prices paid for fertilizers by farmers in the developing countries to the developed countries. Here, we have a rather abnormal situation in which the farmer in the developing countries, the real small farmer, has to pay for fertilizers a much higher price than in the developed countries in most cases. It is an extraordinary situation and we are happy to see the Commission on Fertilizers has made a start in looking to this programme.

On nutrition, we feel that the most important aspect of the work should be at this stage - or one of the most important should be - to give developing countries the capacity to plan and implement comprehensive policies with a clear knowledge of the data. We feel it is very important from our own experience, and it is very important for the food consumption service, very important to have data in order to be able to develop a comprehensive approach, a comprehensive national policy on nutrition. At the same time we agree with the proposal before us, that the basic aim is to improve nutrition conditions of the poor in urban areas and in rural areas.

By the same token, we feel a certain anxiety at the level of resources provided for food standards. We are more and more inclined to the view that food standards should be shifted to voluntary contributions. As we have already commented, we cannot be more and more geared to solving the basic problems of the poor in rural and urban areas and the work of food standards, important as it is, as long as we do not have enough resources coming from voluntary contributions.

For all these different activities which I have just referred to -more resources to work, for instance, on rural development, nutrition-we very much hope that FAO will develop it with much greater emphasis on decentralization to national institutions. We also feel that for instance in research, FAO has a very significant contribution to make in permitting cooperation in developing countries. We have research institutions in developing countries, and the work will be much benefited if it is better coordinated if these countries can support each other. FAO can have a kind of catalytic role in this kind of cooperation of research among developing countries.

I would not like to conclude without mentioning the importance we attach to the policy. We feel for instance that the very important work in preparation for the DD3 - the third United Nations development decade-will be greatly benefited if there is a real priority for improving development throughout the world. We must try to plan how to develop the strategy for agricultural development, how to define international cooperation in the future, how to develop new aspects which may prove more useful, and therefore there is a kind of conceptual work which FAO needs to do and is the Organization to do, in support of the United Nations system, in looking for development strategies for the next decade.

Linked with those observations, I would say that the support of FAO is very important in training for agricultural planning in developing countries. It is our experience in Brazil that we have benefited very much from this.

We attach very great importance to the work on commodities, especially at this stage when the international organizations in the context of the new international economic order are trying within the framework of UNCTAD to move into other agreements on commodities. FAO has a complementary role there, and a supportive role there, basically with analysis of market forecasts and demand, forecasts of production, and basic identification of programmes. We Brazilians attach very much importance to the work of FAO in commodities, and we believe we should have adequate support during the next biennium. We also feel that FAO has quite an important role in helping developing countries in promoting their own commodity policies.

There is support also in the current biennium for the definition of commodity policies in our own countries, and we feel that this kind of action should continue to have support in the coming biennium.

These are the general observations on the overall programme for agriculture which my delegation would like to make at this stage.

M. A. K. EL MOKHTAR (Mauritanie) (interprétation de l'arabe): Puisque c'est la première fois que je prends la parole, je voudrais, Monsieur le Président, vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de cette commission. Nous tenons à féliciter également le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs pour les efforts qu'ils ont déployés en vue de décentraliser la FAO pour lui permettre de s'occuper de sa tâche première, à savoir: fournir l'alimentation aux pauvres. C'est là un objectif humanitaire, et si nous voulons nous en acquitter au mieux, il faudra que nos efforts soient déployés en commun tels les efforts faits par la même famille qui veut subvenir aux besoins de tous ses membres.

Aussi, notre délégation appuie-t-elle pleinement le contenu du programme de travail et budget pour le prochain biennium 1978-79.

Nous voulons joindre notre voix à celle de l'Indonésie qui demande que les programmes visent plus particulièrement les pays en développement, et ce par équité et par esprit de justice vis-à-vis de tous. Je voudrais ici rappeler à tous le danger qui menace la zone du Sahel, à savoir la sécheresse qui nous a frappés depuis 1969 et qui a encore sévi au cours de la saison 1977. La situation ne fait qu'empirer car la pluviométrie a été très faible et les pluies sont tombées très tard.

Je souhaiterais également mettre l'accent sur les différents prédateurs et les effets néfastes du criquet pèlerin, des oiseaux et des rats qui menacent nos cultures. Il nous faudra pallier ces difficultés en mettant l'accent sur les programmes de formation et de développement de notre agriculture. Nous allons nous contenter de ces informations en nous réservant le droit de revenir plus tard sur les différents points de l'ordre du jour,

J. P. LEVISTE Jr. (Philippines): The Philippine delegation wishes to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chairman of this Commission. We believe that with your leadership the Commission will be able to arrive at the crucial decisions needed within the limited time allotted to us.

In the interest of time let me come straight to the point.

The Philippine delegation supports the priorities of the Programme of Work, and Budget approved by the 71st Session of the FAO Council here in Rome in July 1976. The departure from the proliferation of meetings, publications, and documentation, would result in more action-oriented programmes, such as the creation of agricultural systems.

The Technical Advisory Commission has identified the crying need for agricultural systems suited to the particular conditions of individual countries and the attempts to establish agricultural research systems, together with an international research system. There is indeed a void in this area. Likewise we are pleased to see the emphasis on decentralization. We would like to believe that decentralization would not result only in offices of FAO Resident Representatives, but that through these offices there would result a greater sensitivity to the need of the countries and the use of national and regional institutions where they now exist. Decentralization at the country level would result in the delineation of the countries' needs in priority, and also of the regions, to the appropriate decision-making centres, so that they would be reflected in the overall plan of action of this Organization.

We welcome the emphasis on investment. According to the President of the World Food Council in his report yesterday to the Plenary session, the international and regional funding institutions connected with the resources for agricultural development could and would -automatically assist developing nations if well organized food plans were presented to them. With the many organizations concerned in this field, the scope of the FAO investment Centre has become doubly important. We would like to commend the Director-General for bolstering this unit of FAO. This would inevitably result in a greater availability of resources needed to increase food production in developing countries.

We would also like to commend the Technical Cooperation Programme. This will assist the Organization's flexibility in action, in response to urgent short-term needs of Member Nations, particularly in maximising their developmental efforts. We have had occasion in the Philippines to witness the speed with which the Technical Cooperation Programme can respond to emergencies, when a killer tidal wave had devastated the coastal areas at Mindanao, off the coast of the Southern Philippines. The Programme, in response to a request from the Philippine Government, was able to provide boats and fishing nets to the villages affected by the tidal wave, and more important than the amount of assistance was the speed of the response. For this, the Philippine delegation would like to express its sincerest appreciation - and we wish to place that appreciation on record.

The Philippine delegation lends its support to the proposal to raise the level of budget to \$5 million, as has already been clearly expressed by various delegations in the course of our discussions. The reason for increasing the dollar in the level of the budget is the difference in the exchange rate between the US Dollar and the Italian Lire. As it has risen from the 900 lire level at which it stood during the session here in Rome last June, we now have \$1.6 million difference - the difference of the prevailing rate from the 900 lire level on which the Programme was based in the calculations last June. While we are not approving any increase in the Programme of Work that was approved in June in the last Council meeting, we feel that the necessary adjustments must be taken into account due to the prevailing rate of the Italian Lire.

The other item which needs some adjustment is the contribution for the Conference on agrarian reform and rural development. We in the Philippines - indeed, President Ferdinand Marcos, no less - place great emphasis on agrarian reform and rural development. We would like to give this Conference on agrarian reform and rural development our fullest support for all its financial requirements. We shall discuss further our thoughts on this matter in a later intervention.

I would now like to comment on the Industry Cooperative Programme. Some delegations yesterday made certain remarks on this matter, and the Philippine Delegation would today like to express its views on this issue.

We are not unaware of the many sins of numerous transnational companies. Many of us have a valid fear of the awesome power of the industrial corporations or conglomerates, if you will, "zaibatsus" as we call them in Asia. The budgets of these groups, companies, conglomerates, corporations, in some cases surpass the budgets of the governments of many developing countries.

Nevertheless, in the present reality of the modern world, we realize the high degree of interdependence between industry and governments' agricultural programmes. Agriculture depends on industry in more ways than one; industry provides agriculture with farm machinery and other inputs such as fertilizer and pesticides. It is also connected with the efficient and economic processing, marketing and distribution of agricultural products.

On the other hand, we feel that we would be putting an unnecessary road block in the path of rapid agricultural development and its steady advancement if we tried to isolate this sector of our economy from what industry has to offer.

For this reason, the 7th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly has recommended that the developed countries should encourage corporations to participate in investment projects within the framework of the development plans and programmes of the developing countries who so desire.

However, the corporations of the developed countries must look beyond the myopia of profitability criteria towards the vision of social criteria, not simply evaluating these on the basis of the return on their investments, but the development of their neighbours. If we, in the developing countries, fail, then their own corporate organizations, their own conglomerates, and even their own nations, will also fail.

This view, expressed by the United Nations Assembly, was supported in the 18th Session of the FAO Conference, which suggested that the Industry Cooperative Programme efforts to harness resources for development of the new agro-allied industries in the developing countries should be intensified. As a result of this, the ICP has been established.

We feel that at some stage the time will come to review this programme. Many can say - and perhaps rightly so - that the present arrangement is not entirely satisfactory and leaves much to be desired. Perhaps cooperation on a sectoral basis would be more acceptable. The Philippine delegation thinks that there is room, however, for cooperation between FAO and industry, and we feel that there is room for cooperation with industry within the UN system.

K. ITANO (Japan): In relation to Chapter 2 of the Programme of Work and Budget, the basic task of solving the food problem, especially in the developing countries, is to increase production.

To this end, in FAO activities, emphasis should be given to the improvement of infrastructure such as irrigation and drainage systems, the strengthening of agricultural research and extension work based on the results of the research, promotion of integrated rural development and also the promotion of industry.

Furthermore, in implementing the various projects, full consideration should be given to the harmonization of those projects and also the actual conditions of each region should be reflected in formulating and implementing those projects. In this respect, we find it very valuable that in the document the priorities are indicated region by region.

Our Government, as one of the countries in the Asian region, has recognized the importance of the development of the small farmers who are dominant in our region. We are willing to extend support to the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Far East which is scheduled to be established in Bangladesh, and we hope that FAO will support the centre positively.

Finally, we also expect that FAO will play a vital role in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. With regard to the funding for the preparation of the Conference, we are very grateful to Mr. West for his explanation on this matter yesterday. However, we still feel that the expenditure needed should be absorbed by cutting other activity priority projects.

V. BALINGA (Cameroon): My intervention will be mainly on Chapter 2 and will deal with three to four points. It would appear to me that the developing countries now have no choice in determining what fertilizers and pesticides should be sent to them. Like most nations, we want to be developed and to produce enough food for our people.

Pesticides and fertilizers are products which help increase agricultural production and must not perforce be made of inorganic materials only, they should be made of organic and natural compounds.

I listened with interest to the United States Delegation and support their point that FAO should spend less on pesticides and fertilizers and increase expenditure on the training of nationals who will be able to cope with monitoring and controlling pollution. People of this calibre will delve into research which will abate pollution and find ways of introducing natural fertilizers and biological methods of combatting insect pests.

FAO should be able to establish reserves of the biospheres or give a hand to Unesco in this regard so that we can use them to monitor the effects of pollution on our environment. I do not subscribe to the theory of the Israeli Delegation that pesticides and fertilizers are like alcohol and tobacco. The USA used these chemicals considerably and produced them in very large quantities, but due to the aftermath of their use they banned them in 1970. The USA is not foolish and developing countries should not be the dumping grounds for these unwanted products.

We do not intend to get involved in the academics of the effects of pesticides and fertilizers. Let the FAO assign to itself the duty of finding alternative ways of growing more food without polluting our planet.

As the Indonesian Delegation said, shifting cultivation, when considered thoughtfully, has many natural advantages over what he called "creeping agriculture". This type of agriculture leads more to monoculture which also gives high incidences of crop diseases.

The mixed cultures embodied in shifting cultivation are natural and resist crop diseases. For the moment, we may have no choice but to wallow in monocultures with the help of pesticides and fertilizers, but I put it to FAO that this is an area where we should do something to replace the monoculture and introduce mixed culture on a large scale.

Other delegations have also touched on the question of fisheries. In my country fishery is developing very fast with regard to marine and pond fishery, thanks to international organizations like FAO and the American Peace Corps.

We would like to see FAO also take up the challenge of developing Continental fisheries in all the numerous and lovely natural water basins in my country, and elsewhere. Much fish can be produced from these waters.

FAO has done a good job in the Ivory Coast in this respect and should expand and include it in the budget at a higher level.

In the north of my country, during the last drought, people suffered much because the livestock died off. We think that if fishery around the continent is developed, it will be a very adequate source for feeding the northern people of my country, particularly the protein from fish.

Wildlife inventory has not been given much attention in the Cameroons and we cannot enunciate policies as a result of the lack of statistics. FAO should give more attention to this question.

Finally, we would like to see FAO use its position in agricultural production to marry forestry projects and agricultural projects so that the two can be more useful to nations.

L. DEMPSEY (Ireland): My compliments, Mr. Chairman, on your election. I should like to comment on only one of the programmes, 2. 1. 2 on crops, particularly on paragraph 5 namely pesticides. This is at page 64 of the English text. Reference is made to the fact that 30 percent of agricultural production is lost due to pest control. I do not know from where this figure was derived, but certainly our own experience in recent times would suggest that we completely underestimated the effects of pests and diseases on crop production. We thought we had reached a plateau in the output of grain, particularly wheat. Then we found that by different cultural practices we were able to increase this yield by 50 percent by proper attention to pest control, not so much the obvious pest but the pest we did not see so easily. Obviously, there are further breakthroughs to be made in the control of soil borne pests.

Consequently, we would like to see great attention continuing to be paid to this emphasis on pest control.

I agree entirely with the effort to be made on the post-harvest losses. There is still a very wide opportunity for increasing yields by greater attention to pest and disease control in the crops. Recently at the Consultation on International Standardization of Pesticides Registration Requirements, held here in Rome, I believe, considerable progress was made. Many areas of agreement were identified as were other aspects needing further study. The Consultation called on FAO to strengthen the resources available to the Group of Experts on Pesticide Specifications Registration Requirements and Application of Standards and also the CODEX Committee on Pesticide Residues so that they could undertake further work. Standardization of pesticide registration requirements is very desirable, we think, particularly in developed countries, because it would reduce the cost of pesticide products, but also in the developing countries it is essential, we feel, since in the absence of standardization, pesticides are often unacceptably expensive, and inadequate or inappropriate precautions in their distribution and use may quite often lead to many fatal accidents.

In calling for a transfer of resources of FAO to the groups already mentioned, it is suggested that the funds and manpower required be made available by discontinuing the FAO European Network on Pesticides, since the work proposed for the Network duplicates that done in other bodies such as FAO, CODEX, EPPO, The Council of Europe and IUPAC. We would like to say we were very pleased with the emphasis in the programme on training.

Sra. Dona I. DI GIOVAN DE SUAREZ (Argentina): La delegación argentina desea formular algunos comentarios con relación al Capítulo 2 del documento C 77/3 que se refiere a “Programas Técnicos y Económicos”.

a) Programa General

2. 1 Agricultura

Permítaseme señalar que los objetivos a plazo medio de este programa han sido, a juicio de mi delegación, acertadamente formulados.

El énfasis puesto en el aumento de la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo a través de la inversión y la tecnología apropiada apunta al núcleo central del problema, sin perjuicio de las reformas institucionales y actitudinales complementarias que se proponen a continuación en el Programa.

Con respecto al Programa 2. 1. 3 (Ganadería), las pautas definidas en el documento son ambiciosas y de largo alcance. La gama de programas en este ámbito incluye desde el mejoramiento de pastizales hasta las actividades de desarrollo genético, lucha contra enfermedades bovinas y porcinas, etc.

Sin perjuicio de ello, mi delegación desea destacar la necesidad de que la FAO despliegue, simultáneamente una acción vigorosa tendiente a mejorar y facilitar las políticas de exportación y apoyar el acceso a los mercados de estos productos. En efecto, es de esperar que una consecuencia lógica de ese aumento de producción sea no solo el incremento del consumo en los países en desarrollo sino también un saldo exportable cada vez mayor, cuyas posibilidades de colocación en los mercados externos deben ser cuidadosamente previstas a fin de evitar los efectos negativos de los excedentes no deseados y los ciclos ganaderos que afectan gravemente a la situación económica de los Estados productores y desalientan y empobrecen a sus poblaciones rurales.

Por ello nos permitimos indicar la necesidad de coordinar los programas en este aspecto con los emprendidos en el marco de la Política Alimentaria y Agrícola (Apartado 2. 1. 8) por el alcance integrador que estos últimos tienen y al que me referiré más adelante.

Con relación al Programa 2. 1. 5 (Desarrollo Rural) mi delegación desea llamar la atención sobre una cuestión. Convenimos que el desarrollo rural es un concepto complejo y que participan en él una pluralidad de factores. Sin embargo, deseamos advertir que ello no debe llevarnos a acumular bajo este ítem una serie de pautas que no están precisadas o no son pertinentes, como algunos de los mencionados en el párrafo 31 de este programa bajo el título “mercadeo”.

Finalmente voy a referirme, Sr. Presidente, al Programa sobre Política Alimentaria y Agrícola.

Ya he mencionado la importancia que mi país asigna a estas actividades tendientes a la formulación de políticas integradas, articuladas y equilibradas en materia de producción alimentaria y agrícola.

Apoyamos las tareas de coordinación con la UNCTAD las labores tendientes a analizar mecanismos viables para la estabilización de productos básicos pero, sobre todo, las actividades de asistencia para la formulación de políticas nacionales en esta materia. 1/

The meeting rose at 11. 00 hours

La séance est levée à 11 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 11. 00 horas

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1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.





## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/II/PV/6

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

SIXTH MEETING  
SIXIEME SEANCE  
SEXTA SESION

(18 November 1977)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 14. 50 hours, J. H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 50 sous la présidence de J. H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 14. 50 horas, bajo la presidencia de J. H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

10. Programme of Work and Budget 1978-79 (continued)

10. Programme de travail et budget pour 1978-79 (suite)

10. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1978-79 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I call the meeting to order. We continue our discussions on Chapters 1 and 2. After that the Assistant Director-General, Mr. West, will answer questions put to him during this round, and then we will go on to discuss the rest of the chapters from Chapter 3 onwards.

H. ÖGUT (Turkey): First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as the Chairman of this Commission.

I shall begin my contribution with some remarks on the resolution submitted by the delegate of Spain. I paid special attention when reading this resolution, since the idea mentioned in it has also been noticed by our delegation.

When comparing the agricultural problems region by region in the world, the European region as a total may appear one of the two less-problem areas. But, in fact, in the European region there are some developing countries, such as my own country, which need FAO's works and coordinationg roles.

In Turkey, 65 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture. Technology used in the agricultural activities is not well organized. Some problems exist, and in their solution we need FAO's help with-in the programmes of the European region.

Therefore, my delegation will fully support the resolution submitted by the delegate of Spain.

I will not go into detail of our ideas on the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. But I cannot conclude my contribution without making some remarks on the research activities set out in the Programme of Work and Budget.

When we examined the document C 77/3, we felt that FAO is still not placing great emphasis on research. without appropriate research, we cannot expect to find any significant solution to our current problems. Other delegations have already mentioned the importance of research, and therefore I will not take up the Commission's time by explaining it again. But I would like to point out some ideas for implementation of research activities.

When we are talking about research activities of international organizations such as FAO, we must not lose sight of the need to bring in expertise, capable of submitting reports. If we want to live in this life-boat that we call Earth, and survive without rocking it, we shall have to bear in mind the subject of research in an integrated fashion.

Therefore, my delegation would like to bring to the attention of the Director-General the need for a broad philosophical approach to research, parallel to applied research, in order that a healthy research growth within countries - especially developing countries - can be achieved in the future.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): I wish to refer in particular to three subjects of considerable importance with respect to agricultural development in our region, without however belittling the remaining subjects comprehensively covered by the much appreciated document.

I urge FAO to intensify its activities in these three fields through their Programmes through the next biennium:

First, development of water resources, particularly with respect to subterranean water resources, the importance of which is not unknown to dry and semi-dry regions. The other point is agricultural industrialization with respect to increasing the income of agriculture and the income of farmers.

I also join my voice to that of the delegate of Cameroon, for development of fisheries in order to increase the per capita intake of animal protein. Here I wish to emphasize the inland water fisheries and fishing farms, as well as the introduction of modern technology in the area of the marketing of fish.

We attach considerable importance to post-harvest losses, and our delegation has raised this subject in detail in Commission I.

K. ALADEJANA (Nigeria): My delegation agrees in broad terms with the Programme of Work as set out in this document, and we also agree with the level of budget provisions made. We however have a few comments on the agricultural sector.

There are limiting factors to agricultural production in most developing countries. A high percentage of the production is still in the hands of peasant farmers who cultivate small acreages with traditional tools. What they can produce is therefore highly limited, and each farmer is able to feed himself, and possibly one or two others as well. He is greatly handicapped because of his lack of capital to invest on the land to increase production. The introduction of medium-scale technology will go a long way to improve production. The introduction of simple tools will certainly help, but there are other problems which have to be tackled.

These include the training of farmers in the handling of equipment, provision of suitable after-sale service, availability of spare parts, and so forth. We therefore appeal to the developed countries who supply the various machines and equipment to make spare parts readily available.

Another factor limiting production is the land tenure system. In most developing countries, the fragmentation of land does not lend itself to large-scale agricultural production. If farmers could come together and pool their resources it would facilitate mechanization of land preparation and thus improve production.

Most crops are produced under rain-fed conditions. With the uncertainty of weather, as is being experienced in the Sahel Region, there is need to harvest the water resources in the region to enhance agricultural production.

Farmers do not receive adequate remuneration for the produce. Because of poor storage and marketing facilities, a lot of produce is wasted, there being plenty of produce at low prices at harvest time, whereas very high prices must be paid during the off-season.

My delegation, therefore, fully supports the Programme aimed at minimizing after-harvest losses and recognizes food technology and processing as one of the essential ways of producing after-harvest losses.

In all fields of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, a lot of valuable research results are available in the laboratories and never reach the farmers in the field. A better method of disseminating this wealth of knowledge needs to be evolved. This of course calls for improved extension services and training of farmers in order to enhance their ability to use the resources to boost agricultural production.

My delegation agrees with the delegate of Sierra Leone, that a lot of work still has to be done in animal production in Africa - particularly West Africa. Quite a lot of factors are still limiting production. Much as livestock products are required to improve the nutrition of the people, the production of livestock is becoming increasingly difficult due to scarcity of feed. Livestock feed is very expensive and in limited supply because of the competition between humans and livestock for grains. Diseases such as contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia, trypanosomiasis, foot-and-mouth disease, seriously limit livestock production in a large area. Greater efforts should be made to keep these diseases under control. We look forward to concerted efforts on the eradication of African animal trypanosomiasis. We must emphasize the need to liaise with the national institutions in the African region in implementing various programmes.

In the field of fisheries we agree with the Programme of Work, but we would like to stress the need for the training of personnel at all levels.

In the field of forestry the forestry programme is very clearly set out and is quite comprehensive. My delegation fully supports it. The emphasis on tropical forestry and on the establishment of forest plantations of selected valuable and fast-growing tree species in preference to management of natural forests is very welcome. So also is the emphasis on the development of large-scale, medium-scale as well as small-scale forest industries. All these are essential ingredients to rural development.

My delegation would, however, like to further stress the need for increased training at technical and worker level for plantation establishment and management and also for wildlife. My delegation stresses not only the aesthetic and recreational values of wildlife, but recognizes wildlife as a major source of animal protein to several rural populations.

There is need for the establishment of a strong and intensive extension service in forestry, especially in the tropics, in order to educate the rural community and encourage them to establish their own woodlots to supplement the government efforts. This is very necessary as government resources are limited.

For large-scale clearing in converting natural tropical forests to plantations, my delegation sees mechanization of land clearing as inevitable. Therefore research and training in this direction is very necessary and FAO is implored to pursue this vigorously.

The trend is towards integrated land use and my delegation sees forestry in the fulcrum of that trend. Therefore the proposed Research Centre in Agri-Silviculture is very much welcome in tapping and in diversifying the productivity of a site. It is now known that for successful agri-silviculture it is not only limited to those areas where there is land hunger. I am convinced of the potentials of this system in alleviating hunger as it has proved to be in the past. The forest manager can now grow food crops in addition, and at the same time this will produce two crops.

My delegation would like to touch briefly on desertification as a major cause adversely affecting production and the quality of life in general. Several regional conferences have been held in preparation for a world conference recently in pursuit of a solution to the causes and a remedy to desertification. There is no doubt that bad land management and utilization is one of the main causes for desertification, and my delegation wishes to stress the need for full cooperation with UNEP in arresting desertification and reclaiming these areas already lying in waste.

R. PASQUIER (Suisse): Prenant la parole pour la première fois, je voudrais joindre mes félicitations à celles qui vous ont déjà été adressées, et je vais brièvement vous présenter deux commentaires.

Concernant les chapitres 1 et 2, nous pouvons donner notre approbation, sous la réserve que la rubrique concernant les représentants permanents dans les pays soit encore discutée, comme cela sera le cas ultérieurement, au cours de notre réunion. Pour cette discussion, je voudrais demander au secrétariat qu'il nous présente la liste des avantages pratiques qu'ont à ses yeux les représentants indépendants dans les pays, par rapport aux représentants intégrés dans les bureaux du PNUD. Les documents qui nous ont été présentés jusqu'ici signalent dans les grandes lignes les différences, mais nous n'avons pas vu d'avantages pratiques concernant la différence entre les services qu'on peut obtenir de représentants intégrés par rapport aux services qu'on attend de représentants plus indépendants.

Quant à la résolution présentée par l'Espagne, la Belgique et la France, nous voudrions ajouter qu'à nos yeux une telle résolution a pour point de départ l'universalité de la FAO, et c'est dans ce sens que nous pouvons l'appuyer.

S. S. MAHDI (India): My delegation has already made a statement on general issues in the Programme of Work and Budget, giving support to the new budget level proposed by the Director-General. The purpose of these additional comments that I am going to make is to identify our interests in certain areas chapterwise. It will not be possible for us to make a comprehensive comment on all the items of interest owing to the limitation of time, and I will confine my remarks to only a few points.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make some comments on the Fertilizer Programme which is included at page 61, paragraph 26 of the document. In this connexion I can be brief because we have very recently last week discussed the work of the Fertilizer Commission in the Council. Certain conclusions which have been arrived at in the Council we would underline.

In this context we would like to emphasize our interest in the work which is being done for collecting data on fertilizer. However, as we said in the Council, we would like to emphasize in this connexion also that this work cannot be as useful as it could be if the data is made available to member countries only once a year on the eve of the meeting of the Fertilizer Commission. Therefore we would like to see if some system could be devised through which the data is made available at more frequent intervals. This data relates to production, availability, prices, exports and imports, and if the national ministries could plug in with FAO on this matter the work will be much more useful than what it is now for practical purposes.

In this connexion I would also like to say in preparing the outlook on supply and demand the Secretariat will have to exercise particular care, because giving a wrong assessment may lead to wrong and costly decisions on the part of governments.

The second thing I would like to emphasize in this connexion is the speedy development and implementation of the options proposal scheme which has also been discussed in the Fertilizer Commission and in the FAO Council. In this regard I will endorse the comments made by the representative of Brazil. Coming to another item, Mr. Chairman, in this Commission our delegation has already very generally described our interest in the disposal of wastes and in developing further the bio-grass as another source of energy, and our interest in the non-organic fertilizers, and we would like to see more emphasis being put on this aspect.

Now, I would like to draw your attention to the chapter dealing with crops. Here our delegation would like that work on cereals, other than wheat and rice also in which certain progress has been made, and especially on pulses, should be strengthened and accelerated. As you know, Mr. Chairman, pulses provide a very important source of protein, and unfortunately in this field so far we have not had any breakthrough. If FAO could be of assistance through the regular programme, and through its field programme in this area, this will be very helpful for many developing countries and particularly our own country which is suffering from shortage of this important source of protein. The work in this area would take the shape of collecting information, experiences and also making a detailed study of successful experiments, both in terms of genetic research and in terms of farm practices.

Mr. Chairman, on the sub-chapter dealing with nutrition, I could be very brief. With regard to the Codex work we are on the same wavelength as the delegation of Brazil. We feel that the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission should be organized in such a manner that it facilitates the access of products of the developing countries, rather than hindering the trade in these products. Also we would like that Codex should identify those products which are of particular interest to developing countries. In other words the work of the Codex Commission would have to assume new orientation, which will be slightly different from what it has been so far. In making these observations I am aware that in the June Council this matter was discussed at length and we are expecting a report from the Secretariat at the autumn Council next year.

Without raking up controversies which were raised in the June Council, I submit that this time interval should be used to have another look at some of the fundamental aspects of the work in this area.

On the chapter dealing with food policy, we are happy to note that a substantial allocation has been made for working in collaboration with UNCTAD in furtherance of the Integrated Commodities Programme. But here also, we would like to caution against too many studies which postpone or delay the decisions either in our intergovernmental groups or under the auspices of UNCTAD.

One delegate has touched on the Industry Cooperative Programme. I do not want to make any detailed observations in this regard. We reserve our position on this and understand that a report will be submitted, but in case the issue is discussed at length, we reserve the right to come back on this.

We do not underestimate the importance of cooperation between industries or multinationals and the developing countries. Here, our concern is mainly with regard to the specific institutional aspects of the FAO/ICP programme.

Since we have already made some general comments in the field of forestry and fisheries, I would like to confine my comments to only one aspect of the fisheries programme, which deals with aquaculture. As you will know by this time, in the policy statement made by our Minister we gave adequate emphasis to this aspect and we hope that the needs of the developing countries like India and others in the field of aquaculture will be taken fully into account in FAO's own work.

One comment on research: I would like to underline sub-paragraphs 18 (b) and (c) on page 77 which indicate the intention of FAO to further and promote cooperation and research among the developing countries and to stimulate research through the national institutions.

In conclusion, I would like to touch on the question of the food industries, which is included in the chapter on crops. It will perhaps be recalled that the last Conference passed a rather elaborate resolution on this subject, and we should like to know how Resolution 12/75 of the last Conference has been implemented during the last biennium and whether the mandate given in this resolution has resulted in any added emphasis on the work relating to food and agricultural products processing. We would be very happy to have this information.

We find that the intentions of the Conference have not been adequately implemented and our delegation would very much like to know whether, in the coming biennium, there is any intention of giving more emphasis to this extremely important aspect of our work.

M. K. ÀL-SIKOOTI (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): Our delegation has considered the various programmes proposed by FAO and we find they have covered all aspects of agricultural development and have been enriched by valuable information and by the various remarks made on the development of the programmes.

Yet, in spite of the importance of the proposed programmes, we believe it would be more effective if they dealt with production direct. For example, we all know that the problem of developing rural women in agricultural production mainly depends on tradition and custom in the rural areas. Therefore, the problem is directly linked with the social and economic development of the rural areas.

The same could be said of the use of fertilizers, improved seeds and plant protection. Although farmers feel the difference these make, the low standard of living in most developing countries, particularly the poor countries, does not help those farmers to use the new technological methods for developing agriculture. Hence, our main problem, as mentioned by the Director-General, is to raise the social and economic standard of the rural population in order to emphasise later on agricultural investment in rural areas.

Likewise, it is the responsibility of the interested countries and of their policy in the agricultural sector. Yet, FAO could play a leading and major role in this direction in order to increase the actual size of agricultural production.

By way of example, we would mention active participation in developing the methodology of agricultural planning along sound modern methods. Similarly, the size of investments and participation of farmers have a direct relation to the development of marketing means, agricultural credit and agricultural investment.

Therefore, our delegation wishes to emphasise such programmes as deal with the marketing of agricultural products, agricultural projects, and price policies,

We have gained somewhat through developments in this field, we have achieved some progress and yet I hope FAO will give this point, in future years, additional attention in order to develop marketing methods and agricultural credits in the rural areas, in order to raise the standard of farmers in the developing countries.

We find it necessary to concentrate on the Animal Health Development Programme and also on the raising of poultry. Likewise, we find that not enough attention has been given to the programmes dealing with oil products, and sugar production.

In the area of fisheries, we see that all the emphasis has been on deep sea fishing. However, inland waters could be given some emphasis and attention, as a few delegations have said, because they can contribute towards the increase of animal protein to a considerable degree and thus cover the shortage of animal protein in most developing countries.

The role of agricultural resources is very important in agricultural development and in increasing the sources of agricultural production in developing countries. Therefore, this project should be given full attention so that it may be developed by the various countries.

In conclusion, we wish to emphasise the necessity to give priority to development for the developing countries and, on technical assistance, to emphasise particularly the opportunities available in those countries which have not yet been exploited in an ideal manner. The development of these countries can well contribute to increasing agricultural production throughout the world.

R. W. M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): I wish to speak on two matters covered by Chapter 2, one is a general matter, the other is in particular.

I referred yesterday to our concern over an evaluation of the results of the programmes and an assessment of what actually happens. With other delegates, I find it difficult to focus on so many pages of material. We are not able to visit these projects, but we must accept responsibility for

them. The contribution of the receiving countries to this debate is therefore very important. These countries must show us how well the money is spent, and they must also indicate where the priorities lie. A great deal depends on them.

This compels me to ask if the system of communication could be improved upon. Are there other ways of assessing the priorities for these programmes?

On the other hand, the donor countries must be satisfied that the money is well spent. I should like to ask what processes of evaluation of programmes are employed. The passages in Chapter 2 of document C 77/3 on the progress made are indicative, but not enough. We have raised this matter in COAG and in Commission I, and we have heard that there is an Evaluation Unit in existence. Can its activities be stepped up? Can some of its analyses and results be presented to the Conference? It seems to me that this would be a valuable service to us all.

Secondly, let me refer to our interest in Programme 2. 1. 8, Food and Agricultural Policy. We support the work in commodities, both at the national and international level, and we are happy to find ourselves associated with Brazil in this. We would like to ask when the fourth series of World Commodity Projections will be published.

We also like and support the proposals for assistance at the national level on national policy and planning. This appears to us to be a very satisfactory development in FAO's activities.

O. LUCO ECHEVERRIA (Chile): En primer lugar, permítame felicitarlo por la tan acertada elección que se ha hecho con usted para Presidente de esta reunión. También deseo hacer extensiva esta felicitación a los señores Vicepresidentes por los mismos motivos anteriores.

En relación al presupuesto y al Programa, mi delegación ve con cierta preocupación los fondos que en forma global se han destinado para América Latina. América Latina es una región que tiene un amplio potencial que está en vías de despliegue, pero es por ello mismo que creo que FAO debe mirar con interés las posibilidades de ayuda, especialmente aquellos países que dentro de la región más lo precisen. Con respecto a las materias que realiza con fertilizantes y pesticidas, mi delegación lo ve con especial simpatía, pues estima que el uso de fertilizantes como pesticidas, especialmente en los países en vías de desarrollo, necesita ser estimulado en forma importante y esto tiene más estrecha relación con otra materia que nos interesa, que es el programa que se refiere a las pérdidas postcosecha.

Creemos que guarda una íntima relación una actividad con la otra. En la medida que los hombres que trabajan la tierra vean que pueden obtener mayores beneficios económicos de ella, porque se disminuyen las pérdidas durante y después de las cosechas, es evidente que también se sentirán impulsados a usar mejores tecnologías e insumos que, a pesar de que cuesten un valor de dinero alto, tendrán el retorno adecuado, y es por eso que sobre la pérdida de postcosecha mi delegación ya se extiende en forma adecuada en la Comisión I, y por lo tanto no lo haré en ésta.

Además, mi delegación ve con especial interés y desea manifestar con cuánto agrado vería que FAO ayudase para que se produjera una mayor transferencia tecnológica en sentido horizontal entre las naciones en vías de desarrollo. Creemos que esta actividad es de especial importancia para todas las regiones del Tercer Mundo.

En relación a la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, mi delegación siente algunas preocupaciones sobre esta materia. Preocupación que resulta principalmente por lo difícil de tratar este tema. Es un tema que tiene estrecha relación con cada país, con su ecología, con la idiosincrasia de su pueblo y con el gobierno que en ese momento está rigiendo los destinos de cada una de las naciones. Confiamos que al preparar esa importante Conferencia, se guarde todo el equilibrio y la ponderación necesaria como para que de ella se obtengan frutos positivos de un tema que por sí es un tanto abstracto. Confiamos que así sea para que no tengamos que decir después, al examinar los resultados, que quizás el dinero invertido en ella, como el tiempo, no produjo todos los frutos que se esperaban. A este respecto, si las circunstancias lo aconsejaban, probablemente mi delegación volverá sobre esta materia en una fecha oportuna.

En relación a la pesca, estamos conformes con lo que se nos propone, y en forma muy especial debemos incentivar las actividades de la FAO especialmente en lo que se relaciona para el aprovechamiento de las 200 millas marítimas y sobre todo con la acuicultura, materia que creemos de especial importancia y para la cual nos permitimos señalar que quizás la nación china podría ser un país que podría proporcionar grandes y valiosas experiencias sobre esta materia. He tenido la suerte de conocer alguna información sobre este rubro que China realiza y creo que es un ejemplo para el resto del mundo de lo eficiente y avanzada que tiene esta tecnología en este gran país.

En relación a montes, veríamos con interés que se destinara mayor preocupación por parte de la FAO para aquellas zonas templadas y frías. Creemos que hay también ahí un potencial grande y muchas veces no lo suficientemente expó tado.

Y por ultimo, deseamos expresar nuestro acuerdo con la resolución presentada por la delegación de España.

A. Z. M. SHAMSUL ALAM (Bangladesh): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for allowing us this opportunity to express our views on Chapters 1 and 2 of document C 77/3 on the Programme of Work and Budget. It is indeed a splendid document of high quality reflecting the provisional scheme and imagination of very high order. The Office of the Director-General rightly deserves our congratulations and appreciation.

I would like to draw your attention to Appendix E of the document at page 307 which indicates the breakdown of the budget by object of expenditure. If I understood correctly, it appears that this budget is more or less an establishment budget of the Food and Agriculture Organization, and obviously the Director-General's Office will know better how best to spend the money.

The budgeted amount will be spent, as the table on page 307 indicates, as follows: around \$111 million on salaries, \$31 million on common staff costs, \$800 million on travel, \$7 million on contractual services, \$15 million on general expenses and \$28 million on other expenses, et cetera, and thereby making a total of \$206 million which was revised upward to \$211 million. Of the entire amount, except the allocation of \$25 million for the Technical Assistance Programme, most of the rest of the amount would be utilized directly by FAO to benefit the Member States to be made available in the form of studies, surveys, technical assistance, advisory services, etc.

If we look at the salary structure of FAO staff on the tables given at the end of the document at page 298 and so on, we observe the salary scales are and should naturally be higher, in this case many times more, than paid in many developing and also even developed countries. Compared to us, it is 30 to 50 times higher for the equivalent services; though quality of these surveys and studies are higher, the cost obviously will be very high.

My delegation suggests that more and more surveys be conducted by the Organization's institutes, universities of the developing countries, and expenses be borne from the FAO budget. This deals with the problems of hunger and malnutrition. In view of the hunger and the malnourished conditions of the clientele, it is perhaps more appropriate to spend the fund of FAO more economically and make best use of the scarce resources. Though the extra-budgetary fund is estimated at around \$500 million, it is apprehended that the actual release by the donors may not be as high as that or may even be as low as \$100 million. Whatever may be the release by the developed countries, the nature of the expenditure might not be different than in this budget. The proposal on expenditure of the establishment of FAO may be as high as 60 percent of the total budgeted amount.

Back at home, our figures contrast awfully differently. To take the example of the Ministry of Food of Bangladesh, where I am working, our establishment budget which we call non-development budget is in our currency 60 million whereas our food budget is in our currency 89 hundred million. The establishment budget comes to around taka. 79 of the food budget. The comparison I know is not very appropriate but it is an indication.

We suggest that this budget of FAO should be divided into two parts: non-development and development budget, giving an indication of how much fund goes in what direction. A few other points, Mr. Chairman, I want to draw your attention to. The question of post-harvest losses had been discussed in various fora, including the United Nations General Assembly. From the discussion in the Plenary, my delegation gets the impression that this is the most important problem engaging the minds of all experts, and perhaps most important, of course, the question of our increase of food production is obviously much more important. Is this concern of all experts, including our Director-General, President of the Conference, Chairman of the World Food Council, distinguished ministers and plenipotentiaries, reflected in the present budget under consideration? \$1. 8 million has been allocated for crop protection and reduction of post-harvest losses. We may also look to the allotment of \$7 million at page 174 of the document to advise the Director-General on personnel management, staff development, training, staff labour relations, staff benefit policies.

We are wondering, Mr. Chairman, whether surveys, studies, planning evaluation on post-harvest losses, for which only \$1. 8 million are allotted are more or less important than advising the Director-General on personnel management, staff development, staff benefits and policies for which the allotment is around \$7 million. If you compare the figures of Forestry and Fisheries, these also will look very



incongruous. We propose that allocations under the head Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses be substantially raised to around \$30 million by readjustment of funds now under our examination. Though we consider that our resources could be put to better use than surveys and studies, but we are to spend the amount more on the studies and surveys, etc. , even if that be on issues which we consider more important.

Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the allotment of \$95. 5 million for technical and economic programmes, we believe that there is some scope for improvement and suggest the expenditure may be reappropriated from other heads. We suggest that \$50 million from here be reappropriated to head Technical Cooperation Programme under sub-head Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, under the major head Technical Cooperation Programme. We think that by such readjustment we can readily realize the scarce resources at the disposal of FAO.

Mr. Chairman, we draw your attention to paragraph 16, page 56 of the document C 77/3 which reads as follows: "The objective of self-reliance in developing countries demands that they develop their trained manpower to a level where development programmes can carry on unaided. For this reason FAO places high priority on training activities, especially training for action at the grassroots level of farmers and their leaders, as well as training of technicians, managers and administrators. "

Mr. Chairman, how important is training of extension workers, agricultural, livestock and fishery officers and workers, and particularly farmers? How important is class technology from experts, agronomists and advisors to those who actually work in the field is a need I emphasize. This budget document though in words it reiterates its importance does not follow up by allocation of funds for the purpose of training. We suggest that a separate sub-head with title Training and Transfer of Technology be opened and a special allocation should be made for the purpose. If we understood the state of the speech of our Director-General correctly he wants to reduce the overhead costs and try his best to keep it down. Mr. Chairman, you know much better how difficult it is to keep the establishment costs down, particularly because of so many built-in pressures from inside. Should we not help him by providing our assessment of the size of the overhead cake. There have been many valuable points made by the delegates in the last two days, and all the points have been recorded but did that change the budget by a cent, in the sense of re-appropriation from one head to another or on a new head? I am afraid that, Mr, Chairman, this Commission under your wise guidance does not turn into a commission ultimately appropriating what has been presented to us by the Director. Examination of the budget minutely by the delegates of the Member Nations is, Mr. Chairman, an unwieldy affair. It would be more convenient to form a committee of five to seven members to incorporate and reflect the valuable suggestions given by the delegates in quantitative figures in the budget document. This is one way to avoid indulging in ritualistic exercise expressing noble sentiments, biassed wishes, sweet-sounding talk and platitudinous views.

I conclude, Mr. Chairman, by expressing my thanks to you and to the staff of the Assistant Director-General for preparing a very good budget document, near perfect in technical aspects. Thank you very much.

F. d'ALMEIDA (Benin): Je serai assez bref compte tenu de l'heure tardive. Je voudrais faire quelques commentaires sur un certain nombre de petits points.

D'abord, en ce qui concerne le programme de coopération technique, ma délégation appuie ce programme que nous considérons comme une sorte de programme d'urgence de la FAO. Comme vous le savez, autrefois, il était difficile que la FAO intervienne dans les cas d'urgence. Mais nous souhaitons que ce programme soit un peu élargi car, vous le savez, nous appartenons au tiers monde et aussi, comme on dit actuellement, au quart monde, c'est-à-dire aux pays les plus pauvres, et vous savez que les pays africains sont les plus nombreux dans ce groupe de pays.

Nous souhaitons que ce programme soit un peu élargi afin qu'il comprenne un programme spécial pour ces pays du quart monde et qu'eux aussi arrivent à retrouver une place un peu plus normale. Nous parlerons plus tard de la décentralisation puisque la question est prévue.

Je voudrais joindre ma voix à celle des délégations des pays nordiques et du Nigéria, de l'Inde et autres pays qui ont demandé que l'accent soit mis sur le programme de nutrition dans le cadre du budget. Autrefois, la FAO s'est beaucoup intéressée aux problèmes de nutrition et on pouvait dire qu'à l'époque elle gérait la sous-nutrition puisqu'il y avait pénurie d'aliments, et que maintenant

elle fait une politique d'alimentation car les produits vivriers sont les plus nombreux. Il serait intéressant qu'en même temps on fasse un programme de nutrition appliquée qui doit d'ailleurs être un programme intégré en même temps qu'on parle de l'aide au développement, de la femme rurale, afin que la femme rurale soit complètement intégrée dans l'économie du développement.

Nous souhaitons que le programme de nutrition soit revu et qu'une place adéquate lui soit réservée puisque nous sommes bien dans l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, donc l'alimentation doit y avoir une place aussi importante que l'agriculture.

En ce qui concerne les pêches, nous avons dit que nous serions intéressés à ce que la FAO entreprenne une étude sur les possibilités d'améliorer la pêche continentale. Comme vous le savez, notre pays a à peu près 120 km de côtes, et aussi pas mal de surfaces continentales pour la pêche. Il y a beaucoup de lagunes et beaucoup de fleuves et nous nous rendons compte que la lagune produit de moins en moins de poissons du fait qu'il existe des brèches entre la lagune et la mer, et l'entrée de la mer dans la lagune a permis le développement de parasites qui empêchent le foisonnement des poissons dans la lagune. Nous voudrions que la FAO nous aide à trouver le moyen de revitaliser et réalimenter ces lagunes et ces voies d'eau continentales.

En ce qui concerne la recherche agronomique, nous voudrions appuyer l'intervention du délégué de la France en ce qui touche les paliers et nous pensons qu'il serait bon que la FAO participe au développement de la ressource agronomique dans les pays en voie de développement, notamment en ce qui concerne l'amélioration de la production de plantes et légumes locaux.

Nous apportons aussi notre appui au FIDA et voudrions demander à la FAO d'aider les pays à mettre en place des crédits agricoles pour donner satisfaction aux petits agriculteurs, et que le crédit agricole ne profite pas seulement aux groupements. Il y a suffisamment d'individualités dans le cadre rural, et nous aimerions que la FAO nous permette d'aider ces paysans.

Je voudrais parler du problème des forêts en le ramenant au problème du combustible. Vous savez que pour les pays en voie de développement, le combustible ce n'est ni le gaz ni l'électricité comme dans les pays développés, mais c'est souvent le bois et le charbon, avec la déforestation qui a consisté à abattre un certain nombre d'arbres pour faire du combustible, on a beaucoup de mal à reconstituer les forêts, et nous voudrions demander à la FAO de nous aider à trouver des bois qui poussent plus vite afin d'avoir toujours du combustible disponible pour la majorité des paysans, car vous le savez, notre pays est à 90 pour cent rural, et je crois qu'il serait intéressant que la FAO nous apporte son concours dans ce domaine.

Y. LIKE (Ethiopia): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two major areas which are very close to the heart of all Ethiopians. These are in the areas of livestock and fisheries. It will be recalled that my country suffered from one of the worst droughts in the peak of 1973/1974, although drought had its effect for the last nine years. While we are grateful to all who have assisted us in these bad moments as it relates to food and related items at the height of and ever since the drought, I would like to let it be known of the apparent neglect of the world community of the development needs in East Africa, although the impact of drought in this region is by any standard unsurpassed.

The second item is in Fishery. In the area of coastal and inland fishery we believe that programmes to study potentials and harvesting of existing stocks within the short run, within the long run development policies have a lot to contribute to raise the protein consumption of the world's undernourished communities. In this respect I would not pass without making note of the effort by some countries bordering the Red Sea, sort of forming a cartel development programme at the exclusion of Ethiopia who has over 1 000 miles of border with the Red Sea.

M. J. RUIVO (Portugal): First of all, I wish to thank you, Sir, for giving us the floor again, as we had in fact already had an opportunity to express my Government's reaction to the proposals presented by the Director-General for the Programme of Work and Budget - which, as we have stated, are supported by Portugal.

We asked to intervene again on a very specific point, because in our view it merits particular reference. We would like to make some remarks on the problems related to fisheries and on the new responsibilities of the Department of Fisheries of FAO at this moment.

In our view, the field of fisheries on a world basis is at a cross-roads. As you know the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea, and the fact that an increasing number of coastal countries had established an economic zone, is creating a new situation in the world of fisheries.

Some traditional fisheries are suffering from the new régime, but what is more important, by establishing an economic zone, for the first time certain aspects of the new international economic order have been translated-into-facts, because the new ocean régime in fact represents a return to a much more just and equitable régime under which the coastal countries acquire the sovereignty of resources within 12 miles, and, for the first time in history, for the exploitation of this sovereignty of the coastal countries.

This situation is just at the beginning, and in a way is creating enormous responsibility for the coastal countries, not only to fulfil the obligation of management, but fundamentally to rapidly use these resources for the benefit of the people to earn foreign currency. At the same time it is very important to facilitate the enrichment of countries which have traditional outside fisheries. In that regard, my Government considers that the programme of the Department of Fisheries is a very appropriate programme. We are very pleased to see, particularly in the definition of the medium-term strategy and the establishment of priorities, that these aspects have been taken into account; but in our opinion the magnitude of the problem is such that it would be extremely difficult for the Department of Fisheries and the Regular Programme to fulfil the new responsibilities and to respond to the demands of Member Countries.

In that regard, we would like to make two suggestions for action by the Department.

First of all, we think that more and more the role of the Department should be that of a promoter, and there is a need to mobilize bilateral and international funds in order to assist Member Governments in the establishment of proper national structure, and particularly the training of the local people, on which the development of fisheries will depend.

We also believe that the demand on the role of regional fishery bodies for cooperation and for the transfer of technology is going to increase at a considerable rate. They are also important, in order to present - their views and facilitate through dialogue, in cooperation through the different components of the fishing community.

Recognizing the funds available for the traditional role are insufficient to cope with this new demand, we would like to advise the Department and the Director-General to make a particular effort in order to employ other sources of funds to assist in this new situation.

On the other hand, we recognize that FAO should devote more and more attention to production studies and to the management of resources in order to avoid depletion under these new conditions, and there is a need for a rationalization of cooperation with other Agencies.

We expect that FAO would maintain the leadership in the protection of the fisheries' interest, particularly those from developing countries in this new context, and also to ensure that other aspects of protection, particularly pollution - which is created by the developed countries, but affects all countries, and particularly developing countries - are properly taken into account.

Finally, we are convinced that, besides the efforts in the development of traditional resources of the ocean, FAO needs to play a more active role in agriculture. We echo the views expressed by previous speakers on this subject, because agriculture, in the long-term process, is certainly one of the most important sources of production.

Those are the remarks which we would like to make at this stage, and which we intend to develop in other context.

E. M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): I am very conscious of the fact that time is short, and that you have the rest of the Programme of Work and Budget to discuss before coming on to certain specific topics which are of considerable importance and interest. I must, therefore, be selective and inevitably "scrappy" in what I say. The debate, however, has been such that it would merit fairly extensive comments from my colleagues who have a wealth of expert knowledge and experience, which I am sure they would be very anxious to impart in reply to the very constructive debate which has taken place. If I may say so, it has been the kind of debate for which the Conference has been looking for a long time: namely, a dialogue with a number of important things discussed, rather than a formless series of bits, and pieces. Since the Commission may be reluctant to congratulate itself,

may I do so? However, as I said, there is not time for the Secretariat, and in particular my colleagues, to reply in the way in which this dialogue merits. So please excuse me if I reply somewhat scrappily on their behalf and in the main deal not with the constructive remarks which have been made, nor with the different points of emphasis which many delegates have made, but rather with those points which have raised questions or called for some comment on behalf of the Secretariat. The constructive remarks, and in particular those indicating the interest of delegations in slight changes of programme -or important changes of programme - have been carefully noted by my colleagues and will certainly be taken into account, particularly in the preparation for the next meetings of the Committees on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, where these matters can be gone into in much greater depth.

I would deal first with some general points. One delegate remarked that it seemed that Chapter 2 had gone down in total resources provided, but I think this calculation omitted cognizance or recognition of the fact that the Technical Cooperation Programme accounts for some of the expenditures which otherwise would have appeared last biennium in Chapter 2. The Technical Cooperation Programme is, par excellence, an action programme in technical and economic fields, and it should be counted together with Chapter 2.

On the comments made towards the end by the delegate of Bangladesh about salaries and establishments, I cannot quite agree with his concern, and I think that this Director-General has shown more than any other in the United Nations system, a practical concern with this, which has produced concrete results. As he showed in his opening remarks to the Commission, he has brought down the proportion of salaries to total expenditures by no less than 15 percent of what it was in 1974/75 - and this is no mean achievement, considering the constraints which exist in the United Nations system.

On the other hand, I do not think that the Director-General, would be too happy to respond in the same way to the comments made about expenditures on staff relations, or taking care of the staff. All organizations - bureaucracies, as Ambassador Young would have them called - I think President Truman said that a bureaucrat was a man who had a job that somebody else wanted - cost money: they all require attention, and the head of the organization must be careful of their welfare, not merely for the sake of humanity, but in order to increase their efficiency and to get the best out of it. Therefore, I don't think I need defend further that particular head of expenditure to which the delegate was referring, although I agree with him that it is something that has to be watched.

The delegate of New Zealand spoke about evaluation. That is a separate topic which we can discuss later, but he spoke in terms which I may have misunderstood, but which suggested to me that he had not taken full cognizance of the fact that it had already been decided. Provision is made in the budget for the introduction of Regular Programme evaluation throughout the next biennium. So, if he will bear with us, he will begin to see the results of this and he will be provided with what he wants.

Another delegate referred to the need to perceive in the Programme of Work and Budget an overall effort in terms of training. But training is something that occurs under all substantive chapters, and it would mean totally altering the logic of the structure; and the structure itself, in order to distinguish training. Next biennium, we may be able to provide some indication in the Explanatory Notes of the overall view of this subject. The Conference attaches importance to it, so we will see what we can do.

Turning now to some of the technical issues raised:

One of the points very much stressed was rain-fed agriculture. We share the view that this is of considerable priority, and we are now dealing with it as indicated on page 201 of the Programme of Work and Budget. We are planning in 1978 to organize no less than five national training workshops for field-level workers on rain-fed crop production development and farm management for small farmers in Southeast Asia. We are also planning a regional workshop for the humid tropics. We have taken an initiative in the improvement of productivity in low rainfall areas on the basis, for example, of certain activities in India, Kenya and Tanzania.

I can assure the delegate of the United Kingdom that in considering the production and utilization of quality seed and planting material, we do indeed pay attention to the problems of distribution, marketing and promotion, before we launch forth on seed projects.

A number of delegates expressed concern about pesticides, particularly on the question of better information on the situation on pesticides. We are doing our best to strengthen our efforts in this field; we in fact have one P-4 officer working entirely on pesticides supply and demand. Other officers deal with other aspects of this problem, including registration procedures, safe and effective use, and environmental questions.

In the Plants Division, there are in fact one D-1 and 12 professional officers, excluding the locust group for each country; in addition, there is the information officer I just mentioned, pesticide officers for chemistry and environment and for pesticide use, official control, and training. If we have not added more to our efforts in this coming biennium, it is because we see this as part of our hope for a special campaign against food losses. We have a joint programme with UNEP on a global basis for the development and integration of pest control. We are paying a great deal of attention to these, although at the same time we cannot forget the need, if we are going to increase food production and preserve the crops, for the continued use of pesticides.

Turning now to milk and meat schemes to which reference was made, we consider this to be very important because of the extra-budgetary resources going into them. Specific questions were asked about support for this. We have three professional officers, including support from other divisions working in this field plus consultants, and we also have trust fund posts, three of them, working on meat, so I think we are providing adequate supports, although if the schemes were to receive further donor support we would no doubt be ready to consider providing additional back-up.

We were glad to note the emphasis placed by the delegate from the United Kingdom on the coordination in the trypanosomiasis programme. (I did not trip over trypanosomiasis in the way he did!). We are, in fact, envisaging a meeting early next year of bilateral and multilateral agencies at which detailed action plans will be presented based on the intensive work which has been carried out in consultation with governments and agencies during the last year or so.

The distinguished delegate of Canada expressed some doubts, in this matter, some caution about our projections of the number of cattle that we could increase if we cleared the areas on the fly. I see that we have a fisheries expert of some renown rather than a trypanosomiasis expert sitting in the Canadian seat, but I am sure he will put this information to his colleagues. I would agree with him that no-one can make a precise estimate - especially in this area. I would not care to be one of those who venture into the area to make this estimate, not without a considerable degree of pesticide and chemo-therapeutic protection - but the experts feel that the figures given are not unrealistic. They may even be an underestimate, subject of course to other factors affecting the numbers of cattle that can be produced and maintained healthily in this part of Africa.

We certainly agree that there is need for breeding increased resistance to disease, and this is receiving much concern in the Animal Health Division. One of the priority areas to which they are giving intensive thought is the exploitation of the potential of the trypano-tolerant cattle in Africa, particularly in West Africa. This was also referred to by the distinguished delegate of Sierra Leone. In fact the special needs of West Africa are being studied at the present time by a team of FAO and UNEF experts in consultation with the specialists of the Livestock Development Centre for Africa. West Africa is also included in our programme for the control of ticks and tick-borne diseases.

Before turning to the economic and social area, I would like to deal with the question raised by the distinguished delegate in India. He wanted information on the implementation of resolution 12/75. That is a very hard one to deal with, especially at this stage in the proceedings. The resolution in question occupies one and a half pages of the last report and covers inter alia eight major programme activities, so in effect his question is what have we done to implement the resolution concerning food losses, reducing imports, increasing self-reliance, providing employment and reducing income gaps, ensuring better market opportunities, increasing foreign exchange earnings, reducing population migration, improving standards of nutrition, increasing opportunities for investment in rural areas and so on. I am afraid I could not possibly answer that today in the time available. I can, however, refer him to the fact that some of the progress made in the implementation of the resolution was in fact given to the Committee on Agriculture in document COAG 77/3 and in the discussion in COAG at the time, so I can assure him we have not been idle. In fact we have achieved a great deal.

The distinguished delegate of the United States was concerned about programme management under programme 2159. He wanted to know why there were so many man-years under that programme. I think this is the first question raised about the programmes which are called programme management. This particular programme covers the direction of two divisions: ESH, the Human Resources, Institutions and Agrarian Reform Division and AGS the Agricultural Services Division, so it is not just the one division with a heavy overhead; it is two. Furthermore, in this we have no less than 32 man-years for general services, of which 12 alone are for a typing pool. Now, if they have a typing pool instead of individual secretaries they will be shown under programme management and this makes it look large, but in fact it is only a

convenient way of avoiding spreading support staff artificially over a number of substantive programmes. I can assure the distinguished delegate of the United States that there is no mystery, no misuse of resources, and I hope we need not come back to the management programmes for further discussion.

Nutrition figures largely in the debates, and rightly so. I have dealt with this subject to some extent in answer to the debate at the general level. I think it was the distinguished delegate of Denmark who expressed specifically concern about nutrition being reduced. It is not the division in headquarters that is being reduced but a certain reduction in some of the regional offices because of a shift in priorities, and we think it is a correct shift in

priorities. Instead of concerning themselves, as they were obliged to do, with planning activities and studies, they have shifted their emphasis, as has headquarters, to activities. As regards the Food Policy and Nutrition Division, in case someone says we ought to have increased Staff at Headquarters, there are a number of arguments which could be given in reply to this, but the main one I would like to give at this point is one which will satisfy some other delegates who spoke of the need for efficiency. We are in fact increasing the efficiency of this Division whilst not increasing its resources. One of the main ways in which we have been able to achieve this is, as I have indicated, that we have cut down very large increases that had been planned for nutrition master-plans which received so much criticism at the last Conference.

Turning back again to the distinguished delegate of the United States, he also asked why the extra-budgetary resources for nutrition were so high in relation to the Regular Programme. I do not know whether he was implying this was a good thing or a bad thing. While I think it would be a good thing, the fact is that a large part of this extra-budgetary programme is due to OSRO activities in the Sahel which I think many delegations very strongly support including the United States.

Now there was a more important point raised about the need for a quick and reliable methodology to assess the impact of FAO's policy and programmes on the nutrition status of low-income consumers in the developing countries. The fact is we do try to build into every nutritional activity in the field, as indeed into all field activities, a form of evaluation by carrying out the exercise which provides a feedback for improving project efficiency and seeing what effect we are actually achieving. This is particularly the case, as you know, for World Food Programme projects and for those programmes concerned with feeding vulnerable groups. At the moment, however, we are also testing a specific nutritional evaluation mechanism in some countries to see what effect agriculture development plans are having on the nutrition of the rural poor. This is being done through the establishment of nutrition surveillance/assessment. This is not just a monitoring system but also it is an effort to foresee impending food shortages which will lead to a deterioration in the nutritional status of these groups.

We are doing this work in conjunction with the World Health Organization and UNICEF in a number of countries; in Bangladesh, Peru, Philippines and Upper Volta. We will be submitting a progress report on this to the ACC Sub-committee on Cooperation and also to the next Ad Hoc Committee of the FAO Council on Food and Nutrition Policies next year.

I am glad to say I have also been given a reassuring note on the subject of Codex to which the distinguished delegate of India referred. It says that it has already been decided to establish regional coordinating committees devoted to the particular needs of the developing regions and productions of particular interest to developing regions that are being, and will continue to be, the subject of special attention by these regional committees. The recent discussions, not to say controversies, about the work of Codex are being considered by the Commission and the Codex Alimentarius Executive Committee. They will be reporting in due course. This will be considered in April next. The Director-General will be reporting to your Council at its autumn session next year on that subject.

Cooperatives: I mentioned this yesterday although I did not specifically say that part of the problem was that cooperatives are now dealt with not separately but under the Rural Institutions and Employment Programme, although the group is still clearly identifiable in the Organization Chart for the Human Resources Division a P-3 post has been abolished at Headquarters, but it has been replaced by an additional allocation for national institutions and we think this is in line with what is generally desired.

Similarly, local marketing infrastructure is covered both in the activities under semi-subsistence producers' participation in marketing systems, and the improvement of marketing methods as a means of reducing post-harvest losses.

A very important question was asked about population. This, again, is not, has not and I think will not, be a separately identified substantive programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization. It will, however, be a component of our own ongoing activities under a number of fields such as education, training, extension, agricultural and rural institutions, food and nutrition activities and so forth. I would not swear to this particular figure, but I would say that overall we are spending quite a considerable sum in fields which could be regarded as conducive towards population activities - and I would stress population activities supported and requested by Member Governments - of about \$ ½million per year. The remaining effort of FAO comes from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities; we are receiving allocations to execute projects in the region of about \$ 2 million. The spread of these activities, in response to requests from governments, and not dictation from FAO, is rather wide; it covers all regions.

Now I come to an even more sensitive subject perhaps. That is research - another activity where it is virtually impossible to convey, in a logical, identifiable, separate form, the manifold aspects of our involvement in and impact upon research.

It was suggested by a number of delegates, including Brazil, that more emphasis was needed on this. We certainly appreciate this, and will endeavour to provide this emphasis, not necessarily with an increase in Regular Programme resources, but not excluding that, either if the circumstances should justify it, and if we can fit it into the Programme of Work and Budget. I think we are much more concerned to preserve our particular interest in this field, which is to assist developing countries in their national efforts, while at the same time bringing our influence to bear on global research activities.

I do not want to go too deeply into this, because my colleagues - more expert in this and more directly involved in certain consultations which are going on at the present time - would be able to answer this much better than I. I would only note, at this point, that the Secretariat fully appreciates the concern expressed by the Programme Committee about certain projected recent developments. We would welcome further expressions on this matter by the Conference.

I mentioned the delegate of Brazil, and since he is here - despite his many responsibilities in various Commissions and groups - I would like to take up another point he made about the table on page 187 of Regular Programme of Work and Budget. I am not sure I followed this point too well, but if we look at the Regular Programme, I find it hard to accept that we are not giving sufficient priority to Latin America on the basis of the figures shown there. I do not suggest there is any particular merit in comparisons here, but the fact is that Latin America has more or less the same as Asia and the Far East. I hope that does not lead to repercussions from Asia and the Far East, saying they ought to have more.

On the other hand, I would admit that the extra-budgetary figures for Latin America are disappointing. We stand fully ready to respond to Member Nations of the region who desire us to help them raise that figure for extra-budgetary resources, but it is not one that we can raise ourselves. We can certainly help, and perhaps we ought to do more to help.

I have not yet dealt with Fisheries and Forestry which could take a very long time in themselves. However, I heard nothing controversial on this, there were various emphases on aquaculture, inland fisheries, the need to respond to Member Nations, needs in the light of changes in the régime of the seas, about which the delegate of Portugal spoke specifically. We are glad to find that we are working on the right lines and we have tried, in the Programme of Work and Budget, to make the necessary shifts in resources towards these ends. I know that the Fisheries Department will not be lacking in diligence for one second in order to digest what has been said and bring it home to you in the next budget exercise. The same applies to Forestry.

Finally, two small points. One I must say is a slightly acerbic one. I think one delegate wanted a list of the practical advantages of having FAO Representatives over Senior Agricultural Adviser/ Country Representatives. Not only did this come up in Chapter 2 - which is a minor point - but the policy of having FAO Representatives has already been decided, on the basis of a fairly full exposition of what the advantages are. There are positive advantages, not necessarily advantages compared to something else.

The UNDP has decided on and is implementing even more rapidly than perhaps we would wish the abolition of Senior Agricultural Adviser/Country Representatives, so I do not know why we should spend any time at all in this Conference discussing the question.

Finally, a purely factual answer: the Fourth World Food Survey went into print one week ago. The first series of agricultural and commodity projections to 1985 will be out at the beginning of 1978. The second series on tropical products and raw materials will be out in mid-1978.

Thank you very much, I apologize that this answer has been rather disjointed.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Assistant Director-General for his detailed answers to the very many questions, I am sure we are all grateful to him. Before going on to the next topic, are there any delegates who would like to respond to Mr. West's very detailed explanations?

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I would thank Mr. West for his detailed and very informative answers. I omitted to mention one important point on forestry which I should have brought up at the time of the Council.

There is a comment in the Programme of Work and Budget on the shift of emphasis to smaller mills. We would agree with that, but we have been repeating this without going into detail - that is our feeling - on perhaps the crucial question involved in a shift of emphasis in trying to define workable operations in terms of smaller mills, in forestry.

We feel that in this case there is probably quite a possibility and scope for research to define what to produce under which conditions and how to market products. That is probably a basic point which has somehow not been made explicit. We feel it might be useful for FAO to cooperate with interested countries in trying to find solutions to these problems basically of planning generally and planning in research.

That comment is for the attention of our friends in the competent department and I am sure they will not completely forget it.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): We are grateful for this clarification which has been noted, and if it is possible the Forestry Department will get in touch with the delegate of Brazil even before this Session is over.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other comments?

We now move on to the next section of the Programme of Work and Budget. Since we are lagging behind our time schedule, we had better deal with Chapters 3 and 4 and the other chapters together.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): A few delegations have already commented on the chapters now under discussion, but I would like to deal with a few programmes in Chapters 3 and 4.

First, on Chapter 3, Programme 3.1, Field Programme Planning and Liaison, in his Medium-Term Outlook the Director-General gives some information on the relationship between FAO's technical assistance, financed through his Regular Budget and through extra-budgetary resources. In fact, it is only a small amount of the agricultural assistance activities in the developing countries, since the World Bank, IFAD, the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investments and other similar organizations and bilateral donors have activities in this field.

It is hoped that FAO and the UNDP will work together to coordinate all these activities at the country level in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness. In those circumstances, country intelligence and the backstopping of the FAO Country Representatives is of the utmost importance.



Concerning Programme 3.2, Investments, much has already been said and especially the importance of investments has been stressed. My delegation can agree with the proposed programme, and we hope that a very close relationship with IFAD will come into being.

My delegation is grateful to Mr. West for his clear reaction to our question put earlier to the effect that FAO can and will pay its share to the CGFPI budget if it is continued.

On Programme 3.3.3, Industry Cooperative Programme, an analysis of a programme is always useful, but unlike the Programme Committee, we are not assured of the necessity to change the status of the Industry Cooperative Programme as long as the Conference has not reviewed such an analysis. My delegation is of the opinion that the ICP activities can be quite important and fruitful, and since there are no regular budgetary resources involved, FAO can gain by the present structure.

My delegation already made its point of view clear on the FAO representatives, Programme 3. 4. We think the proposed increase in the number of FAO representatives is too high. Mr. West's reaction just now and yesterday was that the UNDP is phasing out the old-fashioned special agricultural advisors and that therefore his hope to speed up the increase is logical. UNDP's action, however, is a consequence of FAO's policy. The agreement reached between UNDP and FAO is only the consequence of that policy again.

Finally, the Technical Cooperation Programme: my delegation has no problems with the Technical Cooperation Programme for the time being, especially as we were reassured that the activities under the Programme are complementary to other programmes and are well-coordinated. Indeed, we hope that the Secretariat will be able to make the category of "miscellaneous" clear. We shall await the results of the evaluation that will be taken care of in 1978, and on these two chapters, Chapters 3 and 4, I think my delegation will use some time in discussion on the review of field programmes.

O. LUCO ECHEVERRIA (Chile): Quisiera solamente formular algunas breves observaciones relacionadas con el Capítulo 4, Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

Nosotros creemos que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica es una importante y dinámica actividad de la Organización y nos complace comprobar la relevancia que se le atribuye en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Es ampliamente satisfactorio observar que en 1977 el Programa ha puesto un énfasis especial en sectores técnicos que tienen un efecto más importante sobre los aumentos de la producción de alimentos, tales como la producción de semillas, el fomento de tierras y agua, la producción de vegetales, la sanidad animal y la capacitación de gentes de extensión agraria. En cuanto a las orientaciones futuras del Programa apoyamos firmemente el propósito de dar una mayor importancia a la preparación de inversiones en colaboración con los organismos financieros competentes y en forma muy especial con el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola. El aumento de las inversiones agrícolas es de una enorme importancia para los países en desarrollo; es, en realidad, un requisito para que tales países utilicen tecnologías más avanzadas y para que modernicen sus actividades en el sector. Por otra parte, nosotros, en Chile, tenemos experiencia directa con respecto a este Programa, lo que nos permite emitir un juicio fundado sobre él.

Efectivamente, Chile ha participado en este Programa y se cuenta entre sus beneficiarios. El Programa es una buena demostración de la capacidad de la FAO para dar una respuesta rápida y eficaz frente a situaciones urgentes que suelen presentarse en los países en desarrollo y que obstaculizan los esfuerzos de todo orden que éstos hacen para incrementar la producción de alimentos. En el caso de Chile fue un problema serio que tuvimos de ácidos en relación con la producción de trigo y además eso estuvo interrelacionado con otras enfermedades como el enanismo amarillo; la suma de ambos llevó a mi país a una situación extraordinariamente difícil y se recurrió al Programa de Cooperación Técnica. En esa oportunidad la FAO demostró su agilidad y capacidad para ayudarnos a solucionar el problema. Este es uno de los ejemplos que deseo señalar por lo significativo e importante que fue para nosotros poder contar con esta colaboración.

Volviendo al tema que nos preocupa, continúo diciendo que como se trata de un Programa iniciado hace muy poco y fuera de algunos casos concretos como el que señale en este instante, no se puede medir en forma exacta sus resultados, pero nuestra experiencia hasta la fecha nos permite confiar en forma amplia que su actuación en el futuro hará que el resto de los países que forman parte de esta Organización tomen plena conciencia de su gran importancia y su necesidad de ampliarlo si es posible.

Observamos que los recursos financieros que se destinan a este importante Programa son más bien modestos, pero, no obstante, apoyamos las propuestas contenidas en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para complementar un presupuesto de 25 600 000 dolares para el bienio 1978-79, tomando en consideración que el Programa utiliza en cierta medida los servicios generales de la Organización, incurriendo por lo tanto en gastos administrativos de mínima cuantía.

Esperamos, no obstante, que la inclusión del Programa de Cooperación Técnica en el Programa de la FAO para el próximo bienio, con la asignación de la suma indicada, sea sólo el comienzo de una acción mucho más profunda y amplia en el futuro. Estamos ciertos de que los países en desarrollo podrán así obtener de la FAO una asistencia cada vez mayor y que tal asistencia les ayudará a superar sus problemas más apremiantes y críticos y a acrecentar, por lo tanto, el aporte que hacen al esfuerzo común dirigido a alcanzar niveles de producción en el mundo compatibles con los requerimientos de una población en continuo crecimiento.

C. THOMSEN (Denmark): My remarks will be limited to Chapter 3 and within this chapter, in fact, to the Programme on Investment. In making these remarks, I am speaking on behalf of the Nordic Countries, that is, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

I would like to say first that both as far as the medium term and the coming biennium are concerned, we fully agree that it should be a major objective for the FAO to assist countries in obtaining more funds for investment, because the role of the Organization will be mainly with regard to the provision of assistance for the preparation of viable projects and for their implementation. We have noted with interest a description of the development under the FAO Bankers' Programme in addition to the other cooperative programmes, and we recommend particularly continuous expansion of the assistance given to national development banks.

Also, as part of the attempt to assist the developing countries to become increasing self-reliant, we would like to emphasize the importance of training of national staff in project formulation in order to build up local skills in this field.

With regard to the proposed Investment Support Service which it is stated will assist countries in cooperation with financing institutions and independently, we feel it is proper to express a note of warning as far as the latter is concerned, that is, independently. Although there is a growing demand for the preparation and formulation of projects, it is important to avoid abortive attempts. It is therefore preferable, we feel, to involve the financing institutions at an early stage, not only in order to ensure the possibility of financing but also to avoid overlap in the work of preparation.

Finally, we fully support the need for the Investment Centre to collaborate closely with other units of the Organization. This constitutes still another problem of management, and we hope that continued and increased attention will be devoted to this problem, as we have already referred to it in regard to other sectors of the Organization.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States): On Chapter 3, Development Support Programmes, with regard to Investment Programme 3.2, the United States believes an examination of FAO's overall activities in this area, including the Investment Centre, should be reviewed by the Programme Committee at the earliest possible time, taking into account the views expressed by Ministers in their Plenary statements. With the creation of IFAD, we believe such a review would be most timely. In examining the effectiveness of FAO's Investment Programme, one measure would be the success rate of FAO investment proposals funded in comparison with the number of man-years expended. In approaching its future activities, like the delegate from Denmark, we would also recommend that FAO avoid expending its resources devising proposals for capital investment when there is doubt that financial institutions will fund them.

We support the Netherlands comments on the Industry Cooperative Programme. Like them we understand the Programme will be subject to reexamination and that a proposal will be placed before the spring 1978 session of the Programme Committee. We have been impressed with the work of the ICP over the past decade and regarded it as an important channel for providing technology and other industrial resources to help meet the priority needs of developing countries. We think the programme is a vital arm of the UN system and, therefore, look forward to the review and the report concerning its future course.

Regarding Chapter 4, Technical Cooperation Programme, at the 71st session of the Council the United States indicated it would accept the TCP for 1978/79 if an objective evaluation of the TCP would be carried out in time for review by the autumn 1978 session of the Council. The objective is to assist

Member Nations in reaching a decision on the future of the programme after 1978/79. It is our understanding that arrangements have already been made for an independent highly regarded person to undertake the review with support from FAO's evaluation service. Under these circumstances we will support the continuation of TCP in 1978/79 but believe it should focus more on emergencies, and meeting short-term gaps. Uses to date to the extent identified indicate that these areas have not received the greatest attention.

I have a few other brief comments, Mr. Chairman, regarding publications. We regret the annual Per Caput Fibre Consumption Report has been discontinued and we hope that ways may be found to reinstate it. The United States has valued many of FAO's publications, supports the publication plans for 1978/79 and generally supports the publication programme. We do question if publications such as the following are of high priority. Regarding AGS 20 Non-Mulberry Silks we wonder if this is of sufficiently wide interest in applicability to justify the preparation of an FAO main document. Regarding AGS 24, Cashew Nut Processing, although we recognize it is important to some countries such as Jordan, in view of the limited areas where cashew nuts are produced, we wonder if the preparation of a main document on this subject is justified.

Regarding ESS 17 and ESS 18, both of which relate to food consumption surveys, we wonder if it would be feasible to consolidate these into a single publication, or whether this would interfere with the effective use of the programme and manual sectors.

The proposed actions for purchasing and control and contracts are commendable. This is Programme 5.2.1. A progress report would be useful and it might be submitted through the Finance Committee to the Council at an appropriate time during the coming biennium. Also the United States is interested in knowing why all of the costs for 5.2.1.7. with regional offices, why all of the costs are attributed to the regular budget. Fourthly, the meeting of the Committee on Food Aid may have clarified this next item, but we would be interested in knowing why in the table on page 173, this is programme 5.2.3. \$398 000 is expected from the World Food Programme for management services when WFP is apparently budgeting only \$364 000 for this purpose.

Similarly in the table on page 175, programme 5.2.4. also on World Food Programme, we wonder why \$464 000 is expected from the World Food Programme for personnel services, whilst WFP apparently has \$526 000 budgeted for personnel work.

On page 174, paragraph 4, there is a reference to special efforts to recruit women and we wonder what results have been achieved to date. Likewise an explanation would be appreciated of why \$2 002 000 for programme management, under programme 5.9 are expected from trust funds and only 698 000 from the regular programme and UNDP combined.

Finally, Mr, Chairman, we would like to know why extra-budgetary funds pay about 35 percent of total premises costs, but only 25 percent of cleaning, utilities, and so forth. Should not extra-budgetary funds pay roughly the same share for both. These items are fairly small here at the last, Mr. Chairman, and it may be that the Secretariat would rather give us answers to these individually, which would be acceptable to us.

D.M. ULNES (Norway): Mr. Chairman, I shall limit myself to Chapter 4. I am making this statement on behalf of the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway, and I would like to make the following brief remarks.

In the Director-General's proposal for Programme of Work and Budget for 1978/79 it is proposed to increase the budget for the Technical Cooperation Programme from 18.5 million in 1976/1977 to \$25.5 million in 1978/79. According to the budget explanations the increase in real terms is only 1.5 million while cost inflation is calculated at 5.5 million. In absolute terms this still represents a considerable expansion during a very short time, as the TCP has been operative for only one year.

When the FAO Council at its 69th Session discussed the Director-General's proposal for a TCP, several delegations, the Nordic countries among them, had serious doubts about the advisability of such a programme and it was decided [as a compromise to authorize the Director-General to establish TCP for a trial period until the end of the budget period in 1976/77.

The basis for this doubt was the general feeling that funds for technical assistance should primarily be channelled through UNDP which is the central body within the UN system for financing technical cooperation. We have, however, in view of the overwhelming support that the TCP has enjoyed from the developing countries, including others, have stood ready to accept the Director-General's budget proposal for the TCP for the coming biennium. We would like, however, to point out that in the execution of the TCP programme the Director-General should take the following four points into account. Number 1, we assume that the small-scale nature of the programme, the gap filling and complementarity in its appearance will be pursued.

Number two, TCP-funded projects should be carried out in closest possible cooperation with UNDP resident representatives, and to the extent possible as far as the nature of the project is concerned the TCP should be integrated in the UNDP country programming process.

Number three, preference should be increasingly given to TCP allocations to the least developed, or MSA countries. We have noted from the Programme of Work and Budget that nearly 56 percent of the funds were allocated for these categories of countries. We would like to stress, we would prefer to see this share increased substantially and in line with what was stated in the Programme of Work and Budget Introduction, that the basic purpose of the TCP was to permit FAO to respond to urgent requests, with the emphasis to raise food production in MSA countries.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, coming to Point number 4, the evaluation report should, as foreseen, be presented to the autumn 1978 session of the Council. This evaluation report should assist the performance as suggested and adherence to the criteria laid down in order to make complete analyses of its activities on the basis of its performance.

G. WEILL (France): Je ne reviendrai pas à propos du chapitre 3 sur ce que ma délégation a eu l'occasion d'exposer hier en ce qui concerne les représentants dans les pays. Nous avons demandé, étant donné l'importance de la charge financière et de l'accroissement budgétaire que représente la mise en place de 47 représentants dans les pays et de leurs 170 collaborateurs, étant donné également la difficulté du choix et de la mise en place de ce personnel hautement qualifié, que cette mise en place soit étalée dans le temps. Mais je voudrais aborder deux questions d'ordre général se rapportant à l'ensemble du Programme de travail et budget, d'une part les réunions, d'autre part les publications. Les réunions sont mentionnées dans les notes explicatives que l'on trouve au début du Programme de travail au paragraphe 6.8 page 34 du texte français. Quant aux publications, elles apparaissent au chapitre 5 sous la rubrique 5.1.4, à la page 182 du texte français.

En outre, nous disposons de deux excellents documents de travail, suppléments au Programme, le supplément numéro 1, qui a trait aux publications, et le supplément numéro 2 ayant trait aux réunions. C'est sur ces deux excellents documents, dont je tiens à féliciter le Secrétariat, que nous avons particulièrement travaillé.

Commençant par la liste des réunions, le document C 77/3 Sup.2, nous notons, et nous voulons en exprimer toute notre satisfaction, que le nombre des réunions pour 1978/1979, tel qu'il est programmé, est en diminution, en règle générale, sur le nombre de réunions approuvé pour 1976/1977. Nous voyons en effet que seules ont augmenté les réunions ayant un objet de formation. Le nombre de ces réunions passe de 8 en 1976/77 à 45 pour 1978/79. C'est là une évolution qu'il convient de noter et de saluer.

Nous voyons simultanément que le nombre des réunions des conférences régionales, du Conseil et des organes subsidiaires a diminué puisqu'il passe de 28 à 23. C'est là une évolution certainement favorable dont nous tenons à féliciter le Directeur général. Ce document tel qu'il est établi expose avec beaucoup de clarté le régime des différentes réunions de cette Organisation.

Je voudrais retenir l'attention de la Commission plus particulièrement sur les réunions de la Catégorie III. Celles-ci, d'après ce que l'on peut lire dans le document dont je parle, sont des réunions de membres de listes d'experts, de comités et des groupes de travail d'experts, composés de personnes choisies par la FAO à titre individuel, dont la participation est normalement défrayée par la FAO. Ce sont donc des réunions prises en charge par le Programme ordinaire; je dois dire à cet effet que le tableau très complet qui nous est présenté n'est pas satisfaisant pour ma délégation et je m'explique. Le document du Secrétariat distingue, avec des numéros de code précisés en tête, les sessions de; formation portant un numéro de code particulier, 900 à 999, les autres réunions d'experts et réunions d'organes subsidiaires.

Commençons par les sessions de formation qui, dans le tableau que nous avons sous les yeux, portent le numéro de code 900 à 999. Celles prises en charge par la FAO sont au nombre de 45, et nous en avons le détail dans ce document. Je dois attirer l'attention de la Commission et du Directeur général - dont je sais qu'il est très sensible à ces problèmes - sur le fait que, sur 45 questions de formation 25 d'entre elles se tiennent uniquement en anglais, deux sessions en anglais et en français, deux sessions en anglais et en espagnol, une session en anglais et en arabe et trois seulement sont des sessions trilingues, trois ont lieu en français exclusivement et deux exclusivement en langue espagnole.

On trouve un déséquilibre analogue en ce qui concerne des réunions d'experts et assimilés choisis par la FAO, convoquées par elles, payées par l'Organisation sur les crédits du Programme ordinaire; ces réunions portent dans ce tableau le numéro de code 800 à 899. Sur 21 réunions, 11 sont en anglais, et j'ai le décompte des réunions dans les autres langues.

Je ne veux pas abuser du temps de la Commission mais je dirai simplement que cette même situation se retrouve en ce qui concerne les organes subsidiaires N° de code 700 à 799, où, sur un total de 38 réunions prises en charge par la FAO, j'insiste car cela est important, 25 se déroulent en anglais et je vous fais grâce des détails sur les réunions en anglais/français, en anglais/espagnol, etc.

Cette situation ne paraît pas satisfaisante à la délégation française. Elle tend, je regrette d'avoir à le dire, à rendre plus difficile l'accès de participants qui ne sont pas de langue anglaise à des réunions tenues par notre Organisation et financées par le Programme ordinaire. A notre avis, un remède doit être recherché et apporté à une telle situation.

En ce qui concerne les publications, au programme que j'ai mentionné 5.1.4 et dans le supplément 1 au Programme de travail et de budget, nous voyons - du point de vue auquel je me suis placé s'agissant de l'équilibre linguistique - une situation qui, contrairement à celle que je viens de signaler, est satisfaisante quant à l'équilibre des différentes langues de travail. Je dois cependant ajouter que si les publications, dont la Division des publications est responsable, sont effectivement produites en respectant les différentes langues de travail, la situation n'est malheureusement pas aussi satisfaisante, tant s'en faut, en ce qui concerne de nombreux documents émanant du Secrétariat portant les titres divers de circulaires, rapports techniques ou documents de toute nature qui ne sont même pas disponibles dans plus d'une langue de travail.

En conclusion, je répète que nous savons que le Directeur général est très attentif à ces problèmes, lui qui a le privilège de pouvoir user des 4 langues de travail de notre Organisation. Nous souhaitons que, conformément à son Acte constitutif, la FAO fasse appel de façon équilibrée aux différentes langues de travail; nous suggérons concrètement que le Directeur général étudie ces problèmes, et que ses conclusions fassent l'objet d'un examen par le Comité du Programme, et éventuellement par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, de manière à être portées à l'attention de la session du Conseil à l'automne prochain.

Dans ces conditions, nous ne pouvons pas approuver telle qu'elle nous est soumise la liste des réunions annexée au Programme de travail et budget.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation would like to offer a few comments, briefly, on Chapters 3 and 4 together. We feel that those two chapters must be approached in the analysis of the FAO in relation to two groups of activities, and with a background of, first, renewed priority on agricultural development, and second, in the light of the actual flow of resources for agriculture which is a consequence of that priority - both external and internal flow.

As far as external flow is concerned, we hope to be able to comment later on. We well know that the levels of external flows in 1976 have been rather disappointing in terms of quantity and rather disappointing in terms of financing: but that is something that we will be able, hopefully, to discuss later on. But it is against this background that we have to - in our way of seeing - analyse the programmes in this area in Chapters 3 and 4.

We feel that in the light of that background there is a call for renewed attention to technical assistance programmes within FAO. Of course we fully agree with the comments made at a certain point that technical assistance must be carefully integrated with the government plans and priorities. I would also say that that is important, as we often say, when speaking of priorities for programmes of technical assistance, that the priorities must be given by the country itself - the recipient country. After all, what developing countries receive in terms of technical assistance is usually a very small component of a much larger effort, and therefore it would be futile to talk about priority a, b, c, for a programme of technical assistance. We must look within the individual countries' own planning to see what priorities a, b, c, are, according to the problems of the country and its own orientation. That is just a cautionary word, because we so often speak about areas of priority in technical assistance.

The background which I referred to before also, in our opinion, calls for a renewed effort by FAO in the field of project identification and project preparation. Of course, that is a consequence, in our view, of the reinforcement of activities of FAO with the World Bank Cooperation Programme, and the reinforcement of the Investment Centre; and since I have mentioned that, perhaps again I must - and I am sorry to repeat the same point again and again - lodge our complaint that levels of resources on the investment item of the budget are low for Latin America. We feel Mr. Chairman that we are making much more effort at home in our countries, and that is only reasonable, including as a back-stop product preparation and support in our product preparation it is reasonable that we have greater support from FAO in product preparation, so that there is a kind of compatibility with our internal efforts and FAO's support.

Mr. Chairman, on ICP, the Group of Seventy-Seven has already stated its position at the time of the Council. With your permission I would just like to read the relevant portion of our joint statement at the time of the Seventy-Second Session of the Council. We stated at the time, still in relation to the Programme of Work for the next biennium that we would not like to leave without notice the recommendation of the Programme Committee that the Director-General presented at the spring session of that day; a proposal for changing the status of inter-cooperation programme. We endorsed that proposal without prejudice, we said, to an effective and fruitful cooperation with industry. My delegation feels that that statement reflects the correct situation and a correct approach to the Programme. The statement is short and it is appropriate in our view.

Coming now to TCP Mr. Chairman, we are very happy to see the very positive start of preparations of TCP. We appreciate the flexibility, the speed of projects appraisal and approval. We appreciate the lack of bureaucratization, and we very much hope that is a virtue of TCP which will continue like that so that there is a fast and quick response to requests and needs, requirements, of recipient countries. Of course here again my same observation on percentage terms, Latin America in this case, if my figures are correct, does not go much more than 16.7 percent of the total. Again we feel this is not quite appropriate; it should be higher, this percentage.

In Brazil we are very happy with the cooperation of TCP who have a number of projects to which we attribute importance. We have concentrated within our own priorities, to which I referred before, in marketing, in fisheries and rural information just to give three sides of approaches that we have tried to give in our TCP projects.

The final point, technical cooperation within developing countries, we very much feel that FAO has a role to stimulate and not only passively registering reports with TCP technical cooperation on developing countries is a good thing, a positive thing, but to do something about it in all spheres. We feel for instance that FAO representatives are in a very unique position to identify opportunities for technical cooperation between developing countries. They are the first to take appraisal of a need in a country, and they can perhaps immediately try to see to what extent a non-developed country perhaps could bring not only in equal conditions but even in better conditions the kind of assistance, the kind of technology, which is best adjusted and best suitable to the particular receiving countries.

We feel also Mr. Chairman in this respect that it is not only the scene of the FAO but the scene of the whole United Nations system. We pass resolutions, and we pass decisions and recommendations, but the implementation is slow. For instance in FAO most of the technical cooperation between developing countries and use of the developing countries resources has been in experts. There is still very little on equipment, very little in terms of use of institutions, and we very much hope that we can make more and more progress in that direction so that consultant expertise from developing countries can be used - services, technical services, equipment, etc. Of course we understand that it is a gradual approach, and we very much hope in the light of the information that we have before us that efforts will continue to be made in that direction so that FAO can fully participate and stimulate this kind of cooperation. I have just this morning referred to cooperation in terms of research programmes in the developing countries. This is just one area. There are so many other areas. FAO should not be only passive and should have active response to these needs very much in the light of resolution 31 of 179 of the General Assembly last year. We very much hope that there will be a positive response at FAO to that particular resolution which sums up that quite an effort has been developed since 72/73 in FAO and other units of the UN system.

Just to conclude Mr. Chairman I would like to say my delegation was very much appreciative of the trend to field action which the programme at this stage reflects. At the Group of Seventy-Seven also we have commented very favourably on this approach and we feel this is the best kind of approach, very favourable at this time when we need to improve food production and field conditions in developing countries. So much has to be done and there is so much FAO can contribute to it.

J.L. SAULT (Australia): I will comment briefly on three programmes in Chapters 3 and 4. Firstly as regards investment we support the increase in expenditure under this major project. The concept of investment lending is consistent with the fundamental self-help principle which underlies our approach to development assistance, and we find it encouraging in the regional sense, that the Asia and Far East region takes the largest share of all regions from the total funds, that is both regular and extra-budgetary which have been budgeted.

As regards FAO country representatives, we support the concept of strong country offices in contrast to enlarging the regional offices. We find this consistent with the decentralization of FAO's activities and with the encouragement of the closest possible relationships with individual national governments who alone have the power to make the ultimate decisions which will give effect to recommendations or suggestions of FAO.

We do however advocate caution concerning the speed of implementation of the appointment of country representatives. There seems to be a distinct danger of over-extension at the risk of lowering the quality of appointees. In this context the programme with its very high increase factor offers an opportunity to create savings to prevent the Director-General's recently proposed increase in the total budget.

Turning to the Technical Cooperation Programme, Australia supports the FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme and will continue to do so so long as it remains modest in overall scope, is restricted to small-scale, short-term projects and complements, but does not duplicate activities carried out by other international bodies. Australia considers there is a range of projects meeting these criteria which FAO is technically equipped and competent to carry out. The level of the budget of the TCP proposed by the Director-General is acceptable to Australia. However there has been so far no opportunity to adequately evaluate the activities under the Programme, and we await with interest the results of the proposed evaluation of the scheme.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I wish to comment on certain programmes in Chapter 3 and 4 and make very brief comments on a few points raised this evening in chapter 5. Concerning the Field Programmes and Planning and Liaison Chapter 3.1, we are very pleased to see that now in a very explicit manner, technical cooperation among developing countries has become the responsibility of a particular unit in the house. We very much hope that this aspect of work will receive the attention due to it. At the same time we would like to caution that the technical cooperation among developing countries cannot be the responsibility of one particular unit only. This is a concept and a work which should infuse the activities and the thinking and approach of all the technical divisions in FAO.

In the same chapter we find that DDF will be helping in monitoring the field projects. In this connexion we would like to see an additional activity if possible, and that relates to providing information to the countries on different types of projects which have been undertaken in the past. I understand that in the previous biennium some modest effort was made in this direction, and I would like to express the appreciation of my delegation to those who undertook the task. Extracts of information on the projects undertaken earlier during the past eight to ten years were prepared for certain countries and they provided good reference material to the countries themselves at the national level. This is material which could be drawn upon; it is some kind of reference material and it is something which makes them more discriminating in their choice of new requests without going over the same ground again which has been covered in the past.

These were my two observations on Chapter 3.1.

With regard to Chapter 3, 2 on Investment, my task is much simpler because here I would just underline what Denmark has said on behalf of the Nordic countries in relation to assistance in developing investment project formulation capacities in developing countries. I find in the text of the Programme of Work and Budget, that the DDC will continue to do this work during the • various missions it undertakes. Perhaps I have not understood it correctly but if this kind of training of people in the developing countries is confined to the period of a particular mission, this is not sufficient. It will have to be undertaken on a more systematic basis, of course, at the request of the countries.

This is an aspect of the DDC's work which I would like to emphasize and which we hope will be taken into account in the coming biennium. It will require cooperation and working together closely with other divisions in FAO.

I am happy to note that the Investment Centre will be able to operate in a more flexible manner and here I have a question to which I would like to have a reply or clarification if possible. Will this flexibility permit the Investment Centre to assist in the formulation or appraisal of projects which

are to be funded by national credit institutions themselves? Because in many developing countries we have reached a stage where foreign assistance, foreign aid component of a particular project may not be very substantial and most of the resources may be found from within by the credit institutions. But such institutions, or their consortia in the developing countries need, from time to time, assistance from the United Nations system in preparing or appraising their projects. The question is whether the flexibility referred to just now will permit the provision of assistance in such cases.

Turning to Chapter 4, our position could almost be taken for granted, therefore I do not wish to make a long statement. We are all for the TCP, we feel that the augmentation by \$1 million or \$2 million over last year's programme is very modest, it should have been much more.

With regard to the types of projects that should be funded from TCP, we feel this is the prerogative of the countries. It is not correct to say that top priority in TCP should be given to emergency projects. We have formulated certain objectives, certain types of projects which should be funded from this, and after that we should leave it to the countries to ask for the kinds of things they need most. This could be assistance for emergency or training, or it could be some kind of investment study support. We should not create additional rigidities in the use of the fund for different types of projects.

I find myself in a position to agree with most of the points made by my colleague from Norway on behalf of the Nordic countries. However, I have one reservation about a point raised with regard to the integration of the TCP projects in the UNDP country programme cycle. While we feel that very close collaboration should be established with the resident representatives and they should be kept au courant on whatever is being done under the TCP, we shall be losing much of the advantage of the approach of the TCP if we insist on integrating it in the UNDP country programme cycle, which is a long affair and more suitable for projects with bigger financial assistance and a longer gestation period.

So I would strongly plead that they should not insist on integrating it with the UNDP country programme process although I repeat that consultations with resident representatives should be very close.

With regard to public information, we would like FAO to explore the possibilities of projecting its image in a more tangible manner at the national level, in collaboration with the national government. I can give you an example: from time to time, in many developing countries, we find that agricultural fairs and similar activities take place. But in most cases we find FAO conspicuous by its absence.

We would like to see some flexibility on the part of the Information Division so that it can collaborate on request with the national authorities in this regard.

Related to this problem is the language of the publication of various pamphlets and brochures issued by the Information Division. Most of these are in the official languages of the Organization, quite correctly, and we do not take exception to that. However, we feel that if the message of FAO is to reach the developing countries, something will have to be done to speak to them in their own language. This is not revolutionary, it has been happening in other United Nations agencies like Unesco, where we find that the Unesco magazine, "The Courier", is published not only in the five official languages of the United Nations, but in some of the national languages including that of my own country, Hindi.

This means an extra effort, although not necessarily extra cost; because if FAO makes a positive gesture and tries to explore the possibilities of collaboration with the national governments, I am sure the latter will be able to put up some funds to get the job done economically. This is essential if we want FAO's message to reach the non-élite of the developing countries. If it remains an organization attempting to reach through its publications and brochures only the élite of the developing countries, that is fine. But if we want to reach further down, "grass roots" has become a very fashionable expression here and it is a very valuable concept, we shall have to do something to use the language of the people.

A comment has been made from the floor about certain FAO publications. While I can say nothing about toe non-mulberry silk sources and the production of a manual on this subject, I am rather interested in and like cashew nuts. Cashew nut is an important crop for a number of developing countries of Africa and my own. It involves small farmers, and is a very labour-intensive industry, so one can understand how important it: is for us, as well as for a number of other developing countries.

I can take no responsibility for the contents of the manual which FAO will issue, but it is an important item and I would appeal that it should not be censored by us.



One more remark about publications: we all know how conscientious Mr. Mandefield is in this regard, and how hard he has been sometimes on his colleagues over submitting material, for it to be issued and published in time. I feel we should strengthen his hand from the governing bodies side also and be a little more particular about the timely receipt of publications. I would make a very mundane suggestion - and we are discussing very mundane things - that each FAO publication, especially for the Governing Council, should carry the date of despatch and not the date on which it was sent to press.

In many cases we find that even the date is lacking, it is only the month, so we discover to our dismay that a publication bearing a June date line reaches governments in October, allowing very little time for its examination, because in many countries we have red tape and problems with coordination. We need more time to look into these things and formulate our positions. This is a very simple and I hope not mischievous suggestion and if it could be implemented to it would be an effective instrument for monitoring the timely issue of publications.

A last point is on the use of national institutions. My colleague from Brazil has made certain observations with which I agree. I would draw attention to paragraphs 239 to 244 of the last Conference report. That Conference had a long discussion on it and its conclusions are inscribed in that report.

We know that FAO is making progress in this regard but we do not know how much. I would therefore suggest that there should be some system for monitoring FAO's actions regarding in the use of national institutions. We shall return to this theme again and again, but I thought that in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget it is essential to emphasize this aspect and redeem the pledge that we made in the last Conference.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I apologize for taking the floor so late but I have to chair the morning Plenary Session tomorrow, which is why it will not be possible for me to make my presentation tomorrow.

My first observation has to do with the Investment Centre. As some of my colleagues have said, FAO should not send out investment missions for preparation in the developing countries unless they are guaranteed or have assurances to the effect that these projects will actually be financed.

I think this is a very difficult condition to satisfy, since the financial institutions cannot approve the project until such time as the necessary studies are carried out. Then the financial institutions can consider the possibility of funding these projects. This is why the comment made by my colleague from the United States on this subject is not very relevant, because this would deprive a number of developing countries from having these various projects carried out, to a considerable extent. I would like to say that the financial institutions insist that a feasibility study be carried out before the project is actually presented, and that is why it would be impossible for us to support this proposal.

The second comment is that FAO by dispatching the study missions in order to prepare these projects in developing countries should consider the possibility of enlisting the participation of the staff of these various countries in the preparation of the projects themselves, because this could give them practical training, on one hand, and also by assuming responsibility for preparation of these projects, this staff that would be thus involved could in the future be enlisted in the implementation of these projects. These projects should receive the necessary financial backing, and that is why FAO should see to it that the missions responsibility for the preparation of these projects must involve local staff in the preparation of such projects.

The third observation is with respect to the Technical Cooperation Programme. In this connexion I would like to open a parenthesis to say that the Programme Committee at the autumn session had requested the Director-General for some clarification with respect to this Programme. The Director-General made a number of very relevant comments which were approved by the Programme Committee, which submitted its report to the FAO Council, and in turn the FAO Council adopted the report of the Programme Committee and asked the Director-General to prepare a comprehensive evaluation which would be submitted to the next session of the Programme Committee in the fall. That is why I think it is somewhat premature for our colleagues to speak about details, and I should like to inform you here that we think this question should not be discussed during the present session in view of the fact that the Director-General will present very useful details next year. In principle, of course, we support the Technical Cooperation Programme, but our concept of what this Technical Cooperation Programme should be is somewhat different from the prevailing view.

Our next comment would be the following: I believe that this Programme which has been in existence for only two years simply cannot be judged, in view of its very short lifetime. As a developing country, we should like to say that this Programme is of special importance in view of the fact that it provides some developing countries with a possibility of obtaining limited financing for emergency studies when such a situation arises. Jordan has been able to benefit from this Programme when the UNDP had to face its financial crisis, and at that time we asked the Director-General of FAO to send out a mission to examine the project, provided, of course, that this would be financed out of the Technical Cooperation Programme. If this Technical Cooperation Programme did not exist, it simply would have been impossible for the FAO to render service to my country, and that is why I repeat that we cannot pass judgment in this Programme merely on the basis of my country's limited experience. I believe that the Conference should approve the additional funds which are required for this Programme.

My final comment has to do with publications. I think that my colleague from India when he spoke about publications issued by FAO in the five major working languages failed to bear in mind the fact that these publications are not in actual fact intended for the farmers themselves, and that is why FAO cannot prepare these publications in all of the world's languages; otherwise the FAO budget would simply be unable to handle such a vast undertaking. I believe that the countries themselves should translate these publications into their own national language and in a language which could readily be understood by the farmers themselves, it being understood that FAO publications frequently use rather technical jargon, so that a majority of the farmers could never understand the contents of these publications unless they are translated, of course, into the national language, but naturally, the countries themselves would have to finance this translation.

Q. HABIBUL HAQUE (Bangladesh): I would like to comment very briefly on paragraph 3 and paragraph 4 of the Programme of Work and Budget and mainly on the Technical Cooperation Programme and the country representatives. The Technical Cooperation Programme was approved by the Council in July 1976 with the total quantum of about US \$8.5 million. At this stage we really were apprehensive as to how fast the Director-General could move to establish a missionary in like projects, appraise projects, approve the projects in agreement with the governments, and disburse funds. We are happy to note in the report that the Director-General when opening this Commission stated that so far 188 projects have been approved with a total quantum of US \$14 million. We find this achievement quite remarkable, not for the quantum of the money that has been disbursed, but the area which it covers in numbers of projects, numbers of countries, with a small amount and also the nature of the projects that have been tackled.

With regard to some of the special features as we get them from the report, I would like to mention one in particular which attracted the attention of our delegation, that in these projects, proportionately disbursement for the poorest developing countries has been more than for other developing countries. I mention this special feature particularly because this is not true when you take a global account of the disbursement in the agricultural sector.

I saw in a report of the CGFPI on resource flows that per caput disbursement for the poorest developing countries in the agricultural sector in 1976 was less than half than other developing countries. While we agree that all developing countries need assistance, particularly in the agricultural sector, we believe the poorest developing countries, the food priority countries, need assistance at a fast rate.

Irrespective of the quantum that the Technical Cooperation Programme had disbursed to the poorest developing countries, this very emphasis on them more than proportionately is very much welcome.

from our experience we have noticed that the Technical Cooperation Programme has been able to meet the first criteria of quick response and also catering for projects which perhaps could not be funded otherwise. A point has been made about integration of such projects with UNDP country cycle processing. While we agree that all these projects, even projects financed by the Technical Cooperation Programme, should be integrated in the total development efforts of developing countries, but it has to go through the full cycle of the UNDP processing. I think that would be indicated.

Prom our experience again we have noticed that in our case, there has not been even one project which would have been otherwise financed by the UNDP. In fact, the project evaluation missions to Bangladesh had the first discussion with the UNDP country resident representative, making sure that those projects were not on the list of the UNDP.

As regards the level for the next biennium, the 20 million plus expected surplus of about 3 to 4, we feel that this is the minimum possible. We feel again from the experience of the one and a half years that even perhaps a little higher allocation would have been realistic. I feel that in the next biennium, the Director-General will have to be very cautious in approving projects under the Technical Cooperation Programme. You can see even in hand he has today 100 projects which still have to be approved.

Turning to the country representative aspect, during the general debate there was also a point made by some delegation about slowing down. Here again we feel from our experience it is quite difficult and quite time-consuming to really station a country representative from the time of negotiation. This was again approved in the 69th Session of the Council in July 1976, and we had applied for a country representative in August 1976. I recall that by July 1977 the negotiation could be completed. Then the Director-General had to look for a suitable person, and when he found a suitable person, it needed the approval of the Government of Bangladesh. So the whole process could be completed in exactly a year.

Here I would like to remind the Commission of the observation made by the Assistant Director-General, Mr. West, that the UNDP is withdrawing their representatives faster than the FAO can cope with. I feel that the FAO action in this regard should be the other way round to see if they can speed up. If you see the number of applicants and numbers of countries in which the FAO country representatives have been included, it is really a matter of concern. About 60 countries have applied and less than 20 - I think about 14 - have taken position. It is really a matter of concern. In this regard I would urge upon the Director-General to see how fast he can go on this. I would be happy if by next biennium he can dispose of all the petitions, namely about sixty.

Coming to meetings and documentation, Mr. Chairman, it is an irony when you see in some other meeting we feel that particular meeting should be more frequent than it used to be. I recall when we sat in the Fertilizer Commission, we thought that particular commission should meet at least once and if required more, and in the Council I was the Rapporteur, and the Drafting Committee came to the decision that if necessary it should meet at least once. In the Council this was changed and stated meet at least once and if required more. Similarly I was representing Bangladesh in an intergovernmental meeting on tea. There again the demand was that meetings should be more frequent than once a year and, in fact, FAO had to arrange a meeting of the working body composed of the exporters institute. So here again we feel, Mr. Chairman, that while it is true unnecessary meetings and documentation should be cut as far as possible, we as delegates, representatives of countries making requests to the Director-General for more meetings of any particular body should also be conscious of this particular factor. We are happy to note that about 7 percent of expenditure on this particular item, meetings and documentation, has been reduced. We feel that this process should continue. I do not say there is no scope for cutting down meetings and documentation, there is always scope for improvement. We should make efforts to do that, but in doing so we should not hamper the efficiency and also dire needs of meetings and documentation.

My last point is on technical cooperation amongst developing countries, I am very happy that distinguished friends and colleagues from Brazil and India have mentioned it. We also feel that this particular area should receive priority attention.

X. CHOUERI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Je vais traiter très rapidement du chapitre 3. Je voudrais m'arrêter sur l'action proposée en ce qui concerne les engagements budgétaires nécessaires pour des représentants régionaux. Je suis tout à fait certain que les résultats seront très positifs et cela à l'avantage de toutes les régions. Les représentants auprès des pays devraient être complétés par la désignation d'autres représentants de même formation. Nous connaissons certains d'entre eux, nous connaissons leur expérience et leur compétence.

Un not maintenant sur le PCT. Nous avons un programme d'action et nous estimons que le PCT a joué un rôle important en mettant à la disposition des pays l'assistance technique pour la solution de problèmes urgents en matière de formation, en cas de situation d'urgence par exemple; l'aide déjà reçue par les différents pays, même si elle est relativement modeste, a eu cependant un effet dynamique, et à mon avis, ce type d'action doit être poursuivi. En conséquence, nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec les engagements financiers.

En ce qui concerne les investissements, nous appuyons le Directeur général mettant à la disposition des ressources supplémentaires en vue d'investissements, et en examinant des projets notamment ceux du secteur agricole. Nous apprécions également la priorité attribuée par le Directeur général de manière que la FAO tire le maximum d'avantages du Programme d'investissement dans l'industrie. Nous voulons pouvoir aider tous les pays à obtenir, en plus de toutes les aides que nous pouvons leur donner, le financement d'institutions des Nations Unies. En faisant sien l'objectif de la documentation, y compris l'infrastructure etc., de manière à tendre vers une meilleure utilisation des ressources agricoles, notre délégation apporte tout son appui à cette action. En cette matière nous confortons les efforts de ce service ayant à sa tête M. Mande field.

K. ITANO (Japan): Mr. Chairman, I shall be very brief. On Chapters 3 and 4, we would like to make comments on two points. The first point is concerning the country representatives. We have already expressed our opinion on this subject, so at this stage we do not wish to say so much. One of our concerns is the speed of installing the country representatives. In this respect, we share the views expressed by the delegate of Netherlands and Australia. In relation to this problem we appreciate the Director-General's efforts to reduce Headquarters staff. However, we are of the opinion that further efforts should have been made corresponding to the increase of the number of country representatives.

The second point, Mr. Chairman, the TCP, on this item too we have already touched upon in our general remarks, so we do not have much to say, but just one point, since it is still on an experimental basis the programme increase of TCP for next biennium should be kept as low as possible. That is all, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): It is very late in the day, or evening, Mr. Chairman, so forgive my intervening but I just wanted to make one thing abundantly clear since, in fact, my statement yesterday was misinterpreted or misunderstood by the Assistant Director-General, Mr. West. On the United Kingdom's behalf we support the appointment of more country representatives. I explained, however, from a budgeting point of view we do doubt whether the total number could be appointed as quickly as the budget anticipated. The representative of Bangladesh - I repeat this statement because there has been some reference this evening to certain governments desiring a slowing down of these appointments. I do not want my comments earlier to be misinterpreted in any sense. If, in fact, one is appointing something like 50 people, no doubt there are 50 people anxious to have those jobs, and possibly 500 people, but in selecting suitable people they cannot be selected and appointed overnight, and my remarks were simply on the practicality of that and, to repeat myself, the United Kingdom doubted whether the provision in the budget was not a little excessive.

CHAIRMAN: I suggest that we adjourn the meeting now, and you will have the answers to questions tomorrow morning, together with my summing up of our discussions under this item on our agenda.

Are there any comments from the floor? If not, the meeting is adjourned.

R. TANOUCHEV (Bulgarie): Dans une intervention brève sur la question de la présentation du programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 1978-79, la délégation bulgare voudrait s'associer aux observations positives des délégations qui ont déjà pris la parole.

Nous nous félicitons de la manière concise dont sont traités les problèmes d'autant plus difficiles que différents du développement agricole, mondial.

Nous voudrions aussi féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO pour le dévouement et l'énergie avec lesquels il s'est acquitté de la tâche difficile et compliquée consistant à faire de ce document de base le reflet des suggestions et recommandations de la XVIIIe session de la Conférence et de la 69e session du Conseil de la FAO.

Au cours de ces sessions, la délégation de la Bulgarie apporta un soutien sans réserve aux idées et propositions du Directeur général en vue de réduire le programme, d'orienter les activités de l'Organisation vers une action concrète et dynamique en faveur des pays en voie de développement le plus gravement touchés. Notre délégation se rallie à la proposition tendant à établir un programme d'assistance technique ainsi qu'à l'idée de décentraliser des activités de l'Organisation.

Dans le programme de travail proposé, nous sommes contents de constater la continuité de ces propositions et une illustration de l'approche réaliste tellement nécessaire à la FAO., face aux problèmes existant dans la plupart des pays en voie de développement.

Nous considérons que l'établissement d'un Fonds spécial pour la prévention des pertes alimentaires après récoltes jouera un rôle important et apportera une aide essentielle aux pays en voie de développement les plus nécessiteux, dans la guerre au gaspillage, la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition, sous sommes d'accord sur l'établissement de ce Fonds.

Considérant que l'Organisation doit être dotée de moyens sûrs pour pallier les inconvénients de l'inflation, de l'accroissement des coûts et de l'instabilité du taux de change dollar-lire, nous sommes d'accord aussi sur l'établissement du fonds de réserve.

La délégation bulgare estime que, dans le cadre du programme de travail présenté et le niveau du budget qu'elle appuie, le Directeur général pourra prêter une assistance accrue aux pays membres dans la réalisation de l'objectif principal de la FAO, à savoir l'accroissement continu de la production agricole mondiale, et l'amélioration du niveau de vie des masses rurales.

En tant que pays membre de la région européenne, la Bulgarie s'intéresse aux activités à l'apport de l'Europe au développement agricole mondial, et surtout au développement de l'agriculture dans les pays en voie de développement.

Nous partageons l'opinion des délégations qui ont déjà pris la parole sur l'utilité de l'expérience européenne pour les pays en voie de développement. Nous estimons que la coopération européenne dans les recherches agricoles et le résultat de ces recherches peuvent être très utiles pour les pays hors de la région et que ces activités doivent être encouragées.

C'est pourquoi nous appuyons le projet de résolution figurant au document C 77 LIM 5 traitant des questions des activités de la FAO dans la région européenne.

Sra D.A.C. BERTA de ALBERTO (Argentina): Continuando con los comentarios y observaciones ya efectuados por mi Delegación esta mañana, deseo ahora referirme concretamente a los Capítulos 3, 4 y 5 del Documento C 77/3.

En primer lugar, entonces, y con relación al Capítulo 3, quisiera hacer una breve referencia al Programa Cooperativo de las Industrias (3.3.3.), destacando al respecto que llama la atención de nuestro país la ausencia de las actividades de Pesca dentro de las prioridades indicadas en el Plan de Acción, siendo ella una de las actividades industriales cuya expansión debería ser promovida de acuerdo con los objetivos mencionados en el párrafo 1 de la página 160.

En segundo lugar, y en lo que se refiere al Capítulo 4, mi Delegación desea renovar su apoyo al Programa de Cooperación Técnica de FAO como instrumento idóneo para reforzar e incrementar la capacidad de la Organización para responder rápida y efectivamente a las solicitudes urgentes y en pequeña escala que le formulan los Estados Miembros.

En este sentido, mi Delegación estima que quizás el incremento planeado para este Programa resulte, en la práctica, insuficiente, ya que representa solo el 1, 3 por ciento, previsión que probablemente sea inferior al aumento de los costos, lo que implicaría, en definitiva, que la asignación sería inferior al ejercicio anterior.

Finalmente, y siempre con relación al PCT, mi Delegación quisiera solicitar una mayor aclaración acerca de la distribución de fondos entre las regiones en desarrollo en el período 1976-77. Ello no está especificado en este capítulo, aunque surge del párrafo 7 que el énfasis fue puesto en los países menos desarrollados o más seriamente afectados, habiéndose asignado el 56 por ciento de los fondos a esos países en África, Asia y Lejano Oriente.

Por último, y con referencia al Capítulo 5 (Programa 5.1.1.), mi Delegación quisiera señalar la necesidad de que en los esfuerzos realizados por la Organización para difundir sus programas y concientizar al público sobre los problemas de su competencia, se dé mayor cabida y participación a los medios de difusión de los países en desarrollo.

Con respecto al Programa 5.1.4. (Publicaciones), mi Delegación desea expresar que si bien está absolutamente de acuerdo con el espíritu del párrafo 5 acerca de la necesidad de publicar con "mayor tempestividad los documentos preparatorios para las reuniones", considera que su redacción no es del todo satisfactoria, ya que los terminus "se pondrá especial interés" no reflejan realmente la preocupación concreta y generalizada de los países miembros en esta materia tan importante. 1/

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h. 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas

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1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/II/PV/7

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

SEVENTH MEETING  
SEPTIEME SÉANCE  
SEPTIMA SESION  
(19 November 1977)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

J.H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La septième seance est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence de

J.H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 9.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II-

II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMS DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II- ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

10. Programme of Work and Budget 1978-79 (continued)

10. Programme de travail et budget pour 1978-79 (suite)

10. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1978-79 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I think it is time we resumed our meeting. Last night we concluded our debate on the Programme of Work and Budget. What is left now is for the Assistant Directors-General to answer the questions you put to them. I should mention that when we have concluded this item, we will go on to Review Arrangements for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. This item will be introduced by Mr. Santa Cruz, Special Representative of the Director-General for the World Conference.

On our list we have a first speaker, a third speaker and a fourth speaker, but we are still missing a second speaker, so if there are any volunteers we would be very grateful. We have one already. Thank you very much. Well I then give the floor to the Assistant Director for the Development Department Mr. Yriart, to answer questions put to him under Chapter 3 and 4.

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I shall try to be very brief. Let me assure you, as Mr. West did yesterday, that in order to be brief I will not mention, nor thank you for the positive things that you have said and which we have noted, neither will I necessarily comment on many remarks which we have taken very good notice of, and that will naturally be borne in mind in the execution of our programmes or, as the case may be, in the formulation of a new Programme of Work and Budget. I will also not at this time, Mr. Chairman, if you allow it, refer to TC-DC as this will come in under item 13 next week, but I shall, of course, remember at that time already the statements that have been made regarding TC-DC. So I will refer only to a very few points where I think the Honourable Delegates would want a further explanation or reply.

We were, indeed, very gratified that the Commission in general supports strongly the increased resources and our idea to step up activities on investments, which has such a high priority for the developing nations. Let me reassure those delegates, there were two or three of them, Mr. Chairman, who were concerned about the use of resources in investment that we apply very strict criteria. The resources we have are under very great pressure indeed, both from governments who demand services and from international financial organizations, and our cooperation with international financial organizations, new agreements, new organizations, is ever increasing. The work for IFAD, we expect, will play a very large role in our Department. So we have very strict criteria. The Director-General demands that we analyse all possibilities of work against these criteria to make sure that there will be no wasted resources, and certainly one of the criteria is that we have to be reasonably sure, or even more than reasonably sure, that there will be an international financial organization, or national, and I will come to that afterwards, interested in a project before we start any work on the project, and this normally is something that we do in very close liaison with the interested government itself. So I would say, Mr. Chairman, that we are more or less satisfied that we do not have false starts, or we can keep them to a minimum.

I mentioned national funding because I was asked whether the investment centre has sufficient flexibility in the use of its resources, to identify and prepare projects that would be funded nationally rather than by international financial organizations. Indeed it has. When the question was posed already the Bankers' programme was mentioned, and true enough most of the projects we prepare for the Bankers project are subsequently funded by national development banks. But also in reply to calls from the governments that can give us an assurance that there will be national funding, we can also identify and prepare projects for them.

The other important question that was brought up with regard to investment was the question of training and the question also of the use of local staff, and may I reply putting both things together. Indeed Mr. Chairman, our work both in identification and preparation of projects has a slant, shall I say, towards training. To leave something behind with the counterparts from the governments with whom we cooperate. This is a quite clear policy. I must unfortunately say, Mr. Chairman, that one of the problems we find is that rather too frequently when we come second, third times to the same country to work with them in identification or preparation of projects there is too much of finding new staff. A certain continuity would certainly have the added value of providing experience and training for the local staff. Apart from this type of work in training that the Investment Centre does, the training



in project preparation has a very high priority with the Director-General, and we will have now in a few weeks time a very important workshop for the Near East countries where there will be about forty-five participants, and where I must say that we have found also very great support in the preparation of the workshop from banks like the World Bank and the Regional Bank, some of the funds in the Near East. These courses, which we intend to continue, are prepared in very great detail. We have their case studies that have been taken from real life, if you want, and we do a very analytical job. Also may I say that we are very careful on the question of languages to make sure that not only the case studies and the documentation, but also the discussions and the lectures are also in the proper languages. Sometimes, this tends to increase the costs of these courses, of course. Last year there was a very important course for Latin America where also the angle, the most emphasized angle was the question of investment project preparation. So I think, Mr. Chairman, that we try to meet the interest that is coming from the countries, and that the Commission has also voiced.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that the other point that was made by the distinguished delegates that would require comment on my part was made by the distinguished delegate of India, who referred to the possibility and the usefulness for the governments that at the country level we should be prepared to furnish the authorities with, shall I say, some kind of historical background. Perhaps not too analytical, though I will refer to this again, on past technical assistance. I mentioned specifically the distinguished delegate of India who brought this up and he did so, he said, because he had seen such work. It is true that some time ago on an experimental basis we did a case study for India where with the collaboration of the library we put together the material that we had in the form of a document on previous technical assistance to India. I was glad to note that evidently this was found useful and we ourselves are satisfied with this first experience. We would run into difficulties if we did not have sufficient printed material on projects. However, right now, within a month ago, after a very lengthy and thorough exercise, new measures, new procedures, have been approved by the Director-General on project reporting which also go into the question of documentation, documentation retrieval, etc., so we hope in the future it should not be too difficult to do these exercises on which we would of course, have to count on the support of the library and the documentation centre which I am sure we could have.

Also let me mention that we are providing the country offices, the country representatives, with small very selective libraries, and we would also go into the question of the organization of their library, bearing in mind the transmittal to the government of past experience from our activities in the country.

Mr. Chairman, I think that really these are the outstanding questions on which the delegations expected further enlightenment from the secretariat, because on other questions I must say that some of the delegates have done the job for us, by replying to each other very constructively.

H.W. MANDEFIELD (Sous-directeur general, Departement des Affaires générales et de l'Information): A propos du chapitre 5, M.le Délégué de la France a évoqué la question de l'équilibre linguistique qu'il convient de respecter dans les travaux de l'Organisation. Il s'est référé aux deux listes qui constituent des suppléments à notre Programme de travail et budget et qui précisent, dans chaque cas, les langues prévues pour la tenue des réunions ou pour la parution des publications, documents et notes de travail.

Il a donné des statistiques que nous retenons attentivement. De notre côté, nous pouvons présenter quelques chiffres qui contribueront à fixer les idées sur cette question de l'équilibre linguistique. Nous avons fait le total, en millions de mots, de toutes les publications et documents qui figurant dans les deux listes. Les chiffres sont les suivants: -français: 21 millions de mots; -espagnol: 18 millions de mots; -anglais: 38 millions de mots.

Les programmes de traduction en arabe et en chinois sont établis en consultation avec les Etats Membres intéressés, et par conséquent, les décisions sont prises au fur et à mesure de la préparation des documents.

En ce qui concerne les réunions, nous avons compté 216 organes. Plusieurs d'entre eux tiennent plusieurs sessions, ce qui explique le total de 288 sessions. Le français sera utilisé dans 137 de ces organes, l'espagnol dans 93 et l'anglais dans 216. Mais ces chiffres dissimulent des différences de pratique, selon qu'il s'agit de réunions de la Catégorie 1 (réunions où les gouvernements sont représentés par des délégations officielles), de la Catégorie 2 (réunions d'experts) ou enfin de la Catégorie 3 (comités et groupes de travail d'experts composés de personnes choisies à titre individuel par la FAO).

Dans la première catégorie, on peut dire que l'anglais, le français et l'espagnol sont utilisés sur un pied d'égalité et que l'équilibre est respecté, compte tenu de l'emploi différencié et sélectif des langues de la FAO selon les régions du monde dont il s'agit, il n'est pas d'usage d'utiliser l'espagnol au Moyen-Orient, non plus que l'arabe en Amérique du Sud, pour prendre deux exemples extrêmes.

En réalité, le mécanisme du budget-programme, tel qu'il est appliqué dans cette maison, laisse aux unités sectorielles - techniques, économiques ou sociales, selon le cas - la responsabilité initiale de proposer les crédits à affecter aux services de soutien. De sorte que ce sont les services sectoriels, les départements et divisions techniques et économiques (chapitre 2) qui, à cet égard, déterminent le chapitre 5.

Ces divisions font des propositions, y compris les crédits qu'elles entendent affecter aux services d'interprétation et de traduction. Il est vrai qu'une certaine coordination est assurée, à deux niveaux. D'abord, il y a le stade de l'examen par le Comité des publications, qui est un comité interne de la direction générale présidé par le Directeur général adjoint. En fait, ce Comité a rejeté plusieurs fois des programmes de réunions ou des programmes de documentation en priant les départements responsables de les revoir dans le sens d'un meilleur équilibre linguistique. Cela s'est produit cette année au mois de juillet. Mais cette intervention a lieu à un moment où le Sommaire du programme de travail a déjà été présenté (le document CL 71/3 remonte au mois de mars) de sorte que les enveloppes de crédits affectés à la traduction sont déjà fixées dans leurs grandes lignes et il n'y a guère de latitude à ce stade pour effectuer des suppressions qui permettraient d'assurer le plein respect de la parité nécessaire entre les différentes langues de la maison.

C'est pour cette raison, entre autres, que le programme 5.1.4. prévoit un crédit non distribué de 546 000 dollars intitulé "réserve non programmée" pour rétablir l'équilibre linguistique dans la production écrite de l'Organisation lorsque cela est nécessaire.

Le deuxième stade d'examen est celui du Comité du programme. Ici, je me rappelle fort bien que le Président du Comité a présenté ces deux listes en observant, avec la grande expérience qui est la sienne depuis trente ans dans cette maison, que jusqu'à maintenant le Comité du programme n'avait jamais donné qu'un coup d'oeil superficiel à ces listes, dont on supposait qu'elles avaient été correctement dressées, et qu'elles étaient conformes à tous les critères constitutionnels et réglementaires de la maison. La question revêt une importance particulière au moment où la Commission III va examiner un amendement à l'article XLI du Règlement général de l'Organisation, qui dira simplement à l'avenir (c'est une proposition faite par le Conseil): "L'anglais, l'arabe, le chinois, l'espagnol et le français sont les langues de l'Organisation". Par conséquent, ce sont ces deux listes qui déterminent en pratique le régime linguistique de l'Organisation.

Quant aux activités financées par des fonds extra-budgétaires, elles sont le plus souvent concentrées dans un seul pays ou dans un petit groupe de pays voisins utilisant une même langue, ce qui permet de faire l'économie de la traduction. Or, il arrive que les Etats donateurs expriment des préférences quant aux pays qui seront assistés par l'intermédiaire de la FAO grâce aux programmes financés par ces Etats, de sorte que le choix de la langue dépend implicitement du choix des pays assistés eux-mêmes.

Lorsqu'il s'agit d'activités intéressant des pays utilisant plusieurs langues de la FAO, le Directeur général a récemment diffusé des instructions catégoriques à tous les chefs de départements, en priant les responsables "de veiller à ce que les langues de la FAO soient également respectées et utilisées selon les besoins". Ces instructions invitent les chefs de départements au respect de ce principe.

M. le Délégué de la France a proposé que ces listes soient réexaminées du point de vue de l'équilibre linguistique par le Comité du programme et peut-être aussi par le Comité financier et le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, qui feraient rapport au Conseil à sa 74<sup>ème</sup> session. Déjà en 1967 la Conférence, à sa 14<sup>ème</sup> session, a prié le Conseil de charger le Comité du programme de procéder à des examens périodiques de la politique et de la pratique de l'Organisation en matière linguistique. La proposition française rejoint donc une instruction donnée au Comité du programme il y a dix ans. S'il vous plaît, Monsieur le Président, d'inscrire cette instruction dans le rapport de la Conférence, je pense que le Comité du programme a en effet qualité pour examiner la question.

M. le Délégué des Etats-Unis a fait trois observations à propos de la liste des publications. Il s'est demandé s'il est vraiment utile de publier des documents intitulés "De la soie sans mûrier" (AGS 20) et "Transformation de la noix de cajou" (AGS 24). Le Délégué de la Jordanie a déjà répondu: ce sont-là deux produits d'exportation qui utilisent beaucoup de main-d'oeuvre, qui sont de coût unitaire élevé et qui sont la source d'importants revenus en devises étrangères,

M. le Délégué des Etats-Unis regrette la disparition du Rapport annuel sur les Niveaux de consommation des fibres par habitant. Il n'est pas le seul. Toutefois, lorsque nous avons cessé de publier cet annuaire, les regrets exprimés par certains industriels n'ont eu que très peu d'échos. Si la proposition française est suivie, la question sera réexaminée par le Comité du programme.

Il a également demandé si l'on ne pouvait pas amalgamer les documents ESS 17 et 18, qui portent sur les Enquêtes de consommation alimentaire. Le premier s'adresse aux gouvernements et définira les politiques générales de planification; le second, au contraire, est un manuel pratique destiné à l'enseignement et à la formation: les niveaux sont donc tout à fait différents.

Enfin, M. le Délégué des Etats-Unis s'est étonné du chiffre de 2 037 000 dollars qui figure à la Gestion des programmes, 5.9. Cette somme comprend deux parties fort inégales. D'une part il s'agit de 2 millions de dollars pour le Programme des monnaies et médailles, chiffre d'affaires estimé en 1978-79. Le programme se suffit à lui-même et fait même quelques bénéfices. Ce n'est donc pas, en réalité, un crédit de "Gestion des programmes". Quant aux 37 000 dollars restants, ils nous proviennent du PNUD et sont affectés à la rétribution d'une ou deux secrétaires des services administratifs.

M. le Délégué de l'Inde a demandé que nous examinions la possibilité de projeter l'image de la FAO au niveau national dans les langues nationales. M. le Ministre de l'Agriculture de la Jordanie a en partie répondu à cette question en faisant remarquer que la FAO ne peut s'adresser directement à plusieurs milliards de paysans, dont beaucoup, d'ailleurs, ne sont pas alphabétisés. Mais nous avons un certain nombre de solutions. Depuis plusieurs années, la Conférence nous a autorisés à attribuer des subventions symboliques pour la publication d'ouvrages de la FAO dans d'autres langues. Les Commissions nationales de la FAO seraient en mesure d'apporter leur collaboration pour tirer parti de cette faculté. De notre côté, nous pourrions faire davantage en ce sens pour répondre aux initiatives des commissions nationales.

Enfin, M. le Délégué de l'Inde a soulevé la douloureuse question des retards dans la diffusion des documents des organes directeurs de cette maison. Ces retards ont d'innombrables raisons. Certains se produisent à l'origine, lorsque les responsables ne peuvent achever leur manuscrit à temps pour des raisons qui ne dépendent pas toujours de leur volonté. Il y a ensuite une surcharge chronique à la Division des publications, dont les moyens ne sont pas illimités, des conflits de priorité, des imprévus. Une fois le travail achevé, il y a des retards de transmission soit par les services postaux, soit à l'intérieur des administrations nationales. De plus, certaines sessions se succèdent si rapidement qu'à peine une session terminée, il faut établir son rapport pour le présenter à l'organe principal. Ainsi le Conseil s'est terminé le 11 novembre et son rapport a paru le 15: il paraît difficile de faire plus vite. Je pense que votre Commission, M. le Président, souhaitera inviter le Secrétariat et les organes intéressés à redoubler d'efforts pour que des améliorations soient apportées dans toute la mesure du possible.

En terminant, je voudrais adresser mes remerciements à M. le Délégué du Liban qui a bien voulu exprimer une opinion favorable à propos du Programme AGRIS. Celui-ci sera d'ailleurs examiné en détail à une séance ultérieure.

P. SKOUFIS (Assistant Director General, Administration and Finance Department): I would like to respond on Mr. West's behalf to the request for information and clarification on the budget questions raised in connection with both Chapters 5 and 6 by the distinguished delegate from the United States of America. His first question, Mr. Chairman, referred to page 168, the Programme of Work and Budget document 77/3 under the Chapter on Administration Services. The question was why are all costs with regard to regional offices charged to the regular programme and not to extra-budgetary sources. The answer is that all of the costs under the regional offices are regular programme costs. The overhead costs and costs charged to WFP and other agencies are in Headquarters only the services under this chapter are provided by Headquarters staff and therefore there are no extra-budgetary costs attributed to the regional offices.

The distinguished delegate also raised questions on the relatively minor variances between figures in our Programme of Work and Budget document as against those that were presented in the World Food Programme budget. In the case of the amounts reflected in paragraph 5.2.3 on page 173, the variance is a relatively minor one, approximately \$34 000, and these derive from the fact that the figures in the Programme of Work and Budget are developed very early in the calendar year; some of them go back to late 1976 and are based on the 1976 and 1977 allotments which are made for the support provided to WFP, whereas the World Food Programme budget is developed much later in the year and will reflect necessarily different figures. Moreover, the WFP budget is presented in a different format and therefore different elements go into making up the figures that are contained in the WFP budget. These variances are dealt with throughout the following year based on work load data and statistics and are adjusted both upward and downward depending on the services rendered by the Organization to WFP. This came up again with regard to a subsequent point under Personnel Services where there was a slight variance of the figure.

Turning to page 180, Chapter 6 on Common Services, the question was asked why are extra-budgetary funds charged for about 35 percent of the total payments under item 6.1., entitled Premises, but only 25 percent of the next item Cleaning, Utilities etc. which reflect only a 25 percent cost. The first under the heading of Premises, there are included in addition to other costs certain expenditures for physical improvements to the offices and buildings occupied by FAO at Headquarters. Some of the

funds that are derived in the extra-budgetary sources come from special contribution from the host government and reflect under this heading certain one time costs, whereas under the item 6.2. Cleaning and Utilities, these estimates are based on pro rata share of the office space, cleaning costs and actual utility bills. Again these figures reflect estimates for the coming year and are adjusted, based on real and actual costs, and proper charges are made back to the appropriate source of funds.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, with regard to Chapter 5, Personnel Services on page 174, the distinguished delegate requested results to date on the Organization's special efforts to recruit and promote women during the past biennium. First I would like to say that these special efforts referred to in the Programme of Work and Budget include the special emphasis we have had in the relevant correspondence with Member Nations on the entire recruitment problem. We have made a special request for an appeal to each of the Member Governments for encouraging applications from women candidates for Headquarter's positions.

In addition, in our commercial advertising we have stressed and emphasized and tried to encourage an increase in applications for Headquarters positions from women candidates. We have also contacted quite a number of countries, women's groups and associations in order to improve our sources of recruitments. Results have been fairly helpful and fairly useful. In 1975 and 1976 the Members will recall there were no significant increases in professional staffing at Headquarters and in Regional Offices. However, in the same period as a result of our special efforts the ratio of female staff in FAO Headquarters and Regional Offices was increased by 4.2 percent. Actually the numbers went up and at the end of 1975 we had a total of 156 female employees in Headquarters and Regional Offices. At the end of June 1977 this number went up to 180, which constitutes about 13 percent of our total professional staff. Likewise in 1976 the promotion rate for women improved considerably. There was a total roughly of 100 promotions in 1976 of which 18 percent went to women, so this compared favourably with the ratio of women to the staff. This is a matter that is being paid close attention to by the Director-General. Understandably progress in this regard will be very slow in view of the fact that there are relatively no professional positions being requested in the next biennium. However, as you will recall, the Director-General solicited in his statement to the Plenary in the opening of the Conference earlier this week his appeal to the Member Nations to assist him in presenting more female candidates for posts in FAO, and we are hopeful that in the coming biennium despite the handicap of not having any new positions to recruit for, there will be an improvement in the ratio of women employees to male employees at Headquarters and Regional Offices.

G. ESCARDO PEINADOR (España): Un pequeño comentario quería hacer en relación con la intervención del señor Mandefield cuando ayer planteó este asunto lingüístico el delegado de Francia. Queríamos haber intervenido apoyándole pero precisamente en ese momento estaba acompañando al Subsecretario de mi Departamento en una visita al Director General. En esta visita le planteamos este problema y en efecto nos manifestó lo dicho por el señor Mandefield en relación con las instrucciones dadas al mantenimiento de un debido equilibrio en las lenguas. También es cierto que desde hace más de 10 años se ha venido planteando este mismo problema, pero como ni pese a los planteamientos realizados y como estas instrucciones del Director General no se cumplen, quisiéramos que esto figurase en el informe de la Comisión y que de nuevo, como lo ha pedido la delegación francesa, se vea en el Comité de Programas y en el Consejo.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States): I would just like to thank the Assistant Directors-General for the good, proper and quick responses which they have given to the questions we raised.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other comments? It seems as if there are none. In this case I think that after 113 interventions on the Programme of Work and Budget, the time has come for me to make an attempt to sum up our debate.

Before doing so, I would like to thank speakers for having adhered to my appeal to be brief and to the point.

The fact that we are running somewhat behind our schedule is due, I think, first of all to the fact that so many delegations have participated in the debate. Personally, I see this as very positive. After all, this is why we are here, and the Programme of Work and Budget is, I am sure we all agree, the most important item on our Agenda. I think it is also fair to say that we have had a very interesting and constructive debate which has been well structured and focused on the main issues.

The first round of discussions on the Director-General's Introduction and Explanatory Notes had, in a way, the character of a general debate highlighting the main issues. First, we discussed the format and presentation of the document. There was a consensus that the document was a great improvement over previous ones and very satisfactory. It presented clearly and concisely the Regular Programme proposals of the Director-General and gave a broad picture of the overall programme foreseen for 1978/79, including programmes funded from extra-budgetary resources.

Among the few critical remarks, I noted a proposal from at least one delegation that the Programme of Work and Budget should embrace all activities, including, for example, also the prevention of post-harvest losses, irrespective of funding. I presume this will be done when the programme is approved.

I also noted a wish for specifications by regions.

Secondly, we discussed the general orientation of the proposals. It was also generally agreed among us that the proposals are responsive to Resolution 16/75 of the 18th Session of the Conference which called for the Director-General to review the programme structures and policies of the Organization.

There was, as far as I could gather, unanimous support for the Director-General's new policies and priorities. The Director-General's proposals were found to be in accordance with the objectives of the new International Economic Order, and should be expected to make a substantial contribution to the achievements of these objectives in the field of food and agriculture.

It was noted that this proposal also recognized the increasing need to devote further efforts towards assisting the most seriously and the less developed countries.

A further reallocation of resources towards the financing of priority programmes was advocated by several delegates. There was also general support for decentralization to the regional and country level; especially strong was the support for the strengthening of the activities at the country level, at the expense of staff at Headquarters. Almost all delegations who spoke on this item supported the establishment of FAO Country Representatives. It was stressed by one delegate that FAO's Country Representatives need to be very competent and should therefore be highly experienced men.

Some doubt was voiced with regard to the total number of Country Representatives, and realism was called for in this respect. Others expressed the hope that the establishment of FAO Country Representatives would not have negative effects on coordination with UNDP through the UNDP Resident Representatives.

Support was also given to the strengthening of the Regional Offices, although some delegates hoped that this would not lead to overlapping with Headquarters. The role of Regional Offices should therefore be clearly defined in order to avoid misunderstandings.

Many delegates from European countries spoke in favour of the continuation of FAO sectors in the European region which, they pointed out, was of great benefit not only to European countries but also to the developing countries. Most delegations supported the reduction of meetings and publications, although one delegate drew attention to the importance of publications for the dissemination of information among Member Countries.

One delegate had reservations with regard to the imbalance in the working languages for meetings. Also, one delegation stressed the importance of equal opportunities for nationals from all Member Countries to occupy posts at Headquarters. Some delegations spoke in favour of a reduction of staff travel.

I now come to the more specific points that were made during the debate in the general round. First, the Technical Cooperation Programme. There was, as far as I could see, wide support for TCP, especially from the developing countries. There was general agreement that TCP projects should be small, urgent and gap filling. One delegation noted with approval that this programme was consolidated rather than expanded.

Some delegations underlined the desirability of coordination with UNDP, while others disagreed with this. Those who advocated this looked forward to receiving the report in due course.

Then we discussed briefly also post-harvest losses. There was wide support for the need to give priority to this field, and most delegations who spoke on this subject were also in favour of setting up a special fund for this purpose. The majority of these agains also agreed to the proposed financing by transfer from the Suspense Account.

Some delegations, however, stressed the need for such a fund to be financed by voluntary contributions, whereas other delegations thought that these activities should be financed under the Regular Budget.

Many delegates also spoke on the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, although we shall discuss this later today. There was broad recognition of the importance of this Conference. One delegation pointed out that the Conference should not only be confined to technical aspects. Most delegations agreed with the budget allocation for this purpose, although one delegation stressed that excess expenditure should be avoided.

Attention was drawn to the fact that FAO has been identified as a lead Agency by ACC in the field of rural development. High priority should be given to this sector, especially to training in rural development. Several delegations stressed the need for FAO to focus on the rural poor, and one delegation thought that this should be an additional new dimension in FAO's future work.

Another delegation stressed the need for a real impact on the hungry and the under-nourished. The importance of keeping in mind the vital role of rural women was also stressed by several delegations.

Another topic that was widely discussed was nutrition. A large number of delegations stressed the need for FAO to give high priority to nutrition. Some delegations noted with concern the relative decrease in the budget appropriations for the nutrition programme. One delegation underlined the need for FAO to give attention to the training of medium-level staff, and another delegation stressed the need for giving developing countries the capability to plan in this sector.

There were also some comments on the "Agriculture: Towards 2000" study. Wide support was expressed for this study and the need for sufficient personnel for it. One delegation hoped that this study would also include long-term forecasts of the trend in social development relating to agriculture.

Then, there was a preliminary discussion on the budget level. Almost all delegations commented on this in their general interventions. There was, of course, a variety of views. However, most delegations supported the proposed new budget level of \$211,350,000, whereas some delegations reserved their positions pending the outcome of the informal consultations going on in a small group under the chairmanship of the Director-General. Some delegations pointed out that they had no difficulty with accepting the budget level as such, but regretted the rather late change in the budget proposals, mainly due to the adjustment of the exchange rate for the Lira. Some other delegations questioned the appropriateness of this suggestion.

Some delegations also pointed out that the rate of increase in FAO's budget was higher than in the budget of other UN Agencies, whereas other delegations regarded the budget level of \$211,350,000 as a minimum response for FAO's contribution to agricultural development.

Among other important issues touched upon, I should perhaps mention the wish expressed by several delegations that FAO should contribute to the technical cooperation among developing countries, where FAO could have a catalytic role to play. Likewise, at least one delegation, referring to the negotiations under way in UNCTAD on commodities, pointed out that FAO had a complementary role to play in this regard.

During the second round of our discussions on Chapters 1 and 2, delegations touched on all the major programmes, and I think it would take too long to comment on all the points mentioned.

In the third round of our discussions, the debate focused mostly on TCP which I have already commented upon, and on investment. Most delegations who spoke on investment thought it was a major objective for FAO to obtain more funds for investment, and they supported the strengthening of the Investment Centre.

However, some delegations thought that FAO should not prepare projects unless it was reasonably sure that the financing was secured for these projects. One delegate thought there should be a review of FAO's activities in this field, in view of the establishment of IFAD.

During our discussions, a resolution on the activities in the European region was introduced. A number of countries spoke in favour of this resolution, no one spoke against it. I think we can regard this Draft Resolution as adopted, and this would be included in our report.

Finally, on the budget resolution, as the Draft Resolution on the budget has not yet come through from the Resolutions Committee, we shall have to come back to this at a later stage.

I have attempted, in this summary of the discussions, to touch only on the highlights of our debates. I think we can depend on the Secretariat and the Drafting Committee, which I hope we shall be able to announce this afternoon, to produce a well-balanced report for adoption by this Commission and by the Plenary which will reflect accurately the discussions we have had and the decision we are taking.

16. Review of Arrangements for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development  
16. Examen de l'organisation de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural  
16. Examen de los preparativos para la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Assistant Secretary, Commission II): There is a small corrigendum to document C 77/LIM/10-Rev.1, called Report of Informal Meeting of International Non-Governmental Organizations. In paragraph 8, in the third sentence beginning "However, inclusion...", we would be grateful if delegates would strike out the following words "inclusion in the agenda of the question of", in the fourth and fifth lines of the English version. The sentence would then read: "However, the participation of rural workers' organizations in the World Conference would be recommended."

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General - Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): El Director General, que me ha honrado designándome como su representante para preparar la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, me ha encargado que presente el tema que usted acaba de poner en discusión.

Antes de exponer los arreglos que se han efectuado o se han previsto para la Conferencia, creo necesario referirme a la forma y al sentido con que el Director General está abordando esta Conferencia como resultado de las opiniones de los gobiernos vertidas en el Consejo, de las conclusiones de la reunión del Comité Asesor de personalidades creado en virtud de una decisión del mismo Consejo, y que se reunió en Octubre, de una serie de hechos y situaciones que, dentro y fuera del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, se han producido en los últimos tiempos. La mayoría de las intervenciones de los Ministros que han participado hasta ahora en el debate general nos confirman, junto con su apoyo a la Conferencia, en la validez de ese enfoque, pero naturalmente será la opinión oficial de la Conferencia, al término de este período de sesiones, la que orientará la organización y los trabajos de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Esta Conferencia fue concebida en un comienzo con una proyección más limitada que la que se deduce de los hechos que acabo de mencionar. Pero lo que he expresado y que desarrollaré enseguida, torna evidente que hoy día existe una especie de consenso en el sentido de que esa Conferencia ha adquirido una nueva dimensión más amplia, más profunda y que corresponde al lugar importante que debe ocupar en la lucha por construir un nuevo orden o un nuevo sistema, como alguien lo llamó, económico-social internacional.

En los últimos años la persistencia de la condición de extrema pobreza que se da en las áreas rurales de la mayoría de los países en desarrollo ha creado una preocupación universal. Algunos hechos dramáticos como los de la región Saheliana han despertado conciencias hasta ahora dormidas, indiferentes. Cifras y situaciones como las que han citado al inicio de la presente Conferencia el Presidente Hadjiwajawa, nuestro Director General y el Embajador Young, y el representante de la OUA ayer, son de aquellas que constituyen una vergüenza para un mundo que ha hecho progresos enormes en la ciencia y en la tecnología y que ha permitido a algunos países consumir muy por encima de un bienestar cómodo. Además se ha acelerado un proceso de rápida maduración en el pensamiento de centros intelectuales y científicos que se ocupan de los problemas del desarrollo y de la grave crisis socio-económica que con creciente profundidad afecta hoy al mundo entero. Este proceso ha sacado a luz un hecho fundamental que felizmente ya está penetrando a los gobiernos: el atraso de las zonas rurales en los países en desarrollo, el deterioro físico de la tierra, el aire y el agua de las mismas, y el deterioro del medio ambiente humano, es decir, las dramáticas condiciones de vida de las poblaciones rurales y el agudo desempleo o subempleo, constituye en más de los dos tercios de los países de la tierra el cuello de botella más estrecho de un auténtico desarrollo. La falta de dinamismo de la economía de este sector y el hecho de que los habitantes de las áreas rurales estén marginados de participar activa y conscientemente en la vida política, económica y social de sus naciones está en el origen de una serie de graves problemas que afectan el país todo y por cierto también a las zonas urbanas. En las migraciones masivas del campo a la ciudad los campesinos llevan consigo su miseria y lejos de remediarla a veces la ven agravada. Crean serios problemas de empleo y de contaminación, de aglomeración y de otros géneros de deterioro ambiental en las áreas urbanas.

En los últimos cinco años se han realizado grandes conferencias mundiales en el campo social, o en campos ligados al campo social: sobre, para citar algunas, la Población, el Medio Ambiente, el Empleo, la Alimentación, el Desarrollo Industrial, las Materias Primas, el Habitat y la Desertificación, en países en desarrollo, en Dakar. Todas ellas han ido demostrando una total interdependencia de los problemas

tratados en cada una de ellas y es posible afirmar que ellos forman una línea sin solución de continuidad que comienza en las áreas rurales del mundo en desarrollo y sólo puede solucionarse mediante políticas de descentralización nacional que modernice las zonas rurales mediante la industrialización de ellas, la educación académica y técnica, la significación de la población campesina y haciéndola participar activamente en la vida nacional.

En esta vasta acción de la familia de las Naciones Unidas a través de conferencias que han costado cientos de millones de dólares y que han reunido a las figuras más destacadas en cada una de estas especialidades, falta precisamente -y esto aparece como paradoja- analizar a fondo el problema básico: el de las causas, el de la magnitud y la posible evolución, que puede ser aun más retrógrada, del atraso rural, si no se aborda con decisión una política de cambios profundos. Estudiar, también, cuáles son las medidas que puedan ser adoptadas para corregir tal situación e incorporar a los millones de habitantes de estas áreas hoy marginados a la plena participación en la vida y en las decisiones nacionales. Este grado de desarrollo rural sólo puede llevarse a cabo por el esfuerzo total de cada nación, que debe introducir las reformas en las instituciones y en las políticas agrarias que correspondan a su realidad nacional y a los valores propios de su cultura, y todo dentro de una política nacional de verdadero desarrollo económico social de todos los sectores. Lo anterior debe ser complementado por una acción cooperativa concertada de la comunidad mundial, que estimule el desarrollo integrado y las reformas necesarias para lograrlo. El intercambio de experiencias -de aquellas exitosas y de aquellas que no lo han sido- dará a los países en desarrollo una oportunidad única para apreciar cuándo se dan o cuándo no se dan las condiciones para que una experiencia de otra nación pueda ser aplicada localmente. Porque las discusiones de la Conferencia y la rica documentación que deben producir los mismos gobiernos, la propia FAO, las organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y las organizaciones no gubernamentales, mostrarán soluciones alternativas, aprovechables o no, según sean las realidades socio-económicas, ecológicas e históricas de cada país y según sea también la voluntad política de los gobiernos y de su grado de perfección de las realidades de sus propios países, de la dirección en que marcha la historia y de su permeabilidad al progreso de las ciencias sociales y de las técnicas modernas.

No es extraño, entonces, que veamos que en los diversos organismos de las Naciones Unidas, en las instituciones de investigación y promoción del nuevo orden económico internacional se esté trabajando activamente en impulsar la idea del desarrollo rural integrado.

El Director General, a su vez, en su discurso del 15 del presente mes nos recordó que el Banco Mundial estaba concentrando la mayor parte de sus operaciones en la solución del problema del desarrollo rural y en particular para elevar de manera concreta y práctica la productividad de los pobres en las zonas rurales y que dicho Banco viene esforzándose en elevar de dos a tres veces los ingresos de cien millones de los más pobres en el período que termina en 1978.

Por su parte, el Comité Asesor de Personalidades al cual ya me referí recomendó enfáticamente que la Conferencia debe de hacer un esfuerzo para evitar darle a la materia un tratamiento académico o teórico y orientar su trabajo hacia los aspectos políticos en materia social y económica.

En resumen, para nosotros la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, mediante el análisis de la forma cómo ha evolucionado el medio rural en los distintos países y el intercambio de las experiencias mundiales, está llamada a complementar las conferencias sociales que he nombrado; a llenar el vacío que existe hoy en los esfuerzos de la familia de Naciones Unidas para resolver los grandes problemas sociales que afligen al mundo, problemas que lamentablemente han ocupado hasta ahora un lugar secundario en las discusiones y negociaciones sobre un nuevo orden económico internacional.

En segundo lugar, su misión será ayudar a preparar el terreno para que las inversiones, tan necesarias en las zonas rurales y que tanto están preocupando a la Conferencia -lo hemos escuchado en la Sesión Plenaria y lo escuché ayer en esta misma sala-, puedan ser dirigidas a la solución de los más graves y auténticos problemas y produzcan los resultados que deben ser logrados: en primer lugar, el de mejorar la calidad de la vida.

La Conferencia no puede pretender en sí misma una transformación de las condiciones agrarias. Pero sí puede y debe -si es bien preparada- constituir un paso importante en el proceso que busca esos resultados, porque éste es un proceso largo y difícil. La Conferencia debe desempeñar un papel educador de las opiniones nacionales, divididas por ideologías e intereses, pero que, en mi opinión, a la larga se inclinarán ante la fuerza de la razón. Deberá también con ese objeto movilizar todas las fuerzas intelectuales y de trabajo que se interesan por estos problemas. Ello ayudará enormemente a los gobiernos a resolver con justicia un problema vital de su desarrollo económico-social y de su paz social interna.

Finalmente, la Conferencia -como lo ha decidido el Director General- contribuirá a que la FAO asuma plenamente el papel principal que le corresponde y que está inscrito entre sus tareas fundamentales de su propia constitución, el de trabajar activamente para -y cito- "mejorar las condiciones de la población rural" con el objetivo de "fomentar el bienestar general" y "contribuir de este modo a la expansión de la economía mundial".



El documento C 77/26 de la Conferencia describe la marcha de los preparativos de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Quisiera ahora complementar dicho documento, habida cuenta de las novedades más recientes.

De conformidad con los nuevos criterios, el Director General ha adoptado disposiciones especiales en la Sede para la organización efectiva de la Conferencia. Como informo él mismo en la Plenaria en su discurso programático, el Director General ha establecido, para ayudarme en mi labor de Representante Especial, una pequeña secretaría independiente, a cargo de un coordinador, el Señor Nehemiah, bastante conocido en la Organización. El Director General ha establecido también un Comité Interdepartamental bajo la presidencia del Profesor Nurul Islam, en su calidad de Subdirector General y Jefe del Departamento de Política Económica y Social, y se va a conferir a este Comité la principal responsabilidad en lo relativo a la movilización de todas las aportaciones sustanciales de la FAO a la Conferencia porque el Director General quiere envolver a toda la institución en la preparación de esta Conferencia.

Una conferencia de este tipo debe recurrir en grado considerable a los gobiernos miembros para los preparativos y para la determinación de las cuestiones fundamentales que se debatirán en ella.

Me satisface decir que la respuesta de los gobiernos miembros a la invitación del Director General para que participen en esta Conferencia Mundial y preparen informes por países, que constituirán una importante contribución a la documentación de la conferencia, es muy alentadora. Más de 50 gobiernos han respondido positivamente y han designado puntos de contacto con los que la Secretaría de la Conferencia podrá colaborar.

Quiero dirigir un llamamiento muy especial a todos los Estados Miembros para que aporten una contribución eficaz a este respecto. Además se están tomando las disposiciones necesarias para enviar todos los documentos pertinentes a los gobiernos miembros que acaban de ingresar en la FAO a fin de que puedan participar plenamente en dicha Conferencia Mundial.

La FAO, por su parte, ha adoptado las medidas necesarias para prestar asistencia a los Estados Miembros que puedan requerirla en la preparación de los informes por países. Hay algunos que ya han pedido esta asistencia. La Organización ha nombrado a dos o tres especialistas para cada región con el encargo de que visiten a los Estados Miembros y les presten la asistencia que puedan requerir. Asimismo, se ha designado a una o dos instituciones regionales para que ayuden a algunos gobiernos miembros. Por otra parte, tengo el propósito de reunirme durante este período de sesiones de la Conferencia y también después con los representantes de los gobiernos de las diversas regiones, para consultarles acerca de su participación efectiva en la Conferencia y en sus preparativos.

El Consejo de la FAO decidió que en los preparativos de la Conferencia deberían considerarse en especial los factores regionales y subregionales que puedan tenerse en cuenta en las aportaciones sustantivas a la Conferencia, y que esos factores se examinarían en las conferencias regionales de la FAO que se celebrarán en 1978. Los preparativos de dichas conferencias en las diferentes regiones están siendo coordinados por las Oficinas Regionales de la FAO, en estrecha colaboración con las Comisiones Económicas Regionales y con las Oficinas locales de otras organizaciones internacionales interesadas. Me propongo asistir a esas conferencias y extender mi visita a otros países en busca de sugerencias orientadoras y proporcionar informaciones complementarias.

En el documento C 77/26, presentado a la Comisión, se da una indicación de la cooperación de otros miembros del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en los preparativos de la Conferencia, en cumplimiento de una resolución aprobada por el Consejo Económico y Social. En febrero y octubre de 1977 se celebraron dos reuniones interorganismos para garantizar la coordinación entre éstos, reuniones que fueron muy exitosas porque demostraron un interés muy positivo de esta Organización. Las Naciones Unidas, el PNUD, la OIT, la Unesco, la OMS, el Banco Mundial, el PMA, la ONUDI, la UNICEF y el Consejo Mundial de Alimentación han participado en una de estas reuniones, o en ambas. Nosotros nos mantenemos en contacto con las restantes organizaciones competentes, como el PNUMA y la UNCTAD, para que se unan a la empresa común, a fin de hacer de la Conferencia una actividad concertada del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Yo doy mucha importancia a las participaciones de estas dos organizaciones que se ocupan del medio ambiente y la que se ocupa del comercio de desarrollo porque sus responsabilidades están muy ligadas al desarrollo rural.

En una de las reuniones interorganismos se examinó el problema de las invitaciones para asistir a la Conferencia Mundial, dirigidas a los Gobiernos que no son miembros de la FAO, pero sí lo son de otros organismos de las Naciones Unidas. En cumplimiento de la recomendación formulada en dicha reunión, el Director General desea solicitar la aprobación de esta Conferencia para el envío de invitaciones a los Estados que no son miembros de la FAO pero que sí lo son de las Naciones Unidas, los organismos especializados o la Organización Internacional de Energía Atómica. La Conferencia Mundial sobre la Reforma Agraria, celebrada en 1966, contó también con una participación amplia, y no cabe duda de que una participación de este tipo, una participación universal, es esencial para el éxito de la Conferencia de 1979.

Se considera que la participación de las Organizaciones no gubernamentales es un importante factor para el éxito de la Conferencia, ya que su tema está estrechamente relacionado con la participación de los pueblos en el proceso de desarrollo. Se hará todo lo posible por garantizar la participación de esas organizaciones y asociaciones dedicadas a actividades de desarrollo rural entre ellas las organizaciones campesinas. El 15 de noviembre sostuve discusiones con un Comité compuesto por Representantes de Organizaciones no gubernamentales. El informe de esa reunión está en el Doc. C 77/LIM/10 y está a la disposición de esta Comisión, aunque les anuncio que saldrá una pequeña corrección del documento tal vez el día de hoy o el lunes. De modo análogo, se propone recabar la ayuda de las instituciones o centros de investigación que se ocupan de la identificación de los elementos de un nuevo orden económico internacional en los países del Tercer Mundo y en las naciones industrializadas.

El Comité Asesor de alto nivel recomendó insistentemente que se elevara el nivel de la Conferencia, y que se procurara obtener una participación gubernamental de la máxima categoría posible. Esperamos que los Gobiernos compartan este criterio y obren en consecuencia.

El Director General, tras considerar los factores presupuestarios y de otro tipo, recomienda que se prolongue la Conferencia de seis días hábiles, como se preveía inicialmente, a ocho días hábiles completos. Recomendamos también que la Conferencia dé comienzo el jueves 12 de julio de 1979, y celebre sesiones durante tres días hábiles completos de la primera semana y cinco días hábiles de la segunda semana.

En las propuestas provisionales expuestas en el 70º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, se preveía una Comisión Preparatoria compuesta de un pequeño grupo de representantes de los Gobiernos, organizaciones no gubernamentales y organismos cooperadores.

Ahora el Director General considera que para la Conferencia Mundial prevista, -de más amplio alcance y dimensiones- es necesaria una Comisión Preparatoria que represente a todos los Gobiernos participantes como ha sucedido en las conferencias mundiales de naturaleza similar celebradas recientemente. Si esto se acepta, podrán participar en los trabajos de la Comisión Preparatoria todos los Gobiernos invitados a la Conferencia, incluidos los representantes de los Gobiernos que no son miembros de la FAO, de manera que la Comisión pueda adoptar algunas decisiones definitivas en nombre de la Conferencia Mundial en asuntos de organización, temario, documentación y otros que no sean esencialmente sustantivos. El Director General, en consecuencia, recomienda la aprobación de esta propuesta a la Comisión.

En el 70º período de sesiones, el Consejo de la FAO sugirió que la Comisión Preparatoria podría reunirse nueve meses antes de la celebración de la Conferencia. Esto significa que la Comisión Preparatoria debería reunirse en noviembre de 1978. Suponiendo un mínimo de cuatro meses para la preparación, traducción, impresión y distribución de los documentos de la Conferencia, todos estos documentos deberían estar en condiciones de ser redactados en cinco o seis idiomas, el 1 de junio de 1978. Como los documentos de la Conferencia tienen que basarse en la información esencial obtenida de los Gobiernos miembros en los informes por países, es de pensar que la documentación de la Conferencia no podrá estar completada el 1 de junio de 1978. Las aportaciones regionales que según la decisión del Consejo de la FAO deben proporcionarse por conducto de las conferencias regionales de la FAO tampoco estarán disponibles antes de septiembre de 1978, porque estas reuniones están programadas para el período de junio a septiembre de dicho año. Además, tampoco se considera conveniente dejar un largo período intermedio como sería el intervalo de noviembre de 1978 a julio de 1979, en que tiene que celebrarse la Conferencia. Por consiguiente, el Director General recomienda que la Comisión Preparatoria se reúna en marzo de 1979 y examine todos los dispositivos para la Conferencia. Para finalizar, quisiera añadir que la Conferencia debería, si acepta estas propuestas, adoptar decisiones sobre las siguientes cuestiones: y que después de leerlas voy a entregárselas al señor Presidente.

- i) La celebración de la Conferencia sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en Roma, durante ocho días hábiles completos a partir del 12 de julio de 1979, con una representación gubernamental de alto nivel.
- ii) La autorización para enviar invitaciones a los Estados que no son miembros de la FAO, pero sí de las Naciones Unidas, de otros organismos especializados o de la Organización Internacional de Energía Atómica.
- iii) La designación de una Comisión Preparatoria de la que puedan ser miembros todos los gobiernos participantes, los organismos cooperadores y otros órganos interesados en calidad de observadores.
- iv) La celebración de la reunión de la Comisión Preparatoria en marzo de 1979, para aprobar todas las disposiciones relativas a la preparación, documentación y otras cuestiones pertinentes.

CHAIRMAN: In your intervention, apart from commenting on the documentation listed in the daily Order of the Day, I think you might also perhaps comment on the introduction given by Mr. Santa Cruz -especially perhaps on the proposals which he presented just now.

E. RICO MEJIA(Colombia): La delegación de Colombia presenta un cordial saludo a las delegaciones de los otros países aquí acreditadas, el cual hago extensivo al señor Presidente y demás integrantes de la Mesa Directiva. La delegación de Colombia en primer lugar reitera su apoyo a la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural a celebrarse en 1979. Nos complace sobremanera que se haya escogido al doctor Hernán Santa Cruz para dirigir los preparativos de esta Conferencia. Todos conocemos al doctor Santa Cruz, destacado latinoamericano que ha ocupado posiciones muy importantes en la FAO. El Gobierno colombiano está seguro de que él prestará toda su experiencia y su colaboración a los preparativos de esta importante y trascendental conferencia. Asimismo, consideramos como un gran acierto la constitución del Comité de Especialistas que la Organización ha previsto y en el cual Latinoamérica tiene en sus delegaciones hermanas de Cuba, Peru y Venezuela, un gran apoyo. Creemos que las previsiones del Director General en asuntos presupuestarios para la Conferencia están bien concebidas y se da la oportunidad de decir - ya que es la primera vez que intervengo en estas reuniones de la Comisión -que el presupuesto global de la Organización también merece nuestro apoyo porque refleja el cuidado y el interés con que se preparan estos documentos de la FAO.

Quisiera hacer unas breves reflexiones de tipo general sobre la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. En primer lugar consideramos nosotros que tal vez sea más importante destacar el aspecto del desarrollo rural que el de la Reforma Agraria. Entendemos nosotros que la Reforma Agraria se aplica en el campo a los elementos más que todo de orden físico; en cambio, o en tanto que el desarrollo rural hace referencia al hombre del campo, por eso muy comedidamente sugerimos que se inviertan los términos para el título de la Conferencia y se le dé al hombre campesino reflejado en el desarrollo rural una mayor significación. Estimamos nosotros también, que como lo dijo el doctor Santa Cruz, el desarrollo rural debe ser integrado para que cumpla los objetivos previstos. No queremos confundir los términos "desarrollo rural", "reforma agraria", "tenencia de tierra", etc. La reforma agraria entendida más que todo como una transformación de las estructuras del campo especialmente las estructuras físicas y económicas, debe contemplar fundamentalmente los aspectos de tenencia de tierra, los aspectos de crédito, de asistencia técnica, de suministro de insumos, semillas, fertilizantes, plaguicidas, maquinaria y equipo; lo relacionado con el mercadeo, precios, almacenamientos, importación, exportación de productos. Muchas veces una reforma agraria si no tuviere en cuenta todos estos factores podría ser más bien un factor de disturbio que de mejoramiento de las condiciones campesinas. Verbigracia un aumento de producción que no esté acompasado con las previsiones en el almacenamiento o en la exportación se podría traducir en una rebaja de los precios agrícolas y en una mayor ruina para el campesino. Ejemplos tenemos muchos y en gracia de la brevedad no voy a detenerme en ellos. Asimismo, diría que si no se hace integralmente una reforma agraria y con más veracidad un desarrollo rural podría suceder el que tratemos de transplantar o trasladar un agricultor que no un campesino, necesariamente, de un medio de cultivo en donde les está faltando tierra, o crédito, o semillas o mercadeo de un clima frío - verbigracia un cultivador de trigo, de cebada o de papa - a un clima medio, a una explotación agroindustrial o a una explotación piscícola o todavía más extremo el ejemplo, a un clima cálido, a una explotación avícola. Encontraríamos que en un caso de éstos, en vez de resolver un problema habríamos creado quizá uno mayor. Por eso vuelvo a recurrir al concepto de integrar no sólo en los aspectos físicos y económicos sino en los aspectos humanos. El medio rural, especialmente el campesino, es una materia muy delicada, muy frágil, y requiere que se la maneje en la misma forma por gente que conozca esa materia, por gente que la sepa manejar.

Entrando al terreno del desarrollo rural, los métodos, procedimientos, los objetivos a buscar deben consultar todos estos factores de que hemos hablado. Son muy diferentes, tienen que ser muy distintos los métodos y procedimientos que empleemos en un país y los que empleemos en otro. Los que son buenos en Colombia, pueden ser malos en otros países y vice-versa, como también los procedimientos que fallen en nuestro país no necesariamente tienen por qué fallar en otros países. Necesariamente será preciso tener en cuenta las condiciones, la idiosincracia, las costumbres y los usos de los diferentes medios campesinos y de los diferentes medios rurales para que en fin de cuentas podamos llevar al campo especialmente al campesino- que muchas veces no es agricultor, que muchas veces está en el campo por un accidente, buscando un empleo, buscando una tierra para cultivar, buscando una explotación que se acomode a su situación (en mi país, la explotación de flores se hace con obreros de la ciudad no con obreros del campo) a veces, las explotaciones de la ciudad se hacen con obreros campesinos y a veces los campesinos manejan sus propias empresas o son empleados de empresas de otros campesinos o de otros empresarios. Todos estos factores, todas estas consideraciones nos dicen cuál es la necesidad que tenemos de una adecuada orientación en nuestros procesos de transformación del medio rural, poniendo, como dije, en primer lugar al hombre del campo ya sea agricultor, ya sea campesino y en segundo término los elementos físicos del medio rural para que se pueda lograr el objetivo que buscamos cual es el del desarrollo de ese medio rural.

Terminaré diciendo que nuestros campesinos constituyen el mejor elemento de nuestros propios países, especialmente de aquellos que como el mío se pueden llamar países agrícolas, países dedicados a la explotación de la agricultura con posibilidades de constituirse en despensas o en abastecedores de otros países, pero cuyos campesinos nos piden en forma reiterada que manejemos los asuntos que les atañen con el mayor cuidado, con el mayor esmero, con el mayor cariño, porque muchas veces ellos son víctimas de las decisiones que toma el hombre de la ciudad sin conocer a fondo los problemas del campesino en el respeto de sus intereses, de su ideología, de su idiosincracia, de su familia. Esto para nosotros constituye la piedra angular de un proyecto de desarrollo rural y de reforma agraria, reiterando, para finalizar, que consideramos muy importante, aunque sea un aspecto meramente de forma: el de anteponer el desarrollo rural al de la reforma agraria.

A. RAMBOUX (Belgique): C'est avec intérêt que mon pays a appris la décision de la FAO de préparer, avec d'autres institutions des Nations Unies, la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. L'introduction faite par le représentant spécial du Directeur général rencontre notre adhésion. Je voudrais cependant, Monsieur le Président, mettre en évidence de façon très brève la conception de mon pays au sujet de ce problème.

Dans beaucoup de pays, beaucoup de projets agricoles sont en cours, beaucoup sont à l'étude à l'instigation des pays, d'organisations telles que la FAO de coopérations bilatérales. De son côté, le Groupe consultatif de la recherche agricole multiplie ses efforts dans les centres de recherche en vue d'améliorer le matériel végétal. Malheureusement, pour la réussite de ces projets, il manque souvent une structure d'accueil, contact dans lequel ces initiatives peuvent s'épanouir.

Le transfert de techniques doit trouver ses voies dans les pays bénéficiaires. La Conférence vient donc à son heure et je souhaite que tous nous aurons à cœur de préparer avec soin cette réunion. J'espère qu'il en résultera des approches, des échanges, et pour tous une réelle "consciencisation" suivie d'une détermination à résoudre graduellement le problème.

Comme le suggèrent le Directeur général et son représentant spécial, la préparation des rapports nationaux doit être, si nécessaire, aidée par des experts et peut-être par la FAO.

Il me semble que réforme agraire et investissement rural sont le fondement indispensable pour le développement de la production alimentaire et pour l'accès des masses paysannes à leur propre développement.

Pour toutes ces raisons, la Belgique adresse à la FAO ses plus sincères vœux de succès en vue de la réussite de cette Conférence difficile. Elle s'associera à sa préparation et à ses travaux dans la mesure de ces moyens.

M.L. SCHUWEILER (United States of America): The United States shares the concern of many members of FAO that while there has been growing attention given to the problems of agricultural production there has not been adequate attention given to the fact that agrarian reforms for rural development are urgently needed in many, if not most, developing countries to satisfy the food and other basic needs of the poor majority of their people. The United States hopes therefore that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will make a significant contribution to the adoption and effective pursuit of agrarian reforms in the context of the broader equity oriented development strategies by FAO and other parts of the United Nations system as well as Member Governments.

Originally sceptical, the United States now stands willing to attach high importance to the Conference, and therefore like some other governments it has sought to keep fully informed on the Secretariat's plans and preparation for the Conference. Until recently, however, based on the limited information available the United States had grown increasingly concerned that the Secretariat might not only lack a satisfactory definition of Conference objectives and a suitable Conference preparatory strategy but that the Secretariat was also giving the Conference insufficient priority in terms of organizational leadership, staffing and so forth.

With the recent appointments of Messrs. Hernan Santa Cruz, J.V. Nehemiah and Nural Islam, all very distinguished international personalities, there is reason to believe now that past deficiencies may soon be corrected, and preparations for the Conference may now proceed with suitable speed and precision. Our delegation wishes to be among the first to pledge support to their efforts and to the efforts of others in FAO and other parts of the United Nations system involved in preparations for the Conference.

In this connexion, Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to announce that the United States Agency for International Development stands ready to consider requests for assistance in preparations for the Conference, especially requests which originate at the country level.

Now with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to comment briefly and to make a few suggestions on the Conference objectives and on the formulation of a preparatory strategy for their achievement. We believe that the Conference objectives should be action-oriented. By that we mean that its first priority objectives should be to help FAO and other parts of the UN system including Member Governments, better define what should be their priorities, policies, programmes of work and budgets with regard to agrarian reforms and rural development. Given this objective, the preparations and participation of the Member Governments in the Conference may lead to a consensus agreement, for example that FAO should raise to a top-priority level the design and implementation of policies and programmes to help bring about agrarian reforms which are so urgently needed in many if not most developing countries.

The United States believes that another high priority objective of the Conference should be to help bring into better focus where agrarian reforms may offer greatest potential for increasing agricultural productivity and for meeting the food and other basic needs of the poor majority of people in this world today based on a consideration of numbers of people in different parts of the world whose basic needs are not now being satisfied; projected numbers of such people for the future, their location and food supply requirements and other criteria to be developed and agreed upon before and at the Conference.

Still other primary objectives of the Conference, we would suggest, might be to help clarify and shape consensus agreements on such matters as the following: - (a) the comparative advantages of alternative institutional and related reforms which might be pursued in the proper context of broader development strategies which focus on the food and other basic needs of the poor majorities in developing countries. (b) the Conference might help clarify and establish a consensus on the primary constraints to effecting land and other reforms where essential; For example with regard to the rights of women to hold or inherit property, to conduct business, to arrange for credit, and as in some countries to the right of women to be considered under the law as independent human beings, and the Conference should help clarify and shape a consensus based on a consideration of past success and failures, and what informational, policymaking, organizational, analytical, planning and other technical capacities are needed within the developing countries for planning and implementing agrarian reforms; and (c) the Conference could also help clarify and shape the consensus on the ways in which the necessary capacities, where lacking, can be created through national or international action.

With reference to the last of these objectives for example, the Conference might conclude that FAO and other parts of the UN system should give top priority to the employment of their regular budget and extra-budgetary resources to those countries whose need for agrarian reform is not only urgent, but also whose governments would take or have already taken, the necessary measures to effectively carry them out; that is carry out the agrarian reforms if given assurance that sufficient levels of development assistance would be forthcoming to help ensure their success.

In this connexion, we are pleased to have recently learned from members of the Secretariat that the outline provided for the preparation of country review papers, requested by the Director-General in his letter to Member Governments last July, is now being re-examined. Pending completion of that examination, it is proposed that the date for completion of country review papers be postponed.

In our view, country review papers will be most successful, and the investment of time and other resources necessary for their preparation will be most fully justified, if they are designed to focus on key issues of direct relevance to the objectives of the Conference.

Among the key issues, in fact some think the key issue, which most countries should probably address in their country review papers, is what institutional changes are needed for rural development to go forward in ways which will enable the country to meet food and other basic needs of the poor majority of the people.

Drawing upon the country review papers and special studies which the Secretariat has commissioned, or intends to commission, the Conference then could help bring into better focus through in-depth examination such issues as the following: (1) which, among alternative land tenure production structures-for example, variants of group farming -best fit typical variant country situations; (2) what kinds of policy changes and organization are necessary to carry out particular types of institutional change; (3) what types of decentralized and participatory approaches to rural development planning and implementation are feasible; (4) in what ways does the distribution of property rights interact with technical change to determine the distribution of benefits in most country situations, and how might institutional changes ameliorate adverse distributional effects and (5) in what ways might changes in input delivery and product marketing institutions enhance rural development.

I could go on, but these are perhaps a sufficient number of examples of issues which the Conference might address and help bring into clear focus and resolve. Again, it is the hope of the United States that the Conference preparations will be designed to achieve objectives which are problem-solving. That is, that the Conference will be action-oriented. We trust that these comments and suggestions have been helpful in this regard. In closing, while wishing to reserve the right of the United States to speak again on this agenda item, particularly after we have had an opportunity to consider the proposals made by the Assistant Director-General for the preparations for the Conference, our delegation wishes to repeat the pledge of the United States of support for the efforts of the FAO Secretariat and other parts of the UN system involved in the preparations for the Conference. We would say once more that the United States Agency for International Development stands ready to consider such requests as may be appropriate from the Secretariat and developing countries for assistance to prepare for the Conference.

G. ERICSSON (Sweden): In order to save time, we have agreed in the Nordic Group to intervene only once on this agenda point. I am therefore now speaking on behalf of the delegations of all the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

We pay great attention to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

Justification for this is the description given by Mr. Santa Cruz, in his opening speech on the present situation of rural development and the need for more deliberate action in this field.

To be fair, we were, however, more ambivalent, when the Conference was first discussed a couple of years ago. At that time we saw before us another big world conference in an extensive list of such conferences. We were not fully convinced of the commitment from higher levels of management of FAO. Aims and objectives were vague, etc.. Even if the aims and objectives are still somewhat vague and the time for preparation is very short, the Director-General has now demonstrated his full commitment on several occasions, and has taken certain action to make the preparatory work more effective in the Secretariat.

Strong support has been given by most Member Countries in the Conference's Plenary meeting, as well as in this Commission and earlier in the Council meetings. We are therefore ready to give our full support to the Director-General's efforts to make the Conference successful.

If the World Conference is prepared in a proper manner, and the discussions are restricted to the most important problems, resulting in concrete action-programmes on international and national levels, it will contribute to the further development of rural areas of the world.

A few words in general on the preparations: agrarian reform and rural development cover all parts of economic and socio-economic action for development. If the ambitions are to cover all these aspects, we are facing a new world food conference, including the world conferences on population, women, employment, water, etc. We find it extremely important in the preparation of this Conference to concentrate upon the main obstacles to rural development and how to overcome them. The basic information exists already, the urgent and indeed difficult task is to structure this material so that it can form the basis for specific and well defined action proposals, and thus enable the Conference to agree on concrete action towards the improving of the situation among the rural poor.

A questionnaire has been sent to Member Countries which will give us a considerable workload. Yet the experience from other similar exercises makes us believe that we should not over-emphasize the value for the preparations of the country reviews. There is therefore implied a risk in waiting for them and relying too much upon them in the preparations. The preparations should mainly be based on existing information. In this respect, the report from the last Conference on Agrarian Reform in 1966 may function as a starting point. What has been said and agreed upon in different fora- the UN General Assembly and the ECOSOC included - since then should be analyzed in relation to the report from the 1966 Conference.

To what extent goals have been achieved and special problems have been identified can be found in the regular progress report on land reform, on evaluation of the progress made by FAO and other UN Agencies, as well as in a number of independent evaluation and research reports on rural development.

It must be possible, on these grounds, to select the most critical obstacles to success and to produce documentation to the Conference which concentrates on these obstacles and limits the discussion on how to overcome them. There is no need to discuss again what has already been agreed upon in the international community.

There are two specific inputs to the preparations which we would like to emphasize. The World Employment Conference and the adoption of a basic needs strategy is one. The main core of activities of an employment-generating basic needs strategy falls within agriculture, forestry and fisheries,

together with off-the-farm activities relating to these sectors. The World Conference will offer an excellent opportunity to present the elements of a more concrete and operational basic needs strategy for rural development.

Another input in the preparations should be the existing result of the efforts in FAO to develop and promote the implementation in Member Countries of an integrated rural development approach. We have supported integrated rural development activities many times in different fora of the FAO. Integrated rural development to us means a method of an area-based, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated rural development with an emphasis on reaching the poor, and with the strong involvement of the rural population in the planning and decision-making process.

We appreciate the trends in the Agency towards an even stronger action in this field. The new role of FAO as a lead Agency of ACC task force on rural development, which we welcome, will further promote this.

During the last years, a series of consultations has been held by FAO in the different regions with - as far as we have understood it from the reactions we have met a strong involvement and positive response from the developing countries in the regions. The series was concluded by a global consultation on integrated rural development in Berlin a few weeks ago, and a comprehensive report has been produced. We find this report to be an essential input to the Conference preparation work, as well as all the material prepared for the regional consultations.

To conclude, I have two further short comments. As to the suggestion of an increased budget for the Conference, we find it of the utmost importance that we should make the Conference effective. The bulk of the cost will be related to the participation of Member Countries and the preparations in the Member Countries. If thorough preparation and proper arrangements call for additional funds, there should be no objections, and we therefore support the suggested increase in the budget.

With regard to participation, we would like to see delegations to the Conference include representatives of farmers' associations and farm labour unions.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): En primer lugar, señor Presidente, permítame felicitar al señor Santa Cruz por la brillante información que nos ha dado.

También deseamos aprovechar la ocasión para congratularnos por su designación como representante especial del Director General para los preparativos de esta Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, decisión que consideramos muy acertada.

Nuestra delegación considera que la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que se ha de celebrar en julio de 1979, y hacia cuya preparación ya se encaminan nuestros pasos, está llamada a jugar un importantísimo papel en la lucha común para vencer el subdesarrollo. Para nosotros existe plena conciencia de que el desarrollo de las zonas rurales es un elemento de vital importancia para el desarrollo económico y social de nuestros países, aspecto que es uno de los más atrasados por lo que requiere una urgente solución.

Como expresara nuestra delegación en su intervención central en la Plenaria, la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural no debe estar orientada sólo hacia aspectos técnicos de la agricultura, sino primordialmente hacia aquellos problemas socio-económicos existentes para su implementación en los países subdesarrollados y con el objetivo de encontrar soluciones prácticas. Consideramos que esta Conferencia significará un progreso en la consecución de nuestros objetivos respecto a la Conferencia celebrada en 1966, y por este motivo nuestra delegación entiende que el informe de los países solicitado por el Director General debe ser el punto de partida para la elaboración de los documentos de base de la Conferencia tal y como se plantea en el documento C 77/26 y los cuales deberán estar confeccionados en febrero del próximo año. Nuestro país se está trabajando en este sentido y puede garantizar que en la fecha oportuna hará entrega del informe correspondiente.

También consideramos que estos informes, a su vez, deberán constituir un unto clave para la confección de evaluaciones regionales que serán discutidas en un tema central durante las conferencias regionales de la FAO en 1978 como preparación de la Conferencia Mundial, tal como sugirió el Consejo de la FAO.

Estas evaluaciones regionales deberán recoger las experiencias positivas y negativas de los países, proponiéndose en ellas medidas concretas para llevar adelante los procesos de reforma agraria en el marco de los planes y programas nacionales de desarrollo.

Proponemos, además, que el resultado de estas evaluaciones regionales sea sometido a la Conferencia Mundial como uno de sus temas centrales, recogiendo además la opinión de la Secretaría sobre los informes presentados. Nuestra delegación considera que en todo este proceso deberá tener una participación muy activa el Comité de Expertos de Alto Nivel, aprobado por el Consejo en su 71º período de sesiones a propuesta del Comité de Agricultura en su cuarto período de sesiones.

Nosotros reiteramos una vez más nuestro apoyo al Director General para llevar a cabo los trabajos de esta Conferencia; conferencia que estamos seguros tendrá un éxito seguro y que redundará en beneficio de todos los países subdesarrollados.

También nosotros, señor Presidente, siquiera sea brevemente, aunque tal vez con posterioridad pudiéramos hablar más ampliamente, quisiéramos expresar nuestro acuerdo con la propuesta que se nos ha hecho llegar en la mañana de hoy respecto de elevar la representación de las delegaciones en la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria, consideramos que es un aspecto muy importante y que daría un relieve mucho mayor a esta Conferencia.

No tenemos ninguna objeción, al contrario, consideramos que será oportuno dedicar ocho días hábiles a esta Conferencia y pensamos que para un acontecimiento de esta categoría, de este rango, no debemos escatimar uno, dos o tres días; debemos tener siempre presente que el objetivo central es que sea una conferencia exitosa.

Con respecto a la propuesta de crear una comisión preparatoria, estimamos que también es una buena idea y pensamos que esa comisión preparatoria indudablemente ha de tener muy en cuenta todos los trabajos del Comité de Expertos de Alto Nivel, que para esa fecha con toda seguridad habrá tenido ya más de dos reuniones.

Estas son, en términos generales, algunas de las opiniones de nuestra delegación hasta este momento del debate. Pudiera ser que en una ocasión posterior, y así se lo agradeceríamos mucho, señor Presidente, nuestra delegación decidiera nuevamente hacer uso de la palabra.

V. de ASARTA (Italia): Mon pays participera avec enthousiasme à la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Il s'agit en effet d'une initiative de grande envergure qui nous intéresse particulièrement. Je voudrais ajouter aussi que M. Santa Cruz nous donne pleinement confiance en tant qu'organisateur et animateur de cette Conférence. Nous avons déjà commencé à préparer un rapport d'information national selon le plan qui nous a été envoyé par la FAO au cours du mois d'octobre écoulé. Cette tâche a été confiée à un groupe restreint d'experts qui pourront, le cas échéant, collaborer avec tous les autres experts en la matière. Nous allons certainement traiter en profondeur les deux thèmes, rappelés dans le document 77/26, à savoir les expériences sur la réforme agraire et sur le développement agricole, tout cela à la lumière des remarquables résultats que nous avons obtenus en Italie au cours de la période 1950-75.

Quant à l'échange de points de vue au niveau régions et sous-régions, nous nous déclarons tout à fait prêts à participer aux réunions prévues en 1978 concernant les différents aspects des problèmes en jeu, comme nous sommes tout à fait prêts à contribuer aux travaux de la commission préparatoire dont on a parlé tout à l'heure.

Je voudrais enfin vous donner connaissance que l'Italie a donné son appui au projet de résolution présenté à la Conférence tendant à obtenir la présence des organisations de paysans et de travailleurs agricoles dans les délégations qui participeront aux travaux de la Conférence de 1979.

B. SAMANEZ CONCHA (Perú): En primer lugar, quisiera felicitar al señor Santa Cruz por la brillante exposición que nos ha hecho en la introducción de este tema. Creo que esto ha motivado a todos los presentes y tendremos oportunidad de escuchar opiniones muy valiosas que servirán para preparar mejor la Conferencia y, sobre todo, para que ésta tenga el éxito que todos deseamos.

En mi país la reforma agraria como instrumento de transformación forma parte de la política nacional de desarrollo y está íntimamente relacionada con las acciones planificadas del Estado en otros campos esenciales para la promoción de la población rural, campos tales como la organización de una escuela rural efectiva, la asistencia técnica generalizada, los mecanismos de crédito, la investigación agropecuaria, el desarrollo de los recursos naturales, la política de urbanización, el desarrollo industrial, la expansión del sistema nacional de salud y los mecanismos estatales de comercialización, entre



otros. Es, pues, un proceso integral y un instrumento de transformación agraria destinado a sustituir los regímenes de latifundio y minifundio por un sistema justo de propiedad, de tenencia y explotación de la tierra que contribuya al desarrollo social y económico de la nación mediante la creación de un ordenamiento agrario que garantice la justicia social en el campo y aumente la producción y productividad del sector agrario elevando y asegurando los ingresos de los campesinos para que la tierra constituya para el que la trabaja base de su estabilidad económica, fundamento de su bienestar y garantía de su dignidad y libertad.

La reforma agraria constituye una de las transformaciones estructurales de mayor alcance entre las entendidas por mi Gobierno. Teniendo en cuenta que las actividades agrarias constituyen la principal fuente de empleo no es exagerado afirmar que la ejecución de la reforma agraria es prerequisite para el desarrollo y fundamento para la constitución de una nueva sociedad que responda a los objetivos de un proceso revolucionario. Al año 1961 el 0,4 por ciento de propiedades acaparaban el 76 por ciento de la tierra. En cambio, al otro extremo, las propiedades menores a las cinco hectáreas que representaban el 83 por ciento del número de ellas detentaban únicamente el cinco por ciento de la superficie. La estructura agraria polarizada en los extremos de latifundio y minifundio tiene consecuencias negativas y éstas eran mayores considerando la exigua base agrícola y la alta proporción de su población. El régimen de propiedad rural intocado hasta junio del año 1969 se constituía necesariamente en soporte del poder económico y político de los terratenientes y al mismo tiempo fue la causa principal de la marginación de los campesinos. La estructura agraria presentaba un carácter dual: uno más o menos dinámico y el otro francamente retrasado, estando en este último involucrada la mayor parte de la población campesina.

El sector dinámico estuvo constituido por los grandes latifundios de carácter capitalista como las plantaciones azucareras, algunas negociaciones ganaderas y haciendas costeñas en transición. En las formas capitalistas de organizaciones coexistía en mayor o menor grado con rezagos precapitalistas como Yanacónaque las haciendas hechas en transición. La producción orientada a la exportación favoreció el enclave imperialista como en el caso de las plantaciones azucareras a que me he referido en las que el 65 por ciento del capital era extranjero y no faltaban empresas que detentaban 300 y 500 mil hectáreas que les habían sido adjudicadas por deudas contraídas por el Estado. Los mecanismos de comercio exterior controlados por intermediarios extranjeros vinculaban a los terratenientes a intereses foráneos por la inequitativa distribución del ingreso agrícola en desmedro de la participación que correspondía a la fuerza laboral que derivaron la acumulación obtenida en la agricultura hacia inversiones en los sectores financiero, industrial y comercial configurándose así una compleja estructura de poder económico y de poder político. El otro sector económicamente débil utilizaba tecnología atrasada y marginada de los circuitos de la economía nacional y lo constituían los latifundistas tradicionales, las comunicaciones campesinas y los minifundistas. En el latifundio tradicional las formas de explotación del hombre lindaban con la esclavitud. La reforma agraria ejecutada por mi Gobierno es una transformación radical masiva y rápida de toda esta estructura, la que ha sido reemplazada por una nueva que conformaba sobre las bases ideológicas de la revolución peruana e impulsa el desarrollo y concreta de modo irreversible los valores de la nueva sociedad. Todo el proceso se ha llevado a cabo en forma pacífica e incruenta manteniendo los niveles de producción y en muchos casos el incremento de la misma se ha producido de inmediato. Mi país ofrece al mundo esta experiencia y participará activamente en la Conferencia donde expondrá los éxitos y también los errores y fracasos que hemos tenido a fin de que nuestra experiencia pueda ser recogida y sirva a los otros países que decidan llevar procesos de reforma agraria a no incurrir en los mismos. Desde el primer momento hemos apoyado y continuaremos apoyando la realización de la Conferencia y hacemos una llamada para que los países cumplan con remitir los informes que se les ha solicitado, esto lo más pronto posible, ya que debemos tener cuenta que el plazo para la organización de la Conferencia es sumamente corto y la Secretaría tiene que trabajar sin desmayo y a marchas forzadas en la preparación de la misma. Estamos seguros que todos los gobiernos colaborarán decididamente en la Conferencia. En ella se intercambiarán valiosas experiencias, tanto sobre la reforma agraria así como sobre el desarrollo rural. Los resultados serán sumamente positivos y así las grandes mayorías de nuestra población en los países en vías de desarrollo alcanzarán mayores niveles de vida a que tienen derecho y podrán participar en la vida política, social y económica. Por consiguiente, apoyamos que las organizaciones campesinas deban participar en la Conferencia con relación a los puntos planteados y que deben ser decididos por la Conferencia. Estamos de acuerdo en que la Conferencia debería durar no menos de 8 días hábiles y que el grado de representación sea del más alto nivel en cada una de las delegaciones. También estamos de acuerdo que con la constitución de esta Comisión Preparatoria y que en ella participen todos los estados, única forma de poder tener ocho días hábiles en la Conferencia. Caso contrario, si esta Comisión Preparatoria fuese restringida, tendría que ampliarse la duración de la Conferencia. Estamos de acuerdo en que la reunión preparatoria sea en el mes de marzo de 1979 y estamos seguros de que la Secretaría, con la colaboración y con la ayuda del Grupo de Expertos, presentará a esta Conferencia conclusiones y recomendaciones que serán en beneficio de la humanidad desvalida y será una muy valiosa contribución para solucionar el problema del hambre y la malnutrición.

S.M. RICHARDS (Liberia): Mr. Chairman, as time is short I shall try to be very brief. We would like, once more, to give our fullest support to this very important Conference. At the same time we hope that this Conference will be action orientated and not only serve as an academic forum but results will be obtained on a practical level. Also we hope action will be followed up after this Conference.

We need not stress the importance of the rural population. Raising the level and status of the rural poor is very important. On the preparation of the Conference we would like to see on the Agenda more attention be given to the rural mothers. We need not stress here the importance they play in our most venerable problem which is nutrition. What we have in mind in particular here is to discuss fully the role that the rural mothers play in providing the right nutrition to the families. Practical home economics training for the rural mothers will enable them to provide the necessary nutrition for their families. To put it more practically, we know, that in rural areas mothers cannot provide, for example, ham and bacon for their family but they can provide home made products, or home grown products that can give them the same nutritional value. In terms of the preparation again, we would say, we would like to reserve our comment on the four points presented to us for approval. On the level of the budget for this Conference, Mr. Chairman, we would like to reiterate our position as follows: we feel that the Director-General should take note of the mediocre level of actual achievement from the world population conference, and the World Food Conference when the overall cost of organizing such forum is considered and should, therefore, use these experiences in the preparation of the conference. As I indicated earlier, we would like to reserve our position on the four points at a later stage.

Mrs.M.L. ROMAN (Israel): I wish to thank Mr. Santa Cruz for his statment which has cleared up some of the questions my delegation wanted to find out. In the past my personal belief is such world conferences have tended to run off the subject to which they were to be devoted. Therefore, my delegation hopes that FAO's preparation for this Conference will prove to be successful. Israel has a lot of experience on the subject. We work together with many other countries. We have many visitors and delegations come to study the subject in Israel. As you probably all know, there exists a settlement study centre known widely outside Israel, and likewise by our labour federation and Afro-Asian institute who both give courses to people from other countries on the subjects that should definitely be dealt with in this Conference of Agrarian Reform. I have heard the delegates of USA and Sweden, who demand an action-orientated conference and this is the one thing I am sure Israel is also interested in. We feel we can contribute to this Conference, and we shall certainly do all to participate. The holding of the Conference in Rome for 8 days is agreeable to my delegation. A preparatory committee of all participants is also acceptable, and the holding of this preparatory committee in March 1979. As far as the issue of inviting non-members of FAO, I can only say that in Israel agrarian reform has ben carried out in close cooperation with farmer organizations and labour farmer organizations and I, therefore, definitely think they would have a place in this Conference.

J.S. KHAN (Pakistan): Chairman, first of all we would like to thank Mr. Santa Cruz for his very valuable and comprehensive introductory statement. My delegation, as has been said before, attaches much importance to the World Conference because the problems to be tackled by this Conference are of fundamental importance to the rural poor all over the world, and the complexity and the enormity of the assignment, and the multi-disciplinary nature of the task we feel calls for a very imaginative and sensitive approach. We are satisfied, and we are sure, that with the appointment of Mr. Santa Cruz and his able collaborators such an approach will be forthcoming. I will divide my intervention into two. First, what we expect of the Conference, and then next some comments on the arrangements for the Conference. Mr. Chairman, regarding our perception of the Conference, we do realize that there is no single answer, or a universal solution to rural development, but my delegation does hope, and it does expect, that the Conference can go beyond a mere exchange of experience and discussions of technical aspects. We would hope and expect that apart from the evaluation and analysis of past efforts on agrarian reform and rural development and the proposal of possible alternative national strategies and policies, that the Conference can come out with an effective and practical international plan of action, and a comprehensive multi-disciplinary strategy for the rural poor, and that this action plan, should also identify material technical assistance and the investment required to implement the study. This broadly, Chairman, is our perception of the outcome of the Conference.

If I may now turn to some questions for the arrangements of the Conference. First of all, of course, a pre-requisite is sound and intensive preparation, and we are glad to note from the statement by Mr. Santa Cruz that the response from participating countries, from the UN agencies and the NGO's is encouraging. We also note and support the need to make full use of available information and experience both within the house within FAO and that made available by other world conferences, and this is necessary in order to avoid unnecessary work and duplication of effort.

The second point, Mr. Chairman, on which we attach great importance is the need for regional discussions to precede the Conference. I recall that during the 70th Session of the FAO Council, when we were discussing arrangements for this Conference, my delegation was one of those which had stressed a need for the 1978 Regional Conferences to discuss arrangements for the Conference and the issues coming up before the Conference, and we are glad to note that now this is going to be followed, because, Mr. Chairman, we think that after all the problems and issues to be discussed are to a great extent location specific and the solutions to these must be worked out within the context of each country's own political, cultural and social economic compulsions, and if these national experiences are first distilled and synthesized at regional level it will greatly help the work of the Conference.

One question I would like to ask of the Secretariat regarding arrangements for the documentation for the Regional Conferences, what sort of document they propose to put up. I am not sure by the time the Regional Conferences are held all the countries' review papers will have been finalized. Of course, that would be ideal if the preliminary findings of the countries review papers could be put forward before the regional conferences, but this may not be possible and we would appreciate some clarification on what the Secretariat intend to do regarding documentation for the regional conferences.

Another point on arrangements is the question of documentation for the Conference itself, the main documentation. My delegation thinks this should be limited. The Conference should not be over-burdened with too much paperwork and it should be enabled to focus on the critical issues. I would draw attention to the type of documentation prepared for the World Food Conference. There were two basic documents: one assessing the problems and the second dealing with action and policy proposals, and this may be a good example to follow. Chairman, the countries review papers now, are the basic input for the Conference, and these, we think, need very careful preparation. The outlines received by my Government is a most comprehensive document. It covers all sectors of the economy, and the first analysis we have done back home off this document shows that it covers the totality of our efforts, social, economic development efforts, and it will assist us in the stock-taking of our efforts in the past, and also help in the future orientation of our policies. So we think that these country review papers' value transcends just their input for the Conference. It also is of help to Governments in, as I said, stock-taking and in planning for the future.

Having said this, and having drawn attention to the complexity of the assignment given to us in preparing these papers, I would also like to echo the request made by the delegate from the U.S.A. that there may be a need to perhaps postpone the deadline for the preparation of the country's review paper which is currently fixed as February 1978. We note and we welcome the help that FAO would be in a position to provide to all those developing countries interested in preparation of these country papers and we think that such help would be particularly useful in synthesizing the findings of the FAO.

One final point on the Country Review Paper, Mr. Chairman, I think it is necessary and essential that the Country Review Papers should closely follow the outline, each country should closely follow the outline in order to enable a consistent analysis of the review paper.

So we think that perhaps it would be useful if the Conference could make an appeal to all participating countries to be uniform in the preparation of the country review paper.

This document before us (C 77/26) also talks of background material and the possibility of selective studies on specific problems. I am sure that this is necessary for sound preparation, and we would only like to express the hope that, with the preparation of such material, maximum use would be made of national institutions in developing countries, which have direct experience of the problem.

Pakistan will participate in the Conference. It also intends to participate fully in the preparation of the Conference. We have already appointed a country contact point, and we have also set up a national panel of experts to advise on the preparation of the country review paper, which covers a wide cross section of experience which is relevant to the subject matter. We would also like to pledge our support and cooperation to FAO in the preparations for the Conference.

Finally, if I may now turn to the four points on which you asked us to comment - the issues raised by Mr. Santa Cruz:

Regarding the venue, my Committee will support the Conference being held in Rome: it is logical, because the facilities and expertise on FAO are available. The duration - 8 days - seems suitable. We also endorse the need for high-level representation at the Conference.

My Committee can also support the appointment of an open ended preparatory committee, and the need for this to meet will be in advance of the Conference itself so that the findings and recommendations of the preparatory committee could be examined and digested by the participating countries before the actual Conference.

M.S. ZENHI (Libya) (interpretation from Arabic): First of all I would like to congratulate the Chairman of the Committee on the way he has presented the results of our discussion up to now. Nevertheless, there is one point which he perhaps omitted - or which perhaps I did not catch, in his very quick presentation. It is a point that has been mentioned by several delegations here, including my own, and it concerns the date on which documents are to be sent to the participating countries. This may seem a minor point, but you must remember that several of our Departments and Ministries will have to read these documents, and their translation will also require a certain amount of time. That is why I would like to draw the Secretariat's attention to this point, as I believe it is very relevant to the subject under discussion this morning. We must receive the documents in good time for the World Conference. I have noted that the representatives of some NGO's have said that documents sent to them in July did not reach them until November - and we cannot blame the post for all that delay.

Coming to the actual discussion: we have already expressed our interest and support for the Conference, which is without reserve. I see no reason for repeating this.

We would agree to stressing integrated rural development. This we think is an orientation which we follow in our countries, and we do not need to reaffirm here the interest which ought to be expressed in man, who is the axis of integrated rural development.

In spite of this, we also support the idea of establishing a certain balance in the Conference. What previous speakers have said has been very useful and constructive.

If we say that we support the holding of this Conference, then we must also add that we are more than satisfied with the preparations that have been made for the Conference by FAO and the Director-General. As confirmed by our satisfaction, we would add that we also accept the budget allocated for the Conference, because, if we want the Conference to be a success, we must provide it with the necessary means.

As we go through the documents that we have been given on the subject, we see that there are quite a number of very constructive ideas, and we are glad to see that a committee has been established for preparing the Conference. We will give the Secretariat the information that it requires.

The selective studies which will be undertaken by FAO receive our full support, although we would like some information about the quality and scope of these studies so that we can be in a position to give our views on them in good time. It would also, we think, be useful to have some case studies - but we hope that this does not mean another expense for FAO.

It would be useful to ensure the participation of certain regional organizations other than United Nations ones, so that they may help in the drawing up of these case studies. We would like to stress the need for these studies to devote themselves to problems and their solutions, and also to successes and failures in the solving of these problems, so that all Member Countries may profit from them.

Another point that I would like to bring up has also been touched upon by my friend from Pakistan. It concerns the documentation for the Conference.

Quite obviously, we all wish to keep documents to a minimum. An example has been given us by the World Food Programme, and I have another example to give you which is the Conference on Desertification which was held in Nairobi. There was a Plan of Work which was the hub of all discussions at the Conference, and that document was quite new in my opinion, and was a point of reference for all the subjects. From there, it moved on to practical plans of a regional and national scale also. Apart from that central planning document, there were other documents which were intended for the information of delegates. That is why we think that documents should be kept to an absolute minimum.

Another matter on which I would like to comment concerns the regional offices. The paper on this which we have before us makes only passing mention of the regional offices and I would like to read what it says:

“The regional and sub-regional aspects of agrarian reform and rural development could be handled by the FAO Regional Conference in 1978”

I think that is just too weak. It is too slight a reference to the role of regional offices. It refers to the Regional Conference which will be held before the World Conference. Regional conferences and regional meetings ought to play a primordial role in the preparation of the principal Conference. These conferences should have on their agenda preparations for the World Conference.

Perhaps I have been a little too wordy in my comments on Mr. Santa Cruz's statement. We do not have any problem in accepting his proposal - especially with respect to the place where the Conference is to be held. In our view though, the duration is a little short. We agree to the level and quality of representation required for the Conference, we are not very clear about the Preparatory Committee. I have one small proposal which I would like to make, and that is that we set up a contact group, perhaps a small liaison group, to harmonize our points of view on these points: that is, the duration of the Conference, the level of representation, the work of the Preparatory Committee, and coordination between the different dates. Such a small liaison group would, I think, be very useful to the Preparatory Committee.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Libya. The distinguished delegate mentioned that I omitted a point in my summing up concerning the date on which documents were to be sent to the participating countries. It is quite true I did not include that and I do agree with him. This is an important point. You will appreciate my summing up could not be conclusive but I will see that it is reflected in the draft report.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General - Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): Naturalmente que al final del debate trataré de contestar algunos de los interrogantes que se han planteado, pero para evitar que los representantes hablen sobre el mismo tema, quiero decirles que obviamente yo estimo que el plazo dado a los países para preparar los documentos relativos a sus propios países es corto, y la fecha se puso originalmente pensando en otra fecha para la Comisión Preparatoria, que iba a ser la reunión del Consejo, muy anterior.

De manera que quiero decirles que si ustedes aprueban como parece, la idea de que la Comisión preparatoria se reúna en marzo del año 1979, es posible que el plazo para la presentación de los documentos de países, que son muy esenciales y muy importantes, pueda alargarse a marzo o abril del año 1978.

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/II/PV/8

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

EIGHTH MEETING  
HUITIEME SÉANCE  
OCTAVA SESION  
(19 November 1977)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours

J.H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 14 h 50, sous la présidence de

J.H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la octava sesión a las 14.50 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

- II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
- II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 16. Review of Arrangements for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (continued)
- 16. Examen de l'organisation de la Conference mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural (suite)
- 16. Examen de los preparativos para la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I call the meeting to order, and in view of the fact that I have a long list of speakers, I think we ought to proceed with our work

R.S. KAMARA (Sierra Leone): I ask for the floor for the third time because of the fact that the greater part of my country, like many others, is largely rural. Topics which strike into the root causes of the slow rate of growth and development, particularly in the agricultural sector, are matters which we consider of great interest to my delegation. We therefore support the plan to convene a meeting on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and find no quarrel with the proposals submitted to us this morning by Mr. Santa Cruz, whose introductory remarks we also appreciate, because it has thrown a lot of light on a number of issues.

Land tenure, as one delegate said this morning, is not agrarian reform, but you would also agree with me that it is an essential part. The arena of agricultural pursuit is the land which is still in great abundance in the developing countries, particularly in that part of Africa where I come from. In spite of this apparent advantage, a number of factors still limit the pace of development. One of these is land tenure. Whilst this topic has been largely debated in many circles, both by men in the streets as well as in the cloisters of the academic world, the matter is still regarded as one that is highly sensitive and to a large extent sacrosanct, because it is also highly political. Nonetheless, my delegation feels that it should be a topic for discussion, especially in such places as in the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, particularly the FAO. Land tenure seems to have a local character driving ties deep down in the way of life of people, and the problem varies from community to community even within the same country.

To this extent my delegation favours the approach outlined in Part 4 of Chapter 7 of document C 77/26, that is the regional and sub-regional approach, preferably the latter to start with because of the local nature of the problem. I would, however, have thought that the best approach would have been at the sub-regional level, then the regional level and finally the international level. Nonetheless, my delegation applauds the initiative taken by the Director General and FAO to start the dialogue. The problem, I believe, will be modified with the increasing level of radicalization. For now, the best approach is to improve the rural masses through sound agricultural policies such as marketing and credit facilities, since the cries for revision of land tenure practices come from commercial entrepreneurs.

Finally, when I was going to school, a sanitary engineer was called a plumber, and the activity or study now known as home economics was called domestic science. Thanks largely to the United States and sometimes to the United Nations, both the General Assembly as well as the Specialized Agencies, professional groups and bodies have been given new names aimed at heightening their status. A change of name, however, should not change the nature of the job previously undertaken.

I would therefore urge the FAO's activities in aiding rural development through the use of women undertaking activities such as home economics should not merely be a boost to some sub-faculty in a university or local institutions as we sometimes see. What is important is to improve the status of nutrition in the rural areas, and the best place to do this in the field among the peasants and not in the classroom. Only in this way can FAO's magnificent intentions be translated into reality for progress and development. We were particularly delighted this morning to have listened to the United States delegate's commitment and pledge for support for rural development and progress. We would also like to see many more developed countries gathered here pledge their support for these programmes, because the programmes are of particular interest to us.



CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to the next speaker, I would just like to draw your attention to the Draft Resolution that has just come out.

It bears the number C 77/LIM/36, it is dated the 19th November, and it is on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, so when you address your self to this item, I think you should include this Resolution in your speech.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): In the sixty-seventh and seventieth session of the Council when the progress of work on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development was reviewed there was not much enthusiasm, in the sense that at that stage we knew that this Conference was going to be of limited scope and of a technical nature. At the fourth session of the Committee on Agriculture, the delegates were unanimous that there was need to expand the scope of this World Conference. The FAO was called upon to cover in this Conference the entire gamut of agrarian reform and rural development. This was the code in the 71st Session of the Council in July 1977, and the Council made some specific request and guidelines for implementation by the Director-General. The Council was of the opinion that this Conference should cover all aspects of agrarian reform and rural development, enlist the support of all Member Nations, participation should be at the appropriate level, Country Review Papers should be prepared, countries should be contacted in advance to enlist their support and interest, a High-Level Advisory Committee should be appointed and the full Secretariat should be entrusted with the task for preparation of the Conference.

We are happy to note that immediately after this Council Session the Director-General moved fast and a High-Level Advisory Committee has been constituted with fifteen members which had its first meeting in October of this year. We are very happy to note this Advisory Committee has been constituted with very eminent persons all over the world in the field of rural development and agrarian reform, some of which are quite often Ministers of Agriculture. I have had the opportunity of listening to the first session partly of the Advisory Committee, and I must admit the discussion was of very high level. Bangladesh has also contributed to this Committee through the inclusion of its eminent and distinguished Minister for Agriculture, who has long experience and distinguished record in the field of agriculture. He had the privilege of being associated with the Academy for Rural Development in Khulna, Bangladesh, which is not only known in our part of the world but also all over the world for its field oriented, action oriented programmes and achievements in the field of agriculture and rural development. The second step of the Director-General was in appointing Mr. Santa Cruz as his special representative. We heard Mr. Santa Cruz' opening statement he made this morning. We all know his distinguished record. We congratulate this appointment and assure Mr. Santa Cruz of our fullest support and cooperation. Similarly, the Director-General constituted an inter-governmental committee headed by the Assistant Director-General of social and economic department, namely Prof. Islam. As the distinguished delegate of the United States has stated we all know Mr. Islam, his brilliant academic record and his rich experience in universities and in governments. We are certain this combination of Mr. Santa Cruz and Professor Islam would go a long way in making the Conference a success and preparing useful and thoughtful papers and FAO inputs for the Conference. We assure Prof. Islam our fullest cooperation and support.

The other element was the preparation of Country Review Papers. We are happy to note that FAO has come forward to provide assistance to the countries who so request for the preparation of their Country Review Papers. We believe that the Country Review Papers would be a very essential and important input for the Conference on Agrarian Reform. We are also equally glad to note in the statement of the US delegate it was stated that USAID will be prepared to provide assistance for the preparation of Country Review Papers. The point regarding postponing by a little bit of the date I am happy that Mr. Santa Cruz has already responded to this point. I am sure within that time the Country Review Papers will be ready.

Coming to the objectives of the Conference, we agree with the outline stated by the distinguished delegate from the US and my colleague from Pakistan. As we heard Mr. Santa Cruz stating in the first meeting of the Advisory Committee it was also felt that this Conference should be policy orientated and not based on academics. To use the word, of the distinguished delegate of the US it should be action oriented in order to solve problems in the field of rural development and agrarian reform. We also believe that this Conference should focus largely on ways and means to increase agricultural productivity.

The third point we would say some mention has been made about the problems of long inheritance, land tenure, and so on. In our part of the World, the South Asian Sub-continent, we have been facing a problem of continuous fragmentation and sub-division of land due to loss of inheritance. It was mentioned, I believe I recall, by the distinguished delegate of India, and we support it, that this problem of continuous sub-division and fragmentation of agricultural land should also feature within the scope of this Conference.

We are happy to note in C 77/26 that the UN agencies are being involved in the preparation of this Conference. We are sure that the FAO will do its best to enlist the support and active participation of all concerned UN agencies.

Coming to the budget level, Mr. Chairman, we mentioned in our opening statement that in view of the enlarged scope of this Conference, we support the increase in the budget by 1.2 million US\$. We had the break-up given by the Assistant Director-General for Programme and Budget, Mr. West, and we find the break-up reasonable.

Regarding the venue and the time of the Conference this will be suitable for us in Rome for 8 days' duration.

Regarding the representation level and composition, you would now find the table, the draft resolution C 77/LIM/36, this was through the Resolutions Committee, this morning, which I had the privilege to chair. In the operative paragraph you will find starting with the word "invites" and then you find the footnote where the Committee thought the word "invites" could be replaced by the word "recommended". It was the feeling of the Committee, and we also feel as the delegate of Bangladesh, that each government will be free to choose its own delegation to the Conference, but mention was made that while doing so the sovereign countries could be requested, or the attention could be drawn, to representation by representatives of farmers and rural agricultural workers. We would support this point with the change that the word "invites" may be replaced by the word "recommended" as felt by the resolutions committee.

My concluding point is about the time frame and the size of documentation. We also believe the documentation for this Conference should be kept within the minimum limit, and steps should be taken for that documentation to be received by the member governments as early as possible.

Another point that we understand from C 7 7/26 is that the high level advisers committee would be meeting twice more before the Conference for Agrarian Reform. I was wondering if the Secretariat has any plans to formulate the wise advice of this advisory committee and circulate to the member nations. I am sure the contributions by this high level advisory committee would be valuable, and before the final documentation if the countries could be benefitted by the wise advice of this advisory committee perhaps that would be useful.

We will be participating at the general and also at the preparatory levels of discussion with this.

A. LOPES RIBEIRO (Portugal): Mr. Chairman, as our Minister of Agriculture said two days ago in Plenary Session in our country we have in course an Agrarian Reform process. This has not been an easy task, as you all can very well understand. If the process of Agrarian Reform is always difficult one can imagine how difficult it is when it takes place in a very old country where tradition and habits play an important role in rural life.

Portugal accumulated during many centuries a great number of problems as far as farming is concerned. As a matter of fact we have to face the minifundia problem in the North of the country and the latifundia in the South. Both have been constraints for agricultural development and this is the reason why our Government is paying great attention to this process and big efforts have been done in order to implement the new Agrarian Reform Law.

As I said before difficulties are great and we fully realize that we still have a long way to go before setting up our Agrarian Reform as we see it.

Being so, Mr. Chairman, we are looking with great enthusiasm for the next World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. According to our limited possibilities Portugal is ready to give its full support to this Conference and we do hope to have an active participation in sharing our experience in this field, or giving advice from other countries and persons.

Regarding paper C 77/26 before us we are very glad to know a high level Advisory Committee of Experts to assist and advise the Director-General in the preparation for the World Conference was established and met already in October last.

Being aware that Mr. Santa Cruz has the responsibility to organize and lead the preparation for the Conference we have no doubt that it will be a great success and we all receive guidelines for our future work. In fact, Mr. Santa Cruz' experience in matters which we are to deal with, his deep knowledge, and his bright mind, give us the full guarantee for such success. The Portuguese Delegation is very happy to congratulate Mr. Santa Cruz for his appointment and we can assure him of our best cooperation.

From Mr. Santa Cruz' introduction this morning, we noted with satisfaction the intention to mobilize other organizations of the United Nations system to contribute within their respective terms of reference, to the Conference.

In fact, if the success of an Agrarian Reform is the promotion of the wellbeing of rural populations it must involve and integrate inputs coming from different services and agencies (financing, education, protection of the environment, public works, marketing, etc.)

Thus, an adequate cooperation of the various organizations of the UN System and others, under the leadership of FAO, seems to be essential.

This cooperation can be a good example for the set-up of integrated projects in our countries, the projects receiving international aid or not.

As I have the floor, Mr. Chairman, I would like to inform you, as well as the delegations here present, that by the beginning of next week the Portuguese Delegations shall have for distribution the translation into French of the new Agrarian Reform Law as well as the Land Renting law, approved by our Parliament some months ago.

As far as the draft resolution C 77/LIM/36 just submitted to us is concerned, we support it because it is very much in line with our Government policy.

A. GEREBEN (Hungary): My Government welcomes the idea of the World Conference, on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be held in Rome in 1979 as suggested by the special representative of the Director-General, and agree to its objectives and provide support for it.

As requested by the FAO Director-General, we are going to establish an inter-disciplinary Ad Hoc Panel which will inform about experiences in socialist agricultural development and its effects on the life of Hungarian rural population and integrated rural development. We shall do our best to make this material available to FAO in due course.

I should like to remind you, Mr. Chairman, that the Hungarian Government attaches particular importance to agrarian reform and rural development. Farming systems and social-agricultural patterns are different in various countries, independently of their level of development. We consider this Conference a forward initiative which enables the mutually useful and adaptable elements of the various systems to be adopted and introduced.

We definitely suggest that the Regional Conference in 1978 discuss the subject of agrarian reform and rural development, and we give our support to the related ideas and concepts by the FAO Council.

M. SALEY (Niger): Compte tenu du nombre d'orateurs inscrits, je vais très brièvement dire que ma délégation accueille avec enthousiasme la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, en dépit de son coût relativement élevé, en particulier des postes "aides à la Conférence" et secrétariat, surtout compte tenu du fait que cette Conférence doit se tenir à Rome.

Ma délégation émet un doute quant à l'efficacité d'une participation des organisations de travailleurs ruraux, car si dans certains pays ces organisations existent, cela veut dire que ces travailleurs sont organisés et c'est précisément le mal chronique dont souffrent les pays en développement où l'on tente actuellement de sensibiliser, d'animer, de mobiliser ces masses rurales pour qu'elles prennent conscience de leurs propres problèmes de développement.

Par contre, la participation des organisations non gouvernementales peut être à nos yeux d'une utilité très importante pour la Conférence, étant donné que ces organisations sont les véritables représentants des agriculteurs, des femmes rurales, des travailleurs ruraux, en raison même de leur domaine d'action.

Enfin, ma délégation s'associe aux recommandations quant à la méthodologie proposée par les délégués de la Colombie et des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): My Government has always favoured the holding of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, if prepared well and action oriented. Like Mr. Santa Cruz in his eloquent introduction, the Netherlands Government sees this Conference as one of a whole series of UN Conferences, all geared to the establishment of a new international and social order.

Reading the arrangements and other information available now my delegation is beginning to be convinced that the preparations will get off the ground. In fact, not much has happened during quite a number of months. I think that the comment made some days ago by the Representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, that the FAO had some problems with that Conference, has to do with this delay. Like the delegate of the United States, we expect that the recent nominations have changed the situation, and the Director-General has given the Conference the necessary top priority.

As well as the ILO, other United Nations agencies and regional commissions are very interested in this Conference, as is clear from paragraphs 4 - 6 of the document. I am glad that Mr. Santa Cruz elaborated on this, and we have full confidence in common cooperation.

The ACC Task Force on Joint Planning and Rural Development should also gear its work to the Conference. Hopefully the Conference can evaluate the first results of this first exercise in joint interagency planning.

Referring now to the suggestion about country review papers and the setting up of national panels of experts, I am glad to inform you that my Government is preparing a country review paper. Furthermore, I may mention also that the Netherlands Ministers for Development Cooperation and for Agriculture and Fisheries have appointed a high level advisory committee. This committee will advise the Ministers about the best and most concrete ways in which we can assist in the development of rural areas, and particularly the rural poor in developing countries. This committee will have to be very active in our preparation for the Conference.

My delegation is also in full agreement with the establishment of the high level advisory committee of experts. It is our hope that its forthcoming meetings will prove effective.

A short word on the role of the NGO's: My delegation read the relevant section of document C 77/LIM/10-Rev.1 with great care, and agrees with its contents. Nongovernmental organizations are important in the preparation of a Conference such as this, but are a necessity for the implementation of its results, especially farmer associations and farmer unions. We therefore have no problems with the Draft Resolution shown in C 77/LIM/36. However we think it is a little weak. In the first place my delegation would favour a more general Draft Resolution not only confined to the inclusion of non-governmental representatives in the delegations, but also in other aspects of the Conference.

The present text would be logically improved if it were to include in the second paragraph of the Preamble, after the words "Attain only" the words "by governments and", because it is then clear that you need representatives of farmers and of rural agricultural workers organizations for the implementation.

My delegation is in agreement with the additional proposals which Mr. Santa Cruz made just now. I only hope that the proposed dates for the Conference are in line with the dates of the many other conferences to be held in 1979. In general, of course, July is not the best month to choose: as Mr. Santa Cruz is certainly well aware, INGSOC also has its summer session then.

May I conclude by pledging my government's full support for this Conference, in the hope that it will contribute much to the fulfillment of the basic needs of the people.

CD. SANCHEZ AVALOS (Argentina): Solamente deseo expresar una breve consideración en general, a la vez que ratificar el apoyo de mi país a esta Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Mi delegación tiene la convicción de que la reforma agraria en sus connotaciones de tenencia de la tierra, no obstante las múltiples concepciones teóricas a que da lugar, constituye una cuestión típicamente política, habida cuenta que cualquier decisión tendiente a ponerla en práctica es atributo de la autoridad soberana de cada país que establece la naturaleza y características de sus instituciones nacionales básicas.

Por esta razón, juzgamos oportuno sugerir, en orden a las tareas de preparación de la Conferencia, la conveniencia de evitar toda posibilidad de que su programación encierre los riesgos de orientaciones reñidos con el ejercicio de las autonomías nacionales de decisión.

Por otra parte, creemos que la restante problemática del desarrollo rural debería así concentrar la atención de la Conferencia; es en este campo donde sin duda se pueden lograr aportes efectivos y concretos para acciones generalizadas, con el propósito de remover el espectro de limitaciones que afligen realmente a la agricultura y a la alimentación de los países en desarrollo.

L. LA CORTE (Venezuela): En nuestra delegación había un poco de temor realmente sobre la acogida que se le estaba dando a la celebración de esta Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Afortunadamente hoy se nos han despejado todas esas dudas. No ha sido solamente una mayoría, sino que todos, todos los países, afortunadamente, están manifestando el apoyo que le prestan y que le van a prestar a la celebración de esta Conferencia. Eso nos satisface plenamente. En nuestro país le hemos dado grande importancia a la reforma agraria. Para nosotros es algo fundamental, la tenemos y la entendemos a nuestro modo respetando el modo de tenerla y de entenderla los demás, y hemos creído que para nosotros socialmente, política y económicamente, la intervención del campesino nuestro en el desarrollo nacional es realmente necesaria para nuestro país.

Afortunadamente tenemos otras riquezas y por ello habíamos descuidado ésta, pero la reforma agraria es para Venezuela, y deseamos que siga siendo por muchos años, el mejor de los instrumentos de la incorporación del hombre venezolano al desarrollo de Venezuela.

De ahí nuestra satisfacción, satisfacción que expresamos no solamente por estos hechos sino porque también tenemos la suerte de que entre el número de asesores escogidos por el Director-General se encuentra un venezolano: el señor Armando González, Presidente de la Federación Campesina de Venezuela, y para nosotros eso tiene mayor relieve porque es justamente el representante de los campesinos venezolanos el que está hoy junto con importantes figuras de la reforma agraria y de los conocimientos agrarios del mundo, es el representante de los campesinos venezolanos que se sienta con ellos opina junto con ellos y lo hace también como cualquiera de ellos. Y eso nos satisface y debemos expresarlo así. Y con ello estamos dando nuestro apoyo a que dentro de las delegaciones, por supuesto, para la celebración de esta conferencia se tome en cuenta a los agricultores, se tome en cuenta a los campesinos; a nosotros nos parece tan natural que éso sea así que realmente nos asombramos de que no pueda ser así, sería como no llamar a una conferencia de salud a los médicos, sería como no llamar a los ingenieros, a los arquitectos y a los matemáticos para una conferencia de la construcción; el llamar a una conferencia de reforma agraria para que nos reunamos los técnicos, los políticos, los economistas, los sociólogos y que oigan los campesinos no podría ser. Por eso nos parece tan natural que dentro de nuestras delegaciones haya la presencia efectiva y activa principalmente de los campesinos, que son los que conocen, los que han adquirido mayor experiencia sobre cómo marcha la reforma agraria en todos y cada uno de nuestros países. De manera que con ello estamos expresando esa satisfacción nuestra y la satisfacción de saber que la proposición que se hace es de que vengan representaciones de los agricultores y de los campesinos dentro de las delegaciones que asistan a esta Conferencia.

Nos satisface también plenamente la forma expresada sobre el apoyo económico para la realización de esta Conferencia. Nos llamaba la atención tantas manifestaciones de apoyo a la agricultura, tantas manifestaciones de apoyo sobre la necesidad de producir alimentos y nos llamaba la atención que los países más ricos, los más poderosos, los que más tienen, a la hora de contribuir económicamente para la realización de esta conferencia sacaran unas cuentas de que iban a invertir mucho; de manera que este apoyo que hoy se le está dando nos satisface plenamente también porque sabemos que la conferencia va a contar con un respaldo económico suficiente, tal como lo ha solicitado el señor Director General.

Sobre los otros aspectos no queremos discutir sobre si va antes la reforma agraria o el desarrollo rural. Nosotros respetamos el modo de pensar de cada país; tenemos el nuestro, para nosotros la reforma agraria es previa al desarrollo rural; si no hay reforma agraria, en nuestro concepto, no puede haber desarrollo rural y, al contrario, el desarrollo rural es, en nuestra opinión, el resultado positivo, efectivo, de la reforma agraria; mientras más profunda sea, mientras más efectiva sea la reforma agraria mayor desarrollo rural debe y tiene que haber en cada país. Al menos así lo vemos los venezolanos y así lo expresamos acá, repitiendo que respetamos el modo de ser y de entender el desarrollo rural y la reforma agraria de cada país.

Terminamos, señor Presidente, diciendo además que nosotros expresamos nuestro apoyo sobre los puntos que nos ha presentado para pronunciamiento el señor Santa Cruz. Creemos que efectivamente ocho días son buenos, menos creemos que no bastarían, y más quizá podrían sobrar. Nos parece muy bien ocho días para un buen análisis de todos los documentos que habremos de conocer en esa conferencia.

Creemos que, por la importancia que tiene para el mundo de la agricultura y de la reforma agraria, deben participar en esta conferencia países que no sean miembros de la FAO pero que realmente tengan alguna voz que traer de experiencia y conocimiento a esta conferencia, enriqueciéndola así, y por eso nos

complace dar también nuestro apoyo a la aceptación de estos miembros y estas organizaciones distintas a los países miembros de la FAO.

Y en cuanto a la Comisión Preparatoria, nos parece también que es una buena idea, que ahí debemos examinar muy cerca de la conferencia toda la documentación que tengamos en nuestras manos y, por lo tanto, creemos que va a ser un formidable y buen instrumento para la celebración de esa conferencia.

Y en cuanto a la fecha, nos parece también que realmente dentro de las distintas conferencias y reuniones que hay anualmente ésta podría ser la mejor y más apropiada de las fechas.

Termino, pues, expresando la satisfacción de nuestro país en la forma y el modo como hoy estamos apoyando la realización de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

S.S. MAHDI (India): Mr. Chairman, I will be rather brief. A number of very interesting points have been made and several additions have been given as to the contents of the Conference and the way it should be prepared. I listened with interest to the statement by the delegate of the U.S.A. and we are very satisfied to note that a large number of countries, the majority of them, both developed and developing, are expressing their commitments and showing their support for the success of the Conference.

However, since basically at the moment we are discussing only the arrangements, I would not like to go in detail on the substance of what the Conference should do and what we should expect from it, except that I would like to join those who want the Conference to be action-oriented at the highest level and leading to certain decisions - hard decisions - both at international and at national levels.

So far as this delegation is concerned we have expressed very strong support to the Conference, and in view of the fact that we are giving added emphasis to rural development and agricultural development, a great portion of our resources is being committed to this purpose. And not only that; we are trying to give a new orientation to the problems of rural development and to make them more employment orientated. We hope that the exchange of experience, comparing of notes about the constraints and the studies that will be undertaken in preparation for the Conference will be of assistance in the struggle that we have launched with renewed vigour.

So far as the arrangements are concerned, we agree with the suggestions made by the Secretariat both about the duration of the Conference as well as the suggestion that the preparatory commission should meet in advance in March, just two or three months before the Conference.

As far as the budget level is concerned we support it, but we also want to leave enough flexibility to the Secretariat so that the budgetary provision applied in a very rigid way should not hamper the Conference or the quality of these preparations.

In India we have also started making preparations for an active participation in the Conference, and this is manifested by the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has already set up a working group which comprises of Senior Officers, not only of the Ministry but from the Planning Commission and other related units of government. So this is a token of our commitment to the success of the Conference.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I am very much hopeful that under the able leadership of Mr. Santa Cruz and his colleagues we will see a very happy conclusion of this work which lead to some long-term and lasting action.

M. D. VASILIU (Roumanie): La Roumanie, pays en développement de la région européenne, accorde une grande importance à la prochaine Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Dès maintenant, par l'intermédiaire des institutions spécialisées, nous avons pris les mesures nécessaires pour participer activement à la préparation des travaux de cette Conférence.

Pour illustrer l'importance de cette mesure économique, je mentionnerai le fait qu'après la deuxième guerre mondiale, les agriculteurs roumains sont passés à la réalisation de la réforme agraire. En vue de favoriser cette action, l'Etat roumain a créé de grands organismes agricoles d'Etat et suscité des actions tendant à la mécanisation de l'agriculture. Je me bornerai à vous donner un exemple des résultats obtenus: dans notre pays, avant la réforme agraire, nous obtenions seulement, dans la plaine du

Danube, 800 à 900 kg de blé à l'hectare. Après cette réforme, nous avons enregistré une production constante se chiffrant entre 4 000 et 5 000 kg à l'hectare. Dans le même temps, alors que se réalisait la réforme agraire en Roumanie, nous avons commencé à organiser des coopératives agricoles ou de grands complexes intercoopératifs.

Bien évidemment, chaque pays peut bénéficier de l'expérience d'autres pays et adopter les mesures les plus efficaces pour améliorer ses conditions locales.

La délégation roumaine estime que la prochaine Conférence mondiale pour la réforme agraire et le développement rural fera faire un pas en avant à notre activité, et nous sommes convaincu que les échanges d'idées seront d'une réelle utilité pour les pays en développement.

Nous sommes d'accord avec les propositions présentées dans le document C 77/LIM/16 concernant l'organisation de la Conférence, compte tenu des échanges d'idées aux niveaux régional et sous-régional. Nous retenons qu'en vue de la préparation de la Conférence, la FAO crée les conditions propices pour que tous les pays puissent y participer et faire connaître leurs opinions dont on ne manquera pas de tenir compte par la suite.

La délégation roumaine fera tous ses efforts pour participer à la préparation de cette Conférence et cela pendant son déroulement même.

O. LUCO ECHEVERRIA (Chile): Mi delegación ha examinado el informe sobre los preparativos para la Conferencia sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural y no tiene mayores comentarios que formular sobre el contenido mismo del documento en que se da cuenta de tales preparativos.

No obstante, quisiera expresar algunas opiniones de carácter más general.

Cuando se decidió la celebración de esta conferencia en la reunión del Consejo de la FAO en junio de 1975, mi país expresó ciertas reservas acerca de esta iniciativa y ello no porque tengamos un punto de vista contrario a la reforma agraria en sí misma. De hecho, en Chile se ha llevado a cabo un proceso de reforma agraria que se inició hace ya más de catorce años y está culminando ahora con la asignación definitiva de la tierra a los campesinos.

Quizá por este motivo mi delegación ve en este momento con simpatía la propuesta de Colombia en el sentido de alterar los términos de como se denomina la Conferencia, en el sentido de llamarla Conferencia de Desarrollo Rural y Reforma Agraria.

Es evidente que Chile es un caso particular, porque aproximadamente - excúseme señor Presidente de que dé cifras aproximadas - es del orden del 50 por ciento de la tierra que fue objeto de cambio de tenencia; alrededor de un 25 por ciento por motivos de herencia y en forma natural se transformó en predios de pequeña extensión. Lo que nos preocupa mucho en este momento es que tenemos un porcentaje alto de nuestra tierra productiva en condiciones de minifundio y ésta es una de las situaciones que actualmente se analizan por parte del Gobierno de Chile para tratar de darle una solución. El minifundio es algo difícil de encontrarle una adecuada respuesta para todas aquellas familias que viven en situaciones no aceptables. El resto de la superficie de mi país está en parques nacionales y reservas forestales, de manera que actualmente se podría decir que predios de gran extensión agrícola no existen.

He hecho este paréntesis para indicar que en este momento mi Gobierno está empeñado en poder realizar un desarrollo rural acelerado tomando en consideración que la mayor parte de la tierra está en poder de campesinos con una superficie reducida de tierra.

Es también una preocupación constante, como acabo de decir, de mi Gobierno el asegurar un mayor desarrollo rural mejorando las condiciones de vida y trabajo de los pequeños agricultores que constituyen el núcleo más importante y numeroso de los productores agrícolas de Chile.

La reforma agraria es una iniciativa que responde a las necesidades y a la situación particular de cada país y eso debe tenerse muy presente. Para algunos, la reforma agraria puede ser innecesaria y hasta inconveniente, mientras que para otros puede llegar a ser una condición indispensable para acelerar el desarrollo y mejorar el nivel de vida de la población agraria. Incluso dentro de estos últimos países existen notables diferencias en cuanto a la modalidad de proceso, incluyendo los distintos sistemas de tenencia de la tierra; de ahí que tanto la decisión sobre llevar a cabo una reforma agraria, como acerca de las modalidades y procedimientos para hacerlo es una cuestión interna de los países estrechamente condicionado por la situación de cada uno de ellos en sus múltiples aspectos. De ahí que insistamos una vez más que para que este evento tenga utilidad es indispensable que sea enfocado desde un punto de vista de eminente equilibrio, ponderación y realismo y dentro de un marco muy bien definido en cuanto a su temario.

Poreso el proceso de preparación de la conferencia es asunto que nos interesa en alto grado. Los preparativos y estudios previos que se lleven a cabo antes de una reunión internacional tienen una importante influencia en el tono y en la dirección general que asumen los debates finales y, por lo tanto, en la naturaleza y carácter de las resoluciones o recomendaciones que en ella se adopten.

Nosotros quisiéramos que la Conferencia de que se trata se fundamente en el examen de los problemas reales que afectan a los países en lo que se refiere al desarrollo rural, incluyendo aquellos problemas de carácter económico y social que emergen como consecuencia misma de la reforma agraria. Quisiéramos que esta conferencia no sólo resulten de ella declaraciones abstractas sin ningún valor práctico, sino que, por el contrario surjan iniciativas valiosas que conduzcan en último término a una mayor atención de la comunidad internacional a los países en desarrollo para ayudarles a superar los numerosos y urgentes problemas que afectan negativamente al progreso de la agricultura y al nivel de vida de los pequeños agricultores.

Abrigamos la esperanza de que los preparativos que se seguirán elaborando para llevar a cabo la conferencia se orienten hacia estos objetivos de primordial importancia.

M.K. AL-SIKOOTI (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): The Iraqi delegation wholeheartedly supports the holding of a World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We think this is extremely important for transforming the rural areas, not only from the economic angle but also from the social angle which plays a very important part in development as a whole.

This Conference will provide an excellent opportunity for the exchange of ideas and experiences on agrarian reform. Iraq has vast experience in this field and can help many countries, and we also hope that we shall benefit from other people's experiences.

We support everything that was said by Dr. Santa-Cruz about the Conference, we support the principle of holding the Conference and we also agree that agricultural unions should be represented at it.

J. RUTKOWSKI (Poland): We attach great importance to this Conference, we intend to participate in it and we shall try to contribute as much as possible. We shall naturally prepare a Country Review Paper, I hope in the time necessary for the Conference. We are also in broad agreement with the arrangements and timing of the Conference as presented by Dr. Santa-Cruz.

Now I have a few remarks regarding the aims of the Conference, which have been formulated in a very general way, so that probably many people will give a different interpretation of them. However, we really do not think it is worth discussing it in detail now because it would be very difficult to reach a consensus.

In any case, what we can expect from Conference is, in our opinion, that we should gain a better knowledge of problems as they are now in the 1970's. Secondly, we can draw the attention of bodies, governments and the public to the authorities which exist now. Thirdly, we shall probably be able to identify the countries which are in need of the services of FAO and of help from other international bodies. If we can design some alternative strategies for development, that will be the great achievement of this Conference.

We would like to stress one point, that of course the technical and social aspects should be discussed, because at present in the world problems cannot be solved on the technical side alone.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): A few weeks ago we celebrated the 25th anniversary of agrarian reform in Egypt, but we are continuing with our evolution of agrarian reform from year to year. That is why we noted with great satisfaction the efforts made by our Organization last year in order to prepare for a World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We are convinced that efforts will be multiplied in the two coming years in the preparation for the Conference and its follow-up.

We have also followed with interest the evolution of objectives and subjects which will be discussed at the Conference; we approve of them and that is why we are in favour of issuing invitations to all the countries and organizations mentioned.



I would now like to touch upon the role of rural women, both from an economic and from a social point of view. In my view, the Organization should encourage Member Nations and participating organizations to ensure that women are represented in force at that Conference.

I would like to support the encouraging remarks and proposals of the delegate of the United States, and those of Pakistan. There were excellent ideas for subjects which may be debated during the Conference, as well as with respect to the way the proposals should be presented.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I shall confine myself to the issues relevant to the preparations for the Conference. Right from the outset, we thought that there was no middle path solution, consequently we were confronted with either having the full scope of a Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development well prepared, and organized, or not having it at all. In this sense, like many others, we are satisfied that the original limited concept has changed and the preparations for the full scope of the Conference are well under way.

Now some very specific reflections on the items put before us by Dr. Santa-Cruz. First, we agree with the measures taken, that is the setting-up of a high-level Advisory Committee. We agree with the appointment of the Special Representative of the Director-General, Dr. Santa-Cruz, whom we all know, and - as he himself said - he is a very good friend of my country. We also agree with the establishment of an interdepartmental committee headed by Dr. Nurul Islam, again a very well-known personality.

Further, we agree with the proposed open-ended committee of the widest possible scope, as was proposed, to include members of FAO, non-members, members of the United Nations and agencies, non-governmental agencies, including, of course, proper representation of the farmers and farm workers. May I indicate that my country is quite prepared to take full part in the preparations as well as at the Conference itself.

We are glad to hear a special indication by the United States delegation that even some financial support might be given to the successful preparation of the Conference.

Now a few words on the Resolution. I expected to see a much broader content under such a general title, World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, so my concern is of the same nature as the concern of the Netherlands. I would even suggest that I agree completely with the motive of the Resolution, that is, inclusion of delegations or Representatives of farmers and agricultural workers in the national delegations; I agree completely. I would rather suggest that a broader text cover all the relevant points, including, of course, the specific message of the Conference or the Resolution included in LIM/36.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): When we were just discussing the idea of a Conference, we were not really very enthusiastic about it for several reasons that I am not going to go into here, but now that we have heard the points of view of other countries that have taken part in the discussion on the matter, we no longer have any hesitations, because we accept the idea of holding a Conference, but feel it should be very, very, carefully prepared, otherwise the results of such a Conference will not be satisfactory and they might even be negative. That is why the Director-General appointed Dr. Santa-Cruz to the very delicate and difficult task he has to carry out. We have no doubt as to the value of the person involved. Dr. Santa-Cruz, thanks to his wisdom and competence, will make sure that the Conference is crowned with success. As a developing country, we shall certainly give every help and make sure that our Country Review Reports are prepared concerning agrarian reform and integrated rural development. In spite of the fact that Jordan is only a small country, we do have quite an appreciable experience in agrarian reform and integrated rural development. We have gone through many stages and feel that many other countries can profit, if only to a small extent, from our experience.

We do not think that inviting an enormous amount of participants will ensure success. If too many delegations come, if delegations are too large, if all farm workers' unions are represented, we fear our Conference will become a fish market, it will be difficult to see our way, it will be difficult to choose between the good and the mediocre. We must therefore prepare the Conference very carefully indeed and draw upon our experience of other international conferences. In fact, we feel that the larger the numbers, the more negative the effects of the Conference will be, and we feel that this has been the case in a number of international conferences, because sometimes the results of a Conference with too many participants have not been up to the level hoped for. They have on occasion become political fora rather than dealing with the essential subject under discussion, the reason why the Conference was organized in the first place.

That is why I am convinced that the request made to governments is not really right. You cannot ask governments that. You can ask them to consider a possibility, but you cannot request each country to ensure that certain specific workers or farmers are sent to the Conference. Each country has the sovereign right to choose the composition of its delegation, so perhaps it is not necessary to adopt a Resolution along these lines. I think that we can perfectly well restrict ourselves to say in the Report on this debate that some delegations expressed the hope that amongst delegations present there should also be representatives of trade unions and agricultural associations.

Turning now to the procedures to be adopted for organizing the Conference and the steps which will be taken later, we think that we now have a pretty clear picture of the situation and we think that eight days for the Conference and the date proposed for the holding of it deserves our support, and we promise Dr. Santa-Cruz that we will make every effort to support and help him so that the Conference may be more fruitful than other international conferences on this subject have been.

K.TANOUCHEV (Bulgarie): Monsieur le Président, la délégation bulgare a eu la possibilité de donner son appui à l'Organisation de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural aux sessions précédentes de la Conférence et du Conseil. C'est pourquoi, ayant devant les yeux le document C 77/26, nous voudrions attirer votre attention sur les dispositions envisagées pour la préparation de la Conférence.

Sans doute, le schéma envoyé aux pays membres pourra servir d'instructions utiles pour la préparation des rapports nationaux. Il facilitera ensuite l'élaboration et la rédaction des documents pour la Conférence.

Cependant, l'évolution spécifique et les différences essentielles dans les structures socio-économiques d'un pays à l'autre imposeront certaines déviations plus ou moins significatives du schéma donné. Dans bon nombre de pays ayant déjà réalisé la réforme agraire, comme c'est le cas pour la Bulgarie, les données exigées par le schéma pour la structure sociale dans le secteur agricole, le régime foncier, la fragmentation des terres dans les exploitations agricoles, l'emploi et le chômage, ces données, après la réalisation de la réforme agraire en 1946 et après la collectivisation - ou comme nous disons la coopératisation entière de notre agriculture accomplie 25 ans auparavant, représentent une histoire triste déjà oubliée du développement agricole du pays. Il serait donc difficile, pour ne pas dire impossible, de fournir les données détaillées exigées par ce schéma.

Nous considérons que la participation aux activités préparatoires à la Conférence sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural d'un nombre important d'organisations et d'institutions internationales hautement compétentes, ainsi que l'initiative prise d'assurer la participation d'un maximum possible de pays intéressés, y compris des pays non membres de la FAO mais faisant partie de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et des institutions spécialisées, contribuera sans doute au succès de la Conférence.

Nous appuyons vivement cette initiative et croyons que notre Conférence donnera au Directeur général l'autorisation nécessaire lui permettant d'inviter à la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire, les gouvernements de tous les pays intéressés.

Nous sommes d'accord sur les propositions formulées par la 71e session du Conseil suggérant que les aspects régionaux et sous-régionaux de la réforme agraire et du développement rural soient examinés par les conférences régionales en 1978.

Nous appuyons aussi les démarches entreprises par le Directeur général tendant à la constitution d'un comité consultatif d'experts de haut niveau et à l'établissement d'une unité opérationnelle chargée de la préparation de la Conférence sous la direction de M. Santa Cruz qui, nous en sommes convaincus, fera tout son possible pour organiser de façon excellente cette conférence.

En conclusion, je voudrais donner notre appui au projet de résolution présenté dans le document C 77/LIM 36 et ayant trait à la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

Sra. Dona G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México): Deseo felicitarle en nombre de nuestra delegación por su elección como Presidente de esta Segunda Comisión. Asimismo deseo felicitarle al señor Hernán Santa Cruz, tanto por su designación como Representante Especial del Director General en la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural como por su importante y clara presentación sobre los preparativos de la Conferencia los cuales sometió a nuestra consideración esta mañana. A este respecto me permito informar que el Gobierno de mi país da todo su apoyo a la celebración

de este evento, en el cual se hará a muy alto nivel científico y técnico una evaluación de los resultados de las reformas agrarias realizadas en diferentes países del mundo, y entre ellos en el mío propio. De esta evaluación seguramente surgirán conclusiones y entre ellas la que corresponde a que las políticas del reparto de la tierra han conducido a la reducción de la parcela hasta límites que no permiten ni siquiera la subsistencia familiar; en lugar de ser beneficiosa para el campesino, lo han condicionado a su humillación a las ciudades en donde pasa a aumentar la población desarraigada, y lo que es más grave, a aumentar el número de desempleados.

Este es sólo un ejemplo de los resultados obtenidos cuando una reforma agraria se basa sólo en el reparto de la tierra, sin tomarse en cuenta una acción integrada dentro del enfoque del desarrollo rural. Es por ello que complace tanto a mi delegación el que ahora la FAO haya señalado como parte básica de la Conferencia los temas del desarrollo rural y todo lo que ello implica desde el punto de vista de la ciencia y tecnología, en tanto consideramos que el único método que puede adaptarse si se busca obtener como resultados recomendaciones que lleven a la elevación efectiva de los niveles de vida tanto en el aspecto político como en los aspectos sociales y económicos de los campesinos y los trabajadores del campo del mundo entero.

En este aspecto de la elevación del nivel de vida del campesino, nuestra delegación desea enfatizar un punto de vital importancia para los países en desarrollo, y que ya ha sido mencioando por otras delegaciones; y es el relativo a la incorporación de la mujer campesina en este proceso de desarrollo rural integrado, tal y como ha sido considerado en el proyecto de Agenda de la Conferencia; pues como es de todos conocido, la mujer campesina tiene en múltiples ocasiones la responsabilidad, no sólo de atender las necesidades diarias de su familia, sino aún de trabajar la tierra desde el inicio de la siembra hasta la obtención de la cosecha, combinando las dos actividades, sin obtener por ell más fruto ni remuneración que un producto insuficiente para alimentar y menos aún para nutrir a su familia. Esta situación de la mujer campesina llega en muchas ocasiones a constituir una forma auténtica de esclavitud y de enajenación, pues ella, a lo largo de su vida, no puede ni siquiera pretender educarse o superarse con miras a lograr su liberación, sino antes bien permanece atada en estas cadenas de la miseria a un suelo que le niega hasta los más elementales de los recursos.

Ahora bien, si consideramos que en término medio la mujer constituye el 50 por ciento de la población rural de los países en desarrollo, dejar de considerar en manera prioritaria las medidas que habrán de tomarse para incorporarla al desarrollo rural hubiera equivalido a descuidar la mitad de los factores a su desarrollo. Es por ello que apoyamos las intervenciones de todos los delegados que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra, reconociendo la necesidad de que la Conferencia se ocupe de manera prioritaria de estos problemas.

Por ello nos felicitamos de que el tema de la mujer campesina se vaya a analizar con la debida atención y, por último, la delegación mexicana apoya enfáticamente las propuestas presentadas por el Director General en el sentido de términos y modalidades en que habrá de llevarse a cabo la Conferencia de la Reforma Agraria, lo mismo que considera parte importante de la decisión que se tome en esta reunión; que se apruebe el vasto nivel de presupuesto presentado, en virtud de que resulta obvio que sin el apoyo financiero adecuado todos los sectores operativos de la Conferencia no podrían llevarse a cabo con el éxito que deseamos que ésta tenga. Además mi país por este conducto ofrece su colaboración para trabajar estrechamente con los responsables de la misma en el Comité preparatorio y en el desarrollo de la Conferencia, que esperamos tenga un éxito de vital importancia para el mundo, y que deberá celebrarse en julio de 1979.

J.P. LEVISTE, Jr. (Philippines): We would like to present some comments on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development under our second intervention. As a background, Mr. Chairman, let us start with the assumption that there have been some unprecedented rates of economic growth for the world economy as well as for the developing countries in the last few decades. These unprecedented rates of economic growth, however, have been more the exception rather than the rule. This growth has also been unevenly distributed both within and across nations. *The* gap between developing and developed nations has not really been bridged at all. Among the developing nations only a few countries have been able to pioneer a developmental process which has brought substantial benefits to the poor. In the great number of countries, not only has growth failed to bring about any tangible improvement of the poverty groups but it has even served to widen the gap between the rich and the poor, and to accentuate urban-rural disparities. Indeed the rich get richer and the poor cannot be any poorer. In this context the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will be a most welcome endeavour. It will enable the member nations to assess their expertise and their progress, or lack of progress. It may enable us to discover the reasons why our efforts have not brought about a growth process which would have raised the living conditions and standards of most of the rural poor. But this is not enough. If all we will

have are assessments and reviews of what is wrong with the voluminous and suffocating documentation that attend these conferences, then this Conference will have failed even before we have begun. What this Conference must provide is an agenda for action, for immediate action. It must identify areas where agrarian unrest is most abused and areas where rural development is most needed. It is for these reasons that the Philippines delegation give the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development support on its funding requirements, not because we need another conference but because we need an agenda for action on these two most vital issues to the developing countries.

The Philippines were really most interested in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. This is seen by the paramount importance given by the Philippine Government to the problem of agrarian reform and rural development.

We have long realized that agrarian reform understood as land distribution alone cannot solve the problem of poverty in the rural areas. The small farmer has to be provided with a package of inputs-credits, fertilizers, pesticides, high-yielding variety seeds and the extension organization to help disseminate the technology to apply these inputs. He has to be provided with proper incentives in the form of price support for his agricultural production, and a marketing system in order to assure a fair return for his labour.

A massive government effort, therefore, to help a farmer carve his own destiny from the fruits of his labour and hopefully his land is necessary. To paraphrase the Philippine Constitution we must free the farmer from "the bondage of the soil". These efforts have been reflected in the agricultural and rural development policy thrusts of our country.

Our President, President Ferdinand Marcos reiterated these commitments in his address at the opening sessions of the Third Ministerial Session of the World Food Council held in Manila on June 20, 1977, by reiterating that, "Our national development plan is anchored on a purposive effort to shift resources and priorities from the urban sector to the rural."

This commitment was consistently affirmed in all major policy documents that have since been issued by the Philippine Government, notably the five-year development plan, the Agricultural Credit Plan, and the National Budget for the coming calendar year.

Our Government have also taken the initiative of preparing a programme, of sending national government officials and employees, from the highest ministers to the most basic members of our organizations, governmental organizations, to go and live in the rural areas and work for two weeks every year as part of a governmental commitment to the countryside.

The need to balance total development in favour of the countryside impels our government to restructure its own budget for the coming year. Some fifty-six percent of the budget will be for activities with rural development components, such as utilities and infrastructure, housing, social welfare and other requirements of countryside development.

Aside from this massive government effort for a total development in favour of the countryside, there are now four integrated rural development programmes funded and conceived by our Government yet funded with the support of the IBRD, USAID, the Japanese OCEF and the Australian ADAB, with close support and coordination by our local government organization for a more concentrated attack on the problem of rural development in four depressed areas within the Philippines. I stress that our world development programmes involved not only the national government but also involved our local government organizations.

We are ready to share our experience in agrarian reform and rural development. We cannot claim to have all the answers to all the questions, for there are questions which have no answers and there are problems which have no solutions. However, we must reiterate that the political will of a nation is the most important factor in its desire to help itself. If a government does not give it the priority it deserves, then no amount of conferences can solve its problem. The government's political will is not enough. The people, who are the ultimate beneficiaries of rural development, must be involved. They must develop the capacity to help themselves. They must be committed to governments' political will. This we have seen in the Philippines experience.

Our attention has been called to the sixth report of the Resolutions Committee, which had its meeting on November 19th, examined and found receivable a Draft Resolution on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development proposed by the delegations of Cuba, Guinea, Italy, Peru, Sweden and Venezuela. I shall not read the full text of the Resolution as it is transmitted to Commission II. I will simply say the Resolutions calls on government participation in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to consider the inclusion of the national delegations of representatives of farmers and rural agricultural workers' organizations. For purposes of the record, Mr. Chairman, on

behalf of the Philippine delegation we would like to commit our support for such a resolution proposed by the delegations of Cuba, Guinea, Italy, Peru, Sweden and Venezuela. We would like to add further, however, and would like to present for the consideration of the committee that this indication to governments participating in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to consider not only the inclusion of national delegations of representatives of farmers and rural agricultural workers organizations, but to specifically add the inclusion of representatives from the local governments of the various governments participating in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We hope that this proposal will find merit with the proponents of the Resolution and the other countries who see fit to see the inclusion of local governments, since this basic governmental organization is a link with the heart of our people, the majority of our people who are in the rural areas. So we would like to add this amendment for the consideration of the Commission.

Finally on behalf of the Philippines delegation, we do hope that the Conference can focus on those issues which concern us all and, as we have repeatedly reiterated, this Conference must prepare an output which should be in line with this immediate agenda of action in the areas of acute agrarian unrest and areas of great rural/urban disparities. Only then can we really say that our preparations and our support shall not have been in vain.

G.P. KAMILARIS (Cyprus): In view of the limited time available, my statement will be quite short and concise. It is with great interest that the Cyprus delegation follows the FAO efforts and preparations to convene the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We strongly support the convention of such a conference, for we believe that the issue of agricultural development cannot be merely the outcome of financial and technical considerations alone, but of institutional considerations as well. We further believe that agrarian reform and rural development are closely interlinked and interdependent essential elements in a rural developmental strategy. One cannot talk about, or try to promote, rural development, if one leaves out the issue of agrarian reform in its wider context, to include land tenure considerations and structures, availability of credit, improvement of marketing systems, institutional aspects of a social-economic nature, provision of processing facilities, etc.

It is undeniably true that the issue of agrarian reform is a difficult and complex undertaking. Nevertheless it is an essential issue to be tackled and resolved to the benefit of the rural poor if one expects an integrated and equitable advancement of agriculture and rural development in general.

Consequently, both the title of this Conference and its context, which have been commented on earlier, are considered appropriate by us. However, we believe that the Conference should not develop into a theoretical and academic exercise, but should extend to be practical and problem solving, and hopefully come out with useful and contributory conclusions, rather than develop into confrontation and confusion.

In conclusion we would like to pledge our full support to the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and we hope that it will be successful in its objectives.

M. BUENO (España): Quisiera felicitar al Director General de la FAO por el acierto que ha tenido al elegir como responsable de la organización de esta Conferencia al Sr. Santa Cruz. Dadas las cualidades personales del Sr. Santa Cruz esta designación supone una garantía del éxito que deseamos para la Conferencia.

En relación con la Conferencia misma, nuestra delegación la apoya con gran énfasis y esto es lógico si el objetivo final de esta Conferencia es mejorar la calidad de vida de la población rural y, sobre todo, disminuir las irritantes diferencias que existen dentro de la población rural y entre ésta y la urbana. Es evidente que en la Europa meridional estas diferencias vienen acentuándose alarmadamente como consecuencia de la crisis económica que estamos padeciendo y su impacto sobre el empleo, especialmente sobre el empleo de la juventud, hace que sea de gran interés para nosotros el tema de la Conferencia. Creemos que es de gran actualidad y ello ha sido puesto de manifiesto por nuestro Ministro de Agricultura en la sesión plenaria que ha tenido lugar hace unos días y se han tomado ya por la parte española las medidas necesarias para cumplir las recomendaciones que se vienen haciendo en relación con la preparación de los informes nacionales previstos.

En relación con los cuatro puntos concretos que figuran en la propuesta de resolución presentada esta mañana por el Sr. Santa Cruz, la delegación española se muestra totalmente de acuerdo; en todo caso existen problemas de orden práctico para facilitar la redacción en el plazo previsto de los informes

nacionales a la vista de las nuevas orientaciones, o ampliaciones de las orientaciones, que figuraban en el esquema del programa para la redacción de los informes nacionales.

Creemos que este programa habrá que desarrollarlo en los grandes temas en que deben agruparse los distintos aspectos del tema general de la Conferencia y esperamos hacer estas aclaraciones a nivel de la Dirección de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria, como se nos invita a hacer en el documento en que nos proponen el esquema de programa de informes nacionales.

Y. LIKE (Ethiopia): First of all, I would like to congratulate Mr. Santa Cruz upon his appointment as Special Representative of the Director-General. The Ethiopian delegation looks forward enthusiastically to the forthcoming Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We have established a national committee to prepare the country paper. We would like to underline the importance of focusing on political parameters in so far as they will lead to agricultural development.

In our recent experience, the resolution of the land question is a prerequisite to undertake any meaningful measure to improve the condition of rural life.

We do not share the view of the delegate of Colombia regarding reversal of the title of the Conference to the "Rural Development and Agrarian Reform". We would however like to associate ourselves with the views of the delegates of Venezuela and Chile, who rightly emphasize land reform as a theme, or centre of agrarian reform and rural development.

We also believe that the country papers should be given high emphasis, as the success of the agrarian reform and rural development primarily depends upon the contributions made by these or by the respective countries. It is they who can give us their thoughts about the land situation in their own countries, and rural development generally, and how they go about improving the status quo. Therefore, their contributions should not be undervalued - although we also believe that FAO can contribute tremendously to making the Conference successful.

To comment on the issue upon which decision is requested by the Special Representative: we endorse the proposals of the Special Representative of the Director-General including participation of other non-FAO but UN member countries, and of inter-government, and other, organizations which are in one way or another associated with FAO's work.

Finally, we would also like to support the Resolution submitted by the delegates of Cuba, Guinea, Italy, Peru, Sweden and Venezuela - subject to two comments:

One refers to the third paragraph: "Recalling also that the overall progress achieved has not really made any inroads on the destitution of the rural masses, who in most countries remain outside the mainstream of social and economic development and continue to suffer from unemployment, underemployment, hunger and malnutrition". We would like to reverse the order of the words "unemployment" and "underemployment". We believe that the present situation is not primarily one of unemployment, which is secondary, but rather of underemployment. As many of you are aware, family labour is a major input for agricultural production in these countries and it may be that because of lack of sufficient skill, technical know-how, and modern technology, one and a half people may be employed on work which could be done by only one person. Therefore, we would like to emphasize underemployment as opposed to unemployment. If the word "underemployment" could be brought forward, that would satisfy our need.

In the last paragraph, we would welcome the substitution of the word "recommends" for the word "invites".

In the second last sentence, we have the words "... Development to consider the inclusion". We would like to cancel out the words "to consider". We think this is important in order not to weaken the statement unnecessarily. We also believe that since the word "recommends" does not force any country or its government to accept it or not but leaves them free to make their own decisions, the words "to consider" are redundant in that case. So the final paragraph would therefore read: "Recommends... the inclusion in their national delegations of representatives of farmers' and rural agricultural workers' organizations". We would like to indicate here that this statement would give due recognition of the need of farmers to be represented in such an important Conference.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I am sorry I have to take you back to what you already declared closed, but I did not have the opportunity to see the Draft Resolution by the distinguished delegate from Spain. I want clarification to be made before you officially declare it closed.

CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, the delegate of Ethiopia, but after we have finished this debate. We can speak about that at the end of this discussion, otherwise we will get mixed up in our debate. I know what you are referring to.

K. CHOUERI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Ma délégation a écouté avec toute son attention l'intervention de M. Santa-Cruz, représentant le Directeur général de la FAO, en ce qui concerne la préparation de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Elle est d'accord sur la création d'un groupe d'experts en vue de la préparation de cette Conférence; ce groupe a d'ailleurs commencé ses travaux depuis un mois, et nous espérons que son rapport sera prêt au mois de février prochain.

Notre délégation a toujours fait appel à la mobilisation de tous les moyens disponibles pour la réussite de cette Conférence.

En raison de l'importance que nous attachons au développement rural, nous avons eu certains doutes lors des premières propositions visant à ce que cette Conférence soit envisagée sous un angle purement technique, limitant ainsi sa portée. Nous voudrions que cette Conférence soit technique mais qu'elle ait le retentissement et la dimension qu'elle mérite.

Il va sans dire que le budget proposé pour cette Conférence, si nous l'adoptons tel quel - et cela a été le cas pour d'autres conférences internationales qui n'ont pas eu de résultats probants - doit bénéficier de notre appui total en vue de la réussite des objectifs fixés par le Directeur général pour cette Conférence qui servira les intérêts du monde rural et aboutira à des solutions aux problèmes sociaux des populations rurales.

De même, cette Conférence doit établir la base nécessaire aux investissements dans les zones rurales, ce qui est pour nous le fondement même du développement de la production, en plus de la mobilisation de la main-d'œuvre.

M. Santa Cruz a rappelé les démarches évoquées dans le document C 77/26; des mesures ont déjà été prises ce dont nous le félicitons.

Nous voudrions dire ici que dans le cadre de la préparation des documents et rapports nous ne sommes pas favorables à un nombre accru des documents théoriques et généraux alors que nous avons besoin d'une étude approfondie des sujets et d'une préparation des documents dans toutes les langues de la Conférence.

Nos espérances sont grandes pour la réalisation des objectifs de la Conférence et nous souhaitons une amélioration des conditions de vie de l'homme dans le monde rural, car l'homme est notre capital essentiel.

B.E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Mi delegación desea, ante todo, felicitar al Sr. Santa Cruz por su nombramiento tan importante para dirigir las labores en la preparación de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Deseamos también felicitarlo por la explicación clara que nos presentó esta mañana y que es un elemento importante que ha contribuido a formular criterios y orientaciones que han sido de utilidad para las delegaciones aquí presentes en este debate.

En cuanto al tema que estamos tratando, es criterio de nuestra delegación que existe un acuerdo sobre lo que es el concepto básico de reforma agraria, pero que sin embargo la implementación de la misma varía según las características nacionales, las condiciones económico-sociales e históricas de los países. Según nuestro criterio/ la reforma agraria es uno de los factores esenciales del proceso de desarrollo, pero a este factor deben agregarse también otros factores que a criterio nuestro influyen y determinan el proceso de desarrollo, como son las otras actividades y políticas orientadas a complementar todos sus aspectos, es decir, el crédito, la asistencia técnica, los niveles nutricionales, la capacitación de las masas campesinas y los procesos de comercialización de la producción.

Ha entendido nuestro señor Presidente en esta Conferencia que deberá llevar un enfoque global e integrado de estos aspectos. En cuanto al esquema que se ha presentado para que lo compilen los países, mi delegación sentirá que es muy importante en cuanto consiste en un elemento indicativo sobre las

labores que deberán iniciarse para su preparación. Mi país, señor Presidente, está de acuerdo en este procedimiento y también estaría dispuesto a recibir la asistencia en ese sentido que le puedan dar los expertos de la FAO. Creemos sí que para la presentación del mismo a la fecha límite que se había sugerido inicialmente debería de darse una cierta flexibilidad; creemos que es de suma importancia que estos estudios deberían de estar listos y considerados durante las conferencias regionales de los países que se efectuarán en 1978; creemos también que en las mismas deberá hacerse un análisis y una evaluación sobre la experiencia que los países a nivel nacional, subregional y regional han alcanzado en materia de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural.

Mi delegación considera que la tarea de efectuar el análisis y la evaluación de los estudios por países de parte de Secretaría sería un cómputo excesivo para la misma; creemos que en este caso la función de las conferencias regionales sirve para compilar los datos, efectuar los análisis y la evaluación que en esta materia pueden simplificar y agilizar el trabajo de la Secretaría. En este sentido me refiero también al párrafo 3 del documento 77/26 en el cual se dice que además de las otras actividades la FAO se propone llevar a cabo estudios seleccionados sobre problemas concretos de reforma agraria y de desarrollo rural. Nosotros interpretamos que ésta es una actividad también que implica grandes esfuerzos y tiempo y que el elemento y los datos no podrían ser solamente sobre los estudios por países ya que sería a criterio nuestro un trabajo excesivamente grande y podría comprometer la eficiencia de los mismos estudios. A mi delegación también le preocupa que se amplíe excesivamente el marco teórico o de estudios que se debe efectuar para esta Conferencia. Consideramos que se le haga un enfoque amplio integrado pero también exacto. Creemos que de esta Conferencia deben resultar programas de acción y estrategias que den indicaciones concretas para el desarrollo, que nos den sugerencias para la adopción de medidas que aceleren estos procesos. Creemos que es muy importante la función de la FAO en este sentido. También consideramos que para estas estrategias es necesaria una disponibilidad de recursos en mejores condiciones en la cual todos los países, particularmente los países desarrollados, deben de participar y al brindar esta asistencia deben ir a través de los organismos multilaterales, con el objeto de evitar la duplicación de funciones y el desperdicio de recursos. También consideramos que debe haber una integración y una complementación dentro de las actividades de los organismos especializados de Naciones Unidas. En cuanto a los otros aspectos que se refieren al lugar y a la sede donde esta Conferencia va a celebrarse nosotros estamos de acuerdo en que se celebre en Roma y que su duración sea de ocho días. En cuanto al aspecto relativo a la ocasión de los recursos para la preparación de esta Conferencia, mi delegación también concuerda con ella. En cuanto al proyecto de Resolución que aquí se nos presenta, documento 77/36, mi delegación tiene una observación que hacer y una consulta en cuanto en la última parte dispositiva de la misma se hace mención a que los gobiernos inviten a las organizaciones de agricultores y de trabajadores agrícolas. Nosotros no logramos saber exactamente cuál sería el status, la función de estas asociaciones dentro de las delegaciones de los Estados.

A entender nuestro, es una Conferencia en la cual están siendo convocados e invitados los Estados Miembros. Me parece que debería darse en esta Resolución la facultad de los gobiernos en este sentido, pero no sé hasta qué punto sería oportuno que fuera con carácter vinculante la recomendación que aquí se formula en este proyecto de Resolución.

B. OULAD-CHERIF (Maroc) (interprétation de l'arabe): Mon pays attache une grande importance à la convocation de la Conférence mondiale pour la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Nous sommes prêts à participer à cette Conférence en offrant une contribution compatible avec notre modeste expérience en la matière. Je suis heureux de rendre hommage aux efforts faits par le Directeur général pour organiser cette Conférence, et je voudrais également féliciter M. Santa Cruz d'avoir été nommé responsable de la préparation de cette Conférence.

Nous pensons que le développement de la production rurale n'aboutira à des résultats positifs et n'atteindra les objectifs voulus que s'il est accompagné d'une réforme agraire complète. Pour cette raison, nous sommes persuadés que cette Conférence mondiale devrait donner autant d'importance à la question du développement rural qu'à la question de la réforme agraire. Nous sommes convaincus qu'il n'est pas possible de réaliser le développement rural sans modifier les systèmes de propriété foncière. Nous pensons donc qu'il est logique d'étudier ces questions de façon intégrée pour que la Conférence soit en mesure d'examiner tous les aspects du développement agricole dans un cadre social qui souligne l'importance de la condition humaine dans la société rurale.

Je crois donc à l'adoption de mesures appropriées qui devront être prises pour permettre à chacun de jouer son rôle dans le processus de développement agricole.



En conclusion, je voudrais exprimer mon appui à la proposition faite par M. Santa Cruz quant aux invitations et au niveau de représentation à cette Conférence, et donner mon apport au programme prévu pour la préparation et la tenue de la Conférence elle-même.

Nous appuyons le projet de résolution présenté par le Comité des résolutions et qui nous a été distribué sous la cote C 77/LIM/36.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German: We consider the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be of great importance. We have been closely following the preparatory steps and I shall come back to this later.

Here in Commission II, I would like to repeat what the Minister for my country said in the Plenary Session, and I shall quote him: "The Government of my country has always given priority to the promotion of integrated rural development, the aim of which is to raise the standard of living of the rural population, to ensure an adequate agricultural production, to preserve landscape and natural resources, to bring about a balanced settlement structure between country and town, and to contribute in this way to a social balance. In this connexion, the development of agriculture toward higher productivity can only be brought about within the framework of overall economic development by improving infrastructures and in particular by raising the level of education. Integrated rural development requires, therefore, specially careful preparatory work. It does not only require measures in the agricultural policy sector, but also in various fields of economic and social policies. Experience has shown that uncoordinated individual measures do not lead to the development which is desired in the long-term. Therefore, my Government has supported the convening of regional meetings of experts and one supra-regional meeting of experts dealing with that subject which were organized jointly with FAO. The results obtained there are an important contribution to the Conference. With satisfaction we note that prior to the Conference, as was suggested by us, all important subjects should be discussed at the regional level. The frank exchange of experiences on success and failure so far between countries with similar conditions promises, in my view, the greatest benefit. The subsequent worldwide discussion could then lead to a varied palette of possible solutions from which every country can choose the most suitable for itself".

That is the end of my quotation.

As regards the practical measures, I would highlight the following points. First, the basis of all discussions should be the Country Review Papers. We are very pleased with this; the outline proposed for these papers is the result of a compromise, obviously, in order to have as far as possible a common basis for debate. We have considerable details in the outline and it may be rather complicated for many countries to reply clearly.

The questions in paragraph 15 seem very important to judge the effects of agrarian reform and the measures of rural development on food production and on improving the living conditions of the rural population. Good and bad experience should be pointed out openly.

Paragraph 25 we would interpret as meaning that we should also report on our cooperation in the important field of rural development with other countries, in particular developing countries. We would like the Secretariat to explain to us more clearly whether this view is correct. If it is not, we would ask the Secretariat to explain it in greater detail, and to tell us how and when these important exchanges of experience will be fitted into the actual preparation of the Conference.

Secondly, my Minister has referred to the Inter-Regional Symposium on Integrated Rural Development held in Berlin from 19 to 23 September 1977, organized by us in collaboration with FAO and the Swedish SIDA Organization. Well-known experts participated from the following countries: Bangladesh, Colombia, Iraq, Mexico, Paraguay, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Poland, the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany. The World Bank and the ILO were represented too.

In the preamble to the various recommendations adopted, it is pointed out that this report will be a comprehensive basic document for the World Conference. We assume that the report will be sent to the Member States.

Thirdly, we have been surprised that the Advisory Committee was convened so quickly. We should have preferred to have prior consultations also with other countries having greater experience.

My delegation thanks Dr. Santa Cruz for the additional information given this morning. As regards the proposals on the date of the Conference and the meeting of the Preparatory Committee as well as the participation of non-governmental organizations, we feel the information should have been passed on to us earlier and in writing. Unfortunately, we have not been able today to ask for instructions on this point. Therefore, we cannot give a final reply on this.

The same is true as regards what is proposed in the Draft Resolution which has been distributed this afternoon. I am referring, of course, to C 77/LIM/36, and as regards the contents of the Draft Resolution, as far as I know governments have always had the opportunity to include in their delegations representatives of national organizations and institutions. Certain concerns expressed by the honourable delegate of Jordan could largely be taken into account if representatives of these national organizations and institutions already participate in the discussions at the regional level.

As regards documentation, we would particularly like some information on the way in which documentation will be presented and the actual detail. Do we know that the Country Review Papers will also provide the basis for the preparatory discussions at a regional level referred to by previous speakers, in particular the delegate of Sierra Leone? He quite rightly attached considerable importance to this. Will the results of these regional discussions be separately passed on to the Conference? Will the most important results therefrom be summed up for the Conference and the Preparatory Committee? When and on the basis of what document will the Advisory Committee be able to act, and in what way will the experience of the other United Nations Agencies be drawn in?

I refer to the documents we see listed in paragraph 4 of C 77/26. How can their contributions be included and fitted in to the regional discussions?

I would ask the Commission to forgive me for asking so many questions, but, as I said at the outset, my Government attributes great importance to this Conference.

B.F. DADA (Nigeria): My intervention is to convey the support of my delegation for the proposed World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. That this subject is of fundamental importance to agricultural development in developing countries is no doubt. However, we would like to express cautious optimism on the global discussion of a highly political issue such as reforms in the land tenure systems, if the experiences in many developing countries are anything to go by.

We recognize that some of the problems are best solved at local level. A tendency towards an academic discussion should therefore be avoided as much as possible.

We support the recommendation that the subject be discussed at regional and sub-regional levels first.

It is the view of my delegation that the rural development aspect of the Conference should be given greater emphasis. Agriculture - which is the mainstay of the economy of most developing countries, including mine - is likely to be carried out by the rural population. Therefore, we recognize the opportunities to be provided by such a Conference to resolve some of the major problems of rural development.

Earlier on, my delegation commented on the level of the proposed budget. We would support limited expenditure for the Conference which should not be on a grandiose scale.

In conclusion, I would like to assure the Commission of the cooperation of Nigeria in making the Conference a success.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I am very happy to follow the last speaker. Having lived in Nigeria for a couple of years, I think that I learned far more about poverty in the rural areas and the reality of the problem we are now facing by that experience. I think that the subjects of agrarian reform and rural development go to the very heart of the whole question of aid-giving and aid strategy. I would like to say straight away that the United Kingdom would have no difficulty in going along with the Resolution which has come to us this afternoon. Bearing in mind the fact that my delegation to this Conference already has a representative of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers and the National Farmers' Union, we are already, as it were, applying the principle which this recommendation is suggesting.

I do, however, have one reservation about the wording. I would go wholly along with what Ethiopia had to say on the subject of underemployment in rural areas, but I think that what we are really talking about is rural poverty, and instead of referring to the rural masses - because if you travel across Africa you will not find masses, you will find rural poverty - I think what we ought to be talking about is the rural poor.

However, having made that comment, I think that the operative paragraph of this Resolution does need a little clarification. I listened to the comments which have been made and I think that at some stage it should go back to the Resolutions Committee for clarification, since it leaves a number of loose ends. On the other hand, the United Kingdom can go along with it as it stands, but I would hope it would refer to rural poverty.

I think it is well known that rural development is now central to the United Kingdom Government's aid strategy of helping the poorest people in the poorest countries. For that reason, clearly we support the Conference. The questions of rural development and agrarian reform are, however, issues which the developing countries must in large part, in our view, tackle themselves, and we would therefore expect the developing countries to play the major role in this Conference. We for our part will be prepared to play our part in discussing the practical questions of how we can help. If the Conference is to be a success, detailed preparation is in our view vital. We therefore welcome the appointment of Dr. Santa Cruz and the arrangements which have been made for preliminary discussions to take place. I am only sorry that I was unable to be present this morning when he spoke, and I look forward to seeing what he had to say. It is important, in our view, that there should be discussion of the issues involved at the regional level, as problems of agrarian reform and rural development vary very greatly from one region to another. I am sure those concerned in the preparations for this Conference will bear in mind the overriding importance that study papers are received by participants in good time.

I am happy to learn that one of the recommendations this morning is that the Conference should be held in Rome.

I think it is well known that the United Kingdom had reservations about the costs, and I would echo the remarks of Nigeria in this regard. There is no need for grandiose expenditure. Let us constantly bear in mind what the object of this Conference is, and that is the alleviation of rural poverty.

J.L. SAULT (Australia): Australia supports the holding of the proposed World Conference. The problems to be examined are of great concern to the developing countries and have fundamental relevance to FAO's work. We hope that the exchange of information and experience and recommendations to come out of the Conference will be translated, as the Philippines said, by political will into action bringing positive results for development.

Australia sees the Country Papers being prepared by developing countries as a useful aid to development assistance planners and also basic to the preparations for the Conference. We do not, however, see a need for developed countries to undertake similar exercises, as we believe all resources and attention of the Conference should be devoted to developing countries, where the nature of the problem is different and where it is greater in magnitude.

We have noted the preparations for the World Conference. These now appear to be proceeding on a thorough and wide-ranging basis. We consider that the FAO Council should be provided with regular progress reports on the implementation of these arrangements.

G. WEILL (France): Depuis que cette question a été discutée tant au Conseil qu'au Comité de l'agriculture, la délégation française a constamment rappelé que le développement rural constituait à nos yeux un processus continu et que celui-ci relevait essentiellement des responsabilités nationales. Le délégué du Nigeria a parlé de "politique des Etats Membres".

Ce qui nous préoccupe tous, c'est certainement le développement rural, et la réforme agraire qui est associée au titre de cette Conférence peut en effet, dans certains cas, en constituer un élément déterminant. C'est bien dans cet esprit que nous voyons associer le développement rural et la réforme agraire dans l'objet de la Conférence et dans le point de l'ordre du jour dont nous discutons.

S'agissant de réunir une conférence sur ce thème si important et si complexe, nous avons également avec d'autres délégations (cela vient d'être rappelé par les derniers orateurs qui sont intervenus, et no-

tamment par le Nigeria) mis l'accent sur l'importance de l'approche régionale et sous-régionale et sur l'intérêt de l'échange d'expériences à ce niveau pour que ces expériences soient plus proches et que les enseignements à en tirer soient plus enrichissants.

Quoi qu'il en soit, ce dont nous débattons essentiellement, c'est d'une conférence mondiale organisée par la FAO avec la coopération des autres institutions des Nations Unies. Nous avons été assurés, lors de la session du Conseil qui vient de se tenir, que le coût de cette Conférence serait sensiblement inférieur à celui de conférences du même type du système des Nations Unies.

Cependant, pour être conséquents avec nous-mêmes, je me dois de répéter ce qu'a déclaré le chef de notre délégation au Conseil, à savoir: que nous regrettons que le supplément de dépenses porté à notre connaissance par le Directeur général, actuellement de 1 200 000 frs n'ait pas été couvert par des transferts ou des économies et que cela conduise à majorer d'un égal montant le niveau du budget qui nous est proposé pour le prochain biennium.

En tout état de cause, nous tenons à assurer le représentant spécial du Directeur général Hernán Santa Cruz, de l'intérêt avec lequel nous suivrons les travaux de cette conférence et que le rapport qui nous a été demandé pourra être transmis dans les délais qui nous ont été proposés.

Pour conclure, un mot sur le projet de résolution dont nous comprenons et apprécions parfaitement l'esprit. Je dirai simplement que, dès l'instant où la souveraineté des Etats Membres est dûment respectée quant à la composition de leurs délégations, nous n'objecterions pas à cette résolution. Cependant, nous sommes en cela amenés à partager le point de vue du délégué de la Jordanie qui, avec son éloquence coutumière, a soutenu que le dispositif final de ce projet de résolution pourrait sans doute se retrouver dans le contexte du rapport, sans qu'il soit nécessaire d'adopter spécifiquement une résolution à ce sujet.

K. ITANO (Japan): My delegation shares the views expressed by many delegates that in order to achieve the improvement of economic and social conditions of small farmers, the promotion of rural development is vital, and it should be carried on in an integrated manner. Therefore, my delegation welcomes the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and the initiative of FAO to make the Conference successful. We would like to stress the importance of a regional approach, as already mentioned by other delegates, because factors related to rural development vary from country to country and from region to region. In this regard, we support the proposal by the Secretariat, to discuss this issue in depth at the FAO Regional Conference in 1978.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Chairman of Group of 77): My delegation would like to stress once again that our Group of 77 has advanced at the time of the 72nd Session of the Council our full support for the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. I think that the many speakers who took the floor before me covered our common position in relation to this very important Conference.

As a Brazilian delegate, I would just like now to make a few remarks which we believe might be relevant at this stage. In dealing with the problem of rural development, the Conference must consider the different policies and measures it can contribute to improve conditions of rural populations. Usually such policies and measures, in our view, complement each other and cannot be seen in isolation. They include, inter alia, for instance, in addition to agrarian reform, rural credit cooperatives, price control policies, training, storage, marketing, integration of women in development, health and education.

As one can see, the subject of rural development is indeed all-encompassing. While we feel that the subject of rural development is very important, we also believe that the Conference must be organized in such a way as to take fully into account the fact that each country must find its own models on rural development, defining accordingly its own policies and its own priorities.

In this connexion, it might be useful to remember that regional, national and even local conditions within the same country can justify quite different approaches. Such a plurality of approaches, in our view, requires that preparations for the Conference rely heavily on the work at the country and regional level. We feel also, on the other hand, that consideration of matters related to rural development by the international community can only be meaningful if it generates external financial flows of support of developing countries' own efforts as well as transfer of adequate technology. As far as the preparations for the Conference are concerned, we are confident that the vast experience of Dr. Santa Cruz will be most valuable.

Reference is made in document C 77/26 - I think the number is correct - to studies to be developed in preparation for the Conference. Perhaps it would be useful to hear some clarification on the intended scope of such studies if at all possible at this stage. Without prejudice to other themes, one could perhaps suggest, just as an example, the fact of international trade policies, and in particular, trade restrictions on rural development in developing countries, impact of food aid on rural development, the potential role of agro-industries, on rural development, and here I have very much in mind as one example dairy industries, which have quite a potential for employment; also, for instance, studies on rural underemployment, which I understand was one subject referred to by Ethiopia among others; also perhaps specific policies geared to the integration of women in rural development, a point I think amply dwelt upon by Mexico. I am just giving very tentatively some possible areas of study, but I would have liked to hear what the Secretariat had in mind in this area.

As far as participation in the Conference is concerned, we understand that the nature of the Conference calls for the presence of planners. Naturally it is up to each government to decide who can best represent it and who can best advise it.

R. PASQUIER (Suisse): Je voudrais simplement rappeler, comme l'ont fait certains orateurs, qu'il existe déjà de multiples études sur les réformes agraires. Cela ne signifie pas pour autant que nous n'attachons pas d'importance à cette Conférence, mais nous souhaiterions que l'accent puisse être mis sur des échanges d'expériences entre les responsables actuels des réformes agraires, de manière qu'ils puissent tirer des leçons de leurs résultats positifs et de leurs échecs. Ainsi, la participation de ceux que je pourrais appeler les usagers de la réforme agraire, c'est-à-dire les agriculteurs avant tout et leurs organisations, serait assurée au mieux.

Cela dit, je rejoins les précédents orateurs qui ont constaté que le supplément de coûts peut être considéré comme regrettable à certains égards. Il faudrait que le Directeur général essaie de comprimer certaines rubriques du coût de cette Conférence.

E. BARDEEV (Observateur pour l'Union internationale des syndicats des travailleurs de l'agriculture, des forêts et des plantations): Nous avons étudié avec un grand intérêt les documents soumis à cette Commission, et avons écouté très attentivement l'introduction présentée par M. Santa Cruz.

En effet, la Conférence internationale sur la réforme agraire de 1966 arrivait à la conclusion très importante qu'une large participation des masses à la planification et à la mise en oeuvre des réformes agraires était de nature à garantir que les intérêts de la paysannerie et les particularités spécifiques des différentes régions seraient dûment pris en considération. Notre Union internationale des syndicats des travailleurs agricoles appuie sans réserve cette thèse.

Nous nous basons sur les riches expériences de nos affiliés à travers le monde pour les transformations démocratiques fondamentales des structures agraires, pour le progrès économique et social de la campagne. Toutes ces expériences témoignent qu'aucune réforme agraire ne peut être couronnée de succès sans l'appui des travailleurs ruraux s'ils ne sont pas associés à son élaboration et à sa mise en pratique. D'autre part, on connaît de multiples exemples d'une coopération heureuse et utile des syndicats et organisations paysans avec les gouvernements progressistes dans le cadre de transformations agraires et de la solution des problèmes de développement rural.

S'agissant de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, il me paraît important et nécessaire d'associer les organisations nationales, internationales et régionales des travailleurs ruraux aux préparatifs et à la tenue de la Conférence et cela dans toutes ses phases.

Nous avons pris connaissance du plan des préparatifs fondamentaux de la Conférence mondiale qui ne prévoit pas dans une mesure suffisante la participation à la préparation de cette Conférence de représentants d'organisations de travailleurs ruraux. A notre avis, il n'est pas souhaitable qu'une prépondérance soit donnée aux aspects strictement économiques et techniques des transformations agraires et du développement rural en négligeant les problèmes sociaux et ceux des politiques agraires que le mouvement paysan et le mouvement syndical considèrent comme prioritaires.

En 1978 les conférences régionales de la FAO examineront également la préparation de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Nous tenons à souligner que nos organisations nationales affiliées sont prêtes à prendre part à ces conférences régionales de la FAO et à apporter leur contribution constructive aux analyses de la situation et à l'élaboration des recommandations pouvant être prises en considération dans le cadre de la préparation des documents de travail de la Conférence mondiale.

Nous félicitons les gouvernements qui ont présenté le projet de résolution figurant dans le document C 77/LIM/36 et exprimons le vœu que cette Conférence l'adopte. C'est donc avec plaisir que nous avons entendu les propositions des porte-parole des pays nordiques, de l'Italie et autres, allant dans ce sens.

Quant à nous, nous envisageons une série d'initiatives ayant pour objectif de faire la synthèse des expériences accumulées par les paysans et les ouvriers agricoles dans leur lutte pour la transformation de structures agraires, et de préparer les recommandations appropriées en vue de la Conférence mondiale. Parmi ces initiatives la plus importante sera la Conférence syndicale mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural qui sera convoquée en octobre prochain. Les organisations syndicales et paysannes, nationales et régionales, de tous les continents, seront invitées à y participer. A notre avis, dans le respect du principe de réciprocité, la FAO devrait être invitée à prendre part non seulement à la Conférence elle-même mais également à sa préparation.

Telles sont fondamentalement nos suggestions relatives à la préparation de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

N. DI MEOLA (Observateur pour la Confédération mondiale du travail): Nous autres, Organisation non gouvernementale, n'avons pas le droit, vous le voyez, au microphone mais nous avons tout de même droit à la parole ce qui est la chose la plus importante. Je vais profiter de ce droit pour exprimer la position de la CMT sur ces questions très techniques. Nous sommes d'accord sur l'importance de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire car il est ainsi désormais reconnu le devoir des Etats d'endiguer le flot montant de la misère totale dans les zones rurales des pays en développement, flot menaçant de les submerger. A notre avis, ce n'est pas suffisant. Un droit naturel de l'homme est le droit à la liberté des besoins et aussi à la liberté de parole et d'association. Ce droit est contesté dans plusieurs pays du monde et c'est lui que nous voulons défendre quand nous demandons aux Etats de ratifier, d'appliquer la Convention 141 de l'OIT, d'accepter la recommandation N° 149 et de demander à la FAO d'appuyer cette requête.

D'autre part, nous sommes convaincus que l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international rendrait possible aux pays en voie de développement la solution d'un grand nombre de leurs problèmes dès qu'ils se posent mais, comme l'a dit récemment le Directeur général, cet ordre, dont on parle beaucoup, avance "à une allure de tortue".

Il faut soustraire le commerce mondial au monopole d'un petit nombre de puissances économiques internationales et à celui des firmes transnationales qui se présentent comme facteur de progrès alors qu'elles défendent en fait leurs intérêts égoïstes et privés.

Nonobstant la conjoncture favorable des dernières années, le problème alimentaire mondial, menaçant aussi bien les peuples développés que les peuples en voie de développement, ne peut se résoudre à notre avis si l'on n'augmente pas avant tout la production des pays en voie de développement pour leurs propres besoins, en instaurant les conditions d'équilibre des marchés intérieurs par une plus juste répartition des revenus, compte tenu d'une exportation capable de fournir aux pays en voie de développement les devises nécessaires à leur économie et à la réalisation d'un plus haut niveau de vie.

Dans ces conditions, la réforme agraire ne peut être seulement un fait économique et politique; il faut retenir bien évidemment les aspects de caractère social et les nombreux problèmes qui en découlent. Et, pour ce faire, il faut réaliser l'intégration de la réforme dans la planification économique générale au niveau national.

Selon nous, le développement n'est pas possible - surtout dans les pays où 70 à 80 pour cent de la population est agricole - sans une politique considérant les problèmes du développement rural comme essentiels et ne choisissant pas comme moyens d'exploitation de la ferme ceux qui permettent d'y maintenir les agriculteurs en évitant le chômage et les effets négatifs d'une occupation insuffisante.

Il nous semble donc nécessaire de ne favoriser ni les grands complexes agro-industriels aux techniques avancées, ni les grands investissements de capitaux qui aboutissent à une faible absorption de main-d'oeuvre, mais d'avoir recours au contraire aux techniques intermédiaires de production dont l'usage a été justement recommandé par l'OIT dans son programme de l'emploi, et par la FAO même dans son programme à moyen terme 1972/1976, en évitant aussi de détruire certaines activités traditionnelles qui, si elles ne sont pas soutenues par un plan de développement intégré, disparaissent face à la concurrence des entreprises qui dominent le commerce mondial.

La CMT et la FMTA demandent à cette Conférence d'accorder la priorité à l'organisation de la Conférence mondiale de la réforme agraire, et d'être associées aux travaux mêmes de la Conférence en leur accordant une large participation. Dans ces conditions, nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec la résolution présentée aujourd'hui, et nous espérons qu'elle sera adoptée. Je suis particulièrement d'accord avec le délégué du Venezuela quand il dit qu'une Conférence portant sur les problèmes ruraux doit être assurée de la participation des travailleurs ruraux.

Enfin, les travailleurs ruraux ne sont pas des objets scientifiques, mais ils sont des protagonistes sociaux. Pour cette raison, ils doivent être représentés et participer à la Conférence. Voilà quelle est notre position.

La CMT et la FMTA demandent à cette Conférence d'accorder une haute priorité à l'organisation de la Conférence mondiale de la réforme agraire.

Notamment, elles proposent que la FAO prie les gouvernements de considérer l'inclusion, dans les délégations nationales à la Conférence, des représentants des organisations des travailleurs ruraux.

A ce propos, nous rappelons:

- que l'OIT, en adoptant en 1975 la Convention 141 et la Recommandation 149, ainsi que la 18ème Conférence de la FAO, ont reconnu le rôle indispensable des syndicats dans l'application de la réforme agraire, et surtout dans le développement des zones rurales;
- en prenant acte du fait que l'initiative d'un contrat avec les représentants de la FAO auprès des pays doit partir des syndicats, qu'il est toutefois nécessaire de trouver un climat de compréhension et de collaboration auprès desdits représentants;
- que les ONG internationales reçoivent, si possible, communication des rapports du Comité des experts à haut niveau afin qu'elles puissent suivre de très près les travaux préparatoires, et participer, en pleine connaissance de cause, à la réunion du groupe restreint dont il est question au paragraphe 10.b du document CL 70 du 10 octobre 1976. Elles demandent aussi d'être consultées pendant la préparation de la Conférence agraire;
- que les syndicats reçoivent l'invitation aux conférences régionales et puissent intervenir dans les débats de celles-ci;

Notre Organisation, ayant dans son programme étudié à fond sur le terrain, moyennant des rencontres et des débats, les problèmes ressortissant à leur réforme agraire, espère que les documents préparés dans ces enceintes seront inclus dans l'ensemble des documents officiels.

La CMT et la FMTA souhaitent pouvoir intervenir dans les commissions de la Conférence et dans la Conférence elle-même.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): The head of my delegation, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Malta, has already underlined the importance which my Government is giving to this Conference in his speech in the Plenary Session. He called attention in particular to a special project which is being carried out in Malta and which is known under the name of "Izra u Rabbi" - "Sow and Rear", which is a very interesting project and which we described in the Committee of Agriculture. It is interesting because in a small island country like Malta which is a very poor in cultivatable land, we try with all possible means to artificially increase the surface of cultivatable land. We are carrying out this project with the help of volunteers similar those which his Excellency the Ambassador of the United Nations described - but I venture to say that Malta has had this scheme in operation now for several years.

I agree with most of the speakers in this discussion. The situation in various countries is very different, and therefore I believe that the studies which the various countries will have to submit should be very different, and not along the same lines.

I could go along with the Draft Resolution presented in document C 77/LIM/36 but I would perhaps question one aspect of it.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend the full discussion, but I see that there is a unanimous wish that this Conference should be a great success. In order to have a really successful meeting, financial means are needed. This was explained by the Director-General himself during the Conference which, if I remember correctly, accepted his proposals.

I wonder therefore if it would not be better to include in this Draft Resolution a paragraph calling attention to this expense, which is supplementary to the Regular Budget of FAO, and which perhaps could be even increased more than was discussed during the Session of the Conference.

I shall now call on Mr. Santa Cruz to reply to the various points raised during this discussion.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): Señor Presidente, creo que es un poco de optimismo por su parte pensar que voy a contestar a todas las preguntas que se han hecho en este día tan nutrido de intervenciones que hemos tenido hoy. Trataré, sin embargo, de contestar alguna de ellas, pero creo que para explicar algunos de los interrogantes que ustedes han planteado es necesario, primero, que yo diga lo que estaba implícito en mi intervención de esta mañana pero que tal vez convenga explicitar.

No tenemos todavía una agenda, un temario para la Conferencia. Cuando yo llegué aquí hace un mes y se formó el secretariado, inmediatamente, al día siguiente se reunió el Comité Asesor; existían algunos trabajos preliminares que eran más bien una lista de posibles temas, pero no constituían una agenda y decidimos no redactar la agenda mientras no tuviéramos la orientación necesaria que debe dar esta Conferencia y por eso ha sido tan importante el debate en el día de hoy en el que 40 y tantos delegados no sólo han apoyado la Conferencia sino que al mismo tiempo han hecho una serie de sugerencias que constituyen una contribución muy importante para la preparación de la agenda de la Conferencia. Esa preparación va a ser precisamente el primer trabajo, digamos una vez que hayamos llegado a la sesión final de la Conferencia.

Y sin entrar en los detalles de las diversas sugerencias que aquí se han presentado, yo creo que hay un hecho, una posición común que es sumamente elocuente y que corresponde al pensamiento que nosotros, los organizadores, tenemos, que es el que la agenda sea hecha de tal manera que oriente a la Conferencia hacia la acción y no a discusiones ideológicas o discusiones teóricas; y esa fue la misma opinión que estamparon en sus recomendaciones los miembros del Comité Asesor de Altas Personalidades. Esto significa que la Conferencia deba permitir una discusión abierta sobre los problemas fundamentales que afectan las zonas rurales que determinan su atraso e impiden su progreso en sus aspectos socioeconómicos, institucionales y sobre todo humanos. Si los señores representantes de las Organizaciones Sindicales hubieran escuchado la presentación que hice esta mañana no tendrían las dudas que parecen tener ahora de que los organizadores no vayan a tomar en cuenta los aspectos sociales, en eso estuvo el principal énfasis de mi intervención de esta mañana. Además de las discusiones sobre estos problemas la Conferencia tendrá que explorar a la luz de las experiencias de los países y de sus condiciones sociales, económicas o ecológicas, las soluciones alternativas que puedan tomar ellos mismos en relación a todos estos problemas.

Debido a ello entonces es que yo encuentre esta discusión entre la preeminencia de la parte de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural como discusión un poco teórica, porque en primer lugar la reforma agraria, no es solo la reforma de tenencia de la tierra. Reforma agraria o agrarian reform, o reforme agraire en francés, es una reforma del agro, es una reforma de la zona rural, es una reforma que puede consistir en introducir nuevos elementos o en modificar los que existan.

Así que en cierto modo se confunde con el desarrollo rural. Naturalmente que si al estudiar los problemas institucionales un país encuentra que sus estructuras institucionales de tenencia de la tierra están atrasados y necesitan reforma podrá ser una reforma de la tenencia de la tierra. Pero la Conferencia es una cosa más amplia que ella y podría yo decir que se trata de una reforma integral que comprende todos los elementos que aquí se han citado, entre ellos el Embajador De Brito, que deben acompañar a una acción de desarrollo rural o de reforma rural. Esto me trae al problema de la documentación. Y a pesar de no tener todavía la Agenda tenemos una idea bastante arraigada sobre qué tipo de documentación quisiéramos presentar. Creemos que debemos preparar un documento básico que sirva precisamente para fundamentar el intercambio de experiencias que preguntaba el señor delegado de la República Federal de Alemania sobre cómo se iba a hacer. Este documento se va a hacer sobre la base del estudio de los informes de los países; estudio que vamos a pretender clasificar u organizar sobre la base de puntos comunes que existan en uno y en otros. Esto permitirá entonces a la Conferencia un intercambio de experiencias y de opiniones sobre una base organizada. Este es un documento complejo, difícil de realizar y que ocupará gran parte del trabajo de la Secretaría. Pero éste tiene dos ventajas: una que es un documento realmente básico y la otra que corresponde a las acciones expresadas aquí de no lanzar encima de la Conferencia una cantidad de documentos básicos. Hay otro documento que se va a preparar o se está preparando ya. Ha venido del Comité Asesor de personalidades. Ellos han pedido que a partir de la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria de 1976 se seleccione todo el material de situaciones producidas en los ámbitos internacionales en relación a los problemas de reforma agraria y de desarrollo rural. En seguida habrá documentos de la Conferencia que esperamos sean como lo han sugerido aquí cortos, precisos y vayan al grano de los asuntos. Me refiero a los asuntos de cada uno de los 100 puntos de la Agenda.



El Embajador De Brito dijo que sería interesante saber que estudios está preparando la Secretaría. Desde antes que se formara la Secretaría ya se habían solicitado por los departamentos algunos estudios, cuyo temas les voy a leer. Por ejemplo, Administración de Desarrollo Agrícola para Desarrollo Rural, Promoción de la Producción Agrícola y el Desarrollo Rural, Organización de "People and rural developments", Efectos de las Reformas Agrarias y del Empleo Agrícola, la Emigración Rural y el Empleo Agrícola, Tecnologías Apropriadas y Desarrollo Rural.

Naturalmente que vamos a reunir más estudios que éstos, precisamente para poder analizar los distintos sectores que influyen en desarrollo rural y en las reformas agrarias, Pero para eso tenemos, en primer lugar, que investigar muy a fondo lo que se está realizando en otros ámbitos. Yo me referí esta mañana a las Conferencias de los últimos años en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas sobre temas sociales. Yo conozco la riqueza de ese material, porque lo he estudiado en estos últimos meses y he comprobado que se desarrollaban para identificar elementos para el nuevo Orden Económico Internacional. He estudiado esas Conferencias y esto es lo que me permitió afirmar con tanto énfasis esta mañana que había una interdependencia completa entre los problemas tratados en esas Conferencias y sus conclusiones y que, por consiguiente, esta Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria iba a llenar un hueco que existía, que era el de explorar a fondo el problema del deterioro rural y la manera de desarrollarlo.

Ese material hay que estudiarlo y hay que aprovecharlo, y porque contiene información sobre una serie de factores que tiene relación con el desarrollo rural, el comercio internacional de materias primas, los estudios sobre el medio ambiente físico y el medio ambiente humano, sobre el habitat, etc. Todo eso nos va a proporcionar material que vamos a poner a disposición de la Conferencia, no como documento básico, pero sí como documento de información.

Se ha hablado del problema de la regionalización. Yo entiendo, si estoy bien informado, que esa fue una batalla que se dio cuando recién nació la idea de la Conferencia que algunos quisieron que fueran conferencias solamente regionales. Que se tuviera en cuenta el problema en sus aspectos regionales solamente, pero la mayoría dispuso que fuera una Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria.

Pero nosotros no podemos dejar de tomar en cuenta ese sentimiento del que en ese momento fue una minoría, el de que no se olvidara y se pusiera énfasis en los aspectos regionales y subregionales, precisamente porque en cada una de esas regiones, se deben identificar situaciones que no se encuentran a veces en las otras regiones. Y por esto es que nosotros hemos dado a las Conferencias Regionales un mandato muy particular que estudien estos problemas. Se les ha dado también una instrucción muy firme a las Oficinas Regionales para que estudien a fondo estos problemas y reúnan el material que tienen y para actuar en estrechas relaciones con las Comisiones únicamente Regionales.

Finalmente hemos enviado algunos expertos regionales que van a estar a disposición de los países para estudiar e identificar estos problemas de tipo regional. De manera que me parece que más no se puede hacer, aunque sería muy bien venida cualquier otra sugerencia en cuanto que ya existe la decisión de efectuar una Conferencia de Reforma Agraria en el plano mundial.

Volviendo al aspecto de los estudios, no sólo podemos o podremos aprovechar los estudios que se han realizado en otras organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas; hay organizaciones intergubernamentales que no pertenecen al Sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Existen centros de Investigaciones, centros de Pensamiento, centros de Promoción, que han estudiado muy a fondo estos problemas porque están estudiando los elementos del nuevo Orden Económico Internacional y son ellos los que han ido identificando en qué modo afecta el atraso rural a los países en desarrollo.

Hay una enorme documentación sobre esa materia, y también podríamos recurrir a algunas de esas instituciones. Algunas que funcionan en Europa o en Estados Unidos; otras, en los países en desarrollo. Hay instituciones de los países en desarrollo en su conjunto y hay también instituciones nacionales en los países. Todos ellos han producido y siguen produciendo un material importante, y no sólo pensamos que nos podemos contentar con esa información. Hemos tenido hoy el placer, diría yo, de escuchar que hay algunos países que están dispuestos a apoyar con recursos a la mejor preparación de la Conferencia. Hay muchas maneras de hacerlo y seguramente habrá otros países que también lo puedan hacer o habrá instituciones que pueden cooperar todo lo que sea, organizar seminarios de discusión sobre estos problemas, o seminarios para informar a la opinión pública, todo esto podría hacerse con fondos extrapresupuestarios que vendrían a enriquecer la información con que va a contar la Conferencia en el momento que se realice.

Por esto, es que el deseo que tenemos todos de que se prepare bien la Conferencia, es un deseo que no es fácil de cumplir. Esta preparación necesita tiempo y necesita recursos. Yo no sé señor Presidente si estas respuestas pueden satisfacer a los Miembros de esta Comisión. Pero con el fin de que no se prolongue el debate sobre esta materia, quisiera aprovechar para decir que me siento profundamente satisfecho con el debate y con la posición de los países miembros de la FAO.

Creo que ustedes le han dado hoy un impulso tremendo a la Conferencia con el análisis que han hecho de la misma, con la fe que han demostrado de sus posibilidades y con la voluntad que han demostrado de participar en ella a un alto nivel y con una buena preparación. Creo que el Director General, que realmente está convencido hoy de esta Conferencia, puede ser un elemento utilísimo en la promoción del desarrollo rural, y con ello, en la formación del hombre rural, que sufre, se verá muy satisfecho cuando reciba información sobre lo que ustedes han hablado, han dicho y posiblemente resuelvan hoy.

Por mi parte quiero decirle que yo también me siento personalmente halagado. Ustedes me han dado una prueba de confianza que creo que venía de adentro, no es de palabras solamente, y esto me estimulará a seguir adelante con toda la energía que pueda en esta empresa. Yo tengo más de 30 años de lucha por el desarrollo social y económico del Tercer Mundo y tuve serias dudas de aceptar este ofrecimiento del Director General, porque no me parecía ver en la documentación un apoyo útil de los gobiernos para transformar esta idea en algo tangible y útil. Ahora veo que esto es posible y esto me halaga profundamente.

CHAIRMAN: I would thank Dr. Santa-Cruz for his very comprehensive reply to, I think, all the questions put to him. Are there any comments or further questions? I see that Ethiopia has requested the floor, if it is the matter we were discussing earlier, I shall come to it later. Is your comment in connexion with Dr. Santa-Cruz's reply?

Y. LIKE (Ethiopia): Mr. Chairman, I was going to refer to Dr. Santa-Cruz's explanation, and I still expect your promise to hold good.

I am certainly one of those who would applaud the excellent explanation by Dr. Santa-Cruz of questions that arose during the discussion. However, permit me just to make a small comment on his definition of agrarian reform, which was very well put. I would like to assure him that we have the same view, that agrarian reform is not necessarily equivalent to land reform which primarily deals with land ownership and its use. Agrarian reform deals, in addition, with the introduction of new technologies and improved agricultural practices, with fertilizers, improved seeds, mechanization and what have you.

What we wanted to imply, however, was that all these factors which are important in agrarian reform have varying importance. Therefore, each of these inputs in agrarian reform needs to be given its due priority in importance. So if we were to put these inputs or factors in agrarian reform on a graduated scale, the land situation in a given country certainly comes highest in the priorities.

Please forgive my comment, therefore, on this. I entirely agree with Dr. Santa-Cruz that agrarian reform is not tantamount to land reform, but land reform certainly has the highest of priorities here.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): My delegation is very grateful to Dr. Santa-Cruz for all the information he has just given us. We certainly understand that he was unable to answer all the questions, and we do not want to keep the meeting any longer. Therefore, perhaps some of the questions which are still in abeyance could be answered directly by the Secretariat in the course of the next week.

However, there are two questions on which I would be very happy to have clarification now. Dr. Santa-Cruz said that the main documents for the World Conference would be a summary analysis, a classification, a grouping of the country reports. Of course, we agree with this, but what will the basis for discussion be at the regional level, at the regional conferences? Will it be the basic document which will be submitted to the Conference later on, or will the country reports themselves form the basis for the discussion at the regional conferences?

We hope that the country reports will form the basis for the discussions at the regional conferences. Therefore, there will be a discussion between the countries which will facilitate matters, so that on the basis of these discussions and analysis will be drawn up which will then allow the preparation of the overall general report. This is my first question.

I have a second and last question: what will be the status of the Report of the Interregional Symposium on Integrated Rural Development which was held by us jointly with FAO and Sweden?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Nosotros deseamos también agradecer, por su conducto, señor Presidente, al Representante Especial del señor Director General Responsable de los preparativos de esta Conferencia Internacional que tanto interés ha despertado entre todos los Estados y desearíamos nada más hacer un comentario adicional.

Nosotros consideramos, sin duda, un aspecto que debe ser subrayado dentro de los preparativos para esta Conferencia y que sin duda habrá de tener una prioridad destacada, cual es la importancia del Derecho para el desarrollo y estabilidad de las estructuras agrarias por el marco de seguridad que proporciona a los agricultores y trabajadores del campo. En efecto, la confianza en el elemento normativo constituye ciertamente un catalizador concomitante de todo programa de aumento de la producción de alimentos y del mejoramiento del medio rural. La creación de tribunales agrarios, que mi país actualmente tiene en examen, juzgando con imparcialidad y equidad el caso concreto, constituye el coronamiento de los intentos por llevar la seguridad y tranquilidad en el agro, condición para que nuestros países en desarrollo puedan mejorar las condiciones de nuestras áreas rurales y de su desarrollo integral.

Deseábamos formular esta observación complementaria porque, habiendo tomado nota del tipo de estudios que la Secretaría, con buen tino, ha comenzado a elaborar o a alentar su preparación, nos pareció advertir que no se mencionaba o se dejaba a un lado ese aspecto que nos parece fundamental.

Desde luego, hemos tomado nota también de que habrá de organizarse una serie de seminarios, de actividades, ya sea dentro de la partida presupuestaria para esta Conferencia o con fondos extrapresupuestarios bajo los auspicios de la FAO.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): Yo creo que le puedo contestar al señor representante de la República Federal de Alemania respecto a su primera pregunta. El ideal sería que los documentos por países y el documento que se va a basar en los documentos por países pudieran ir a las Conferencias Regionales, pero eso se contradice también con la petición de la gran parte de los miembros de esta Comisión de que se prolongue el plazo para los documentos por países; de manera que yo no veo la posibilidad material, por el tiempo, de que por lo menos las primeras Conferencias Regionales puedan basarse en los documentos básicos que va a presentar la Secretaría a la Conferencia porque esas Conferencias van a comenzar en marzo y van a terminar en octubre del año próximo; pero las Oficinas Regionales tienen bastante material acumulado sobre estos problemas en sus respectivas regiones; se han hecho estudios, por lo menos yo conozco que en América Latina ha habido desde hace por lo menos unos 15 años un servicio de reforma agraria regional que ha coleccionado un trabajo sumamente valioso, estudios que se hicieron hace diez años en diez países de América Latina y que duraron como tres años en hacerse, sobre la relación entre el desarrollo económico y la tenencia de la tierra, por ejemplo. Son documentos de una enorme importancia y, además, los países que son miembros de la región cuando vayan a las Conferencias Regionales van a llevar ellos sus puntos de vista, sus planteamientos y sus problemas y van a poder intercambiar opiniones.

Yo creo que no puedo ir más lejos en contestarle a esa pregunta porque tenemos que estar enfrentándonos a una etapa más avanzada para poder ver qué vamos a hacer en esta fecha y qué vamos a poder hacer en esta otra. Si hubiéramos comenzado a trabajar hace un año yo se lo podría decir exactamente, pero después de un mes solamente no se lo puedo decir.

En cuanto a la segunda pregunta, yo conozco los estudios sobre desarrollo rural integrado al cual se refirió el señor representante de la República Federal de Alemania; los he estudiado antes de venir para acá porque precisamente los tomé en cuenta en un trabajo anterior que yo estaba haciendo y conozco el valor que tienen, conozco los estudios regionales y el estudio final que se hizo sobre esa base. Esos estudios los vamos a tomar en cuenta en la documentación y al mismo tiempo estarán a disposición de la Conferencia como documento de información, pero no podemos presentarlos nosotros como documentos básicos de la FAO para presentarlos a la Conferencia. Serán documentos de información, y de información útil y seguramente habrá muchos países que tendrán presente esto y eso llamará la atención de los delegados.

En cuanto a la observación de México quiero decirle que la lista que yo dí está muy lejos de ser exhaustiva; dí una lista de unos estudios que se ordenaron hacer hace dos o tres meses, pero nosotros no hemos todavía confeccionado la lista de asuntos que queremos que se estudien precisamente esperando ver qué material existe ya disponible para poder utilizarlo.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Santa Cruz for his answers. Distinguished delegates we have a submission we could if possible try to dispose of. It is the resolution which was introduced by Peru on behalf of Cuba, Guinea, Italy, Peru, Sweden and Venezuela. There have been various proposals for changes to this

Resolution and there has also been a proposal by Jordan that we should not have a resolution at all but just a note on this in the report, and I believe this was supported by both Germany and France. As I understand, however, the great majority in this Commission is in favour of having a resolution, and if these three countries do not mind I think we should consider the changes proposed to this Resolution. Are there any objections to this? (No reply). This seems not to be the case. Then I think we should start with the proposed change in the second preamble of the paragraph where it was suggested by the Netherlands... the Delegate of Netherlands has asked for the floor.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): Mr. Chairman, there was also another suggestion by my delegation, and it was supported and, in fact, elaborated on by the delegation of Yugoslavia to have a resolution of a wider scope than the present one. I suggest to you now, if possible, to give possibilities as far as Tuesday or so to have further consultations between the correspondence and some other delegations whether it is possible to have such a kind of resolution. That is one remark. The second remark is I would like to stick to the amendments you were just going to read out, as I understand, in the second preamble of the paragraph to insert the word, "by governments" and after the word "only". A third remark I would like to make is a pure formal one. I learned in the meantime that in the last preamble of paragraph "Recalling in this connexion the support given by the FAO Conference at its Eighteenth Session to the implementation of ILO Convention No.141" that the rest is not the official title of that Convention and it would be preferable to have the words "And ILO Recommendation No. 149 concerning Organizations of rural workers and their role in economic and social development". That is the official title of the convention and of the recommendation.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Delegate of the Netherlands. I would like to ask the sponsors of this Resolution, and I put the question to the Delegate of Peru who I think introduced this, whether he can agree with the proposal put forward by the Netherlands? Maybe I could ask one of the other sponsors to take the floor?

G. de MICHELIS (Italy): We would like, first of all, to thank all the delegations which have let us know what was their opinion on the project of resolution. I think we shall agree on what the Distinguished Delegate of Netherlands has said now. We need a little more time and I hope you will give us some time. It all depends how fast we should draw down the final draft. It depends a little bit on you, but I think we need a little time to meet and look which are the proposals that can be drawn down as part of the Resolution.

CHAIRMAN: At this late hour, it is very easy for me to comply with your request, so I think we will leave it at that. Thank you very much. We will consider the Resolution and when it is put forward to us again with some changes, or perhaps even widened in scope, as it has been suggested.

Distinguished Delegates, it remains for me to make an attempt to sum up our debate. I personally think it has been a very good debate and also a very frank one. We have had forty-six interventions. We have heard Mr. Santa-Cruz' introduction on the review of arrangements for the World Conference, and Mr. Santa-Cruz has also answered if not all the questions put to him, at least the major ones.

There seems to be full support for the Conference, also from countries who earlier had been sceptical or ambivalent. These countries found now that the Conference was fully justified - although they still found that the objectives were somewhat vague.

Delegates welcomed the appointment of Mr. Santa-Cruz as the Special Representative of the Director-General for the Conference and assured him, as well as the assistant Director-General, Mr. Nouri Islam, and Mr. Nehemiah, of their full support.

With regard to the preparations for the Conference, it was broad agreement that it should be carefully planned. It was full support for the proposed arrangements for the Conference, including the proposals put forward by Mr. Santa-Cruz in his introduction. Some delegates thought that the Secretariat for the Conference should be strengthened. Satisfaction was expressed that U.N. agencies was involved. It was also necessary, in the view of many delegates, to draw on experiences from other U.N. conferences in the past. Some delegations pointed out the need for regional efforts in the preparations for the Conference.

Some delegates thought that the stress should perhaps be more on rural development than on agrarian reform. Some delegates even suggested a change in the name of the Conference. Others did not agree.

Some delegations pointed out that the nature of the problems in rural development varied from country to country and felt that this justified different approaches with regard to the solution of the problems. It was thus important that the preparations for the Conference should be balanced and realistic.

It was agreed, I think, that the Conference should be open for all countries as well as for NGOs. Almost all delegations were of the opinion that the delegations to the Conference should include representatives of farmers' unions and rural workers' union. A resolution to this effect was introduced by one delegation on behalf of several delegations. We will consider this resolution if and when reintroduced with some changes as just proposed by one of the co-sponsors.

There was agreement that the Conference should be non-academic, action-oriented and problem-solving. It should assist the participating countries in better defining what should be their priorities.

The Conference should not be limited to discussion of technical aspects, but also deal with social development. One proposal put forward was that the Conference should agree upon a Plan of Action for rural development.

The need for a multi-disciplinary approach - integrated rural development - was underlined by several delegates.

It was also pointed out by many delegates that agrarian reform should lead to higher agricultural production. The Conference should therefore, among others, concentrate on ways and means to achieve this aim.

With regard to the country review papers some delegations spoke in favour of a postponement of the deadline for submitting such reviews, but this has already been cleared up by Mr. Santa-Cruz. Several delegates requested assistance from FAO - experts in preparing the country review papers.

It was stressed by several delegates that the documents for the Conference should arrive in good time in the national capitals.

Finally, there were a few comments on the costs of the Conference. One delegate speaking on behalf of some of the other delegations thought that increased costs should not become an obstacle to thorough preparation for the Conference, and another delegate, if I understood him correctly, declared his country's readiness to consider in a positive manner appropriate requests for financial support in connection with preparations for the Conference.

Distinguished delegates, I have made an attempt to sum up very briefly our discussions as best I can. The final report will, of course, be drawn up by the Drafting Committee and submitted to you, and later to the Plenary for approval.

If there are no announcements and no other interventions... I am sorry I almost forgot my promise to the delegate of Ethiopia. You have the floor.

Y. LIKE (Ethiopia): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for honouring your promise. I will try to be as brief as possible. It is merely I am asking for a clarification on the Resolution submitted by the distinguished delegate of Spain on behalf of the justified although they still found that the objectives were somewhat vague.

I think all delegations welcomed the appointment of Mr. Santa Cruz as the special representative of the Director-General for the Conference, and assured him and the Assistant Director-General, Mr. N. Islam and Mr. Nehemiah their full support.

With regard to the preparations for the Conference, it was broad agreement that this should be carefully planned. Full support was expressed for the proposals for the arrangement of the Conference including the proposals put forward by Mr. Santa Cruz in his introduction. Some delegations thought that the Secretariat should be strengthened. Satisfaction was expressed that the United Nations agencies were involved. It was also necessary, some delegations found, to draw on the experience from other UN Conferences in the past. Some delegations pointed out the need for regional efforts in the preparations for the Conference, and some delegates thought that the stress should perhaps be more on rural development than on agrarian reforms, and they suggested a change in the name of the Conference, but

others did not agree. Some delegations pointed out that the problems of rural development varied from country to country, and pointed out that this justified different approaches. It was important that preparations for the Conference should be balanced and realistic. It was agreed, I think, that the Conference should be opened for all countries as well as for non-governmental organizations. Almost all delegations who spoke were of the opinion that the delegations to the Conference should include representatives of farmers' unions and rural workers' unions. There was, as we know, presented a Resolution on this matter, which we will deal with at a later stage. There was agreement that the Conference should be non-academic; action oriented and problem solving. It should assist the participating countries in better defining what should be their priorities. The Conference should not be limited to technical aspects but should also deal with social development. Discussions should focus on the most important problems, concentrate on the main obstacles to rural development. One proposal put forward was that the Conference should agree upon a plan of action for the European Region. As you well know, this is a Resolution being discussed within the Programme and Budget submitted, and I would expect this resolution to have some impact on the Budget. Without it I cannot imagine its importance, so my question is, is the resolution being asked to pass within the limits of the budgets allocated to the European Region? Does it have any implication on increasing the required financing for the region? If so, how is it thought to be financed?

CHAIRMAN: I think the best way of dealing with it would be to ask the delegate of Spain, who introduced this Draft Resolution to answer your questions.

M. BUENO (España): Pues siento no poder aclarar las ideas de mi colega de Etiopía porque no fui yo el que presento esta resolución dentro de la Comisión del Programa y Presupuesto; entonces no lo conozco, no soy la persona cualificada para aclarar este punto.

CHAIRMAN: Would the delegations of Belgium or Spain be able to comment on this? They were co-sponsors? I see the delegate of Germany has raised his flag. Maybe you can help us.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I hope that I might help my friend of Spain. My delegation is not a sponsor of the Resolution but my delegation supports this Resolution. As nobody opposed it we did not intervene. If I interpret the situation correctly, the proposed action is simply what already exists in the present Programme and Budget for Europe, should remain and not be reduced. I believe that is really all behind this Resolution. The Director-General has proposed a Programme for Europe and this Programme has been supported by the member countries, and this Resolution is to support this, and it is meant to draw attention to the fact how important the work of the European countries is also for other member states, particularly developing countries.

A. GOMEZ ORBANEJA (España): Señor Presidente, únicamente para apoyar la declaración que acaba de hacer el representante de la República Federal de Alemania. La intención de la resolución no es que haya un cambio de fondos ni aumento de fondos, sino ampliar las actividades y que no disminuya el presupuesto, pero no es que haya aumento que pueda repercutir en el presupuesto.

CHAIRMAN: As far as I understand there are no budgetary implications. Does the reply satisfy the delegate of Ethiopia?

Y. LIKE (Ethiopia): Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

K.S. WON (Korea, Rep. of): Since many speakers ahead of me have already presented the valuable and constructive comments in relation to the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, I do not have much to say at the moment. However, on behalf of the delegations from the Republic of Korea, I would like to express full support for holding the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development which is going to be held in 1979.

My delegation would also like to inform you that we have been preparing the country review paper which the FAO Secretariat requested last July, and we will be ready to show our active participation to the Conference by presenting our experiences in rural development.

With regard to the Resolution on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, my delegation endorses our support for the Resolution in conference document C 77/LIM/36.

In closing, I would like to associate with other speakers in congratulating Mr. Santa Cruz for his appointment to the representative of the Director-General, for the preparation business for the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. 1/

CHAIRMAN: I think we can adjourn our meeting. We will resume on Tuesday at 9.30 to consider Item 10.1 Regular Programme Evaluation. Item 10.2 Decentralization to the country level, and if we have the time also Item 11, Review of Field Programmes.

The meeting rose at 18.50 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.50 horas

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1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.





## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/II/PV/9

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

NINTH MEETING  
NEUVIEME SEANCE  
NOVENA SESION  
(22 November 1977)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 9.40 hours F. Shefrin, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 9 h 40 sous la présidence de F. Shefrin, Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la novena sesión a las 9-40 horas, bajo la presidencia de F. Shefrin, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION  
(continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION  
(suite)

PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION  
(continuación)

10· Programme of Work and Budget, 1978-79 (continued)

10· Programme de travail et budget pour 1978-79 (suite)

10. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1978-79 (continuación)

10.1 Regular Programme Evaluation

10.1 Evaluation au Programme ordinaire

10.1 Evaluación del Programa Ordinario

CHAIRMAN: Good morning. The Chairman of this Commission was unavoidably detained, and he has asked me to take over the morning session. I would like to point out the Commission has had some very good discussions to-date, so good that we are a day and a half behind in our schedule. I fully recognise every delegate has the right to speak as often as he wishes to and for as long as he wishes to, because this Conference only occurs once in two years. On the other hand, there is a limitation to the amount of days we have, and the evening hours we have, and some of the subjects before us this morning have been fully discussed in earlier Conferences and also very fully discussed in the Council, and we have some excellent reports. I would hope to facilitate matters, and again it is up to you how you wish to speak, we are not going to tell you exactly how to say it, but if you would refer to the printed issue with very specific recommendations, if we could have some specific view rather than making general statements.

The first item before me for discussion is 10.1, the Regular Programme Evaluation, There is no document distributed on this item, I understand Mr, West, the Assistant Director-General, Programme and Budget, will give an oral report of this.

E, M, WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): This item is on the Agenda of the Conference because it was referred to this Conference by the 18th Session two years ago when they were discussing the medium-term objectives paper. In the medium-term objectives paper C 75/24, it was stated that there were certain problems about introducing Regular Programme evaluation, but that a start in resolving these problems would be made during 1976. So the Conference said, in effect, well, let us see next time whether you have done anything about this, and to what extent. When the present Director-General took office, one of the things he did was to review very carefully all the recommendations of the Conference, and he was very keen on implementation of this particular Resolution, because he considered it to be vital to his own desire to review thoroughly the programmes and structures of the Organization, He therefore directed that among other things a plan for Regular Programme evaluation should be drawn up and submitted to the Programme Committee and the Council, This was done and a council document CL 70/29 was considered by the Council in its autumn session of 1976, This document described the problems in developing a system of programme budget; indicated what we were already doing in the way of evaluative or review procedures, including the work of the Programme and Finance Committees themselves, and then proposed an approach to systematic evaluation of Regular Programme activities comprising ongoing as well as ex-post facto evaluation, with the purpose namely of providing for a feedback into the process of programme formulation and management. In the Director-General's mind this is the most important aspect of evaluation. The purpose of evaluation is not primarily to provide others with material for criticising what we are doing. There are no lack of critics at any time, and the criticism is very healthy and necessary, but ultimately what everybody wants is that we should do things in a way which will not invite subsequent criticism. So we have to have a mechanism which will not invite subsequent criticism. We have to have a mechanism which feeds back into the formulation stage, so we t try to avoid the mistakes in advance. Por this reason it is important not to rely solely upon external evaluators, although they have their uses, but to ensure that those implementing a programme; those formulating a subsequent programme, are themselves involved, consciously and continuously, in the process of evaluation.

As I have indicated, it is also necessary to have external evaluation. The external evaluation will be provided by the Evaluation Service, which the Council approves should be transferred to the Office of the Director-General - in fact, attached to Programme and Budget - and also of course by the Joint Inspection Unit, which will evaluate not only substantive programmes, but also the FAO evaluators. I have suggested that one of the main constructive themes that the JIU can do is to help the Evaluation Service to evaluate themselves. We must not get a complex that the evaluators know better than anybody, and can stand perpetually in judgement over others. Of course, if the JIU evaluate the evaluators in FAO, who is going to evaluate the JIU? Apparently you are going to do this at some time in the future, and you are best qualified to do so.

The system of evaluation which was proposed envisaged a series of evaluation reports. The principal report will be biennial reviews and an evaluation review of the regular programme, similar to and parallel with the Review of Field Programmes which is about to arise on your agenda.

There will also be special reports as necessary, requested by the Council or by the Programme and Finance Committees, which they will consider; and all the time, internally, there will be specific reports to the Director-General dealing with either substantive programmes from the point of view of substance or methods and means, such as the effectiveness of publications, or administrative proceedings.

The Service has not yet of course been transferred and has not yet embarked on its tasks - although there has been some discussion already in the Programme of Finance Committees about these matters -and, if the Conference approves, this will be one of our first concerns in the beginning of the next biennium.

This, I think, is all that needs to be said on this subject, and all that can be said at this stage.

CHAIRMAN: As Mr. West rightly pointed out, the last Conference asked the Director-General to establish an evaluation system. You have now received a very detailed report from Mr. West. This matter, I think, is more for report than for general discussion, and we should not need to spend too much time on it. I hope we can complete this item in the next few minutes. However, if any delegates wish to comment on the remarks made by Mr. West or require further information, the floor is open.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I would have preferred to take the floor a little later, but as this matter has been raised now, and there is an awkward pause, I agree to be first speaker of the morning. In case I have any further point arising from the discussion, I may crave your indulgence to speak again later.

Evaluation of regular programmes has been under discussion for a long time, and we note with satisfaction that the stage of implementation has very nearly arrived, and in the next Conference at least we hope to see the results of the implementation. Mr. West, in his very brief, concise and informative introduction has referred to a chain of evaluators. First of all the Programme Managers, who are supposed to be continually self evaluating what they are doing. Then we have the Evaluation Service; then JIU; and then the governing bodies themselves. I note that it is not a formalized kind of hierarchy: the governing bodies may have the opportunity to look at what the Evaluation Service itself is doing, without waiting for the external evaluators to comment on the work of the evaluation service.

As this matter has been pending for a long time, we are all eager to see that action is expedited as early as possible - at least, that the basic features of this new activity are clarified within a year or a year and a half.

In this respect, perhaps I should mention something which is perhaps very obvious, and that is the independence of the external evaluator. While the process of self-evaluation continues, it is a day to day activity, and whenever an external evaluator is brought into the picture - and here I mean the Evaluation Service of FAO - it will have to be ensured that it acts in as independent a manner as possible. This should be ensured institutionally, as well as in the methods of work.

With these brief comments, we welcome this new activity, and we have a great deal of expectation of its results.

C. FARRAR (United States of America): If I may ask a procedural question before I speak, Mr. Chairman, are you intending to take the subject of AGRIS which is listed against this item, separately?

CHAIRMAN: Yes, we will have a separate introduction on the subject of AGRIS, because it is a separate item.

At the moment, we are just dealing with Mr. West's report on what the Director-General is doing in response to the request by the 18th Session of the Conference, on evaluation. This is the report, as I said before I had hoped there would be no lengthy discussion of this item because obviously

we must give the Director-General a couple of years experience of it, and the next Conference will be in a better position to ask specific questions. The AGRIS item will be next, after we complete this item.

C. FARRAR (United States of America): Thank you very much. Since I have the floor, I would like to simply acknowledge Mr. West's statement, and the progress made in strengthening the evaluation function, which we very much welcome. There may be some danger in the principal reports under the evaluation heading being divided between the Field Programme on the one hand and the Regular Programme on the other. It would be our hope that in actual practice the Evaluation Unit will look at substantive programme areas, taking into account what is being done both by the Field Programme and the Regular Programme, and relate these to each other. I am sure this can be done, but the division of the reports may tend to work against it.

R.W.M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): I am very grateful for this opportunity to take the floor again. I dare say I owe Mr. West an apology for perhaps introducing the subject earlier than I needed to do, in our discussion the other day. A little background research has confirmed everything he said to me then, and I must say that I am very satisfied with what I have discovered.

In commenting on it, however, I would like to say that I do feel that there is some confusion between programme evaluation and the evaluation of field, programmes and it may be that is where my original confusion arose. I believe that we need to be quite clear about this, that programme evaluation is something that involves some intellectual process with programme managers, and involves them very much in the activity - some kind of desk operation, I suppose - whereas the Review of Field Programmes is a physical thing, requiring visits, experts arriving on the spot, making their assessments and seeing whether the results are satisfactory to the host country. I think there is quite a difference here, and I still remain a little confused about the fact that the one evaluation unit will continue to have both tasks. That still leaves me a little unhappy - but perhaps the administrative problems that will be caused will be sorted out in the next biennium.

By and large, there is a need to maintain a balance between these two activities, and I would not like the Unit once it is transferred, to concentrate entirely on programme evaluation at the expense of field programme evaluation. I thought I was talking about field programme evaluation when I spoke the other day, and perhaps Mr. West may have thought that I was speaking of programme evaluation. I hope I have made it clear now. I do feel that this has to be sorted out properly, because I think that evaluation has to do with reporting to one's masters. In effect this meeting is the Parliament of FAO: we only meet only once every two years, and we must make our case in a very short period of time. I think it is still very important that we see quite clearly what is happening.

After all most of us are civil servants ourselves and our Parliaments meet for six months every year and we have to report on a very much more intensive basis over a much longer period of time and we understand the process involved. It is just a matter of making sure we go through what is required.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps if Mr. West agrees, as there are three rather pertinent matters raised by three delegates, those could be answered now.

A. LOCHEN (Norway): I also would like to thank Mr. West for the introduction of this item. My delegation has only one question. What will be the relation of this new Regular Programme evaluation with the reviews of the divisions that have been taking place for many years in the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee. These results of these reviews were reported to the Council.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): The debate has been very brief but in fact it has touched on all the major issues, some of which have been very difficult and will take some years to resolve. I do not pretend we have the answers because we have not. We are going to find them out in the course of work.

To take the last point first, there is obviously a connexion between what we are now going to try to do and what the Programme Committee has been doing for some time. The conclusion of the Programme Committee in its last Session was that they should continue with their traditional reviews because they were rather different in character. These were general reviews of certain sections of the Programme of Work and Budget which were designed to inform the Council of what was going on and the trends in activities. Perhaps in the course of experience we will find that they can be combined or the Programme Committee reviews can be dispensed with, and the Committee will confine itself to discussing the biennium Regular Programme Evaluation Report.

I thank the delegate of New Zealand for what he said. This links up to some extent with what the distinguished delegate of the USA said. One of the ideas we did discuss with the Programme and Finance Committees and in the Council was combining the two reports, the Review of Field Programmes and the Regular Programme Evaluation Report, precisely because it is important to see the interconnexion between the Regular and Field Programmes, and to give Governing Bodies an idea of whether they are working together or against each other, and which part is more effective.

It was felt that, at any rate, for some time we should continue with the Review of Field Programmes as a separate document. It is an established review; it has been very well received by Governing Bodies in the past. It covers a different range of approaches, some evaluative, some analytical and some almost speculative about trends in Field Programmes. It contains a lot of statistical information and it contains a lot of discussion, whereas at the moment neither we nor you know exactly what the first biennial report on the Regular Programme is going to look like. So we must wait a little while and see how things develop, and then the Governing Bodies will determine how they want the documents changed or combined. We on the inside feel that one of the most valuable things that evaluation can do is to determine how effective Regular Programme activities are in stimulating or supporting the Field Programmes.

Also I think our approach will be somewhat different from the Review of Field Programmes because I am going to try and submit to the Director-General in due course our reports for each of the following main purposes: to see how objectives, means employed and resource allocations should be modified in relation to the programmes as approved by the Conference in order to implement them effectively; to assess the relevance of things which have been going on for years and years and to see if we can in fact dispense with these or shift the resources to other things as a means of improving the formulation of future Programmes of Work and Budget and make them more concrete and more worth the dollars spent on them. Thirdly - and this is very broad of course - try to determine whether programmes (and here I am talking about Regular and Field combined) have been successful and if so why? Or if they have not been successful - why? And how we can improve them in the future? In these matters I do not think that the question of what governments like or do not like is going to be a handicap. On the contrary I think the governments are going to be very cooperative and enthusiastic in helping us because they are conscious of the fact that they are paying the budget as well. These are not dollars that come from heaven; everybody contributes to the Regular Programme, and if we can give them more value for money they will be satisfied. It is not a question of saying "No, this programme has not been successful or has not been economical, therefore you are not going to have more FAO projects in the future.." It is going to be, "we can do better than we have done in the past." This, I think, will be welcomed. In fact, one of our aims is going to be to determine by questionnaire and other means what Governments really feel about our programmes, not what delegates often say politely in these meetings but what they really mean on the ground. This will be our approach to the Regular Programme and ultimately in a combined report which will emerge.

One thing we must avoid and that is the attitude of the successful surgeon who carried out an appendix operation in front of a lot of medical students. When the patient got back to the ward and woke up he said to the nurse, "Nurse I don't understand; I had an appendix operation but my throat is very sore", and she said "Well, you see the surgeon performed an appendectomy so brilliantly that the students applauded tremendously so as an encore he took out your tonsils". We do not want to be too successful and become arrogant and cut out the tonsils as well as the appendix.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Mr. West for your reply. I think that this may well complete the discussion on this item. I think we can summarise for the use of the Draft Committee that the Commission and the Conference note the report of Mr. West on behalf of the Director-General, outlining what the Organization will be doing in respect of evaluation as requested by the 18th Session of the FAO Conference. There was a pressing need to emphasize the evaluation of essential areas at both Headquarters and at Field and it will not be dealt with in a water-tight compartment, and the result is a very strong stress on the independence of the extraordinary evaluation which has been done in respect of the evaluation here. That has been strongly stressed by the delegate of India, and that I think completes the item.

We will now deal with AGRIS and the Assistant Director-General in charge of the department of general affairs and information will outline briefly what has been happening in respect of AGRIS activities.

H.W. MANDEFIELD (Sous-directeur général, Département des affaires générales et de l'Information): Monsieur le Président, en 1973 la Conférence a approuvé une période expérimentale pour le Système international d'information sur les sciences et la technologie agricoles, à condition qu'en 1977 les résultats d'une évaluation indépendante soient présentés à la 19<sup>ème</sup> session, avec les propositions du Directeur général sur la base de cette évaluation.

L'évaluation indépendante du Système international d'information pour les sciences et la technologie agricoles, plus couramment connu sous le sigle AGRIS, a eu lieu cette année. Sur la base du rapport d'évaluation, qui est à la disposition des délégations qui le souhaiteraient, le Directeur général a présenté ses conclusions et ses recommandations dans le document C 77/27.

Dans ce document, j'aimerais attirer votre attention sur la chronologie et la genèse, qui remontent à neuf années, résumées sous la forme d'un calendrier graphique de ces neuf années en Annexe I au document C 77/27.

Les conclusions de l'équipe d'évaluation sont résumées aux paragraphes 13 à 24. Les recommandations de l'équipe d'évaluation, au nombre de onze, figurent aux paragraphes 25 et 26. Dans les paragraphes 27 à 33, le Directeur général propose un programme d'action sur la base de ces conclusions et recommandations, et enfin conclut en faisant appel à la poursuite de la collaboration des gouvernements, qui ne nous a jamais fait défaut depuis que ce programme a été conçu et lancé.

Voilà l'essentiel de ce que vous trouverez dans le document C 77/27.

Puisqu'on vient de parler de la nécessité de l'indépendance de l'évaluation, je ne voudrais dire qu'un seul mot: non seulement la FAO ne connaissait pas les quatre membres de l'équipe d'enquête qui ont été désignés par l'Unesco, mais ils ne se connaissaient pas entre eux, ce qui donne une valeur ajoutée à l'unanimité de leurs conclusions.

A notre connaissance, deux autres évaluations, encore plus indépendantes puisque nous n'en avons eu connaissance qu'au moment de leurs conclusions, ont été faites également par la Commission des Communautés économiques européennes, qui a confié cette évaluation au ZADI de Bonn et au PUDOC de Wageningen. Une autre évaluation a été faite également au Canada. Par conséquent, nous avons plusieurs évaluations indépendantes et j'aime à croire que nous n'avons pas été surévalués.

Le deuxième document est le rapport du Conseil, CL 72/REP, paragraphes 51 à 55. J'en citerai deux brefs extraits:

“Paragraphe 53: “Le Conseil souscrit aux recommandations formulées par l'équipe chargée de l'évaluation, ainsi qu'aux actions proposées par le Directeur général; 'il appuie la poursuite d'AGRIS et demande la participation active de tous les Etats Membres à ce programme qui offre un potentiel considérable pour transférer des technologies appropriées, particulièrement dans l'intérêt des pays en développement, et pour promouvoir la coopération technique entre ces pays”.

Paragraphe 54: “... le Conseil s'est déclaré satisfait des résultats obtenus à ce jour, a confirmé l'importance de ce programme pour le développement des infrastructures nationales de documentation agricole et a souligné la nécessité, pour les pays en développement, de recevoir une assistance technique pour la formation de documentalistes...”.

Un débat approfondi a eu lieu au Conseil sur cette question le 9 novembre dernier, et le procès-verbal de ce débat figure aux documents CL 72/PV-2 et PV-3, auxquels la plupart des membres ont sans doute tenu à se référer.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Mandefield, for that good introduction. As Mr. Mandefield has rightly pointed out, AGRIS has been discussed during the last three or four Conferences, so it is not a new item. The Report to the Experts was very thoroughly discussed in the Programme Committee and by the Council and we have a very good Conference document, C 77/27. I hope all delegates commenting on this will deal with specific rather than general points because we do not need another discussion, the Programme is already in operation. The floor is open for discussion. The delegate of the United States was worried about AGRIS being discussed so perhaps he would like the floor.

C. FARRAR (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your courtesy. We have looked carefully at the reports referred to in the introduction and at the proposals made by the Director-General, based on the evaluations.

We concur generally with the findings of the team and support the continuation of the Programme along the lines proposed by the Director-General. It remains true that the requirements of those in the developing countries, who are the ultimate users of the system we are most interested in, must continue to be given primary consideration in assessing its value.

Since the report before us makes specific reference to difficulties over gaining access to the material originating in the United States, we are pleased that in the last issue of the AGRINDEX there are seven thousand or more citations of US material, out of a total of sixteen thousand.

Because of a conversion programme which has been worked out between the National Agricultural Library, which participates in AGRIS from the United States, and the Coordinating Centre in FAO, we expect an even greater contribution will be possible in the future.

V. de ASARTA (Italie): Monsieur le President, la delegation italienne attribue un très grand intérêt au Système international d'information pour les sciences et la technologie agricoles dont au document C 77/27. Mon pays, en effet, a donné son adhésion à AGRIS, par l'intermédiaire de la Communauté économique européenne, dès le début de la période expérimentale de ce système, à savoir dès 1974.

La contribution italienne à l'input sur les bandes de données à la fin octobre se chiffrait à 11 274 items. En particulier, à ce moment, 282 périodiques agricoles et 242 publications scientifiques et techniques sont utilisés pour la sélection des travaux scientifiques et des articles de caractère technique.

Aussi mon pays a collaboré avec la Commission des Communautés européennes à toutes les initiatives concernant AGRIS, y compris une étude d'évaluation du système, exécutée - pour le compte des pays communautaires - par deux centres de documentation et information agricoles, respectivement d'Allemagne et des Pays-Bas (le ZADI de Bonn et le PUDOC de Wageningen).

Afin de faire connaître le susdit système et de vérifier les possibilités concrètes et l'utilité de l'accès à ce circuit mondial d'information en agriculture, des séminaires d'étude et des démonstrations pratiques sur terminaux ont été organisés. Des utilisateurs potentiels ont pris part à ces séminaires et démonstrations, soit au niveau scientifique d'experts des institutions de la recherche ou bien des universités, soit au niveau de cadres intermédiaires (techniques, vulgarisateurs, directeurs et fonctionnaires d'organisations agricoles, etc.).

D'après les activités déroulées jusqu'à présent, aussi bien que d'après les considérations exprimées par les utilisateurs directement intéressés à l'évaluation du système, on a pu remarquer l'intérêt unanime pour AGRIS et son utilité aussi pour l'élargissement des relations avec d'autres pays participants, en particulier avec ceux émergents.

Pour ces derniers AGRIS pourra représenter une source importante de progrès.

Par conséquent, en harmonie avec ce qui est résulté au sein de la Communauté européenne, il faut souhaiter que les activités d'AGRIS soient poursuivies et améliorées de la part de la FAO, sur la base des propositions déjà mises au point et de celles qui sont en train d'être formulées.

A la suite de décisions spécifiques qui seront éventuellement adoptées par la FAO (ou bien par la Communauté européenne), mon pays est prêt à renforcer son apport à AGRIS. En particulier, mon pays pourrait envisager de rassembler aussi la littérature non conventionnelle (le cas échéant moyennant la décentralisation des opérations d'input), tandis qu'il espère améliorer les opérations d'output en utilisant au mieux le personnel qualifié aussi bien que les expériences spécifiques qui ont été jusqu'à ce moment acquises en la matière.

R. PASQUIER (Suisse): AGRIS avait été lancé il y a quelques années comme une opération expérimentale. Il a été évalué de différentes façons mais surtout de manière indépendante. C'est cette évaluation indépendante qui donne des résultats positifs, des conclusions positives de nature à convaincre les pays qui étaient encore assez réticents vis-à-vis d'AGRIS.

Pour notre part, nous considérons AGRIS comme une oeuvre très utile, comme un service public international que la FAO est à même d'organiser et pour lequel elle est spécialement préparée puisqu'elle est l'Organisation attitrée pour ce genre d'activité.

Mais nous voudrions faire une remarque qui découle de ce que je viens de dire, c'est que nous avons actuellement un autre programme qui est encore à titre expérimental et qui est le programme de coopération technique FAO. Son évaluation, pour le moment, a été prévue par le Directeur général par les soins d'un consultant qui a été engagé par le Directeur général. Nous considérons cela comme une sorte d'autoévaluation qui est tout à fait justifiée, mais nous pensons que le PCT, pour quitter le stade expérimental, devrait passer également par une évaluation indépendante.

Nous proposons que les pays membres, que ce soit ici à la Conférence ou plus tard au Conseil, examinent cette proposition et la suivent si possible.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): We are of the opinion shared by the Director-General that the report of the Independent Appraisal Team gives an adequate picture of the present stage of development of AGRIS. The recommendations of this Team are acceptable to us in principle, and we are also pleased to do this because a number of comments and suggestions which, in earlier discussions, were made by us with regard to the future development of AGRIS, are to be found in the Report of the Appraisal Team. I refer in particular to the refinement of the classification and indexing and the necessary intensification of communications between those centres making inputs and the Coordinating Centre.

In the discussion on AGRIS, we must also point out, from our point of view, that the technical subjects and areas, and the amount of literature covered by AGRIS are not yet up to the requirements of an industrialized country. As far as our own information and documentation systems are concerned, AGRIS is not yet an equivalent. We must consider this to be an additional task which our national documentation centres must carry out.

The value of AGRIS for the developing countries is very different, of course, and this hardly needs to be stressed. Wherever there are no or only inadequate information and documentation services as yet, AGRIS is extremely useful and fills a gap indeed.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the Federal Republic of Germany will continue to endeavour to participate in the work of AGRIS in the present framework. The contribution of my country in 1977 reached the target of 10,000 documents. Further work on AGRIS, as far as we are concerned, should deal essentially with the improvement of its ability to be used, that is to say as soon as possible AGRIS should reach the operational level so that also income from the publication of AGRINDEX through APIMONDIA should increase.

F.D. MAAS (Israel): First of all we would like to express our thanks to the Committee for the fine work it has undertaken. We would also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Aubrac who has worked well at FAO. As far as I remember, he initiated this AGRIS system which has proved to be of great benefit to many countries.

My country was not on the list to be reviewed, and I regret this because we have a contribution to make not only through our inputs. In Israel we organize mainly the passive side, the distribution of this information, not only to centres and research stations, but an additional list of research may be undertaken.

However, our main concern is with the farmers' side, and we have organized a system in one of our farming centres called the Farm School Centre where the farmer can reach this material. We have a list of more than one hundred fairly intelligent farmers and farm leaders from the professional side who review each edition of the AGRIS publication. This is of great value.

One incidental benefit on the farmers' side was that in a certain way it supervised the scientists, because sometimes scientists can bring in an innovation to something which has already been established by others.

We have one request to make: if possible perhaps a further indication could be given in the publication indicating whether basic research is required or applied on field research. This would make the subject easier to understand and this proposal could be accepted at the outset by the AGRIS bureau.

CHAIRMAN: So far all speakers who have spoken have expressed their support for the Programme. Are there any other views after the delegate of Argentina has spoken?



D.C.P. EVANS (United Kingdom): In fact, I have got two or three points to make. We again, as other delegates have, support in principle the recommendations of the Director-General, but while we welcome the general lines of the reports and fully accept that the team did as good a job as was possible within the time scale, we would have wished for more time to be made available for this preparatory work. This would have enabled a deeper examination of the actual use made of AGRIS by a variety of user nations.

We would also like to inquire about the staffing implications of the report for FAO, since the detailed figures for redeployment of staff indicate a very heavy staff load over the next two years. We wish to be satisfied that FAO think they can without additional resources carry out all the tasks programmed.

As regards training proposals for users, we wish to point out the high cost of training proposed and the need to assure that training is absolutely appropriate to the circumstances of the receiver.

The report, in our view, does not perhaps bring out this difficulty sufficiently clearly, and the financial implications in particular are only barely touched on.

We welcome the wide world coverage of the existing AGRIS network, but at the same time I wish to remind delegations of the existence of other major networks such as the CAB and Agri-documentation, which provide much the same spread of information in their respective fields. There is need to ensure as far as possible that the information contained within AGRIS is of real practical value to the user, and perhaps the report skated over this a little bit.

Finally, while accepting the general drift of the eleven major recommendations in the report, I would like to draw attention in particular to the proposals for the production of cumulative indices and the establishment of a list of cereals, R(7), both of which seem to us to involve a very great deal of expense of time and money but for no very clear benefit. The production of our cumulative index on Part 4 rapidly gets out of hand, and the production and continuous updating of a list of cereals is a colossal task, if done completely, while if not done completely is useless.

Sra. Doña A.C. BERTA de ALBERTO (Argentina): Mi delegación desea reiterar, en primer lugar, su apoyo al sistema de información internacional para la ciencia y la tecnología agrícolas, ya que sus resultados han sido altamente beneficiosos facilitando a los investigadores y técnicos del sector agropecuario que desarrollan sus tareas con distintas instituciones en nuestro país el mejoramiento de la calidad y el rendimiento de la producción de nuestros productos agrícolas. Este resultado se debe, indudablemente en gran parte, al esfuerzo cooperativo y organizado de los distintos países que participan en él.

Por estas razones, y en vista de las limitaciones presupuestarias existentes especificadas en el informe del Director General, nuestro país apoya el pedido de fondos adicionales, destacando en este sentido la responsabilidad especial que cabe a los países desarrollados de aumentar su participación en concordancia con sus mayores posibilidades a fin de poder mejorar este sistema tan valioso y útil para todos.

Con respecto al desarrollo futuro de AGRIS, nuestra delegación quisiera sugerir y recomendar en lo posible la elaboración de normas de procedimientos que aseguren la uniformidad del lenguaje del sistema. En este sentido deseamos expresar que nuestro país está en inmejorables condiciones de colaborar con ese propósito en el ámbito de AGRIS.

Asimismo, quisiéramos destacar también la conveniencia de preparar glosarios multilingües, cuya elaboración podría encomendarse a un número restringido de países, siempre tomando en cuenta, desde ya, los campos de su competencia o especialidad de su región.

Finalmente, y dada la importancia que los sistemas y redes de información revisten para el proceso de transferencia de tecnología entre países en desarrollo, mi delegación desearía señalar el rol especial que asignamos al AGRIS en el marco de la próxima Conferencia sobre Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo que se celebrará el año próximo en nuestro país.

B.de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Just briefly to indicate our basic support for the conclusions, both of the team of experts and the assessment of the experts' evaluation by the Director-General. We feel that AGRIS has quite an important role to play in the transfer of technology to developing countries in the domain of agriculture.

Within Brazil, we ourselves try to make an effort in order to improve the information and documentation system for agriculture of a system within AGRIS, within the context of AGRIS.

As far as how to proceed from now on, we will agree first that it will be highly desirable that developed countries, in particular the United States, can cooperate more fully with AGRIS - it is essential in our view for AGRIS becoming fully productive as a global system for information.

The second point is that it will be useful to develop one single data base.

The third point is that in our view, we must be quite careful in moving from phase level 1 to level 2 to be sure that actions in level 2 are fully compatible with level 1.

Then we also feel that the National Centres linked with AGRIS must be fully consulted in the development of the system.

Then finally we feel that probably some improvements can still be made in terms of the titles in English of the recommendations and information.

As a general assessment, we would like again to say that we feel that AGRIS' work is particularly important as regards information in the context of a New International Economic Order.

H.W. MANDEFIELD (Sous-directeur general, Departement des Affaires générales et de l'Information): Je voudrais remercier toutes les délégations des pays développés et des pays en voie de développement qui se sont félicitées du travail d'évaluation qui a été fait et du programme d'action proposé. Nous avons noté les nombreuses observations présentées, nous en tiendrons le plus grand compte, et je puis, dès maintenant, apporter quelques éléments d'information en réponse aux inquiétudes, aux vœux, aux questions qui ont été formulées.

On a parlé de l'importance qu'il y a à affiner le système de catégorisation par sujets, de façon à construire soit un thesaurus, soit un vocabulaire contrôlé, qui faciliteront la recherche des renseignements. Je voudrais dire ici que nous avons, dès maintenant, une première offre d'assistance du Centre de recherche sur le développement international (CRDI) qui est une fondation indépendante établie à Ottawa, et qui est toute disposée à nous aider en vue de perfectionner ce vocabulaire contrôlé. Sans en faire une condition, le CRDI souhaiterait qu'un lexicographe, un spécialiste de la terminologie et du thesaurus et des vocabulaires contrôlés, soit adjoint, par exemple, par un pays francophone, de façon à assurer que ce nouveau vocabulaire tienne compte des différentes langues véhiculaires des systèmes d'information actuels. Nous avons déjà reçu quelques indications positives d'intérêt et d'assistance éventuelle.

Autre exemple: le délégué d'Israël a proposé qu'on distingue les informations de science pure, de science appliquée et de résultats sur le terrain. Il faudra que nous y réfléchissions, mais nous le ferons avec beaucoup d'intérêt dans l'espoir de parvenir à une solution qui permettrait de distinguer ces différents niveaux qui se suivent et ne se mélangent pas.

Le délégué de l'Allemagne a exprimé le vœu qu'on arrive rapidement à la phase opérationnelle effective. Comme j'ai eu l'honneur de le faire remarquer au Conseil, cette phase opérationnelle effective est déjà en train de se créer de façon quasiment spontanée. Nous voyons déjà surgir des réalisations remarquables telles que l'AGRITROP (AGRICULTURE TROPICALE). C'est une réalisation du niveau d'exploitation, avec fourniture de résumés analytiques en plusieurs langues et traduction automatique: c'est un des exemples de ce qui peut pousser sur ce semis qui s'appelle "AGRINDEX".

Je suis heureux que l'on ait rappelé le nom de mon prédécesseur et ami, Raymond Aubrac, qui continue à porter à ce système un intérêt paternel ou grandpaternel. Nous comptons toujours sur ses conseils. Il fait d'ailleurs partie du Comité d'experts qui se réunira au printemps prochain.

Le Royaume-Uni a posé un certain nombre de questions et je voudrais confirmer les réponses que j'ai données à certaines d'entre elles lors de la dernière session du Conseil.

En ce qui concerne l'importance de la "formation des utilisateurs", je voudrais renvoyer le délégué qui a posé la question à l'Annexe II du document C 77/27 (Recommandation): "Formation des utilisateurs": 20 000 ou 50 000 dollars par séminaire. Cela figure dans la colonne "A financer au moyen de ressources extra-budgétaires". Nous espérons ne pas manquer d'offres de ce genre, étant donné l'importance de cette formation.

Le même délégué a parlé d'un Index cumulatif. J'ai le plaisir d'informer la Conférence du fait que cet Index cumulatif est actuellement sous presse, grâce à notre éditeur APIMONDIA, qui nous a lui-même proposé de le mettre sous presse. Il sera, comme on l'a dit, assez coûteux. En ce qui concerne la FAO, il ne le sera pas, puisque nous recevrons 800 exemplaires, que nous distribuerons aux Etats qui

participent à AGRIS, pour le prix de 15 000 dollars, c'est-à-dire un prix de faveur. Notre collaboration avec APIMONDIA a été, au cours de sa première année, exemplaire, et je voudrais rendre hommage à cette Maison d'édition qui nous a prêté un secours remarquable, nous permettant ainsi une importante réduction dans les frais d'édition.

M. le délégué du Royaume-Uni s'est demandé s'il y avait de ce fait quelque augmentation de personnel. Je voudrais le prier de se reporter à l'organigramme "GI" à la page 314 du texte français du document C 77/3 (page 290 du texte anglais). Dans la Division de la bibliothèque et des systèmes documentaires, vous verrez que la totalité du personnel de la Sous-Division des systèmes et projets compte dix postes professionnels, dont deux sont affectés à Vienne. Au total, huit professionnels seulement pour AGRIS. Il n'y a là aucune augmentation par rapport à l'exercice actuel, aucun nouveau poste.

Le Brésil a fait justement remarquer qu'il faut consulter les Centres nationaux pour qu'ils nous fournissent les données bibliographiques concernant la documentation agricole produite sur leur territoire. Nous avons l'intention de convoquer au printemps prochain une réunion des responsables de ces Centres nationaux, en liaison avec la 9ème session du Comité d'experts. Cela est prévu au programme et, là encore, nous espérons que les voyages et déplacements de ces fonctionnaires, du moins ceux qui viennent des pays en voie de développement, seront défrayés par un de nos bienfaiteurs.

En terminant, je voudrais dire que c'est grâce aux Etats Membres qu'en trois ans --ce qui est une période très courte pour une entreprise aussi ambitieuse -- AGRIS a fait ses preuves, a fait ses premières armes et a mérité la confiance des Etats.

C'est grâce aux Etats que son potentiel immense se réalisera et donnera, comme nous l'espérons, les fruits qu'on peut en attendre. Nous nous exercerons sans réserve pour que ces fruits tiennent les promesses des fleurs.

A. FASLA (Algérie): Je demande à la Commission de me pardonner de prendre la parole le dernier alors que les débats étaient presque terminés. Je dirai tout d'abord que nous appuyons le programme AGRIS. Je ne m'étendrai pas sur ce point, mais j'ai quelques brèves questions à poser.

L'information en elle-même est importante, mais elle l'est davantage si elle est synthétisée et si elle permet notamment aux pays en voie de développement d'accéder à la science et à la technologie qui sont nécessaires pour le développement de l'industrie agricole et alimentaire.

Je voudrais demander au Secrétariat si des efforts ont été faits en vue d'accéder aux informations que les Etats ou les grandes sociétés transnationales ne peuvent pas nous donner, ce que le Secrétariat compte faire pour obtenir ces informations au sujet desquelles on se retranche souvent derrière le "business confidential" - le secret des affaires - alors qu'au niveau des Nations Unies une Commission des sociétés transnationales travaille sur cette question. Au sujet d'autres informations concernant la commercialisation, les impôts agricoles et toutes sortes de mesures restrictives, comment le Secrétariat pense-t-il rendre l'information accessible aux pays en voie de développement, information que, pour une raison ou une autre, les pays développés ne veulent pas donner.

Troisièmement, le programme AGRIS pourrait être très important en effet aussi bien à la Conférence sur la coopération technique en pays en voie de développement, prévue l'année prochaine à Buenos Aires, ainsi qu'à la Conférence mondiale sur la science et la technique. La FAO pense-t-elle apporter sa contribution dans ce domaine? C'est ce que je souhaite, et j'aimerais avoir quelques éclaircissements sur cette question.

H.W. MANDEFIELD (Sous-directeur général, Département des Affaires générales et de l'Information): Le secret, c'est l'ennemi. Henri Laugier, un des parents du système AGRIS, a passé une grande partie de sa carrière à lutter contre le secret: les informations que nous publions dans AGRINDEX, que nous enregistrons sur des bandes magnétiques, nous proviennent des centres nationaux de liaison. Le délégué de l'Algérie a parlé des informations que l'on ne veut pas donner. Il existe cependant dans le monde un système qui s'appelle l'enregistrement des brevets. Nous espérons que les brevets entreront, par le truchement des centres d'input nationaux, dans le système AGRINDEX. A partir du moment où on souhaite protéger une invention, on est bien obligé d'en faire part à un bureau d'homologation des brevets. Nous avons l'intention de poursuivre de plus en plus l'accroissement d'AGRINDEX dans le sens de ce que l'on appelle la littérature non conventionnelle ou non publiée. C'est là qu'il faut cueillir l'information naissante. Mais nous n'avons pas l'intention de faire de l'espionnage industriel, nous n'en avons ni le souhait, ni la vocation, ni les moyens. Il appartient aux Centres nationaux - c'est leur fonction - de nous fournir les informations utiles, soit pour la commercialisation, soit pour les techniques nouvelles. J'espère que tous ces gouvernements veilleront aussi bien à leurs droits qu'à leurs intérêts et à leurs devoirs.

En ce qui concerne les deux conférences que le délégué de l'Algérie a mentionnées, nous y participerons d'une façon très active. La contribution qu'apporte AGRIS est importante précisément pour les échanges d'informations parmi les pays en voie de développement ainsi que pour l'application de la science et de la technique.

A. LOCHEN (Norway): Excuse me for coming in so late on this item. My delegation only would like to propose the report of our Commission on this item comprise a thank you to the APIMONDIA Organization, Romania, for the part played by it in the production and distribution of AGRIS.

K. LUMBALA (Zaïre): Etant donné que l'évaluation d'AGRIS a été faite de façon indépendante et que les conclusions de cette évaluation ont été acceptées par le Conseil, ma délégation souscrit à ces vues et accepte les propositions du Directeur général en vue de la poursuite du Programme AGRIS. Mon pays, grâce au Centre de documentation agricole, collabore à l'édition d'AGRINDEX pour la fourniture d'informations sur le Zaïre, de même qu'il exploite celles contenues dans AGRINDEX et concernant d'autres pays 1/.

R.W.M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): The report of the independent appraisal team highlights several of the difficulties experienced by New Zealand in the initial stages. For example, lack of software compatible with the systems used and lack of training in the exploitation of the data-base in machine readable form. It is only since the provision of optical character recognition techniques that New Zealand has been able to provide any input.

In supporting the recommendations of the appraisal team, the following technical points may be useful in evaluating progress:

1. New Zealand can see many advantages in the provision of on-line search possibilities.
2. We consider it vital that the material from the United States National Agricultural Library be included.
3. We would find training sessions on the development and usage of machine-readable data most valuable.
4. A more refined approach to categorisation and indexing is needed. Present categories are too broad for information retrieval purposes and AGRINDEX is useful only for current awareness purposes at present. The use of an agricultural thesaurus would be of considerable assistance in providing a standard vocabulary of terms.
5. Any improvement in the supply of material in answer to requests would be appreciated.
6. Sensitive monitoring of input would be of value as there appears to be considerable variances in formats.
7. Meetings of AGRIS Liaison Officers would be constructive 2/.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps at this point, if I may, I will try to sum up what will be in the report of this Commission. In general the Commission reiterated its support of AGRIS. It noted the progress and conflagrated participation of those countries whose are already participating and by those who have not started to participate. In principle the Commission has accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group. A number of very pertinent questions and suggestions have been put forth by delegates which have been noted by the Secretariat, and the explanation of Mr. Mandefield has defined what action has been taken in this respect. It was also stressed whilst very good work had been done by AGRIS we should not forget there are other information services which exist, such as CAB etc. in the various languages, and there should be a close cooperation between the various information services. There was also the last proposal put forward. There was emphasis stressed by the delegate of Algeria with respect to trying to get information from non-governmental sources, in effect private corporations and businesses, and multi-nationals and others. And last, but very important, that the Commission, under Conference, of course, will express its appreciation to APIMONDIA for undertaking the responsibility of publishing Agrarian Index of AGRIS.

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1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

2/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

I think I have covered everything that has been mentioned touched everything very briefly. The Drafting Group will embellish it, provide the nice language, and make it sound very good. With that thank you very much, we have completed that item.

10.2 Decentralization to the Country Level

10.2 Décentralisation au niveau des pays

10.2 Descentralización a los países

CHAIRMAN: We now come on to the next item on the Agenda. The next item is the one dealing with decentralization to the country level. This document you have in front of you is C 77/INF/14. Mr. Yriart, the Assistant Director-General in charge of the Development Department will introduce the item. I want to draw attention to the delegations that many of your heads of delegations at the Plenary Session have already made reference to this very subject, and I hope where possible there will not be any general statements, but very specific comments because, in effect, this is a report of the progress to date. If you look at your document here you will find in the summary it says "This document contains a statement of the Director-General's views on the role and functions of the Regional Offices in relation to the strategy of decentralization to the country level. He has promised further reports as appropriate."

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): This item in the Agenda, Mr. Chairman, is here in great measure because of the priority to the issue that was assigned to it by the 18th Conference which thought that decentralization, and I am quoting, "Was necessary in order to transform FAO into a more effective and efficient agent for development." The 18th Conference also said, and I quote again, "Decentralization could only be successfully achieved on a step-by-step basis". I must remind you also, Mr. Chairman, that the previous Conference linked very firmly the questions of decentralization with the use of national institutions. In the Conference itself perhaps the major stress was put on decentralization at the country level, with FAO representatives fully under the authority of the Director-General as a means of increasing the impact and efficiency of the Organization in developing countries.

Since the 18th Conference, Mr. Chairman, the Director-General presented his proposals to the 69th Session of the Council last July on actual new policies and new methods of work for the Organization, and one of the major proposals made by the Director-General dealt with decentralization. So in great measure, Mr. Chairman, the views of the Conference were in an accelerated manner put under execution by the Director-General.

The Director-General in making proposals to last July's Council examined three options for decentralization. One was to continue with the programme of expansion, until then Programme of expansion of the Regional Offices. The second was to move the Regional Offices to Headquarters and to change them into comprehensive regional bureaux with responsibility and authority for handling the technical work in all sectors of the particular region. The third proposal was to upgrade the third option - was to upgrade the quality and strength of FAO representation at the country level. In the context of his new policy proposals, and his wish to re-establish the Organization's general approach and methods of work, bearing in mind that at the country level is where most of the action decisions which affect the state of food and agriculture are made, he chose the alternative of decentralization to the country level.

Decentralization to the country level permits to make the great impact where the decisions are made, and also to take fully into account that external aid must be in a form which the country itself sees as complementing its own development programmes and priorities. The Director-General felt in making his proposals that it was not a question of detracting from the importance of the Regional Offices. the Regional Offices are a point of support to the country representatives. They also continue to fill a very important role in regard to regional issues, such as integration movements, regional bodies, etc., which in themselves feed into and feed from the national policies of the governments.

I would like to be quite clear on this issue of the Regional Offices -and you have yourself mentioned, Mr. Chairman, document C 77/INF/14, which is submitted for your information- because in this gradual and pragmatic evaluation of decentralization and execution of the policies approved by the Council as submitted by the Director-General, there will be - shall I say - also a gradual adaptation of the Regional Offices to the tasks as now more clearly defined. These are their own tasks for which they bear major responsibility, in the context of regional action, regional bodies, and integration, and they are equally important supportive actions of the Regional Offices towards representations at country level.

We thought from that point of view that it would be useful to inform the Conference about the adaptation, and in a way strengthening by clearly focussing those matters which are the responsibility of the Regional Offices, thinking also that most probably the Conference - as has already happened - would focus more on the first priority already decided by the Council, when it was authorized to review and approve the representations of the Director-General, which is the question of representation at the country level.

I must add that the Director-General discarded the second option which he examined, which was of working through regional bureaux at Headquarters, thinking that this could hardly provide a closer identification of FAO activities with individual countries. In the policies which are being followed, this identification with the countries, with their plans and priorities, is essential, and to attempt it without a direct link at the country level seems very difficult.

The terms of reference which are known and which were submitted by the Director-General to the 69th Session of the Council, which approved making the country representatives an important element in giving Governments a direct link in the access to and utilization of FAO's Regular Programme also brings to the knowledge of the Governments all the possibilities and the many extra-budgetary programmes which are executed by FAO, and will evidently be helpful to the Governments in their efforts to make better use of these activities as well.

The country representative becomes a vital link in the greater use of national institutions, not only in linking with the institutions themselves, but in the identification of the institutions, for us, for FAO Headquarters, in order to know up to what point we can gradually come more to use the services of national institutions, even in the execution of our Regular Programme.

Needless to say, the building up of the programme of work of this Organization has to rely heavily on the knowledge and understanding of Government plans and priorities, and here again the information from the country representative - from the country to FAO - is most important, and the country representative will be in the main in charge of providing us with this information.

The 69th Session of the Council, in endorsing the Director-General's proposal, agreed that the most effective way of implementing decentralization was to up grade the quality and strength of FAO representation at the country level, providing the offices - which are fully funded by FAO - with the knowledge of all FAO's resources and expertise, properly selected and supported by a small auxiliary staff which can make a valuable contribution to establishing the better links which I have mentioned between a Government and FAO, and even with countries themselves, especially in the rural sector.

The Director-General, in implementing the Council's decision, has I think put forward - or brought about - a core of country representatives, which is the main representative at present of the efforts towards decentralization, and he has done this in a pragmatic approach with regard to the phasing of the new arrangements. This pragmatic approach with regard to the gradual putting into execution of the arrangements was commented on by the Council. The Director-General himself, in his opening statement before the deliberations of this Commission gave you a short progress report regarding the establishment of FAO offices in the countries, and he again described this process of decentralization which is taking place as an evolving and dynamic one. In the general debate on the Programme of Work and Budget, and also when the Commission considered Chapter 3 of the same document, many delegations commented on this process of decentralization through the establishment of FAO representatives. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that I have taken very good note of the observations made, and it is my feeling that the direction in which the Organization is moving, and the decisions which have been taken and which are being taken by the Director-General, take fully into account the main policy reorientations that have only now been voiced by the delegations.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. You have heard the introduction by the Representative of the Director-General, and also his last comment, that careful note has been taken of the views expressed in Plenary and other discussions already held. The floor is now open for discussion.

A. FASLA (Algérie): Nous avons écouté en séance plénière la déclaration du Directeur général ainsi que l'introduction qui vient d'être faite sur la décentralisation, notamment au niveau des pays. J'ai beaucoup apprécié l'affirmation selon laquelle l'objectif est de diminuer, de limiter la bureaucratie au Siège pour renforcer les activités sur le terrain. C'est notre conception de la décentralisation, mais quelquefois les bonnes intentions sont dépassées par les événements et par la pratique. Il ne faudrait pas que la diminution de la bureaucratie au Siège aboutisse à la création de bureaucratie au niveau des pays.

Il est certain que dans nos pays nous avons des experts agricoles, des conseillers principaux agricoles qui font du bon travail, mais il est souhaitable, pour les pays qui en font la demande, d'avoir un représentant du Directeur général et que ce représentant puisse assurer aussi bien l'expertise qu'a faite le Conseiller agricole principal, que la charge administrative, diplomatique et protocolaire qui devrait être la sienne, étant donné qu'il devient un élément quelque peu autonome de la représentation en vigueur au niveau des pays dans le cadre du consensus 1970.

J'ai une question à poser: comment se réalisera la coordination au niveau des différentes institutions du système, au niveau des pays?

Nous avons tous, à des degrés différents, des programmes financés par le PNUD, et effectués soit directement par la FAO, soit en coopération avec d'autres institutions.

Notre délégation estime qu'il serait souhaitable que le système qui a fonctionné assez bien jusqu'à maintenant, tout au moins pour l'Algérie, continue, et nous souhaitons que l'autonomie dont disposera le représentant de la FAO permette de renforcer cette coordination et non pas de déboucher sur des tiraillements. Malheureusement, nous constatons assez souvent, au niveau des institutions du système, que chaque institution considère que c'est elle qui fait le travail de choix, que c'est elle l'institution la plus importante pour le programme de développement. Il est important qu'au moment où au niveau du système des Nations Unies on essaye de rendre l'appareil moins lourd, pour économiser aussi bien des ressources humaines que des ressources financières, il est donc important que les représentants de la FAO dans les pays oeuvrent pour assurer une coordination avec les institutions existantes, tant dans le cadre de la représentation du PNUD qu'au niveau national, car dans certains pays comme le notre, la FAO intéresse quatre ministères. Il est donc nécessaire qu'une coordination étroite soit établie entre ces quatre ministères et les représentants du Directeur général.

R. PASQUIER (Suisse): Nous sommes maintenant au point 10.2 de l'ordre du jour qui fait partie de la discussion sur le Programme de travail et budget.

Nous avons pour notre part considéré que la discussion sur la décentralisation au niveau des pays, sur le placement des représentants dans les pays, devait avoir lieu ici, et que les conclusions de cette discussion devaient se répercuter sur la discussion concernant le montant du budget.

Cela dit, je voudrais présenter trois séries de remarques.

Tout d'abord, nous sommes d'un avis semblable à celui de l'Algérie concernant la décentralisation. Notre délégation avait déjà affirmé, à la Conférence de 1975, qu'elle était favorable à la décentralisation, mais à une décentralisation d'activités concrètes, menées sur le terrain, avec un concours accru des institutions nationales, tandis que la décentralisation des bureaux, au niveau régional ou même au niveau national, ne mérite pas, à notre avis la même priorité, même si ces bureaux facilitent, dans une certaine mesure, les activités de terrain. Donc, sur ce point, nous rejoignons tout à fait les craintes de la délégation de l'Algérie.

En second lieu, lorsque nous avons abordé ce point concernant les représentants dans les pays, lors de la discussion précédente sur le budget, l'assistant du Directeur général, M. West, nous avait dit que la discussion sur les avantages des représentants autonomes par rapport aux représentants intégrés n'avait plus d'objet puisque la décision était de toute façon déjà prise.

Nous pensons que M. West était dans l'erreur lorsqu'il faisait cette affirmation, car pour ce qui dépasse les premiers dix-sept représentants dans les pays c'est la prérogative de la précédente Conférence de la FAO de prendre une décision appropriée.

M. West nous a dit aussi que le PNUD avait déjà décidé d'abolir les postes de conseillers agricoles principaux dans les bureaux du PNUD, qu'il le faisait même à un rythme plus rapide que ne le souhaiterait la FAO.

En fait, le Conseil d'administration du PNUD a décidé, en juin 1976, que budgétairement il acceptait la proposition de la FAO de reprendre à son compte le financement des Conseillers agricoles principaux et qui sont également les représentants de la FAO intégrés au bureau du PNUD. Mais cette décision d'ordre budgétaire n'avait pas comme corollaire automatique que ces représentants de la FAO intégrés au bureau du PNUD devaient devenir des représentants autonomes lorsque la FAO les financeraient entièrement.

D'autre part, à ce même Conseil d'administration, il avait été décidé qu'entre l'administrateur du PNUD et le Directeur général de la FAO devaient avoir lieu des discussions, et que le Conseil d'administration pourrait envisager de financer à nouveau partiellement des Conseillers agricoles principaux à l'avenir si la proposition lui en était faite. Donc, il n'y a pas une décision définitive à ce sujet, comme M. West le prétend.

Pour notre part, nous nous joignons aux délégations qui, dans les débats précédents de cette Commission, ont proposé que la mise en place des représentants dans les pays se fasse plus lentement que ce qui a été envisagé par le Directeur général, et qu'elle se fasse en étroite collaboration avec le PNUD pour limiter les frais administratifs. Il y a certainement des frais de téléx, de secrétariat, de chauffeurs, etc. qui peuvent être réduits si le représentant de la FAO est intégré davantage au bureau du PNUD, même s'il est payé entièrement par la FAO.

En troisième lieu, nous pensons qu'il est important de définir explicitement les avantages pratiques attendus des représentants dans les pays, par rapport à ce qu'on obtient des Conseillers agricoles principaux en fait de services, car le moment venu, il faudra juger si ces avantages sont effectivement obtenus et s'ils justifient les coûts accrus de cette forme de représentation de la FAO. Il s'agit en effet d'obtenir, pour un coût donné, les meilleurs services possibles.

B.F. DADA (Nigeria): My delegation welcomes the initiative of the Director-General for setting into motion the decentralization of FAO activities to the country level. We would like to stress that the process should be expeditiously carried out. My country notes with concern the undesirable gap that has been created since the departure of the former FAO's Senior and Agricultural Adviser in Nigeria about one year ago. While the appointment of a new FAO country representative is yet to be made, the situation is undesirable and it is adversely affecting both on-going as well as new projects. Some new projects have indeed suffered considerable delay.

It will not be out of place at this juncture to recall that following the recent UNDP Financial crisis the Nigerian Government provided funds to the tune of six million niara or over nine million US dollars to keep the FAO project in Nigeria going.

However because of the gap I have referred to, implementation of the FAO projects has not been as effective as anticipated. This is why my country feels the urgent need for the appointment of suitable FAO country activities for Nigeria. It is hoped that the regional office will assist in correcting the present situation of requiring every small matter to be at FAO Headquarters. The recruitment of field experts for projects, which they now lack, will also be indirectly accelerated.

My delegation feels that in order to improve the relatively poor agricultural and food production in developing countries, the FAO programme could play a vital role in assisting these countries to help themselves. To ensure that this role is properly carried out efficient communication between FAO Headquarters, FAO Regional Offices and the government is important. It is in this light we look forward to the successful decentralization of FAO activities to the country level and my delegation would like this particular aspect to be accorded priority.

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): Lorsque le Conseil de juin 1976 avait approuvé la proposition du Directeur général, c'est parce que les pays en développement, en apportant leur appui, fondaient un grand espoir sur cette question de la décentralisation dont on parlait dans cette enceinte depuis fort longtemps. Je pense donc que l'inquiétude manifestée par certains pays en voyant que la FAO a un représentant maintenant dans les pays en développement, n'a pas lieu d'exister.

Si les pays en développement ont appuyé la proposition du Directeur général, c'est parce qu'ils sentaient la nécessité d'avoir une représentation autonome facilitant les contacts entre les différents ministères et l'Organisation. Nous sommes pour la coordination avec le système des Nations Unies, notamment dans nos pays, et cette coordination doit être renforcée.

Il est clair également que le rôle de la FAO dans les pays en développement s'avère de plus en plus important, vu la politique même que les gouvernements développent dans les secteurs agricoles. Donc, avoir un représentant autonome ne peut qu'aider les pays à améliorer leurs relations privilégiées avec l'Organisation.

Lorsqu'on parle ici de budget, d'argent, on sous-estime un facteur qui fait qu'on ne peut pas comptabiliser ce que le représentant de la FAO peut rendre comme services aux gouvernements. Donc, ce n'est pas un argument valable pour prétendre qu'il faille arrêter ou ralentir la nomination de représentants. Comptabiliser cela veut dire essayer encore de tirer les dernières cartouches pour arrêter un processus irréversible.



Je suis d'accord avec ce qu'a dit M. West. Il faudrait peut-être que ce soit la Conférence qui fasse les nominations, mais cela ne s'oppose à ce qu'a dit le délégué de la Suisse. C'est un processus qui a commencé. Le Conseil l'avait adopté. On ne doit donc pas dire qu'il faille de nouveau voter sur quelque chose que nous avons déjà décidé. Le Conseil, sur mandat de la Conférence, avait décidé que le Directeur général devait poursuivre dans cette voie.

Notre collègue du Nigéria a dit son inquiétude à propos du fait que l'on n'avance pas. Il a donné son pays comme exemple. On ne peut pas freiner le Directeur général dans le processus d'une mise en application d'une décision des Etats Membres.

Ce que nous pouvons faire c'est, comme l'a recommandé le délégué de l'Algérie, de renforcer la coordination, et que la FAO fasse tout son possible pour que cette coordination soit maintenue au niveau des pays entre les différentes institutions.

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): Mi delegación, al igual que lo hizo en ocasión de manifestarse sobre el Programa y Presupuesto, apoya la política de descentralización que está llevando a cabo la FAO y creemos oportuno - a su vez - dar nuestro apoyo a las intervenciones que han realizado las delegaciones de Argelia y Guinea.

De acuerdo a lo que ha manifestado la distinguida delegación de Argelia, entendemos que la descentralización si bien tiende a eliminar la burocracia aquí en la sede, lo cual fue apoyado en la Conferencia anterior, no debe ser éste un hecho que motive que esta burocracia vaya a los países o a las Oficinas Regionales.

Otro aspecto es que en ningún momento se ha puesto en tela de juicio que la política de descentralización no ha recibido el apoyo de todos los países - tal y como hemos escuchado - por lo que consideramos que en este sentido la intervención de la delegación de Guinea es muy oportuna, teniendo en cuenta que el Director General cuenta con un marco en el presupuesto ya aprobado en el bienio anterior para realizar estas actividades y nombrar a los representantes en los países, proceso que debería acelerarse. Además, si se tiene en cuenta que en días anteriores hemos escuchado que la representación del Asesor Agrícola Principal del PNUD en los países cesará para finales de año, se hace importante - en este sentido - que la FAO pueda acelerar los nombramientos de sus representantes en los países.

Esto no quiere decir que no se mantenga la coordinación dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas con lo cual mi país está de acuerdo, todo lo cual juega un rol muy importante para que sea más eficaz la descentralización.

En lo tocante al documento que debatimos, el C 77/INF/14, si quisiéramos hacer referencia a lo manifestado en el párrafo 10 y es la coordinación entre los representantes regionales, los representantes en los países y la sede que, si bien en el párrafo 4 se manifiesta cuales son las funciones de las Oficinas Regionales, nos gustaría que se nos apuntaran más en qué forma se va a llevar a cabo la coordinación entre estos tres elementos.

Ahora bien, en lo que respecta al párrafo 11 donde dice que para las agendas futuras de las Conferencias Regionales se van a hacer en consulta con los representantes en los países y la Sede, nos gustaría que se nos explicara si las consultas a los representantes en los países van a estar vinculadas a consultas a los gobiernos de cada región, para así aunar intereses con vista a la confección de las agendas de las conferencias regionales próximas.

En cuanto al párrafo 13 es muy atinado lo que se ha planteado de crear un registro central de todos los fondos fiduciarios que tiene la Organización y que constituyen parte sustancial de los fondos que se destinan a la asistencia técnica en nuestros países; pero sería oportuno que a la vez los representantes de la FAO en los países tuvieran buena información de todo este registro central para que pudieran informar a los respectivos gobiernos, lo cual les sería muy útil para la elaboración de proyectos en el futuro.

No queremos terminar, sin señalar que el documento que se nos presenta en general es muy útil y que no cabe duda que la política de descentralización que está llevando a cabo la FAO en los países y sobre todo la ayuda que prestará a los países en desarrollo va a ser de gran utilidad en el futuro.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): First I shall not deliver a lecture on the concept of decentralization, I would merely mention our view that it is an enormously complex process or exercise. It should always be borne in mind that, speaking, as now, in the context of inputs, we are referring basically to one component of a whole process, the organizational component. Of course, we do not suggest that that component is not very important, we realize its importance but we wish to stress this point.

We tend to agree with some of the previous speakers that the whole problem of decentralization should be based on a very pragmatic approach which, after all, should start somewhere, and if it is to start by preventing further increases in staff here in Rome at Headquarters, we would certainly welcome the decision which the Director-General has taken.

I would now like to comment briefly on paragraph where the functions of the Regional Offices are listed. Of course, seven out of eight functions basically relate to purely regional activities. However, the penultimate function on the list gives my delegation some concern. As drafted here, it seems to us to be very general, speaking in terms of the Regional Offices' function "to provide technical backstopping and lend political support to the FAO country offices in all their activities". We are not absolutely sure what that means, "lend political support to the FAO country offices". What political support might FAO country offices need?

Our main worry here is "technical backstopping". We do not think it is needed except in some special cases, and to give you an example, the problem which comes to my mind is trypanosomiasis, where some technical backstopping might be provided by Regional Offices. But as it is drafted now, it sounds too general and one might even get the impression that literally all backstopping should be provided by Regional Offices. We do not think so. We would agree basically with the approach described in paragraph 6, we feel it is pragmatic.

We would refer to one point mentioned by Mr. Yriart in his introduction, in paragraph 14 there is the statement that "The use of national institutions is now a part of the policy of decentralization. "We would like to put it even more strongly, perhaps saying that national institutions should be the main avenue of that process.

Anyhow, there is one minor point I would like to mention in regard to paragraph 14 that, particularly in the context of Regional Offices, we should refer not only to national but also to regional institutions.

My last word is on the point raised by the Swiss delegation. It is not our feeling that the decision of the Council could now be questioned on a formal basis, since it was based clearly on the mandate given to the Council by the last Conference. Of course, the Conference, as the supreme authority, could revise, or change the position taken by the Council, but it is not our feeling that such a tendency prevails in our debate.

L. KABUYI (Zaire): La délégation du Zaïre appuie fortement la politique de décentralisation, car dans nos pays, ou d'autres institutions du système des Nations Unies se manifestent de façon autonome, il est nécessaire de prendre la même mesure pour la FAO.

Un représentant de la FAO dynamique dans un pays aide ce pays à entreprendre les études nécessaires en vue du développement de la production agricole. Il conseille, suggère les actions qu'il serait utile d'identifier et d'élaborer. Il est par ailleurs le conseiller technique des responsables nationaux chargés de l'agriculture.

Dans mon pays, lorsqu'il s'est agi de créer un bureau de la FAO, les représentants du PNUD n'y ont rien vu d'anormal, ni l'objet d'une concurrence, étant entendu que la coordination est assurée au niveau des pays, même pour des activités entreprises par des organisations ne faisant pas partie de la famille des Nations Unies.

Ma délégation souhaite par contre que tout soit mis en œuvre pour donner plus de dynamisme aux bureaux régionaux dont on ne sent vraiment pas l'activité au niveau des pays.

En outre, ma délégation appuie la politique de décentralisation, ce qui est une façon de lutter contre le bureaucratisme du Siège.

Je tiens à signaler que les frais de fonctionnement des bureaux dans les divers pays sont en partie pris en charge par les pays qui en bénéficient.

A.BIN YUNUS (Malaysia): My delegation has studied the documents on the decentralization of FAO activities to the country level, and noted the statements made on this subject.

We welcome and endorse the Director-General's proposal as a positive step in the right direction. Closer and more fruitful contacts between FAO and Member Countries could be achieved through the appointment of FAO Country Representatives. However, we believe that, depending on this, such closer and fruitful contacts could also be achieved by direct links between Member Countries and the Regional Offices without having the medium of a Country Representative. In fact, wherever such an arrangement is possible, it should be in line with the Director-General's determination to minimize bureaucratic hierarchy, apart from a further saving in expenditure. My delegation wishes to reiterate what has been said earlier on the need to further strengthen the Regional Offices. We believe that the Regional Offices have an important role to play, as stated in document C 77/LIM/14.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): I wanted my name to be deleted from the list of speakers, seeing that colleagues who have spoken before me have said enough on this subject. Therefore, I will only support what was said by Mr. Camara of Guinea and the delegate of Yugoslavia.

I would add one simple remark that the present document is for the clarification of certain information and not to re-open discussions on decentralization or centralization. The document should be taken on this basis and we should not revert to the discussion of subjects which could take up the time of Conference in repetition.

CHAIRMAN: I enjoyed the comments of the delegate of Jordan very much and appreciated his help in asking delegates to remember that this item has been discussed at considerable length so they should try to stick to specific points.

B.de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation has already indicated on a number of occasions its support for the basic choice of the kind of decentralization that the Director-General is trying to advance, with the emphasis on decentralization at the national level. In this respect, we would like to make a few points.

First, on decentralization at national level, we feel that regional offices and Country Representatives have a very important role to play; therefore, national institutions should be promoted. In saying that, we would also like to give emphasis to the views of national institutions.

We feel decentralization at the country level is not only a question of the appointment of Country Representatives, the real decentralization is in the use of the national institutions of Member Countries, in particular the developing countries. We feel that the use of these national institutions is still very limited. A number of Headquarter's activities could very usefully be transferred to the field and this will be a way of controlling bureaucratic proliferation at Headquarters, although we agree with the Director-General that he has made very great efforts in order to control such proliferation.

On decentralization at the regional level, we would like to advance a few observations. We agree that the regional offices have a very important role in promoting cooperation among governments on common problems and identifying areas for common action. On the other hand, we feel that possibly more could be done in cooperation with regional bodies, not only the regional economic commissions but also - in accordance with each region - with the regional institutions specifically geared to the promotion of agricultural development.

For instance, in Latin America we have the Inter-American Institute of the Agricultural Science which has very important work to do. We would like that Institute to be associated more with the work of FAO, and for us this is an important point.

On the vexed topic of regional field projects, the degree of involvement of the Regional Offices is something we have to approach carefully, if we do not want to develop a kind of mini FAO's, which paragraph 19 of the document mentions. There must be a certain degree of involvement, but we feel, possibly depending on the projects, the main backstopping has to be at Headquarters, if we do not want to have a number of small FAO's spread by each of the regions. This is possibly one point which deserves our attention.

Like our colleague from Yugoslavia, I do not quite understand the reference to "political support to the FAO country offices" provided by the Regional Offices. Reference to this is made in paragraph 4, and probably there is an obscurity of language here which Mr. Yriart could surely clarify when he speaks. Those are all the points I wish to make at this stage.

F. D'ALMEIDA (Bénin): J'appuie fortement l'intervention des délégués du Brésil, de la Guinée et de la Yougoslavie.

Je voudrais insister sur le rôle que doit jouer le Bureau régional. Nous pensons qu'à notre niveau, c'est l'organisme qui nous permet le plus de nous retrouver au niveau régional et qui permet d'harmoniser et connaître les problèmes agricoles au niveau de la région. Nous pensons que dans le cadre du commerce régional, étant donné que le commerce est plutôt vertical, c'est par le Bureau régional de la FAO que nous arriverons à faire un commerce horizontal; nous arriverons ainsi à commercer entre nous.

Nous souhaiterions que, dans le cadre de la décentralisation, la région Afrique soit renforcée, de façon qu'on s'occupe réellement des relations entre les différentes organisations régionales.

Nous demandons aussi qu'il y ait au niveau régional des projets communs à plusieurs pays et nous pensons qu'il appartient au Bureau régional de coordonner ce genre d'activités et de promouvoir ce genre de coopération dans le développement agricole.

Y. LIKE (Ethiopia): We all know that agricultural production during the Second Development Decade of the United Nations fell far below the 4 to 5 percent annual gross it expected to roughly around 2.8 percent, and, even worse, during the 70s it fell even below that which took place within the Second Development Decade to about 1 percent. Some of the analysis that can be put behind this is not only the shortage of financial availability, particularly to developing countries, but also the lack of proper liaison between FAO and the respective developing countries, and one cannot enhance or improve this situation without strengthening and expanding Country Representatives, and yet we hear here some delegates say that country representation is growing faster than expected.

We do know during the 18th session that a gradual decentralization was necessary, yes, but our problem here is to find out how gradually this was meant to take place at the time. We think that the 47 Country Representatives planned for the coming biennium is, while we appreciate the Director-General's step in this direction, the minimum that should be achieved during this decade, and therefore I would strongly like to support what Guinea, Algeria and Cuba said earlier on this, although a lot of others have also stressed the importance of such Country Representatives.

A.Z.M. SHAMSUL ALAM (Bangladesh): We consider that decentralization of our activities at the country level is an appropriate step in the right direction. The first step in this connexion is the appointment of Country Representatives in all the Member Nations, but that is taking time, and as we understood during the previous discussion, it takes around a year to finalize appointments of Country Representatives. In this connexion, we would like to offer a suggestion. The process of appointment of a Country Representative may be expedited if the personnel, those who are working in the government, are taken on deputation, if every country is asked to make a nomination of 5, 6, 7 persons, and out of them, FAO selects one or two, one from each country, so in that case perhaps the process would be simpler, and it is easy also, if the persons are not considered satisfactory, and if they are not doing their work well, they can go back to their own government. If FAO directly recruits, after appointment, somebody becomes a permanent liability, and even if he is not good enough, he has to continue, even sometimes if he outlives his utility, he cannot be got rid of, but if the persons are selected from the government in different countries, there is a certain advantage.

The second point we want to make in this connexion about decentralization is that sometimes appointment of Country Representatives does not help that much. These Country Representatives, we find, whenever sometimes the representatives of FAO visit different countries, they move from ministry to ministry, from desk to desk, not knowing whom to contact, and we want to put forward a suggestion that we may request the governments in different countries to name some liaison officers of every ministry with whom the FAO Country Representative will have to deal. For instance, in our country, our Ministry of Agriculture is a different ministry, food is another ministry and rural development another ministry, and there are officers at various levels, so if the countries would nominate or name some liaison officers with whom the FAO Country Representatives will maintain regular liaison contact, his job becomes easier.

Thirdly, as we want to decentralize and we want to activate, the one bottleneck is a communication gap, what FAO is doing and where it can help and where the countries can ask for help. These things are not very much known. We want to suggest that some more small booklets be issued containing information material about the activities of FAO and the field in which FAO conducts activities and the technical work. Lots of booklets may be written and distributed in large numbers so that the various officers on various levels in the country are aware of the activities of FAO and can take advantage of them.

Another point we want to make is about decentralization of information regarding AGRIS. Under the present system, if any information is sought from the central office, it takes a pretty long time to get the information, and maybe the same type of information is wanted by a number of persons. We suggest that whatever articles or books are in our information bank, if copies are made and distributed to Member Countries and kept in one national library or an agricultural university library, any library nominated by the government of the country, and if whatever materials are now at Headquarters, these are given to the country governments. In that case, the reference to the Central Information Agency here would not be necessary and sometimes, maybe somebody who is working or writing an article, and needs that information and he gives a requisition for this, by the time he gets this information he has finished his article, so it becomes useless. If in the country headquarters, at least in one place, all these materials are available, then the reference to FAO Headquarters for the materials referred to in AGRIS would not be required and they would get it from there.

Lastly, it is hoped that with the decentralization of FAO activities to the country level, we hope FAO will be more active in its unending pursuit in the struggle for a better life and the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. G. LYAKOV (Bulgarie): La délégation bulgare estime que le Programme de travail et budget pour 1978-79 met particulièrement l'accent sur le besoin d'une intensification des échanges entre le Programme régulier et celui du terrain, en orientant les activités et les ressources vers les réalisations concrètes de nouvelles grandes priorités adoptées par l'Organisation.

Ma délégation constate comme positive et opportune la nouvelle orientation de l'effort de la FAO à l'égard des pays membres par une intégration toujours plus poussée de l'assistance technique fournie par l'Organisation, compte tenu des priorités établies par les programmes nationaux pour le développement de l'agriculture des pays en voie de développement, par la mise en oeuvre de l'utilisation accrue des institutions nationales des pays membres et par la décentralisation au niveau des pays.

La délégation bulgare félicite donc pleinement la continuité du choix délibéré auquel elle a contribué par sa position constructive lorsque, il y a deux ans à peu près, ces nouvelles priorités d'action avaient été lancées par le Directeur général, priorités qui sont devenues la base des propositions du travail et budget de l'Organisation. Ceux-ci poursuivent d'ailleurs plus loin dans la même voie et formulent des propositions pour lier davantage les activités de l'Organisation et apporter son concours en vue d'assurer le soutien permanent et accru de la production agricole et alimentaire dans les pays en voie de développement.

Pendant la période située entre la 18ème et la 19ème sessions de la Conférence générale, le travail efficace et coordonné du Directeur général et du Conseil ont abouti à des propositions appropriées à l'utilisation accrue des institutions nationales et à l'établissement de bureaux de représentants dans les pays en voie de développement.

En tant que membre du Conseil à ses soixante-neuvième et soixante-dixième sessions, la Bulgarie a partagé et appuyé les considérations et les propositions sur les problèmes concernés et leur renouvelle aujourd'hui son appui.

Ma délégation note avec satisfaction l'attention dont font l'objet l'utilisation des institutions nationales et le programme de coopération technique comme éléments dynamiques et qualitativement nouveaux du Programme ordinaire et du programme de terrain. Elle approuve et soutient le recours dans des proportions accrues à l'utilisation des mêmes institutions pour des tâches multiformes et pour les activités différentes des programmes de terrain qui correspondront mieux aux nouveaux besoins des pays bénéficiaires.

La délégation bulgare fait sienne la suggestion exprimée dans le paragraphe 2.131 du rapport du Comité du Programme en ce qui concerne les tendances positives dans la coopération technique et l'adaptation des méthodes de la FAO pour leur faire une plus large place dans l'action de l'Organisation au niveau des pays, ainsi que pour l'ajustement des politiques, programmes et méthodes de travail de la FAO au niveau régional dont on s'occupera dans les années à venir.

Ma délégation estime que l'avis susmentionné du Comité du programme, ainsi que l'accord renouvelé du Conseil à sa soixante et onzième session - paragraphe 137 du rapport - sur l'accroissement prévu de l'emploi des institutions nationales et de coopération dans le cadre de tous les programmes de l'Organisation, méritent d'être pris en considération en vue de l'approbation de l'approche proposée sur la décentralisation.

En partant des propositions du Programme de travail et budget pour 1978-79, et en félicitant le Directeur général pour l'approche intégrée des objectifs majeurs de l'Organisation, ma délégation pense qu'à l'avenir on aura recours à un plus grand nombre de pays membres et à leurs institutions nationales pour réaliser les actions du Programme ordinaire et de celui du terrain.

En réaffirmant sa position claire et continue, la délégation bulgare estime nécessaire d'ajouter que le pays dispose des institutions nationales pouvant assumer différentes tâches comme la formation de spécialistes à tous les niveaux - par des cours, séminaires de brève durée et des cours de moyenne et longue durées - dans les domaines de la chimie agricole, de la planification, de l'économie et de l'organisation de coopératives agricoles. Nos instituts nationaux de recherche peuvent apporter leur collaboration aux divers programmes sur le contrôle de l'érosion, la restructuration de la fertilité des sols et l'amélioration de la nutrition animale.

L.H. SMITH (Barbados): I would like to make three short points. One is that the Barbados delegation supports the process of decentralization, decentralizing the activities of the FAO, but we would hope in the process we do not have a mere transfer of staff and bureaucracy from the central office here in Rome to the various territories to which they would be assigned, and we hope careful selection would be made of persons to the offices of the Country Representatives. We would expect such persons to be able to work effectively, not only with UNDP Regional Representatives and local officials, but such persons should be prepared to familiarize themselves with the whole range of Technical Assistance Programmes and advise on how the FAO may be able to back up, or assist, in all these other Technical Assistance Programmes. Further, I think it is ultimately important to recognise unless there is a greater involvement by local and regional institutions in the work of FAO, and the FAO programmes, then it cannot be said we would achieve any decentralization without this process.

HA DONG (Vietnam): Puisque je prends la parole pour la première fois, ma délégation s'associe aux précédents orateurs pour vous féliciter de votre élection, M. le Président, et de la façon dont vous conduisez les débats; ainsi nous sommes certains que notre Commission mènera ses travaux à bonne fin.

Nous avons consacré beaucoup de temps pour examiner avec soin de très importants documents qui nous ont été distribués, et nous avons écouté avec beaucoup d'attention les sages opinions émises par les délégations amies.

Nous pouvons dès aujourd'hui assurer de notre appui total les propositions du Directeur général en ce qui concerne la décentralisation, la nouvelle orientation, le montant du budget et son utilisation, les mesures en vue de réduire les frais, et la Conférence mondiale pour la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

Le Vietnam, pays en développement particulièrement touché par la guerre, a besoin de fonds, de cadres, et de technologie. Nous concentrons tous nos efforts sur l'agriculture et l'alimentation pour augmenter le bien-être de notre peuple. La FAO, qui nous a déjà assistés efficacement, en même temps que les autres organismes internationaux, pourra nous être très utile en mettant davantage l'accent sur la formation des cadres, sur la documentation technique et sur l'organisation des échanges d'expériences entre les pays membres sur des sujets très concrets. Sur ce plan, notre pays pourra apporter sa modeste contribution. Mais lorsque se présentent des difficultés d'urgence, la FAO pourra apporter rapidement son aide par le Programme de coopération technique, comme elle l'a fait jusqu'ici, mais nous souhaitons que ce soit sur une plus grande échelle. A notre avis, la décentralisation pourra accélérer le processus de coopération par le fait que les représentants auront la possibilité de connaître plus vite la situation sur place.

CHAIRMAN: I have one more speaker. I would like to close the discussion and debate on this subject now. We have had a lengthy discussion. I would like to give the floor to Mr. Yriart. I am going to close the discussion until we hear from Mr. Yriart. If there are questions after, and response to his comments, we will then go back to discussion.

B.E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Siendo la primera vez que veo a usted presidiendo esta Comisión, deseo felicitarle por la importante elección de que usted ha sido objeto y además tomo con mucha atención los comentarios que usted hizo en su primera intervención al Presidente de esta Comisión, de que al final de esta reunión haya aún conservado su buen humor.

En cuanto al Documento C 77/14 que estamos considerando, nosotros apoyamos su concepto general en cuanto consideramos que las actividades de la descentralización de la FAO, constituye un nuevo enfoque que orienta las actividades de esta Organización hacia una mayor actividad en el campo.

En cuanto a las actividades y atribuciones que tiene el representante regional de la FAO, nosotros compartimos las mismas en sus aspectos generales. Sin embargo, nos parece que en cuanto se refiere a que sus atribuciones son promover la cooperación entre los gobiernos, debería también reforzar la cooperación ya existente entre ellos, y en relación a la misma, nuestra delegación desearía una aclaración de parte de la Secretaría en cuanto se refiere a las funciones y atribuciones del representante regional, que nosotros entendemos como el mayor representante de estado en la región de carácter técnico.

Aquí se dice que deberá ofrecer apoyo técnico y político a las oficinas de la FAO en los países. Mi delegación entendía que las atribuciones de la FAO y su competencia eran decidir en cuestiones de carácter técnico. No sé si la expresión aquí de carácter político se refiere a elaborar las políticas dentro de la competencia técnica. Lo que me parece es que debería puntualizarse este concepto.

En cuanto al párrafo 11 del documento, me parece que es muy pertinente que se elabore en colaboración con los representantes de los países en la región la agenda de las conferencias regionales, pero consideramos también que sería muy oportuno que se hiciera mención a la participación que en la elaboración de la agenda pudieran tener los gobiernos en ese sentido, pues creemos que son el sujeto y el objeto directamente interesados en la elaboración de los temarios.

En cuanto a las actividades de los fondos fiduciarios, me parece oportuno y conveniente, en cuanto creemos que sirven a asegurar la disponibilidad de recursos y también la existencia de un catálogo o centro de información respecto a los proyectos ya existentes para dar mejores orientaciones a los países y al mismo tiempo se ahorran recursos.

El párrafo 14 nosotros lo apoyamos plenamente, y creo que también no solamente es necesario reformar las instituciones nacionales, pero también aquellas subregionales, pues sabe muy bien que en América Latina, mi región, característicamente existen este tipo de oficinas. Por supuesto, consideramos que las condiciones económicas de las regiones deben tener un papel muy importante que desempeñar, sobre todo con la general actividad que se puede crear en cooperación con la creación del FIDA que esperamos.

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): I would like to start with the Regional Office, which is a subject very near to my heart. I think, Mr. Chairman, that as I said in the introduction we sincerely have no doubt that the Regional Offices are becoming more important, because their tasks are better defined, and in defining better their tasks they will also be better able to use their resources. I would also like to remind you, as it is mentioned briefly in the document before you, that we continue, and I think with improved efficacy, to do unified programming work with the Regional Offices, where after the elaboration of the Programme of Work and Budget all the technical divisions and the departments and the Regional Offices take a unified look at the action to be carried out, and there is an inter-change of resources where the Regional Offices can call on divisions and divisions can call on the Regional Offices. This means an increased technical capability at the regional level. This increased technical capability at the regional level, what we hope, and we are doing already - the experience is small, after all there are still few Country Representatives - is that we can also plan it, or schedule it to support the Country Representatives, and this is what I have called the supportive function of the Regional Offices. In each country it is not a question that with regional resources of FAO we shall be able to deal into any field, but it is quite clear in the dialogues of our Representatives with the governments that there are certain sectors, or certain problems beyond those where we are probably executing already, projects where the governments would like some additional assistance. That may go only as far as identification of problems and preparation of projects, or it may go beyond into what could be a very small scale, very short perhaps emergency assistance to solve a concrete solution. That point of view I will recall to you; that there is another tool of work which is the Technical Cooperation Programme, which is also small scale, and a programme devoted to taking into account emergencies, things that cannot be otherwise planned but that in being taken care of at the moment, represent an important help to the government. The Country Representatives, the Regional Offices, will play an important role in helping governments best to use this instrument provided by the Organization. I would agree, Mr. Chairman, that we are not thinking at the time being, and I think that it would take a considerable transformation of the Organization before we could think, or even if we decided that it were proper, to back-stop our field

activities technically from Regional Offices. This is not what we are doing now. There has been a certain pragmatic approach to back-stopping, when possible, regional projects from Regional Offices. This has been mostly put into practice in the case of the Near East Cooperative Programme for specific reasons, because the programme carries also resources that have allowed us to strengthen the Regional Office. We have looked with sympathy, always considering what is the best solution. We have looked also with sympathy into the fact of letting Regional Offices execute or back-stop regional projects if the Headquarters of the project is at the same place as the Regional Office, otherwise it becomes very difficult. But we are very pragmatic about these things considering. Nevertheless, the main back-stopping function by far, technical back-stopping, is done in our system from Headquarters.

Looking at the regional second grade part of the functions of the Regional Offices, the regional part of the offices, I had hoped to have clarified this in my statement, that while system-wise the Regional Economic Commission, and with most of them joint divisions, joint agricultural divisions, which in a way come under the jurisdiction, on behalf of the Director-General, of the Assistant Director-General Regional Representative, so these Regional Economic Commissions are in the family structure a main object of the attention of the Regional Offices.

In the case of the Far East, the Director-General, in agreement with the executive sector of the Regional Commission, in a policy of trying to evolve systems in order to be more efficient, decided a few months ago to phase out the Joint Agricultural Division, and other arrangements have been made instead whereby, apart from those resources remaining in the Regional Office, the whole of the Regional Office works jointly in the aspects of rural development and the work of the Regional Commission, and this has proved very effective, but I assure you - as I have already said - that the Regional Offices are equally active and equally responsible for all other work with all other regional organizations. The delegate of Brazil mentioned the case of IICA, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, which does most important work in Latin America, and with which the relations of the Organization as a whole and the Regional Office are especially close. We are also equally close with the integration movements in Latin America, where we have projects, and where we participate very closely in the agricultural sector work, and where the leadership corresponds to our Regional Office, very frequently with inputs from budgets carried out with extra-budgetary funds, at other times inputs from the Regular Programme - so the question of integration is very important.

I am embarrassed about the word "political" because, as the Chairman has mentioned beurocrats, I think it is a beaurocratic dream. Perhaps it is the way we have tried to define the fact that undoubtedly the Senior Representative of the Director-General in the region is the Regional Representative, who is an Assistant Director-General - a member of the Director-General's immediate family - and, without detracting at all from the direct representation link that the country representative has with the Director-General, I can tell you that for major issues of policy of the Organization, evidently very frequently - not "very frequently", that I think is wrong - but the Country Representative can well call on the Regional Representative to support him as well. The Director-General may very frequently see significant issues to be discussed by the Regional Representative with his Government. We of course agree that the Country Representative must be kept fully involved.

I would say that possibly in our beaurocratic realm this system of dealing with policy issues by very senior staff is the nearest we come to "politics", and that is why that word is there. But I do not think that there is any other meaning than those policy issues, which involve the senior representative of the Director-General in the region. Of course, I would like to say that when we mention "regional" organizations and "regional" integration movements, that brings in another facet of the work of the Regional Offices, where they have always been especially strong, and we have to have them properly staffed, and that is the question of trade, which is very frequently more adapted to work by the Regional Offices than by the Country Representative, who has only a more limited outlook of the Government to which he is accredited. It is true, we find, that in most regions there is considerable cohesion on policies, and certainly on objectives and aims and that the Regional Offices of FAO are doing very good work, in very strict coordination with the Regional Economic Commissions as well as the FAO Headquarters Commissions.

I said that perhaps the more important of the two main functions of the Regional Officers will be the back-stopping of the Regional Offices, the Country Offices, the Country Technical Work. But let me also say that the Country Representatives in their turn at certain points will be agents of the Regional Representative, especially in matters connected with regional work, in any relations with inter-regional organizations, with studies, with projects of regional importance, with subjects such as the question of trade, etc. The Country Representatives will represent the Regional Office in many issues, in conversations, in dialogues with the Government, within the scope of a Regional Commission.



The same is true of the organization and especially of the preparation of the Regional Conference, which is of course of interest to various delegations. We have always thought that the Regional Conference should be very carefully prepared and I am even speaking of pre-agenda work, where the Regional Office of FAO has a very important function in trying to identify with the government, on issues which really lend themselves to more successful treatment at the regional level. This is part of the practically everyday activity of the Regional Representative. The day that the Regional Conference finishes, not only does he usually have a mandate with regard to future Conferences, but part of his work is always oriented to the identification of these regional issues. We look in the future to the Country Representative, whose use will be fully ours, to play an important part in assisting the Regional Representative in this labour.

I do not think I have anything further to say about national institutions, except what I said at the beginning, that the use of national institutions is part of the essence of this approach to decentralization. The strength of our representation at the country level will in great measure be tied to the close work relationships that we can have with national institutions. This is at the country level; but equally, the presence of the Country Representative will be the biggest effective possibility that we will be able to identify and to actually achieve relations of collaboration with national institutions in developing countries. Coming from a developing country, I know very well that while it is frequently easy to identify the various issues, national institutions of developed countries who have great experience can be of great help to us. I know that the whole membership of the Organization, on many issues within FAO, in the thinking, in the philosophy of the United Nations, who have national institutions of excellence and special capabilities in the developing nations, can also participate in backing up international work. These facts are not very well known to everybody at the beginning, and from that point of view the accreditation of a Country Representative will give us a close link and a knowledge of the national technical, scientific and economic sectors and their institutions, which, I think, should in the not too far distant future greatly reinforce the use of national institutions from developing countries.

There has been some concern on the part of the delegations with regard to coordination at the country level, and also with the relationship of the United Nations at the country level, and I personally am very involved in my work with these issues. I would say that most delegates, when they speak about relationships between the members of the United Nations family at the country level, are asking us "how do you get along with UNDP?" and that is natural, because, in the work of the Organization, including technical assistance projects, the UNDP associated programmes are still the largest in any one single country.

May I say that with regard to coordination, the position of the Director-General is very firm. It is very firm in the United Nations system and it is a very firm relationship with his staff, and the coordination is a function and a responsibility of the government. In truth, if the government does not exercise that function, it cannot be replaced with an external element; and certainly not a foreign organization no matter if the government is a Member Government of the Organization, this is a prerogative of the government, and anything we can do to facilitate the government using this authority, should, I think, be done.

With regard to the UNDP associated programme: the Member Governments of the United Nations have agreed on a document called "The Consensus", which among other things establishes the relationship between UNDP and the specialist agencies and programmes of the United Nations. There the role of the United Nations resident representative is defined as one of primus inter pares, and this is a role to which the agencies adhere. In the discussions which have taken place during the phasing out of the old scheme and the establishment of the new scheme of Country Representatives, this principle that the resident representative of UNDP is primus inter pares is one that has never been argued, this is the accepted principle.

I would like to call to your attention - as I have already had a chance to do in the Council - that the relationship of the FAO representative with the UNDP resident representative, and vice versa, is in a rather detailed and very satisfactory manner described in two documents. One is a letter from the Administrator of UNDP to his resident representatives, dated 10 November 1976, and the other is the pertinent paragraphs of the Letter of Appointment and Instructions that the Director-General issues to each Country Representative as he is appointed - those paragraphs on relationships with the resident representatives. In both cases, there was full consultations. The Administrator of UNDP presented the text of his letter for study by the Director-General, and that text was agreed upon by both of them. In the same manner the passage pertaining to the relationship of our representatives with the UNDP representative was submitted to the UNDP Administrator, and agreed by him.

There is a document which was submitted by the UNDP Administrator to his Council Meeting last June where there is in one of the paragraphs this sentence which pleased me very much where the Administrator said he was happy to report to his governing council that there had been a meeting between the Director-General and himself on the relationship between the country representatives and the resident representatives.

With regard to coming together to be more efficient in favour of the country where the representatives are accredited, and that applies again to relations with UNDP, there is an understanding between the Director-General and the Administrator of UNDP that whenever possible physically and economically - because there may be limitations of the existing premises etc. - we shall try to have both representatives in the same premises, and we feel no difficulties in sharing certain services and sharing the cost of those services. Sometimes the difficulty stems from the fact that incoming FAO representation is staff-wise a little larger than the office of the Senior Consultant Advisor is to be, so you will find they will not fit into the premises that UNDP have and UNDP will not necessarily move so that we can come in, but there are places where they are together, and the goal is, if possible, when anybody has to move, to try and come together and also share certain services and bring the costs down.

I would like to say again Mr. Chairman, that the question of coordination within the whole UN system is a matter always under very active consideration and this is a matter that is considered in the Inter Agency Advisory Board, - what we call the IACB, which is chaired by the Administrator of UNDP and to which all the heads of agencies belong, and also in the Programme of Work Group which is chaired by UNDP and to which the other agencies belong. Last year it was reported Mr. Chairman to the Programme and Finance Committees (the Conference has their reports), and we have a report of the joint inspection unit on the question of country programming, and it is perhaps one of the little stages where most clearly all the details of a favourable coordination within the UN system appear. The joint inflation unit had many many recommendations, many observations to make, and I must say Mr. Chairman, that all the agencies and the UNDP agreed on joint comments to this report. So I would say this briefly as showing you that the spirit of trying to come together at the country level in order to enhance the usefulness to their government is so prevailing that to an external documentary evaluation of the practices of coordination of country programming etc. which sometimes in a way - although it is not a proper term, in a way place one against the other, because it would say the Agencies do this and UNDP does not and vice versa, nevertheless the Agencies and UNDP have come together and have been able to have a joint approach.

On the question of the - shall I say risen establishment of our country representatives and how did we first start speaking with UNDP about our country representatives, and what relevant importance could financial matters extraneous to that issue have had, let me say that with regard to the rhythm of the establishment of the country representatives, that the credit requested in the Budget by the Director-General is a well considered proposal which we feel takes into account not only the interest, the growing interest, - and at what speed is this interest growing and being represented by governments, but also certain bottlenecks that we find in the governments themselves in coming together with the Organization to establish these offices. It also takes into account our own possibilities in establishing, in recruiting the proper people, - because this is a fundamental decision the candidate we are going to present, - and it also takes into account a very practical view of how we can gear ourselves to give full support to that new office. We have seen Mr. Chairman and we are happy to state, because as you know the Budget estimates have to be worked on several months ahead of your meetings, and the figures that we ask you to authorize are now several months old, but I can tell you that of today we feel confirmed in our estimation, and our estimation taking duly into account all these factors, that we have mentioned is that we, the governments, want - we can say the opposite and whatever you like, - that they establish about one country office per month. This does not mean every month we establish one, but in the course of the year this is the average it is coming to. This would mean, Mr. Chairman, if this were absolutely true that by the end of the biennium we are now considering we would be slightly ahead of the credits we have, but we do not think so because there are delaying factors always.

May I mention the delaying factors. I have heard with interest and have noted it, and I have noted it not only from the policy point of view but also from the national point of view, and because there are cases in conversation with government established offices and I have heard some of the distinguished delegations that are concerned with delays, and I would make a joint appeal Mr. Chairman that they help us in establishing offices, because these offices of FAO are offices that due to the various interests of the governments and the really large activities of the countries which cover countrywise several sectors (although in FAO's definition it is always agriculture), there are various authorities in the government who are connected with the establishment of these offices, and from this there stems delays, delays at the country level.

But we are responsible for other delays, we have our own; but there are delays at the country level because there is to be born a real clearance and coordination between the different ministries before they accept the country representative. So not all the delays are ours, and we think and again I repeat, that the Budgetary provision, the percentage, which will mean we will end 1978/79 Biennium with 47 country representatives is approximately the amount of the credit that we have requested.

May I speak for a minute Mr. Chairman, about the question that the distinguished delegate of Switzerland was concerned about as to the financial history and the replacement of the SAA by the country representatives. Let me first put this in perspective, Mr. Chairman. The Director-General had a mandate from the 18th Conference to study the establishment of FAO country representatives fully under the authority of the Director-General of FAO and fully funded by FAO. This came, I was going to say, but it is not quite true, before any financial crisis of UNDP, but on this the financial crisis of UNDP had nothing to do because if you remember Mr. Chairman, it was unfortunately during the 18th Conference that this crisis in liquidity at the moment was known, and discussions in Commission II had already taken place and the recommendations of Commission II had already taken shape before anything was known. So this is where FAO was oriented from the minute that the Conference ended, to stop and consider as a study of the establishment of FAO country representations. It is in our dealing with UNDP, I must say, that in the question of phasing out of the SAA/FAO country representatives and the setting up of new offices there has been great harmony of FAO with the administrator of UNDP and his staff, and the phasing out and bringing in of country representatives is a matter of continuous dialogue, and with regard to continuous sources there is almost a joint bookkeeping - not that I am a bookkeeper; I make mistakes. When my colleagues are speaking of FAO offices in months or years, or country reports on SAA in months or years, this is how our colleagues in UNDP and FAO keep a tally on things, and it is then reflected in our respective budgets.

Let me take some blame Mr. Chairman, for an issue which I do not think is important which is a question of working first - not the chicken or the egg, but the financial crisis in UNDP or SAA as the savings directive came simultaneously but before, as I explained, the financial crisis, because although in conversation with the UNDP Administrator and Secretariat there was no doubt that for him who had to take emergency financial measures there was going to be grants in his budgets to make savings with regard to SAA country representatives. There was no doubt about that, so already there was seen in the Budget of the UNDP a cut, but I take the blame for something else Mr. Chairman, and that is on this question of the SAA and their costs etc. This was very much in the of fing and was all fitted into the organizations concerned as to the future of this scheme. The fact is that even now the Governing Council of UNDP is engaged in a very difficult discussion about the expansion or even survival of the UNEDO regional technical advisers who are funded more or less in the manner that the SAA's were funded, so it is true that for the last two years in the concepts of UNDP all field relationships and representatives, as they call technical support, we had to phase out of that representation.

When we were discussing Chapter 3 I mentioned the possibility at the request of one delegation, that country representatives be provided with a very small library. In this case we were talking of previous technical assistance experience.

We shall take very much into account some of the remarks of the delegates of Bangladesh and Cuba with regard to documentation, knowledge of trust funds and so on. I think I have said enough or even too much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Yriart, you have not said too much. You have covered the field very well, although there are perhaps many other questions. I should like to close the discussion with a brief summary of the results of this morning's session. Again, the Drafting Group will be responsible for filling out the bare bones of the quick summary which I shall make now.

First we have a very good discussion which kept to specific points rather than broad generalities. There was certainly reiteration of the strong support for the action taken by the Director-General to strengthen the regional and country activities and to further the whole concept of decentralization. On this latter point, as well as increasing the number of country representatives to make more effective use of regional representatives, Mr. Yriat stressed these aspects.

There was also strong emphasis on making more effective use of the national institutions within the regions and countries as part of the decentralization effort. Specific suggestions have been made reflecting the views of different countries and different regions on their own specific problems. As Mr. Yriat said, those will be taken into consideration as further planning is carried out on field activities. There was also much emphasis on the need for backstopping by all who spoke of very close cooperation with the Director-General and his staff.

That completes our discussion on this item and also our work for this morning. I would like to thank Mr. Yriart for a very useful and helpful introduction and for the way in which he answered all the questions raised. We all know that not all the answers will be satisfactory, but he has an office, he is a gentle bureaucrat and safe to talk to.

I would like to leave you with the thought for the day. Having listened to the discussion on the dangers of bureaucrats, I am reminded that "a rose by any other name smells sweetly", and I would say "a bureaucrat by any other name smells sweetly" With that, I shall close the meeting.

B.P DHITAL (Nepal): Thank you for allowing me to take the floor on this important topic - decentralization of FAO activities to the country level and its relationship to the Regional officer.

The Nepalese Delegation has made its position clear in the Plenary that the Regional and country level officers should be given sufficient authority to carry out their programme more effectively.

We are happy to note that the Director-General has taken some concrete steps in this regard. We support the Director-General's views on the role and functions of the Regional officer in relation to the strategy of decentralization to the country level. We look forward to further strengthening of these measures.

We strongly feel that the Regional Officer should play greater roles in affecting regional technical cooperation among developing countries. Also that the Regional offices should be equipped to provide technical back-stopping to the country offices.

The Regional Conferences should be used as effective media to work out policies and strategies that will meet the common interests of Member Governments in the Region 1/

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas

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1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/II/PV/10

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

TENTH MEETING  
DIXIEME SÉANCE  
DECIMA SESION  
(22 November 1977)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours J.H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de J.H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la decima sesión a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION  
(continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION  
(suite)

PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION  
(continuación)

11. Review of Field Programmes

11. Examen des programmes de terrain

11. Examen de los programas de campo

CHAIRMAN: We will start this afternoon's discussions with the Review of Field Programmes for 1976-77. In the arrangement for the session there are three meetings allocated to this part. I think maybe we should try to do that in two meetings. As you already know we are lagging behind, and in order to avoid night sessions and Saturday mornings, and things like that, we should try to proceed a little bit faster. So I count on your cooperation to complete this item tomorrow morning. You may find that easier because TCDC, which you will find in this Review, is a separate item which will, in all probability, be discussed tomorrow afternoon, and also we have dealt with rural development under Item 16, so I think we should manage to do it in two meetings.

I give first the floor to the Assistant Director-General, Mr. Yriart, who will introduce this item.

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): Mr. Chairman, I understand very well that you are pressed for time, and I do not want to go into an exhaustive presentation of the document. However I would like to draw your attention to the subjects covered in the Review which the Programme Committee and Council noted as worthy of special consideration. I hope with this we can perhaps really save time.

The Programme Committee felt that the Conference might place particular emphasis on the assessment of field programmes in Chapter 2 of the Review. As in the previous two biennia, this assessment covers issues which deserve serious attention by the recipient governments as well as by FAO, UNDP and the other multilateral and bilateral agencies with which FAO has cooperative arrangements. The feedback provided by the Review has already had a significant impact within FAO, in determining our attitude toward several of these issues as well as in influencing the manner in which we execute our field programmes. I am confident that aid agencies and the recipient governments will find the Review equally helpful in reappraising their own policies and procedures. In this context, it would not be out of place, Mr. Chairman, to recall the concern expressed by the Programme Committee that while the Review of Field Programmes in 1972-73 and 1974-75 also analysed the key factors affecting the efficiency and effectiveness of technical assistance projects, these findings had apparently not received sufficient attention.

Around this, Mr. Chairman, is the issue of the usefulness of this major effect the Organization makes, which is the presentation for the Conference every two years of its Review of Field Programmes.

The Commission may wish to take note of the trends towards government execution of projects, with progressively decreasing reliance on expatriate expertise, greater use of national institutions, advisory panels, short-term experts, consultants, cost-sharing devices and other procedures aimed at modifying the classical form of technical cooperation to bring it more in line with the new requirements of recipient countries. The Director-General would welcome specific suggestions as to how we can assist member countries to implement these trends further.

The Programme Committee also felt that some of the issues raised in Chapter 3 on "Training" deserved special consideration by the Conference. Among these the Commission may wish to discuss specifically the system of fellowships, the need and mechanisms for assessment of training requirements, evaluation by the countries themselves of the relevance and adequacy of the external assistance they are receiving, and the concept of training at the "grass roots" level.

Some of these points may have been touched upon already during the debate on the Programme of Work and Budget, but the analysis presented in Chapter 3 of the Review should assist the Commission to deal with the vital subject of training in more concrete terms. Following the discussions in the Programme Committee, may I offer a passing comment on the essence of training at the "grass roots" level. While it would be difficult for FAO itself to reach large numbers of farmers or other primary producers in the developing countries - who constituted the population at the "grass roots" level - the Programme Committee felt that one of the criteria for conceiving and later assessing a training activity should be the extent to which its impact would be felt at that level, directly or indirectly.

Training must not be seen in isolation from the other factors bearing upon development. Effectiveness of training is contingent on efficient use of the persons trained and the new skills acquired by them in the context of national development programmes. This is conditioned by the extent to which Member Nations are able to mobilize funds and provide the necessary material and institutional support to their technical staff on the one hand and to farmers and other primary producers on the other. The Commission may wish to comment and provide guidance on this, and on some of the other ideas contained in the final section of the Chapter, which delineate a policy framework for FAO's technical cooperation work in training in the coming years.

Chapter 4 dealing, with the flow and orientation of technical assistance and capital aid to agriculture updates the analysis presented in the previous Review. It provides a glimpse of the wider context in which FAO's technical cooperation activities are carried out. While we have not treated this subject in great detail we have tried to highlight the points we felt were salient. Sections dealing with the "Essence of Rural Development" and "Role of External Assistance in Rural Development" in paragraphs 4.32 to 4.39 are of special interest to the Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Conference and in some measure you have discussed them already.

The section, as the Chairman has mentioned, dealing with "Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries" towards the end of Chapter 4, we should bear in mind and I will comment no further, when we discuss item 13 on TCDC.

As you must have noted, Mr. Chairman, the Review also provides a brief description and assessment of the Technical Cooperation Programme and on this, Mr. Chairman, there has already been a discussion in Chapter 3, and indeed, in the general debate on the Programme of Work and Budget, so I think perhaps we need not continue the discussion here.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, may I stress the point that, though the document before you is considerably leaner and more selective this time, it still contains a great deal of information and evaluative material. It complements the Programme of Work and Budget and Medium-term Objectives in as much as it provides a further basis for considering links between field activities and the Regular Programme. This became amply evident during your review of the Programme of Work and Budget as well as in the discussions that have been going on simultaneously in Commission I.

It could not have escaped the attention of the distinguished delegates, Mr. Chairman, that the Review is as candid as on previous occasions in pointing out problems and shortcomings in FAO's technical cooperation activities. Many of these have been overcome or corrected, but others remain. We have not hesitated to point these out "with the firm conviction", to quote the Director-General, "that only by acknowledging our shortcomings as well as our successes can we continue to improve the quality of our technical cooperation activities. There are bound to be shortcomings and even, from time to time, failures. This is in the nature of the situation which calls for aid in the first place. The important thing is to identify, correct and learn from difficulties, and to apply the lessons elsewhere". This quotation from the Director-General's Preface to the Review of Field Programmes, 1976-77 epitomizes the spirit in which this document before you has been written and presented for your consideration.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Assistant Director-General, Mr. Yriart, for his introduction.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): The Review of Field Programmes is apart from the discussion of the Programme of Work the most important subject, especially for the recipient countries. The exchange of experiences on projects that have been carried out, and their evaluation, are the basis for an improvement of the field activities of the Organization. The more open, the more honest this discussion is on success and failure, the greater will be the prospects of improving the efficiency of the projects. The experiences which will be reported by recipient countries should also be a lesson for us in our bilateral cooperation.

The Secretariat has given us an excellent basis in document C 77/4. The presentation of this document is very much better than it has been in the past; but it is even more important that the whole of the activity of the Organization in this very important area is being described quite openly, and being evaluated critically.

The analysis shows the following points which particularly strike us, and we would like to hear more about these points from the people concerned. Firstly, referring to paragraph 2.5, we wonder why the definition of objectives is generally good, or even very good, while the formulation of projects for project implementation is being judged much less leniently.

Secondly, it appears to us regrettable that, according to paragraph 2.12, almost 40% of all projects have been able to pass on technical and administrative knowledge and know-how in only a very inadequate way. This means that we are still very far from the objective that such projects should have a catalysing effect in the recipient countries.

Thirdly, according to paragraph 2.7, about one third of the 141 projects reviewed had to be carried out without adequate participation or support of the recipient countries.

Fourthly, according to paragraph 2.14, the reports on field projects are described as being numerous, and in some cases they are indicated as being the most important result of the projects. This collection of experience, however, seems to have been utilized and evaluated only inadequately in the formulation of new projects. Perhaps the Secretariat could tell us more about this. We would be particularly interested in knowing to what extent these experiences can be utilized in order to improve the absorptive capacities of the least developed countries.

Fifthly, according to point 2.11, the support of projects in FAO headquarters by the technical divisions does not seem to be assured. The situation seems to lead to less complaints with regard to forestry and fisheries.

Sixthly, with regard to education and training, which is of decisive importance, paragraph 3.7 indicates that in 1975 and 1976 about 35 000 people have been educated or trained in the framework of FAO programmes. This does not appear to us to be a very large figure, and only one third of them were farmers. We believe that much more effort needs to be made in this connexion, and we also feel that the education and training of women has to be given much more emphasis.

We were somewhat surprised to note in 3.43 that radio as a supplementary extension work was only of limited value. Broadcasts which are meant only for farmers and which are broadcast at given times of the day should not fail to be effective.

At any rate, we would like to give our full emphasis to the important role of FAO in education and training in agriculture. We support the objectives as described in the document.

This brings me to the end of my preliminary remarks. I would however like to reserve the right to come back to individual questions later on.

J. RUTKOWSKI (Poland): The importance of FAO field programmes cannot be over-estimated, as they represent the practical activities of the Organization geared towards achieving immediate results. The document presented to us C 77/4, contains statistical information, and all relevant data, and it also considers constraints and difficulties.

We agree with its basic conclusions, especially with the judgement concerning the importance of self-reliance and limitations of external help. There is a great variety of programmes and activities, including projects of UNDP and Trust Funds. While agreeing in principle with the main ideas contained in the document, we would like to stress the following points:

Firstly, the growing involvement of many international organizations and banks in the development of agriculture requires a coordination effort by FAO in order to avoid fragmentation of means and overlapping of work.

Secondly, the involvement of the recipient countries, and especially of rural population is of extreme importance for the implementation of the projects. In this connexion, we fully agree with the Director-General's idea of using more national institutions and national experts in the implementation of programmes. This is in our opinion the only way to ensure their lasting impact on national agriculture.

Thirdly, when sub-contracting certain parts of the projects, equal chance should be given to institutions from less-developed countries, as they may well have better experience and knowledge of local conditions.

Fourthly, evaluation of projects should be done by independent experts from FAO, as there is sometimes a tendency to over-rate the real achievements.



Fifthly, we agree with the view expressed in the document that training at grass-roots level is of the utmost importance for the short run increase of production. We are wondering however how many millions of farmers could be reached directly by FAO. The involvement of local authorities is therefore necessary, and proper attention should be given to the establishment of local training facilities. In the longer run, it is only the local extension worker who can permanently advise and teach the farmer concerning modern methods and technologies.

I would like to mention that the above remarks are not based only on the document presented, but to a large extent reflect the experience of Polish experts employed in several countries by FAO. We are also taking advantage of the cooperation extended to us by FAO in such specific fields as plant breeding, control of pesticide residues, and the production of maize, mainly through short-term consultation. We wish to stress that we very much appreciate the services rendered to us.

It is mentioned in the document that the project formulation by UNDP often takes a very long time. Our experience confirms that view, and every effort should be made to simplify the necessary procedures.

When talking about FAO Field Programmes, we must always remember that they can only supplement and facilitate national programmes: they cannot replace them. It is rightly stated in many FAO documents that the role of the Organization is a catalytic one of initiation, in relation to national efforts.

R. PASQUIER (Suisse): L'examen de ces programmes de terrain nous amène à constater avec satisfaction certains accents nouveaux, comme la responsabilité accrue confiée aux institutions nationales et aux experts nationaux dans la gestion des projets, ou encore la formation dirigée plus fréquemment vers l'exploitant agricole et le vulgarisateur agricole.

Nous avons aussi quelque regret, comme l'a constaté la délégation de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, parce qu'environ 40 pour cent des projets ont des résultats insuffisants, mais il est toutefois heureux que la FAO ait la franchise de constater cette insuffisance. Il y a donc une grande marge encore pour des progrès à venir.

Nous constatons aussi que l'accent est mis sur des projets qui ont en général un effet direct sur la production agricole et l'emploi, et nous voudrions encourager la FAO à poursuivre dans ce sens. Mais ceci devrait avoir, à notre avis, comme corollaire, que les experts de la FAO soient le plus fréquemment dans des périmètres ruraux, c'est-à-dire stationnés dans le périmètre du projet. Nos voyages dans les pays en développement, dans le cadre de notre aide bilatérale surtout, nous amènent à constater que beaucoup d'experts de la FAO ont leurs postes de travail habituels plutôt dans la capitale ou dans les grandes villes. Nous n'avons pas de statistiques à disposition nous permettant d'apprécier de manière objective cette tendance, mais il nous semble qu'un certain correctif devrait être apporté. Nous souhaiterions d'ailleurs obtenir du Secrétariat, d'ici à la fin de nos débats, pour éclairer l'opinion que peut avoir la Commission sur ce point, les statistiques sur le pourcentage des experts FAO stationnés ordinairement dans la capitale ou dans de grandes villes, et le pourcentage d'experts stationnés ordinairement dans le périmètre rural. Cela dit, le fait que nous critiquions ou que nous soulignions certains points faibles va dans le sens du progrès. Nous voudrions participer à la mise au point des approches qui permettent d'atteindre les objectifs le plus rapidement possible: ceci aussi bien dans le cadre de la FAO que dans le cadre de notre coopération bilatérale.

G.P. TIGGELMAN (Netherlands): I shall comment briefly on a few subjects of the Review, but first I would like to say that my delegation is of the opinion that the Review is an important document, and it welcomes the gradual coordination of activities financed by funds from the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary resources. We look forward to the announced integration of regular and field activities, since this will also give donors a better opportunity to coordinate their assistance with the programmes of recipient countries and FAO - that is, if such coordination is in accordance with the Technical Cooperation Programme which we discussed a few days ago.

In Chapter 2, under "Project Results" the backstopping of projects is mentioned. The general management of agricultural projects is improved, but we have seen that the backstopping from functions has become more difficult to obtain. This might increase the quality of the field work, and we believe that a solution must be found for the execution of this technical advisory part of FAO.

What is said about the transfer of skills is rather disappointing after 25 years of experience in this activity. My delegation believes that the problem of transfer of technical and management skills between expatriate and local experts, and through coordination amongst further studies, and for study, should be undertaken by FAO for national projects of a number of countries. Perhaps it is useful to also consult UNDP, which is studying the role of the expert in development cooperation. The transfer of skills seems to be the more important because we may expect an increasing demand, especially in the poorer and smaller countries for suitably trained manpower at the planning stage, and in the implementation and final running of projects, since more money has become - and we hope will become - available for improvements in agriculture, and also because developing countries are becoming more inclined, and rightly so, to prepare and carry out their own projects and programmes.

With regard to the regional programmes and projects, the Review's complaint about results so far is not very optimistic. My delegation shares the opinion that to first strengthen national institutions, and after that ensure cooperation between them, is preferable. It seems that education and training are areas for a research project, and there may also be possibilities for regional cooperation in tackling food problems.

My delegation considers Chapter 3, "Training in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry", a good exposé of the problems of, and possible solutions to, increasing the number of trained technicians. We agree with what has been said about the training institutions and group training activities, and would suggest that these training facilities also receive regular assistance in future for further training of the teachers and for curriculum development. We also think it of great value that in development projects an "in-service" training component is included, and believe that this possibility for training and the transfer of skills is not fully exploited.

In the Chapter on "Training for Women" we read that there was an increase in the number of women training at the technician and higher levels, but more must be done, and we agree with what is pointed out in the Director-General's Medium-Term Objectives and which also has been stressed by the delegate of Brazil that women who constitute a major part of the labour force in rural areas of the developing countries, but are among the most disadvantaged, must be included in most of the programmes for education and training.

Looking finally at Table 6 which gives information about the FAO-assisted field projects, we learn that 27 percent of the field projects are training projects. We are however of the opinion that still more training activities are necessary, and in the execution of most of the development projects the shortage of well-trained medium-level technicians is a bottleneck, and will be more so in the coming years when the emphasis will be on programmes and projects to increase food production and income, and to improve the nutritional level of the poorest population in the poorest food-deficit countries. The difficulty of finding trained personnel willing to work in these remote areas may become a serious obstacle for these poverty-oriented programmes.

In conclusion, Sir, some comments on the paragraphs on the Essence of Rural Development and the Role of External Assistance in Rural Development. My delegation agrees with the importance of the issues spelled out in the paragraphs 4.36, 37 and 38; the active involvement of the population in the identification and implementation of projects - the duration of rural development projects and therefore long duration of external assistance, and the introduction of appropriate technology. They are particularly important for the preparation of projects for the poorer rural people, the projects that are based on the wishes of these people and which they can carry out. We are still facing great problems in this field and we feel that more energy should be spent for studies in order to find good approaches to reach the target groups mentioned in the Review.

The vastness and complexity of the rural areas and their development does make cooperation necessary at international, national and local levels. We have already talked about the first during the discussion on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

Of particular importance is the cooperation at national level and with the local community and the participation of the people in programming, planning and execution. I think that we are paying much attention to this "active involvement" of the people with words, but there are not so many good examples on how to do it. Although the primary responsibility for this lies with the people and the government in each rural area, we believe more external assistance seems useful for the building up of the necessary rural institutions at the local as well as the national level. This to achieve the degree of participation by the local population which is generally agreed to be an essential requirement for successful rural development, and also to improve the capacity for carrying out rural development projects. Such institutions could include farmers' organizations, rural youth clubs, women's organizations, rural development banks and credit cooperatives, production, marketing and purchasing cooperatives and services for rural extension, home economics, education and health. External assistance might also comprise assistance for socio-economic research in order to find ways that make active involvement of the target population possible.

CM. KASSAMI (Uganda): My delegation wishes to thank the Director-General for the clear and precise presentation in which document C 77/4 has been presented. We are satisfied that despite financial constraint brought about by the UNDP financial crisis FAO has attempted to fulfil her objectives. However, we would like to point out a few issues related to the implementation of the field programmes.

As regards cooperative arrangements we would like to point out that as FAO is the executing agency of UNDP's agricultural projects, UNDP's budgetary constraints will continue to affect the performances of FAO field programmes. Measures like the use of annual ceilings, have tended to limit the rate at which projects can be implemented, while the system of cost sharing is limited by the scarcity of foreign exchange in the least developed countries. We hope the international community will continue to address itself to this problem with an aim of reducing UNDP's financial constraints.

With regard to the number and origin of Field Staff, paragraphs 1-10 - 1-11, my delegation is convinced that the problems of developing countries are better appreciated by experts from developing countries. This observation is based on my country's cooperation with experts from other developing countries. It is for this reason that efforts should be made to enable young nationals from developing countries to gain experience through work with FAO. As has been pointed out in paragraph 1.12 some donor countries provide funds to FAO to enable their nationals to work with FAO through the Associate Expert Scheme. My delegation would like to propose that this scheme should be considered also for recipient countries, and that research in this direction should be made.

As regards training - (Chapter 3), we wish to emphasize the approach of "learning by doing", and the strengthening of local institutions. We feel this is the best way to transfer technology and we are very happy with attempts to train at local level.

H. MAURIA (Finland): The development of field activities since the last conference two years ago has been interesting. There have been clearly visible elements of a new approach in the implementation of country programming towards small pragmatic arrangements on the country levels as we have seen from the very good document Review of Field Programmes which has been presented by the Secretariat.

There has been also a rather promising improvement in project results even if there are areas or problems still existing, and we are particularly satisfied with what has been explained in Chapter 3 about training in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, because we think that the training aspect in field projects should be emphasized more and more and try to be involved and implemented as much as possible while there is a real need for it, and we think that there is in many cases an urgent need for good training at the lowest level and also at technical level.

Regarding the overall development, there have been on the other hand shortcomings with regard to financing of field activities in the UN system, and particularly concerning the continuous decrease in project delivery in the UNDP sector. We regret that very much. On the part of the Secretariat and also in the report of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, it has been stated that these trends do constitute a problem for the execution of field programmes, and that I think we should be aware of. It is not within the competence of my delegation to provide any concrete solutions or proposals for a solution of this matter, but as my country is a contributor of UNDP funds and also a supporter of FAO, we feel that the organizations should concentrate their efforts to turn the current downward trend to an upward one.

We are satisfied to know from the report of the Finance Committee that the implementation of the census at the field level has been taking place without difficulties, and that mutual agreement has been reached between the heads of UNDP and FAO on coordination in relation to the implementation of assistance cooperation, the implementation of FAO's new representative in the member countries. We subscribe also to the Committee's views that UNDP must remain a main source of funding of FAO field activities and programmes but that flexibility must similarly exist for other funding channels.

The efforts for the strengthening of the institutional backgrounds for the implementation of field programmes at both the organizational and at the country levels should be carried out in the spirit of mutual cooperation and of benefit to the receiving countries.

Mgr. B. NOTARANGELO (Saint-Siège): Monsieur le Président, Permettez-moi d'exprimer la sincère appréciation de la Délégation du Saint-Siège pour l'examen sérieux des programmes de terrain que la FAO nous a présenté.

Les questions qui y sont analysées et évaluées sont d'une importance décisive pour imprimer à l'activité future de la FAO une nouvelle orientation et un nouveau dynamisme.

Je me réfère en particulier aux programmes de formation dans le domaine de l'agriculture, des pêches et de la foresterie. Il nous semble important - comme nous a dit Paul VI dans l'Audience de vendredi dernier - de rappeler que "la FAO compte parmi ses objectifs premiers non seulement la production, mais aussi la promotion des zones rurales et des ruraux, surtout dans les pays en voie de développement".

La Délégation du Saint-Siège se réjouit de constater les efforts déployés par la FAO et les résultats obtenus dans les secteurs de la formation technique et professionnelle.

Les renseignements concernant l'estimation quantitative et qualitative des activités de formation imposent toutefois des considérations qu'on entend soumettre à votre bienveillante attention, Monsieur le Président.

On a constaté que la faiblesse de plusieurs cours de formation est la conséquence de dans l'absence d'éléments culturels, pédagogiques et humains, même lorsque les connaissances et les expériences techniques apparaissent suffisantes.

Il ne s'agit certainement pas seulement de la préparation au niveau technique mais aussi aux niveaux social, culturel et politique afin de permettre soit une plus grande productivité des forces de travail, soit la participation active des jeunes et des adultes - des hommes et des femmes - cette réflexion vaut aussi pour établir une collaboration entre la production, les exploitations et les accès au marché, pour assurer les divers groupes sociaux dans les communautés locales rurales, d'un rapport de plus en plus vital et constant avec leurs propre pays et continent, dans la perspective d'une très claire interdépendance jusqu'au plan mondial.

Notre Délégation note avec satisfaction que la FAO considère la nécessité d'adapter les projets et les méthodes de formation aux différentes situations économiques et culturelles des peuples, en exigeant, autant que possible, des cadres de programmes régionaux pour éviter la dispersion des efforts.

A cet égard, un des engagements prioritaires devrait tendre à assurer la continuité du soutien à la formation permanente, selon l'indication de l'Encyclique "Mater et Magistra": "Il est indispensable que les cultivateurs soient instruits, continuellement tenus à jour et techniquement assistés dans leur profession" (Mater et Magistra, No 129).

Il nous semble nécessaire, à ce propos, de souligner la valeur humaine et pédagogique de l'association des cultivateurs, comme sujets convaincus et responsables, aux programmes de formation. Cela pourrait contribuer à surmonter le conflit qui existe souvent entre les exigences réelles des personnes et des groupes, et les projets de formation.

Le Saint-Père nous a rappelé: "Il y a là un problème structurel et institutionnel en même temps qu'un besoin d'amélioration de la condition et de la formation de la classe paysanne, particulièrement des petits paysans et des jeunes ruraux".

On peut souhaiter, en outre, que la promotion des femmes rurales soit conçue et adaptée aux besoins particuliers de leur vie, en stimulant, en tout cas, leur participation et leur concours.

Nous croyons que la réussite des programmes de formation serait mieux garantie si l'approche des techniciens et des éducateurs auprès des cultivateurs était inspirée de sentiments d'amitié et de collaboration. Aucun effort d'aide et de formation pourrait en fait substituer le rôle principal que les cultivateurs doivent jouer dans leur propre amélioration et dans la promotion humaine du milieu rural. A ce sujet permettez-moi d'évoquer ce que le Pape Jean XXIII nous a fixé comme un but de toute action éducative en ce domaine: "Les protagonistes du développement économique, du progrès social et de l'élévation culturelle des milieux agricoles et ruraux doivent être ceux mêmes qui sont intéressés,

c'est-à-dire les travailleurs de la terre” (Mater et Magistra 130). Un autre point est aussi objet de l'attention de notre Délégation: les changements profonds dans la notion des “aides” en vue d'un système de sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Nous constatons avec satisfaction les modifications proposées dans les politiques des “aides” aux pays en voie de développement. Ainsi on élabore graduellement un système international de redistribution des ressources avec l'apport, soit de capitaux, soit de facteurs nécessaires pour un développement organique et continu [dans le monde], y compris le développement agricole et alimentaire.

On voit avec plaisir qu'il y a une convergence entre pays de cultures et de traditions diverses - les pays déjà industrialisés et d'autres de récente prospérité - vers des critères communs de solidarité avec larges contributions qui répondent toujours plus aux principes de justice. Ces aides, en effet, sont réalisées avec la conscience de répondre à un devoir. De jour en jour on va affirmer que les exigences humaines seulement doivent être objectivement reconnues et qu'elles peuvent être fondamentales, satisfaites à travers une entente internationale et des engagements contraignants.

Nous espérons qu'une telle orientation nouvelle porte à une diminution graduelle des rapports directs et bilatéraux vers une croissante utilisation, de la part des gouvernements, des institutions multilatérales. Seulement un système solidaire de sécurité pourrait empêcher que les pays plus faibles soient soumis au jeu du marché.

Mais encore une fois il faut constater que la tâche fixée par la Conférence mondiale sur l'alimentation de pourvoir un minimum de 10 millions de tonnes de céréales [donnés] comme aide alimentaire n'est pas encore réalisée.

Encore plus loin c'est la tâche fixée par la septième session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies pour une réserve d'urgence de 500 000 tonnes de céréales.

Il faut dire, enfin, que plus important encore est l'appel général à changer les politiques des aides afin de garantir de plus larges contributions au secteur agricole en rapport aux autres secteurs de l'économie, en prenant en considération tous les différents facteurs de la production, surtout les investissements.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): Before dealing with some parts of the document, I must state that my delegation considers this report to be an excellent one, being more detailed than similar reports presented to preceding Conferences. We agree with the general approach to the report which tries sincerely to explore and reveal the achievements attained in the field programmes, together with their possible shortcomings. I consider it of importance, and it deserves to be emphasized, that the success of field programmes only partly depends on FAO as the executing agency. Their success is mostly due to the readiness of recipient countries, and their cooperation in the implementation of these projects.

As a general lesson from the field programmes, I think it should be stated that it is not only the scarcity of financial facilities that presents a major constraint to field programmes, but also the lack of expertise, management skill and the capacity of technical know-how in the recipient countries as well.

We agree, therefore, with the points specified in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.1.5 of the document on the transfer of know-how and technical skills.

I would like to deal with only a few points. First, as regards training programmes, the analysis of the FAO training programmes indicates their major deficiencies which have been described as a “top-heavy pyramid” in the Director-General's foreword. Hungary has taken part in a number of programmes relating to technical training, in cooperation with either FAO or other international food organizations, and our experiences are in line with the statements in the document. But I would like to point out that the shortage of medium and low-level specialists in developing countries may be tackled in a more efficient way. To this end, there seem to be two alternatives: one is the local training of the potential specialists which might involve a lot of organizational and, I might add, language problems.

The other one is the training of the training staff which is perhaps less spectacular, but this approach seems to me to lead to very good results in the medium and long term. At least we are confident about this.

We fully agree that global, regional and multi-national education programmes must be attached to efficient national educational institutions. I would point out that several developed countries -either highly or moderately developed ones - are able to provide considerable assistance in the training of staff from the developing countries, even through programmes arranged in the developed countries themselves. We consider the TCDC as a good framework for this.

May I call the delegates' attention to the fact that the role of theoretical-type training is still regrettably great in high-level training, and, in our view, greater attention should be attached to the training of management specialists in all interested countries.

The next point I should like to raise is rural development. In this respect I should underline points 4.32 to 4.34 in the document which provide an excellent synopsis of the elements in rural development programmes. I would emphasize my delegation's viewpoint which has been expounded a number of times and on various occasions. That is that these programmes concerned with integrated rural development, agrarian reform and/or cooperative development are considered to be of paramount importance in increasing the agricultural output and income of small farmers.

The other feature I should like to mention is that these types of programmes are less capital-intensive than programmes designed directly to increase productive potentials and their medium and long-term impacts are beyond assessment. I suggest, therefore, that the Secretariat supplement the survey of field programmes at the next Conference session with an account of the results and efficiency of rural development projects.

I think that the World Conference on Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, to be held in 1979, will contribute substantially to this objective.

Finally, there were some flattering remarks in the review on the project HUNGARY/71/507, "Irrigated Agriculture in the Tisza River Valley", concerning this project's management, as included in paragraphs 2.41 and 2.42, and the utilization of the fellowship component, included in paragraph 3.24.

We are very glad to see that FAO is using the experience gained in this project in other field programmes as well, and I would take this opportunity to repeat my Government's view that we would welcome a continuation of this successful project, and the utilization of its results in the developing countries' interest.

We are also prepared to cooperate in some other field programmes, assisting developing countries which may be interested in other fields, such as inland fisheries, cooperative development and so on. Once again, I consider the TCDC an excellent framework for this exercise.

D.C.P EVANS (United Kingdom): First of all, the Director-General is to be congratulated on producing an excellent working paper. The review is thinner, divided into more digestible parts than its predecessor, which is not always easy to achieve in Rome, and with a most excellent summary. Indeed, we can commend this summary on being extremely good and equal to anything else we have seen in these papers.

The paper also contains an objective analysis of FAO's field performance over the last two years and indicates clearly those areas on which they hope to concentrate in the future. We agree with most of the paper's conclusions, and particularly endorse the theme which runs through all the chapters of the need for continued investment on a substantial scale, and more concentration of this investment in the areas of the greatest need, which is the rural poor. Indeed, this thinking is very much in line with the United Kingdom's own aid policy and strategy.

We also support the suggestion made by the Programme Committee in their paper CL 77/4 that consideration should be given to the addition of charts and programmes to help a reader comprehend the evaluated material contained in this review. In that context, it would have helped very considerably if we had had more graphs and charts in this direction. A great deal of interesting and useful information is given, but in the brief time allotted, both in Council and the one and one-half days or whatever you allow us here at this Conference, there will not be time to discuss the issues raised.

In line, therefore, with your request, Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to give a written statement to the Secretariat if it is in line with your own feelings on specific aspects of the programme, but I would like very briefly to mention a word or two on the three chapters concerned.

Turning to Chapter 1, which is Current Trends and Outlook, the field programmes have already been reviewed in depth by COAG and I do not intend reviewing them again here.

In the Technical Cooperation Programme, we accept that as the Technical Cooperation Programme was started only a short while ago, it is too early as yet to assess results. Paragraph 1.59 refers here. We hope, however, that a review can be presented to the Council, perhaps some time in 1978, in order that Member Governments can establish how far the Technical Cooperation Programme has achieved its aim. My delegation suggests that consideration be given to the production of a quarterly information sheet saying what projects are under way and those contemplated, indeed, as such information sheet was originally proposed and a first and useful issue appeared in February, but we have seen no more than that since.

In Chapter 2, Assessment of Field Programmes, paragraphs 2.3 and 2.15 reveal that less than half of FAO's projects are achieving satisfactory results. It is impossible to recover the full data from the account given, and as I have said before, in those circumstances it would have been more valuable perhaps to do it in tabular form. We are happy, however, to note that the section gives a frank statement of the problems and shortcomings, many of which are by no means peculiar to FAO projects, and indeed are equally so for bilateral and multilateral projects, and we are happy that remedial measures are promised.

In Chapter 3, Training in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, we feel that this was probably the highlight of this document. FAO indeed is to be congratulated that the main thrust of training activities has been at the technical level. In the past, this is the area which has been most neglected, and we welcome this new trend and are particularly grateful to those staff which have been able to carry this out. The review of the various types of training institutions contained in paragraphs 3.12 and 3.44 is interesting and most useful. We are particularly pleased to note that attention is being given to training at farm level and that farmer training centres are being established more frequently than in the past. There is, however, an implied though very regrettable reservation about the use of women in agricultural extension. In view of the very high number of female farm workers and indeed females who take farming decisions, we feel this should be increased.

The section on FAO's role - Past, Present and Future is perhaps a disappointment, and I refer here to paragraphs 3.45 and 3.51. Indeed, we all recognize on this floor that training is a crucial area, and though the general analysis given here is one with which we agree, the problems and difficulties are ones with which we are all too familiar. There is no real attempt to offer a solution or to clear and identify FAO's priorities. A clear, more definitive approach would indeed in this section have been most welcome.

Turning to the last Chapter, The Flow of Aid to Agriculture, paragraphs 4.4 to 4.24 highlight the increasing gap between estimates of aid needs and actual aid commitments. While we would agree that the essence of rural development lies in self-reliance, this self-reliance must be within the right environment of economic incentives and access to appropriate institutional support. It should not be interpreted as meaning isolation from technology, education, or other support services.

Paragraph 4.37 suggests that a perspective of 10 to 15 years is the right one in which agencies would seek to project their role in any particular area. This is the perspective which might not accord with the view of many delegates from the developing countries here and certainly is a much longer time scale than the United Kingdom generally has in view, but bearing in mind the complexity of this subject and the problems which have been eloquently spelled out in this document, a long-term investment is probably the best and indeed possibly the only answer.

We endorse the definition of appropriate technology as given in paragraph 4.38. This line is very much in support with our own policies and strategies in this direction.

C. FARRAR (United States of America): It is true that the Review of Field Programmes document is a relatively slender volume, considering the size and complexity of the activities it covers, even given the unfortunate decline in the dollar value of the Field Programme. With the exception of the responsibility and of the Evaluation Unit to cover both field and regular programmes, we expect that the value and the depth of studies such as this one will rise considerably in the future. We again urge the Evaluation Unit to define its work in terms of areas and activity that relate to a single set of objectives without primary regard for the source of budgetary support. The discussion in this document of the evaluation of FAO projects in 19 countries of the Near East Regional Projects and of the general subject of training contains a great deal of useful information at the level of project design and operation. Did the trainees attend all the sessions? Were the counterparts in place to learn about the technology available? Are regional institutions viable from the point of view of staff and subject coverage? and other questions of these kind. These are matters of very great importance, as Mr. West was pointing out earlier today. We miss, however, attention in depth to the impact of projects on the people who are proposed to be helped, even assuming that the projects are working fairly smoothly, questions such as are they providing inputs to meet the needs of rural people, particularly the poorer people in the poorer countries, who I think there is a growing consensus are the principle target group with which we are concerned.

I think my comment is somewhat similar to that of the Programme Committee to which Mr. Yriart referred to be concerned with not so much as to who is being trained in a particular project as what impact that training will have, who will benefit from it. In the future, we should like to see more attention devoted to making informed judgements on the very hard questions of who benefits so that member countries may know how the policies they adopt are affecting what happens in the real world as well as what is said in the documents. In order to accomplish this there will have to be very close cooperation between those responsible for these reviews and the technical specialists within the FAO and available to it. For example, a large part of the programme is ultimately concerned with improving the nutritional status of groups of people. In order to ascertain that this result is actually occurring, the Evaluation Unit will need to be able to draw on the highest skills of the nutrition experts in order to learn how to obtain needed information with reasonable cost and speed.

It was gratifying to note that an evaluation mission was able to call attention to the key role of women in agriculture in marketing potatoes in Lesotho, apparently in time to enable the project involved to be significantly resolved and revised and put back on track. Incidentally, that is an example of the kind of evaluation which we would wish to encourage more of. Quite clearly, however, the relative lack of women among trainees at higher levels, which is mentioned in the same place in the report, continues to be a matter of great concern. We hope that FAO will not simply wait for countries to come forward with more female candidates for training, but will remind and encourage them by pointing out that increasing the number of female trainees is an important means of achieving the social and economic goals of development. In order to help with judgments about the effectiveness of the role of FAO, we believe the Organization needs to have the capacity to look at the broad needs of a country for assistance in agriculture and related fields, and also to be able to assess whether those needs are being met either by FAO directly through activities FAO has designed or stimulated for financing by others, or by independent actions, whether taken by donor agencies or by the countries themselves. Only with this kind of integrated and extensive analysis will we be able to be sure that the resources brought to bear from many directions are in fact coalescing, to achieve the purposes for which the developing country has sought outside support and for which that support is being given.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): As a member of the Programme Committee I took part in the discussion of this important item. Although I did not agree with everything that was said with respect to the Programme Committee, I have something to say on behalf of my delegation. Undoubtedly, this document is one of the most important ones to be submitted to the Conference, first of all, because it sets out the difficulties and obstacles and problems which one has to overcome in implementing food programmes in member countries. It is difficult not to make mistakes. We must learn from our mistakes, and I would like to say that whereas I pointed out on several occasions in this paper the mistakes made by the Executing Agencies of FAO Field Programmes, as well as those made by financing organizations like UNDP, and even the mistakes made by recipient countries and some developing countries too. Everybody has a share of the blame to bear for these mistakes, and I think the problems have been set out as clearly as they could be. That is important. That is why I am convinced that Chapter 1 of the Programme Committee's report on the question of introducing certain graphs and statistics is an important element for us, because these documents are not meant just for this Conference, they will be read elsewhere, especially in developing countries where this type of project and field programme is actually put into practice. I think that the profit we can draw from this document is greater elsewhere than here at the Conference. In spite of the fact that this document has a very pretty coloured cover it does not indicate that the



contents are as good as the outer binding. We need to improve the contents of this document, and I think that the Secretariat knows this, because improvements must be made constantly and regularly. It does not matter whether the cover will be red or green next time. It does not mean that the document will not take notice of certain information given to it by the Programme Committee. This all concerns the forms.

Turning to the substances of the problem I think the actual process of assessment needs to call upon more than one source. There is the financing; the programming and the beneficiaries. These three factors have to give their points of view in assessment as frankly as possible, because more than once the Organization through the Country Representative, or an expert, assesses the value of a project carried out in country X and often the person who is carrying out the assessment does not profit from the competent experts when carrying out his assessment. That is why I think that FAO should get the three parties concerned in this type of project to participate: the financing, implementation and beneficiaries, so that the assessment is not one of form solely.

Mr. Chairman, everybody knows that the projects implemented in developing countries are made up of three parts: the experts are the first component; equipment, machinery, tools, and then training and missions. First of all, I would like to say that the orientation in developing countries now is to cut down the number of outside experts, considering that most of these developing countries have produced experts who can replace those who used to come from outside in the past. This is due to the fact that the Organization has always had a tendency to multiply the number of experts employed on any given project, for reasons which I will not go into here. Nevertheless what is sure is that more than 80 percent of the budget for different projects found its way into the pockets of the various experts, and the country where the project was implemented did not really benefit from the presence of these experts. There were more experts than were necessary and the director of the project had to settle differences and problems that arose between the experts. This is a typical case, and I think there are several more. That is why we feel that when FAO provides assistance to member countries in preparing projects it should cut down the number of experts it sends.

Now turning to equipment, it is only natural that each project should require equipment. Nevertheless, custom has led FAO to buy its equipment in Rome. Quite often the buying of equipment was not carried out in the best possible way. It was done in a rather weird fashion, quite incomprehensible to others, and I think it is high time that developing countries, with the help of the Country Representative or the actual FAO Representative himself, be given the freedom of choosing where the equipment is to be bought; the company from which it is to be bought. The majority of the equipment bought by FAO for projects often comes from companies which have no representatives in the beneficiary countries. This is true for tractors. FAO has bought tractors from a firm which has no representation in the countries to which the tractors were sent and later on there was trouble because in a couple of years' time spare parts were needed and it was impossible to get parts in that country. Therefore, I think the final decision should lie with the beneficiary countries, so that they can choose where the equipment is to be bought and what quality equipment is to be bought. FAO should not be the sole body to decide, because there are several other factors that ought to be taken into account when buying equipment.

Now coming to training and missions. Developing countries are all very keen on training on the spot and the use of institutions and local companies for training in projects which are implemented by FAO, who should take this into account, especially since FAO cannot come into direct contact with the person, peasant farmer, except through intermediate bodies. In fact we cannot possibly expect FAO to provide training for farmers. What we want FAO to do is to help set up the organization and bodies that will do this, that is why FAO has to reconsider its policy in this field; it has to cut down the number of missions and academic study cycles, which are only profitable to heads of missions. I would like to recall what was said by a previous speaker here, we ought to ask ourselves whether we are training the person for his own profit or for the profit of the person who is providing the training. Training can only be a means to and not an end in itself. I think that the assessments which are carried out currently by FAO are better compared to those presented to previous Conferences. Nevertheless, these studies and assessment studies should be done with the help of national regional offices, and this would save us a great deal of money, and the Country Representative could play a bigger role here than an expert sent from a country to a country that he knows nothing about. This has happened more than once, and several missions have been obliged to stay for a long time in a country in order to familiarize themselves with the situation in a country before being able to carry out any assessment operations at all. Therefore, it is necessary to review all these factors that I have just quoted.

Look at these studies, they must be sent to UNDP, regional organizations, member states and other international organizations which finance projects in developing countries, and once again I would like to state that we must reconsider the whole problem of technical assistance. We are living in a world which is quickly changing and assistance given to developing countries 20 or 30 years ago has not the same effectiveness today. We must look at things differently today within the context of assistance and cooperation. So that both these can really benefit developing countries, we must be ambitious, because we must always try to profit from the experience of others, and, in particular, from developed countries, and I hope that the report of this Commission will underline the fact that developing countries really have the greatest possible need of the experience of developed countries for improving and carrying out projects.

E.F. MADSEN (Denmark): The "Review of FAO's Field Programmes" is an item to which the Danish delegation attaches great importance, because it deals with FAO's input, work and activities in the developing countries.

Document C 77/4 provides us with a clear and comprehensive picture of the field programmes carried out in the 1976-77 biennium. Also the Danish delegation has noted with satisfaction that the "Review of Field Programmes" 1976-77 as a document has reached a much better standard of presentation than previously. We also welcome the reduction in volume of the document.

On the other hand, Mr. Chairman, it is with some regret that we observe the decrease in the overall extra-budgetary expenditure from \$246 million in 1975 to an estimated \$186 million in 1977. It must give rise to concern that the overall extra-budgetary expenditure in real terms in 1977 will probably drop to about only 60 percent of the 1975 figure. My Government sincerely hopes that this unfortunate trend is a temporary one and that it will be reversed very soon.

Denmark has contributed substantially to the FAO Trust-in-Funds programme in recent years. Almost half of the total Danish multilateral assistance is channelled through FAO for projects.

We are pleased with our cooperation with FAO in this field. In our opinion multilateral assistance should concentrate on projects, well adjusted to the individual developing countries own level of development and aim at the benefit of the poorest parts of the population in the poorest countries.

The bulk of the multilateral projects that Denmark is contributing to, are in the least developed countries. The Danish Government fully subscribes to the common theme in many international debates, namely, that there is a pressing need to promote greater equity and social justice within countries, as well as among them. We hope that FAO will concentrate more means on this policy to the benefit of the poorer segments of society, particularly in rural areas.

In Denmark's collaboration with FAO in the field of technical assistance programmes training activities is playing an important role. The technology training within the dairy and meat industry, as well as postgraduate training courses, are programmes on which there has been a long and successful collaboration between FAO and DANIDA. The creation of viable national training institutions in the developing countries is the main purpose of these programmes and the sooner the necessary training activities can be carried out by these institutions the more successful the programme will be from the long-term view.

Training is also a major component of production-oriented field programmes. The transmission of production technology through the agricultural extension services in connection with the fertilizer projects provide excellent examples of relevant farmer training. DANIDA can thus endorse the views expressed in the Review of Field Programmes concerning training. The mentioned difficulty of dispersion of responsibilities for FAO's training activities is however a matter of concern.

We urge FAO to pay closer attention to and examine the problem of dispersion of responsibility for FAO's training activities among technical units, reducing the coherence and obscuring the focus of their objectives. While a certain degree of flexibility is essential for the development of training programmes in each technical discipline, close collaboration and exchange of experience between training units within the Organization is very important.

Before turning to the relationship between FAO and UNDP, I would like to warn against the present tendency with the UN system towards proliferation of separate special purpose funds and programmes. There is a risk that this may lead to disintegration of the UN developmental efforts. It was intended that UNDP should be the central funding organization, and it must be admitted that the UNDP has not up till now been able to live up to its role as the central funding organization.

At the 24th meeting of the UNDP Governing Council in Geneva last June the Council initiated a debate on the role and activities of UNDP: during its deliberations the Council also discussed the relationship between UNDP and the specialized agencies, including FAO. It was then, as it is now, the view of the Danish delegation that a primary role of UNDP is of course to raise funds and to see to the efficient use of these funds. However, it is our opinion that UNDP besides this function has a substantive role to play. Important general development strategies have been elaborated in the UN system during the last years, and in our mind UNDP could have an important function in ensuring the implementation of those strategies.

Also with regard to the initiating of multi-sectoral development programmes we find that UNDP could play a substantive role. We do in no way underestimate the technical competence of the specialized agencies, and we agree that the maximum use of this competence should take place. You can, however, not consider the development process to be exclusively concerned with specific sectors. Certain development problems have to be approached in a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral way. Coordination at the field level between UNDP and FAO is now more necessary than ever after the establishment of a Technical Cooperation Programme and after the appointment of FAO Representatives in developing countries. We have noted with satisfaction that the Director-General, Mr. Saouma has specifically recognized the UNDP Resident Representative as primus inter pares among mission chiefs of the United Nations Organizations. We have also been glad to hear that a consolidation at the field level has been reached and that the coordination of the work in the developing countries is generally running satisfactorily.

On the other hand, the question of coordination at Headquarters level does not seem to have been fully solved, and we are convinced that it is a prerequisite for a good cooperation in the field that there exist a smoothly working cooperation at the Headquarters level. Therefore we must encourage UNDP and all agencies actively to work for an amelioration of their relationships. In UNDP, ECOSOC and at the 31st UN General Assembly resolutions on the question of coherence in the UN system have been adopted. In these resolutions the UNDP and the specialized agencies are requested to strengthen their mutual coordination at all levels, which of course also includes Headquarters level.

Recently an Agency Task Force was set up at UNDP Headquarters in which representatives from ILO, WHO and Unesco are participating. We would welcome it if FAO found it possible to soon join this task force.

One of the questions which have been subject to discussions between the specialized agencies on the one hand and UNDP on the other hand is the question of agency overhead costs. Without going into the substance let me mention that we attach expectations to the results of the working group which the UNDP Governing Council decided to establish. In accordance with the decision taken at the 24th meeting of the UNDP's Governing Council in June this year, all specialized agencies are invited to take part in this working group. We therefore hope a common solution on the overhead question could be reached - a solution to which all involved parties including FAO can agree. Since it has been decided to establish this open-ended working group on overhead costs, my delegation believes that we, neither in this nor in any other national body, should deal with the question of overheads in a way that may prejudice the findings of the working group, the establishment of which has unanimously been endorsed by ECOSOC.

The Director-General raises the question whether the concept of a five-year programming cycle, pursued by UNDP, is realistic as long as pledging of resources by the donors is on an annual basis. I believe that we all support the present planning system based on five-year commitments and expressed in indicative planning figures. At the last UNDP Governing Council meeting the Danish Government said that it would like to see a more rational, a more equal and a more stable funding system, i.e. a system based on IDA and IFAD-type negotiations among governments contributing to the programme. This would permit executing agencies to plan their activities better and would minimize the risk for financial crises like the one we saw in 1976.

We believe that all FAO's activities, whether they derive from the regular budget or are financed from extra-budgetary resources, could be looked upon as part of a total picture, in order to achieve better coherence. This will undoubtedly make it easier for FAO and multilateral donor agencies to identify the project areas which need priority. We are therefore satisfied to note that document C 77/74 contains tables which cover the regular and extra-budgetary activities.

Let me add that further progress in this direction of improved coherence of the programmes will make it more attractive for potential donors to support the activities of the Organization, and this could result in more funds for its work.

B.P.DHITAL (Nepal): Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to take the floor to comment on the Review of Field Programmes for the biennium of 1976/77.

We appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat in preparing the Review in a shorter but comprehensive form. The Nepalese delegation also joins with other delegates who spoke before us in voicing our concern with the rather unsatisfactory state of affairs in the transfer of technology. This would imply, among other things, that the efforts to develop local expertise and thereby increase self-reliance are still far from satisfactory.

The efforts to strengthen national institutions to carry out technical and research work need further strengthening. We would like to see that national institutions are assisted to build up their capabilities in preparing rural and agricultural projects.

Similarly, we hope that the experts from developing countries are encouraged to take up FAO assignments in field programmes. We are, however, rather disappointed to see, that while FAO engaged 1 406 professional staff on field projects financed from extra-budgetary resources as of March 1977, there is not a single expert from Nepal!

Coming to the training opportunities, we support the emphasis given on providing training only when a real need for it as an effective link with specific national training and production programmes is established.

Coming to some key issues relating to management of field programmes, we strongly feel that national directors should be made responsible in managing the projects, while expatriate experts would be assisting them. Expatriate experts must not be encouraged to replace the national staff. This will go against the very principle of development assistance to developing countries to develop by themselves. Similarly, the need for strengthening the national staff in formulation is obvious.

The other issue pertaining to country programming (paragraphs 2.51) also requires more flexibility to meet the changing requirements of other countries. We therefore support the emphasis on a more pragmatic approach, while waiting to continue country programming. We feel that it has a merit.

lastly, we congratulate the evaluation staff for preparing such a comprehensive report.

Sra. Doña A.C. BERTA de ALBERTO (Argentina): Con referencia al documento C 77/4 que estamos considerando, mi delegación desea expresar, en primer lugar, su apoyo en términos generales a este documento, pero también quisiera formular algunos comentarios y observaciones que ya fueron anticipados durante las sesiones del Consejo, a fin de contribuir a su análisis y extraer de él conclusiones útiles y prácticas que mejoren y hagan más eficaz la instrumentación de los próximos programas.

En primer lugar, con relación al Capítulo 3 que trata en general sobre las actividades de capacitación de la FAO, debemos expresar que mi delegación comparte la preocupación manifestada por el Director General en el punto (c), párrafos 3.47 y 3.48 acerca del papel de la FAO pasado, presente y futuro con respecto a los criterios y procedimientos seguidos en la selección de los participantes, que hasta ahora han tendido a favorecer más a los funcionarios de los ministerios que al personal de campo. En este sentido, y uniéndonos en cierta forma a lo que ya han expresado otros oradores, deberíamos destacar no solo la conveniencia, sino también la necesidad de que en dicha selección se ponga especial cuidado, a fin de favorecer al personal de campo, con objeto de que pueda materializarse a su regreso al país el deseado fruto multiplicador en su propio entorno.

Para lo que hace ahora a la distribución regional del fondo, mi delegación desea de manera muy especial reiterar la preocupación ya manifestada con respecto al documento C 77/3 en el sentido de la falta de equidad que se observa en dicha distribución. Al respecto, quisiéramos llamar la atención de la Conferencia, y de esta Comisión en particular, sobre el Cuadro 2, página 78, del apéndice estadístico sobre Distribución de los Proyectos de Campo, que reciben asistencia de la FAO y de las asignaciones de ayuda en enero de 1977, de lo cual surge que la participación de América Latina es muy inferior a la de otras regiones, y esto tanto en número de proyectos como millones de dólares.

Finalmente, y sobre el tema básico de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, quisiéramos hacer una breve observación con relación al párrafo 4.46, que analiza concretamente las posibilidades de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en el sector agrícola. Esta observación va a ser breve porque el tema podrá ser objeto de un tratamiento más profundo y detallado al considerarse el punto 13 de la agenda, que está precisamente dedicado a este tema, como muy bien nos lo han recordado el señor Dahl e Yriarte al comienzo de esta sesión. Y esta observación es la siguiente: no nos parece lógico establecer en este campo programas o técnicas a priori, como parecía surgir del párrafo 4.46, sino más bien pensar en el establecimiento de un mecanismo que permita su función sobre la base del reclutamiento del país solicitante y el análisis de la capacidad del país que pueda atenderlo.

Este mecanismo debería tener los resortes necesarios para financiar la asistencia y para el debido contralor de la efectividad de la misma.

LI CHEN-HUAN (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation would like to make a few remarks on the Review of Field Programmes. For a very long time now this Organization has been executing field projects which are numerous in number and involving many countries. It is necessary to sum up the experience regularly and in truth the work in time, so that the field programmes can play their due role in assisting the agricultural development of the developing countries.

We consider that practical effectiveness should be the point of departure for the evaluation of field projects. Whether a project is effective or not should merely be judged by the role it plays in being the recipient developing country towards its food and agricultural productions. One must take local conditions into account in the execution of an assistance project; namely the project should not only be compatible with the natural conditions of the locality, but should also meet the requirements of the recipient country, suit local, social, economic conditions and employ the counterpart staff to master the techniques introduced so that the technique can be further spent by the recipient country and local people through their own efforts, plus the fact that the role of a field project could be brought into full play to the benefit of the recipient country. Both the current and the previous reports of the Review of Field Programmes review that in the course of implementing the field projects it is hard to establish close cooperation with the departments and staff of the recipient country as well as with the local people, hard to involve the local people more actively and hard to identify a set of technical measures which are well tested and could be acceptable to the local people. All these factors have an important bearing on the effectiveness of assistance, and therefore should be studied and improved continuously.

J.S. KHAN (Pakistan): My delegation would like to join the earlier speakers in complimenting the Secretariat on producing once more a very useful and candid review of the Field Programmes for 1976/77, and we think that it is certainly in keeping with the high standards we have come to expect of this document.

We wish Mr. Chairman to offer some comments on the four chapters of this document. First on Chapter I we have noticed that the biennium under review was a period of difficult readjustment in FAO field programmes, particularly in view of the UNDP resource crisis, and the results of this are before us, they are mentioned in the document. For example the total extra-budgetary expenditures, which have been rising, fell for the first time during the current biennium, and this led to a drastic cut-back in the field staff. These are all matters of concern and regret but there is a point which has not been touched upon in the document in this connection to which I would like to draw attention, and that, Mr. Chairman, had an effect in the recipient countries also. It led to a slow-down of productive rates and this would have created problems of its own, because the projects prepared two years ago are going to cost more to implement in the years to come, and I think the Conference should note this seriously.

The growth of trust funds and other cooperative arrangements which donors, other than the UNDP, have helped to relieve the situation to some extent is to be welcomed, and we wish to place on record our sincere appreciation to all the donors concerned. This diversification of the resources of funds is perhaps one of the most positive features for the 76/77 biennium, and we hope that this trend will continue, and we also hope that when IFAD comes into being that a new dimension to this arrangement will be added.

We would also urge and we would expect that the projects and programmes to be funded from trust funds and cooperative arrangements would also be recipient rather than donor oriented, and that they would be in line with FAO's overall policies.

My delegation also agrees a most encouraging new development in relation to FAO's field programmes or the establishment of ICP. We said enough about ICP during our earlier intervention in the regular Programme of Work and Budget. There is only one point we want to draw attention to and that is the speedy procedures for approval of projects which have enhanced FAO's image in our country, and I hope these speedy procedures can be an object lesson in other field programmes.

If I now turn to Chapter 2 here we find the forthright structure of FAO's field programmes most constructive. Such critical self-examination is a help and a rewarding exercise, and this must be continued in the future in order to enable valid lessons to be drawn and to improve the quality of FAO's future cooperation activities. We have a few specific comments to make on this assessment. First of all with respect to the country project, we note with concern the continued familiar problems which keep coming up every biennium relating to delays in project approval, the recruitment of foreign experts and the transfer of skills, and I think all these problems point to the need for a continued improvement of procedures, not only by FAO but also by us, the recipient countries.

We find ourselves in agreement with the suggestion in paragraph 2.13 of the document that it may be opportune to resort increasingly to types of technical cooperation in which the bulk of technical and managerial responsibilities devolve on the national staff from the beginning, and this should be followed wherever possible. Second point on this is the review of the regional projects in the Near East region, the special review which we found particularly useful because we are participating in several of these Near East cooperative projects, and the only point I want to draw attention to is that I think probably the review is unduly pessimistic. I think the projects have improved regional cooperation and they have promoted increasing regional self-reliance. Having said this we do appreciate that the difficulties and the drawbacks which are pointed out in the survey do provide food for serious thought, but since this review was undertaken at the request of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East I think the advisable course would be to bring this review to their attention at the 1978 Regional Conference for the Near East, and request them to pay particular attention to the problems which are highlighted and urge them to advise ways and means of overcoming them, and ensuring a more effective cooperation to handle regional projects.

On the portion of the chapter relating to the key issues arising from the evaluation of field programmes we think that they are on the whole well identified, but we would like to stress the following four points.

First, we endorse the need for greater government management and execution of projects by countries which are in a position to do so, and in particular the suggestion in paragraph 2.4.5 which calls for more reliance on national staff and national institutions, supported, wherever necessary, by short-term consultants in place of longer-term resident expatriate experts.

We support those delegations who have preceded us and have drawn attention to the fact that the traditional experts/equipment/training package, as the basic ingredient of technical assistance, must be reconsidered. I think it could be replaced by a more selective acquisition of the individual elements of the package by developing countries.

In the same context, I think there is need for FAO now to give operation and life to the concept of UNDP's new dimensions and to protect technical cooperation amongst developing countries themselves.

A second point on this is that we also share the concern about the delays in project formulation and approval which lead to cost escalations, and therefore we support the need for the appraisal of current procedures and approaches. In this connexion, we feel that the conclusions in paragraph 2.4.9 and paragraph 2.5.0 deserve particularly careful consideration by all concerned.

Our third point is that we also concur with the suggestion for a more pragmatic approach towards the implementation of country programming. We think that such programming could provide for more flexibility. In my own country, we are now following a new approach for the UNDP second IPF cycle whereby in the initial, early stages, the broad priority areas in the various sectors in the economy are being identified, rather than specific projects, which we did in the first cycle. We feel this will help us to adjust more quickly to changing needs and to changing resource availabilities, and it will provide the necessary flexibility in preparing projects, as and when required.

The fourth and final point on this subject is that we agree that there is a need for a continuing review by FAO of its support to field programmes. Now that the first UNDP/IPF cycle has come to an end, my delegation would like to suggest that a detailed and comprehensive assessment of FAO's support activities during the first cycle be undertaken and analysed in the next issue of the Review of Field Programmes for the next biennium. This is so that valid lessons can be drawn, and the efficiency and effectiveness of field programmes could be improved.

If I may now turn to Chapter 3 on the assessment of training activities, we welcome the approach of selectivity, of picking up a special subject every biennium. We hope this will continue, and we commend the special examination of FAO's training activities in the current Review. My delegation thinks it is timely, in view of the importance being attached to training under FAO's new programmes and policies. Of course, we realize that training activities are of a very complex and varied nature, but nevertheless a useful attempt has been made to analyse them. This assessment deserves the close and careful attention not only of FAO and the donor agencies, but also of Member Governments, particularly of the recipient countries.

In this field, my delegation welcomes the increased attention by FAO to training at the country level and at the grass roots, with the emphasis on training the front line field workers and technicians, and the farmers themselves, wherever possible. We hope that this trend will continue and be further extended, so as to bring the field programme into even closer conformity with the Regular Programme.

We also note FAO's intention to contribute to the strengthening of the national institutions, but here we feel that not nearly enough has been done, and far more emphasis needs to be placed on this. It should be continued and intensified as a step towards promoting technical cooperation among developing countries, and towards modifying the classical form of technical cooperation.

The suggestion regarding the inclusion of agriculture, and relevant subjects, in the curricula of the educational systems of developing countries at all levels is very much taken by us. In fact, this is an approach we are currently attempting to introduce in our own educational system, and any help and advice from FAO would be most welcome.

Regarding the future orientation of training activities of FAO, as spelled out in paragraphs 3.5.1 to 3.5.5, we can broadly go along with the proposals made in the document. The only point we want to stress here is that we feel that, at the country level, the first priority should be given to identifying and supporting training at the grass roots or the vocational levels, in the context of the developing countries' own food production and rural development programmes.

In Chapter 4, on reconsideration I will reserve my comments, because there is a separate item on TCDC, and we shall give our detailed views at that time.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): Thanks to Mr. Mahajan and his colleagues, we are certainly again faced with a high standard of professional work, and I should like to give our compliments to the small, able and hard-working group.

I shall refrain from discussing Chapters 1 and 4; Chapter 1, in our view, contains basically either a factual review or issues with which we have already dealt, like the TCP or the IndustryCooperative Programme. On Chapter 4 we have already expressed some of our views in Commission I.

Let me only touch on a few issues from Chapter 2. It would perhaps be valuable if we were given an indication of the type of projects reviewed; in the nineteen countries there was an indication of 141 projects. I would assume that basically those projects could be considered as a classical or traditional expert/equipment/fellowship type of project, mostly covering training and education. At least, that is our feeling.

We would note, as many others have, relatively speaking, the poor performance of many aspects of projects. We hope very much that on this basis lessons will be learned, not only, as was rightly mentioned by the delegate of Pakistan, by FAO and donor agencies, but by the UN system in general, including, of course, the recipient countries.

I would now like to say a few words on Chapter 3. If our assessment is correct, then training activities of various kinds represent about one third, or up to 40 percent of all FAO activities, thus representing a very important aspect of the overall activities of the Organization. We have been given some rough indications of the capacities of the Organization, again roughly assessed at the level of 35 000 people to be trained, either way.

We note, with satisfaction, as was rightly expressed in paragraph 3.1.2, that the main contribution of FAO in the past was the assistance provided to the countries in the establishment of permanent facilities for agricultural education and training. We are pleased that in 1975/1976 55 institutions were supported.

The point I would now like to make is that one sentence contained in paragraph 26 is very indicative and I would like to quote it: "Prima facie this type of training -" and this refers to rural level training - "contributed to successful transfer of knowledge: its effect on the level of productivity and output-" which is certainly essential - "is however conditioned by continuing institutional and material support."

It is our view that the sentence I have just quoted contains one vital element of the durability of support in both senses, institutional and material. We feel that the institutional aspect is extremely important. In that sense, we would largely share the opinion of the Programme Committee that in the light of this, and bearing in mind all other relevant elements, the whole concept of grassroots training might perhaps need some further clarification and might need to be reconsidered.

As it stands, throughout the various documents of FAO, it sounds in a way unduly simplified as a concept. So we feel quite strongly that the institutional aspects should be taken fully into consideration when the concept of grassroots level training is to be considered.

P. BURI (Italy): The Italian delegation would express their sincere appreciation of the report of FAO's activities in the field programmes. We have remarked with satisfaction that during the last few years this sector was the object of special consideration on the part of the Organization.

Our delegation would like to insist on the priority they give to irrigation programmes. In this connexion, we would like to recommend those field programmes which take into consideration the possibility of reducing the waste of water in irrigation management by the adoption of modern techniques as regards both the manufacture of equipment and the actual management of modern irrigation systems. It is highly desirable that the countries which are most advanced in the use of rational methods for the exploitation of irrigation waters continue as in the past to offer their experience to developing countries, especially to those that do not have available large and constant supplies of this natural resource.

The Italian delegation feels that field programmes devised in this sense are viable and can be taken into consideration in the various regions of the world where field programmes are being carried out.

F. D. MAAS (Israel): We have studied with great interest this Review, as we did also the last time at the last Conference, and expressed our views during the discussions. We are in full agreement with one sentence which is printed in the statement of the Director-General which says, "The important thing is to identify, correct and learn from difficulties, and to apply the lessons elsewhere". I will not say I am not going to criticize anything here, because I realize the difficulties. I myself have been a so-called expert for four or five years in several countries, but then I realized it is better to stay at home. I would say that FAO has taken on its shoulders an enormous responsibility by undertaking, according to this report, in 127 countries, 1 809 projects with an involvement of \$647 million and the assistance of 1 406 experts from different countries, not taking into consideration the experts from FAO itself. This means that this would represent an enormous tax for a multinational company, I mean to say multinational here in a positive way, and I do not know if this report if it were given by the president or manager of such a company would make a great impact on the shareholders of his company, and we are the shareholders, but it is more the recipient countries to say their words, and some very strong remarks have been made here.



It is also a lesson for expanding countries, not only in the frame of FAO but also in our own bilateral assistance in which my country is also involved, and therefore, it was really of importance to compare, because also in bilateral assistance, as far as we are involved, we are not always happy, and reasons can be found, but also just to compare it, in 1977 we have trained in 23 courses on the spot a thousand trainees in foreign countries, 300 trainees have been in Israel and we are keeping 67 experts in 80 projects in different parts of the world. I give these numbers not to make an impression and to compare but to say that also what is said here very often applies to our own lessons.

Now, I said I am not going to criticize, but maybe some advice from our own experience could be of help to the people in FAO who run this enormous undertaking and maybe can lead to some improvement. In field projects, most of the field projects are in our countries themselves, because we now try to renew our whole agricultural system, but also in other countries we make a very strong division between what we call improvement projects where something existing has to be improved, let us say, to improve fields or outputs from livestock sectors or input problems and so on that means to work on an existing experience and to arrive at a higher level -- and another line of projects which are new initiatives, and whereas improvement projects are easier to undertake, we have fewer difficulties in new initiatives; one faces difficulties, and many of them are expressed in this review here.

The main difficulty is the lack of understanding. Very often projects have been decided in very pleasant meetings or working lunches and working dinners between high-ranking officials -- sometimes ministers are involved and it is decided to build a dam, to build this or that or villages and so on, and then the guest leaves the country, and one day some experts arrive and nobody knows exactly what is going on.

We have experiences in our country. I can definitely say that at a certain level, assistance which we have received from UNDP and FAO, for instance, in rainwater collection and in this sophisticated project of high-yielding flowers and vegetable production, and so on, there was a good understanding among some experts, but the country did not understand it, and it took 4 to 6 years after we finished the project that the people understood and realized the importance of such a project, and then certainly we had the experience, but then sometimes time passes, and this has to be taken into consideration.

If I can define our lessons, I would say -- and this was stated by many speakers here -- for a new project you need first a clear-cut definition and understanding of what it means and what it gives in national agriculture. You need to know exactly the inputs you need, you start with some inputs and others will come later, and as it was mentioned here, sometimes you buy a tractor or machine and there are no spare parts, and not only in developing countries but even in developed countries this can happen now, according to my own experience.

One has to know the desired results, and finally, if it is a production operation, we have to know the markets. Very often you succeed but you have no market for the stuff and then everybody is disappointed.

In our operations in Israel and outside, we see it as a necessity to have an operation staff, and number two is the training of all parties involved, high-ranking officials as well as farmers, what is called the grass roots level or some other level, cotton level, tree level, I do not know. I mean all the people who are involved have to be trained to get an understanding first of what is going on. You cannot decide in a ministry, we are going to, let us say, develop an export of flowers for \$40 million, as we did in the last years, and nobody knows exactly what is going on and there is no understanding. Everybody has to understand it. And then the local staff involved has to be trained, and one has to rely on the local staff.

During this discussion, it was said in the most eloquent way by Jordan: You cannot rely on experts. I, myself, was an expert. Experts can assist you but experts will do better to stay at home, and when you need them, call them in for a week or a month and see what they do. I learn now what an expert does all the time. It is also in my profession to be adviser to a minister. What can you advise the minister each and every hour? Give him one good advice a year and it is enough. Let him act according to needs and the local people. I mean the people involved in developing countries and developed countries have to break their necks on these things, otherwise they will not succeed. It is very easy to send a team of 4 to 6 people to a foreign country and tell them to establish a plantation or livestock operation, and they can work on it to be as perfect as in Denmark or in Israel or in Holland, and then they go home and many times nothing will stay because the people did not understand it.

So FAO should learn this lesson and rely on local people, and as long as the local people cannot undertake such a thing, don't start with the operation. Concentrate on the training and leave the experts at home and call them in when you need them.

Finally, I want to say a few words on training. Training is a basic element, everybody knows it, and everywhere it is needed, but also here we need clear definitions. One part of training is basic training of so-called experts inside the country and sometimes it takes a short time, sometimes it takes a long time, this is one side, but the more important side is the training of the people involved, officials as well as farmers, and here we have found there is very often a lack of this message of exercising training. Training has to be exercised. Training is not just to get some knowledge, because in farming, Mr. Chairman, you know it as I know it, you have to be exact. What you have not done on a certain day, you cannot repeat on the next day, this has to be understood, and therefore, extension methods are essential and the definition of short and clear production messages, Do not come to a farmer, even if he is very intelligent, and tell him a hundred things. Tell him exactly through the radio or television or field days, whatever it is, tell him exactly what he has to do in the coming days and then come again to him, and we have also tried to express this in our Plenary statement, where we said we have been very much impressed in this field by the building of the so-called blueprints in the United Kingdom and in some other countries, because you know exactly what you have to do on Monday and Tuesday and Thursday and even on Saturday if it is needed, or Sunday, and this has to be taken in our minds if it is in the least developed country or if it is in a very highly developed country.

I thought some of this experience could be of help for this discussion.

A. RAMBOUX (Belgique): Beaucoup de bonnes choses ont été dites, notamment par le précédent orateur et cependant je ne peux me taire. La FAO développe un important programme, et je dois exprimer les félicitations que méritent les documents qui nous sont présentés. Les idées exprimées sont impartiales. On exprime une volonté de changement et également une recherche de créativité.

Cette volonté de changement et cette recherche de créativité, comme l'ont dit plusieurs orateurs, sont indispensables dans un domaine aussi difficile que celui pour lequel nous nous efforçons de travailler.

Mon souci est de souligner un point qui fut déjà mentionné par certains orateurs, mais de façon assez différente, je veux parler de la participation des contreparties, et des possibilités de contrepartie. Il m'intéresserait vivement de savoir combien de projets se sont terminés valablement dans le temps imparti. La majorité des projets connaît une deuxième phase parfois une troisième et parfois d'autres. Les projets formulés en matière agricole sont généralement fort ambitieux. Il serait préférable, soit d'allonger la durée, soit de simplifier pour réduire les objectifs, afin de travailler plus en profondeur avec le pays.

Dans une précédente réunion, il a été mentionné par un assistant du Directeur général que les actions découlant de programmes de coopération technique étaient subordonnées à un financement préalable, ou tout au moins à une certitude quant à une possibilité de financement. Cette condition est insuffisante. L'action, le projet, son ampleur, sont à mesurer en fonction de la contrepartie disponible, de la contrepartie mobilisable. Certains pays sont gourmands. Ils demandent beaucoup de projets en matière agricole sans tenir compte des possibilités d'absorption.

Les transferts de technologie doivent être digérés par toutes les parties; dans la négative, il y a lassitude et pertes. La présence de représentants autonomes sera peut-être de nature à mieux juger les problèmes locaux et leur priorité, leur sélection.

Un mot encore, toujours dans le même secteur, il s'agit de la formation. Le Directeur général adjoint a souligné son importance dans le cadre des facteurs à la base de la réussite des projets. Beaucoup d'autres intervenants ont fait de même, et à ce sujet, j'ai été frappé de l'importance attachée à la question de la formation, lors de la réunion de juillet 1977 du groupe consultatif de la recherche agricole à Washington; de nombreux documents ont été présentés et discutés. Actuellement, des milliers de spécialistes locaux sont formés chaque année dans les centres internationaux de recherche agricole. Ils s'en retournent dans leur pays. Ils sont formés en Asie, en Afrique, en Amérique Latine. J'ai eu l'occasion de rencontrer des responsables de formation de ces centres internationaux de recherche agricole. La majorité font du très bon travail. Les résultats sont bons, mais ils m'ont fait part d'un souci qui est leur. Ils pensent que beaucoup de personnes formées dans les centres retournent dans leur pays et se livrent à des recherches dans un institut de recherche et ne sont pas en contact avec le terrain, avec le concret des choses.

Il y a là, me semble-t-il, un relai pour la formation à réaliser et l'intervention de la FAO. Ces gens formés à la recherche doivent nécessairement se pencher sur la vulgarisation. Ils doivent nécessairement servir leur pays. Je crois qu'ils pourraient faire davantage qu'ils ne font aujourd'hui. La FAO et les gouvernements locaux peuvent tirer parti de cette formation dans les centres internationaux de recherche.

Si j'ai pris la parole, c'est que le souci de ma délégation était de féliciter, encourager et conseiller en vue de jumeler l'effort des deux parties pour leur réussite.

D. BABA (Tchad): Plusieurs des orateurs qui m'ont précédé ont décortiqué les documents dont nous sommes saisis. Tout en louant l'excellent document que le Directeur général a bien voulu mettre à notre disposition, nous aimerions pour ne pas retarder le bon déroulement de la Conférence, préciser quelques-unes de nos observations. Tout comme le Directeur général a fait la part des choses, qu'il s'agisse des donateurs, des donataires ou des experts, j'aimerais qu'on fasse confiance aux techniciens des pays en voie de développement et des autres pays, car ces techniciens savent ce qu'ils font et il est superflu, comme l'a souligné à juste titre le délégué d'Israël de les obliger à travailler avec des experts, cela éviterait des pertes de temps et certaines dépenses. Nous faisons nôtres les déclarations faites par le délégué de la Jordanie qui a très bien su expliquer pour les pays en développement les problèmes qui se posent à l'heure actuelle.

Un autre problème sur lequel je voudrais appeler l'attention des délégués ici présents, c'est que nous avons des projets qui durent 3, 4 et 5 ans; qu'ils sont pour la plupart dirigés par des experts, accompagnés de ce qu'on appelle chez nous des "homologues" c'est-à-dire des gens qui les relèveront plus tard.

Tant que l'expert est présent, il y a suffisamment d'argent, les véhicules sont neufs, les engins tournent bien. Au départ de l'expert, cinq ans plus tard, les véhicules sont déjà amortis, les engins ne tournent pas, il n'y a plus d'argent et on veut que celui qui prend la relève soit opérationnel. Il faut tout de même être sérieux !

Il convient que la FAO revoie ce problème, ne serait-ce qu'en vue de trouver un petit pont de relève ou d'appui après le départ de l'expert.

Après les déclarations faites par le délégué d'Israël et surtout après les remarques pertinentes du délégué de la Jordanie, notre délégation attire l'attention sur le fait qu'il y a lieu de revoir ce problème de plus près, car s'il est utile de dépenser beaucoup d'argent pour un projet qui marche bien pendant cinq ans, mais qu'au bout de cinq ans on le laisse tomber sans savoir comment il pourra continuer, il y a là une question très importante sur laquelle le PNUD et la FAO devraient se pencher.

C'est pourquoi nous avons voulu apporter notre petite contribution en attirant l'attention des délégués sur cette situation généralisée dans nos pays.

S.S. MAHDI (India): First of all our delegation would like to record our appreciation of this document. We see that within its eighty-two pages, and in bold print, the document contains a mine of information and numerous valuable insights. In terms of quality the document not only continues the excellence of its predecessors, but shows further improvement. In this regard, I would like to particularly take note of the summary which has been provided at the end.

With regard to the procedure of discussing this document I had a proposal that we should discuss it chapter by chapter, or in groups of chapters, but this has not come to pass. That would have allowed us to organize our discussions in a more cogent way. But, anyhow, I will follow the procedure which has already been adopted, although I do not envy the task of Mr. Mahajan who has to make a summary of the various comments made on various chapters, sub-chapters and subsections.

Coming to the comments, my first comment is about our project inputs. In this respect we have two comments: firstly, it is a matter of concern that the expenditure on personnel continues to be a dominant item, and it is likely to reach 67.4 percent of the total expenditure by the end of 1977. Now the question that arises is this: does it mean that there is a setback or a stabilization of the welcome trend which implied greater use of national personnel, and making use of expatriates for short-term contingencies; only if this is so this represents a retrograde step and is not compatible with the progressive self-reliance which we are aiming at.

Secondly, we also note that the proportion of experts from the developing countries continues to be small. It should have been much more than the present 37 percent, for the simple reason that the experience and expertise of one developing country is more relevant to another developing country. While making this comment, Mr. Chairman, I do not want to minimize the importance of transfer of skill and knowledge from a developed to developing countries. That should continue to remain a very important concern, and much of the technical cooperation is about this transfer. But at the same time we should be aware of what the experts of one developing country can do for the other countries.

With regard to the equipment my comments are in line with what has just been said from this floor by the delegate of Jordan. Here again, we note with concern that the diversification of sources of supply of equipment for the FAO assisted field projects has not reached a point which would include a tangible share from the developing countries. We fully realize that the Organization has to follow certain procedures and rules in this regard. We, however, feel that there is scope for taking into account the aspirations and capabilities of developing countries in the application of these rules and procedures, and yet to run the operations economically and efficiently. There is urgent need of making better known the use of the FAO-assisted projects on a systematic basis, and to facilitate the cooperation between new sources of supply from the developing countries and the Organization. In fact, we feel it is the duty of the organizations of the UN system to encourage such sources to come forward and make their contribution to the success of field projects.

Another question is that of the use of national institutions of developing countries and there is strengthening through such use. On this point I can afford to be very brief because the concept now appears to be well entrenched in the thinking of FAO. What we need now is substantial evidence of action. Unless this evidence is forthcoming constantly and convincingly, the subject will remain a mere slogan devoid of substance. In this context we would wish to see better sensitization of the FAO programme managers themselves, and continuing monitoring of the implementation of this context. I shall come to the question of suggesting that this item - the use and strengthening of national institutions to their best use - should be included as a distinct chapter in the next Review, if possible.

Turning to FAO's cooperation, with other programmes, I shall briefly touch on the FAO Banker's Programme, because this has not been commented on by other speakers. We note with satisfaction that the present membership is 52 banks, of which about two thirds are from the developing countries, and also that the request from Governments for assistance in project formulation has been on the increase, and more than 25 missions have been involved.

We however feel that the profitability aspect should not always be the overriding concern of the FAO Bankers' Programme. The Programme has expanded in a quantitative sense. We will watch with interest the quality improvements, especially in terms of which resources from this programme are made available to developing countries.

Turning now to Chapter 2: I would like to underline the assessment made in paragraph 2.6, and we also note with concern the delays in the pipeline. In 2.6, I would like to raise another question also. At the end of the paragraph, it is said that "delays in project negotiations and approvals even when these were caused by the fielding of the preparatory missions did not appear to have led to insignificant improvements in design in the majority of cases". The question that arises is: In the light of this assessment how far the preparatory missions should become an essential part of the programme, and whether in many cases we could dispense with this kind of preparatory mission by strengthening our activities at country level which improve the capabilities at the country level for project formulation and for the preparatory work. This is the question which I raised, and I hope that I shall get some elaboration on this point.

We would also like to underline the conclusions in paragraph 2.41 on page 28, which concern the national management of projects. We are happy to note that an experiment in Nigeria is now showing potential of being applied to other countries. We are very much in favour of having more and more national project management, because this is the real purpose of the transfer of skills and technical assistance. At the same time we are also happy to note that in certain cases use has been made of panels of experts, and we will recommend that such a device should be more and more used in appropriate cases.

Coming to Chapter 3, which deals with training, I am a little worried that this chapter, which forms a special chapter in the Field Programme Review, because of the discussion procedure has not received adequate attention. Given the constraints of time, I shall touch on only one aspect of this chapter, and that deals with training at the grassroots level. As the delegate of Yugoslavia has just mentioned, this is a concept which needs further elaboration, otherwise I am afraid that, like many other things, this might also become another slogan.

Training at the grassroots is primarily the task of the Governments, and we would like to know more how FAO could really be of any real and tangible assistance. There could be many answers. Perhaps FAO could give more assistance to the institutions of the governments which are meant for training at grassroots level - but this is a very simple procedure, and we have no problems with it. At the same time we would like FAO to go deeper into this question, and I am glad to see that in paragraph 3.25 some of the related problems have been touched upon. Perhaps either because this concept is presented as something new in the Organization, or because of time constraints, these points which have just been mentioned in paragraph 3.25 could not be elaborated, although a few very interesting questions have been posed there. So what we would like in this regard is, since FAO is putting more emphasis on this concept, some more meditation in the Organization, some more analysis of experience of the countries, and some more consultations with the countries which have successful examples of grassroots training to be done, so that we can get a more detailed picture of what FAO's role should be. In that chapter, we are happy to note that an Indian example (in paragraphs 3.33 and 3.34) has been noted and described with appreciation.

One last remark about this chapter we find that the Review is a little unhappy about the fact that in many of the FAO training seminars and courses, the main audience has been the senior civil servants and people at middle policy level. It is true that we should emphasize training at the grassroots level, but this should not be to the exclusion of the kind of training that we provide to senior technicians or to senior officials. It is a question of finding a balance. Perhaps we should not go too much in one direction at the cost of other considerations.

A very brief word about the flow of transfers of resources to agriculture. This is a valuable topic, and we would like this work to continue.

Speaking to TCDC: this is a subject which we are going to discuss separately, and therefore I shall reserve the comments of this delegation for that occasion.

One final remark about the criteria for assistance at the country level. It has been mentioned here that there should be some concentration on the projects which deal with basic needs, or which are addressed to the poorest section of this society. We entirely agree with the spirit behind this exhortation, but at the same time we would like to mention that this is a goal - the goal of meeting the basic needs or improving the lot of the poorest section of society - which is a very long-term goal. This cannot be achieved with one project or with a few projects or with many projects over a shorter period.

Therefore, while we agree with the philosophy and with the objectives, at the same time we would like to emphasize that the governments themselves are striving in this direction. So, in the selection of topics we should not exclude the other needs of the governments and only concentrate on the things which directly affect the concept of basic need, or reaching the poorer section of society. It is a very long-term goal, and we cannot fragment it in terms of one or two subjects.

K. ALADEJANA (Nigeria): My delegation joins others in congratulating the Secretariat on the completion of such a very comprehensive document. We wish to however record the following comments: Firstly, much as my delegation would welcome experts recruited from developed countries to assist progress in developing countries, we would certainly prefer that the recruitment of those experts should only be made in developed countries when such experts are not available locally or in other developing countries.

There is no doubt that local experts are cheaper, they settle down more quickly and they can more easily appreciate the local problems of their colleagues from other less-developed countries. The advantages of local knowledge and easy adaptability greatly offset the extra experience or other qualifications that an expatriate expert may possess. We do hope that local talent will be explored in the evaluation work discussed during the session this morning.

- Secondly, the idea of associated experts on projects should be totally discarded. More often than not there is naturally such affinity between the expatriate expert and the expatriate associate expert, that this constitutes a barrier between the expert and his local counterpart. In many cases the associate expert is an apprentice, who then takes the place of the local counterpart staff. The result of this is a friction to the detriment of the project, and a necessity for further work to be undertaken after the normal life of the project has ended.

Thirdly, the absence of a country representative and the recent UNDP crisis had adversely affected most projects in my country, and this is why we again reiterate our support for the decentralization approach, and are pressing for the appointment of a country representative. We hope the Director-General will bear in mind the existing serious imbalance of regional representation of the FAO staff at all levels when making these appointments.

Fourthly, the importance of training cannot be overemphasized. We therefore commend FAO's increased activity in the field of training. Training begins with the trainer, and should therefore extend to the grassroots.

Due to lack of finance and the service of experts throughout the rural community there remains a serious gap between government and private funds and production, particularly in fishery and forestry. Necessary information and training will no doubt generate private investment in these fields, and governments themselves will encourage more investment in these fields. There is, however, a preference for paper qualification in most developing countries, and any fellowship which does not attract that qualification is not always popular.

Finally my delegation wishes to congratulate the FAO on the very important progress such as resource evaluation by remote technique recently carried out in Nigeria. It is hoped, however, that in selecting the future programmes both governments and the FAO will give priority to the areas of most need.

N.E. NORCOTT (Canada): I had an intervention to give incorporating many of the aspects and the points which were raised by the other speakers, and I do not think there is much point in going through them again simply for the sake of having the verbatims. But it does appear to me, Mr. Chairman, that the Director-General has been given a fairly clear mandate on FAO's projects administration, etc., and on training activities, and many of the interventions we have heard today have touched on particular aspects of the various points about those two areas in particular. I would think that when the Review of Field Programmes is prepared for the next biennium I would think that the document could reflect many of the concerns that have been raised here today. Several delegates have raised specific points about training, specific points about project implementation, specific points about the role of experts, etc., and we would think that it would be appropriate that those concerns be reflected in the document prepared for the next Conference, in order that we will have a better assessment of how well FAO has been able to cope with these problems, and the problems encountered at that time, in order that we would have a better understanding of how the Organization is moving in its activities and where improvements could be made.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to the Assistant Director-General, I would like to ask whether any of the Delegates intend to take the floor tomorrow morning, because I announced at the beginning of this afternoon's session that we intended to have two meetings for these discussions, so if I could have an indication. I see there are several delegations who intend to take the floor tomorrow, but I understand that none of these delegations are prepared to take the floor now, but in any case I give the floor to the Assistant Director-General, Development Department, to answer the questions put to him now, and we will continue tomorrow with the Review of Field Programmes.

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): Actually, Mr. Chairman, I think for the sake of brevity, if I reply tomorrow morning after the rest of the speakers I will give you a much shorter reply, having carefully analysed the preceding questions, and I will reply to the group.

CHAIRMAN: As you please, Mr. Yriart. Then I think the time has come to adjourn now.

The meeting rose at 17.50 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.50 horas

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/II/PV/11

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

### ELEVENTH MEETING ONZIEME SÉANCE 11ª SESION (23 November 1977)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 09.55 hours,

J.H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 09 h 55, sous la présidence de

J.H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 11ª sesión a las 09.55 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION  
(continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION  
(suite)

PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION  
(continuación)

11. Review of Field Programmes

11. Examen des programmes de terrain

11. Examen de los programas de campo

A.Z.M. SHAMSUL ALAM (Bangladesh): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving the Bangladesh delegation the privilege of intervention at the beginning of this Session. First of all, we would like to place on record our appreciation of a very clear review of the Field Programmes 1976-77 made by the Office of the Director-General. It is a very helpful document to understand the scope of activities and the results achieved in the field. This is a reflection of the great strides made by FAO for education regarding hunger and malnutrition among the less privileged and handicapped sections of the human fraternity.

Now, Mr. Chairman, while reading this splendid review of the work in the specialized field of the FAO experts, I was looking to find out how much increase there was in the produce of the hungry world as a result of activities of FAO. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, I did not find what I was looking for. I did not find a table indicating or quantifying the facts either in physical or financial terms. There are tables indicating how much funds have been allotted to agriculture, forestry and fisheries related to technical and economic programmes, as for instance in 1977 we see official aid commitments to agriculture, Table 10, and many other tables. It is desirable to know in physical or financial terms, for which correlation is difficult, and there are of course difficulties in preparing tables indicating physical output. Should we not make our Field Programmes more output-oriented? One difficulty of making Field Programmes output-oriented will be as in Table 4 of the document, I mean document C 77/4, I would particularly like to draw your attention to this Table 4 of the document.

Mr, Chairman, if you look at this table of percentage distribution of expenditure on inputs in FAO-assisted field projects, we find that two items amounting to 64 percent of the total non-budgetary expenditure, that is extra-budgetary expenditure, is spent on experts and consultants. If we study this document, it does not indicate any trend, no appreciable change over the past few years. The time of distribution does not reflect any imagination or direction. In 1977 we are almost where we were in 1972, as we find in Table 4, There is, of course, some appreciable change, as against draft fund projects.

While reviewing the field programmes, we should also be very fair about FAO, It was perhaps conceived as a services station or agency, it was created to provide technical assistance through its experts, consultants and other trained personnel. It finds out the causes of hunger, it diagnoses the diseases of poverty and malnutrition. It tries to give a prescription, it is not a hospital nor even a clinic, though it is trying to discharge clinical functions nowadays.

Thirty years ago, we needed a diagnosis centre, but today most countries have advanced in planning, methodological and techniques, so that external assistance is not required that much. But there are demands from developing countries, including our country, for FAO experts. Why is this? It is easier to get funds from the developed countries or UN agencies for those schemes in the preparation of which FAO experts are associated. Any technical assistance agency should aim at developing technical skill in the recipient countries. For exactly this reason, there is the counter referred concept.

But as already pointed out, there does not seem to have been any improvement. The proportion of expenditure of FAO on experts and consultants is as high as it was several years ago. The cost of hiring a good consultant runs as high as \$60 000 a year.

How much money is required to develop a technician and turn him into an expert? We can utilize the scarce resources at the disposal of FAO better if more money is spent on developing technical skill. Fellows, scholars and officers of the least developed countries, studying in American and foreign universities, generally get a maintenance allowance of \$250 to \$300 a month; the Ford Foundation pays a larger amount. The total payment, on fellowships, comes to about \$15 000, and another \$10 000 might be required as teaching fees for four years.

With \$25 000, we can get a PSD or equally qualified person in the technical field whose services may be available to a country for ten to twenty years. Is it not better than having a consultant for three or four months at the same expenditure?



The proportion of expenditure on fellowships, or trust funds, is defined in Table 4 of the document as 3 percent, and average expenditure on training schemes in all FAO-assisted field projects is 6 percent. We consider that the expenditure in this field should be increased as much as possible, maybe to the level of 50 percent. But in that case the valued technical consultancy and advisory services of FAO may not be required after some years, and the consultancy business will gradually be liquidated.

But the technical assistance programme should, by its very nature, be self-liquidating. Fortunately, FAO is not proceeding on that perilous route, but adopted the wiser course of being self-perpetuating, and it can survive well as long as the poor countries remain dependent on FAO for consultancy advice.

We would now like to draw your attention to Table 5 of the document, indicating the country of origin of professional staff engaged on field projects financed by extra-budgetary resources. There are professional staff recruited from many countries, and the appointment of the staff should be primarily on the basis of merit. The developed countries might have more meritorious candidates, and besides, as large donors, they have special claims too. There are no staff from countries like Brazil, Iran, Indonesia, Bangladesh or Nigeria. It only seems fair if professional staff are recruited more or less proportionately, if suitable candidates are available. As 64 percent of the total extra-budgetary fund is spent on experts and consultants, this aspect of the work of FAO is significant.

There is undesirable gossip on FAO premises, and many of the delegates might have heard, while passing through the corridors, about who is whose man and who is selected how, although there is observance of all formalities. The recruitment of professional staff should not be made on the basis of who is connected with whom, and should be more on merit. This might help us to avoid giving rise to unfounded gossip and stories. We hope, under the able and dynamic leadership of our present Director-General, that the image of FAO will improve in this direction.

As we have seen in Appendix E of document C 77/3, the Programme of Work and Budget, \$211 million - the Regular Budget of FAO - was the established budget. We find from Table 4 of document C 77/4 - that is the Review of Field Programmes - that the extra-budgetary expenditure is also primarily an expert and consultant-loaded expenditure. If FAO wants to maintain this consultancy nature, the type of consultancy should change. Instead of providing consultancy and expert services in preparing plans, appraisals and evaluations of the schemes, the shift should be towards business administration and management services. For instance, if a developing nation wants to undertake an irrigation-cum-hydroelectric scheme, FAO may provide consultancy services to the main scheme on a country basis, Mr. Chairman, you will appreciate how easy it is to advise rather than to implement; if the adviser is not asked to implement and translate the advice into practice, it is the finest job in the world. Apart from the foreign advisers, for instance, in our country we do not have a category of experts who do not act and implement but only advise us, to avoid responsibility. The person who knows how to do a job is made to know how to do it rather than how to advise on how to do it.

In the administrative hierarchy in our country, we have no additional secretary or joint secretary, who will only advise but will not take on implementation.

Lastly, I should be failing in my duty if I did not mention the special and privileged position of Bangladesh in the field programmes of FAO. We have always received most-favoured-nation treatment from the FAO experts, consultants, and advisers and all tiers of staff working in the hierarchy at FAO.

D.M. ULNES (Norway): As a general commencing comment, permit me to add my delegation's voice to those who have spoken with appreciation of this comprehensive and illustrative document.

There are several aspects of this review which my delegation would have liked to have commented upon in detail, but in view of the time available I shall limit my present intervention to a few points.

The review document's outline of the effects on FAO's field programmes, inherited through the UNDP crisis, seems to give a fair description and, towards that end, an appropriate description. Although we share the views expressed earlier in this debate by countries like Denmark on the relationship between FAO and the UNDP - a subject which my delegation would like to come back to under a later agenda item - I would like to point out that my delegation appreciates that the UNDP crisis has caused FAO great concern and hardship.

We will even let it go on record that we have sympathy with FAO when it states that, during the crisis, matters could have been handled differently, thus causing less hardship to the planning and operation of FAO field activity.

I would, however, like to point out that this problem is inherent in the lack of a broader resource base in the UNDP, as is stated so well in the Review document, paragraph 1.26, when describing how the trends in extra-budgetary expenditure continue to give rise to concern.

My delegation fully shares this concern, and I would use this opportunity to urge other donor countries -as we did at the last UNDP Pledging Conference, and in the Second Commission of the General Assembly -to increase their contributions to the UNDP, so that its pledging target can be reached.

Now moving on to the next point which relates to FAO's multi-bicooperative arrangements, I should like to say that when my country has given these programmes with FAO such a relatively high priority, in comparison with similar arrangements with other UN agencies, it is first and foremost because we, as a small country with a limited technical capacity, have found that through this cooperation we can make FAO put its great potential for technical assistance to use to an even greater degree, thus enabling us to assist countries which might be difficult to reach by our own bilateral aid.

We have faith in this arrangement, and we assume that FAO will continue to make certain that care will be taken to see that projects are in line with UNDP Country Programmes and government priorities.

We would further express the view that my country prefers to finance projects designed for concrete improvements in individual countries, rather than regional or global projects.

An increased opportunity to support large projects with comprehensive programmes, in order to reduce the large number of small projects that we have been financing lately, and thus afford a link between activities, would also be appreciated.

In concluding, let me make one or two comments of a more specific nature. My delegation fully shares the great emphasis on agriculture which is placed in the field activities. We would, however, appreciate a clearer description in the document as to how directly related the classified projects are with food production and improved nutrition. These words appear frequently in the document.

The assessment of the training activities offers a good insight into FAO's activities in this field, and many comments have been made by previous speakers on this point.

I will go into that but only add one point of importance to us, namely, that training activities should be organized only when effective links with national institutions and programmes are safeguarded.

We fully share the new emphasis on rural development and the need to increasingly assist the rural poor. By doing so, this assistance should take particular care so as to ensure the full involvement of the rural institutions and rural organizations multi-disciplinary manner so that an integrated rural development can take place. One may assume that active involvement of rural populations and their institutions may eventually make up the backbone in the stronger based self-reliance. The forthcoming Conference would probably shed some light on these issues and point to possible avenues to proceed along on this work.

Y. LIKE (Ethiopia): I would also like to follow other speakers in congratulating the Director-General and his staff for the good presentation of the Review of Field Programmes. Rather than going into the details of evaluating the Review itself, which most of the delegates have indicated yesterday, I would simply go into these areas that may not have received as much attention as we would like.

In Chapter 1, we are concerned about the declining trend of fellowships 32 percent lower in 1976 than 1975, I hope the Assistant Director-General might address himself to this area. We feel high-level, for example research officers, and short-term performance improvement type fellowships should be on the upper rather than on a lower trend.

In Chapter 2, it is of particular interest to note the finding in India and other countries on the time it takes on project submission to its approval. It took about 26 months. Yet this led to cost escalations and loss of employment and value associated with the implementation which when weighed against the minor improvement in project design is far superior. I hope this finding will be usefully taken account of not only by FAO but also by other multi-lateral financial institutions and donor agencies and governments.

The importance of moving away from the traditional type technical assistance to appointing of national directors and project managers cannot be over-emphasized, as evidenced by FAO's experience. This does not only contribute to more effective implementation of the project but also assures its continuity.

As is well recognized by FAO and others, continuity of programmes and projects after donor countries and/or agencies have stopped their assistance is at stake. This is not only because of financial outbacks but more importantly local personnel who are not trained to run the operations as efficiently and are not convincing enough to win adequate budgetary reallocations from their governments.

The need for Indicative Planning Figures of 5 years' duration is questioned under the Review. One should be careful on this item. Unless there is indicative planning of uses and resource commitments, it will be difficult to pursue continuous development plans. Ad hoc planning does not lend itself to stimulate achievements, since there is not a planned target to achieve in resource acquisition and use. Nor are long-range policies adhered to under ad hoc planning. The alternative to 5 years Indicative Planning may be a 4-year plan to coincide with the biennium Conferences when programmes and budgets will be discussed and to obtain commitments of financial resources for every two years with disbursements at regular intervals to be agreed upon between donors and FAO managers.

In Chapter 3, the direction of training as proposed by FAO emphasis on middlemen and farmers is commendable and must be pursued. Concrete suggestions in this area will be to assist developing countries to open and run schools in areas where the countries have huge potential for development. These schools may serve both for training of middle-level technicians and where farmers could get basic seminars on most relevant practical oriented areas and where they can see the effects of innovations.

It should be pointed out that emphasis on middlemen and farmers does not mean neglecting high-level staff who are indispensable if technological improvements are to continue and stagnation avoided.

I would like to voice our concern about hardening of the terms of loan and acquisition of lower aid per capita and per hectare of cultivated land by poorer countries and the resultant inadequate investment in these countries. If this is continued, I am afraid it will further contribute to the already too low growth rate of agriculture in these developing countries.

Finally FAO's recognition of the need to establish and strengthen national institutions is highly commendable, for in the final analysis, only through national expertise and endeavours could food production amply be produced and provided for all.

R. GOMEZ RICANO (Cuba): Quisiéramos en primer término felicitar a la Secretaría por habernos brindado el documento C 77/4 relativo al Examen de los Programas de Campo, el cual constituye un valioso aporte a nuestras discusiones, no solo por su presentación, sino también por su contenido. Refleja realmente la situación habida y pone al descubierto los obstáculos que aún deben ser superados para hacer más fructífera y eficaz la labor de la FAO en el marco de la cooperación técnica multilateral.

Ahora bien, deseamos hacer algunos comentarios sobre varios de los aspectos que contempla el documento. En el punto 1.10 referente al número y procedencia de los funcionarios de campo, se puede apreciar como en 1976 la mayoría de éstos provenían de los países desarrollados. Creemos que la FAO debería hacer mayores esfuerzos en la obtención de expertos de los países en desarrollo los cuales, por su origen, están más vinculados a nuestros problemas.

En lo tocante al Capítulo C - Programa de Cooperación Técnica - vemos con satisfacción los esfuerzos que se han realizado hasta el momento y esperamos que para el otoño de 1978 la Secretaría pueda brindar al Consejo un análisis de los resultados obtenidos y la labor realizada.

En lo que respecta a los puntos 2.5 y 2.6, se nos indican los problemas que aún subsisten referentes a que el diseño de los proyectos sigue dejando mucho que desear y la cantidad de meses que se han necesitado desde la identificación de un proyecto hasta su aprobación y puesta en marcha. Estos problemas los conocemos y estimamos que la Organización hará sus mayores esfuerzos para eliminarlos o por lo menos disminuirlos en el próximo bienio. No obstante, deseamos señalar dos cuestiones relativas a los resultados de un proyecto. En primer lugar, se observa cómo lamentablemente muchos proyectos que finalizan su fase de ejecución, con resultados satisfactorios en un país, no se extienden luego masivamente en el territorio en cuestión, trayendo consigo que la asistencia técnica ofrecida no logra su mayor alcance y repercusión; y en segundo lugar, que en la mayoría de los informes finales realizados por los expertos al término de un proyecto no se incluyen recomendaciones que permitan lo anterior. Esperamos que en el próximo bienio se tengan en cuenta estas cuestiones y se hagan esfuerzos por subsanarlas.

Asimismo, se deberán realizar esfuerzos para erradicar los obstáculos básicos que se señalan desde el punto 2.33 hasta el 2.40 todos los cuales se deben -por una parte- a trabas de contenido burocrático, y por otra, a las consecuencias del subdesarrollo impuesto a nuestros países, producto de las políticas coloniales y neocoloniales que aún, desafortunadamente, subsisten en muchos países.

En lo referente a la dirección nacional de los proyectos, vemos con agrado cómo ya en algunos países en desarrollo los directores de proyectos son nacionales de esos países. En la región de América Latina, nuestro país ha sido pionero en esta modalidad, obteniéndose resultados satisfactorios. Esto se ha debido a que, si un director es nacional de su propio país, se encuentra más estrechamente vinculado a sus problemas y a la vez se compenetra de forma más directa con la Organización en su calidad de funcionario internacional. Esperamos que en el próximo bienio la FAO pueda ampliar esta actividad de manera significativa, sobre todo en lo que toca a los países en desarrollo.

Referente a la capacitación agrícola, pesquera y forestal, saludamos los esfuerzos realizados por la FAO que por demás se hacen evidentes en el documento objeto de debate. No obstante, esperamos que la Organización haga mayores empeños por aumentar el número de becas para el próximo bienio, si se tiene en cuenta que en el actual ha disminuido en gran medida con relación al anterior; así como que la capacitación -en general- se extiende cada día más hacia los trabajadores que están más directamente vinculados a estas tres ramas. Al respecto, se deberá hacer énfasis en la capacitación de la mujer, no sólo en lo que respecta a las labores domésticas, sino fundamentalmente hacia el logro de su plena incorporación a la producción, permitiéndole hacer el papel que le corresponde en el desarrollo económico y social de sus países.

En lo tocante a la Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo, vemos con satisfacción los esfuerzos realizados que se nos mencionan desde el párrafo 4.40 hasta el 4.46. Sobre esto nos referiremos en detalle cuando se debata el tema en cuestión.

No queremos finalizar sin reiterar nuestro reconocimiento a la labor realizada por la Organización que cada día deberá estar más orientada hacia la puesta en práctica de los postulados del nuevo Orden Económico Internacional.

J.D. KEITA (Mali): Je voudrais faire deux commentaires, le premier sur le choix des experts à envoyer sur le terrain, et le deuxième sur la gestion des projets. En ce qui concerne le choix des experts, il est temps que la FAO désigne des experts connaissant le terrain. Pour cela il est nécessaire d'avoir des consultations dans la région ou dans la zone. A mon avis, il est grand temps de transférer la décision du recrutement des experts, du siège de la FAO aux organes régionaux, voire même aux organes nationaux, car désormais la FAO aura des représentants dans beaucoup de pays.

En ce qui concerne la gestion, on parle toujours de décentralisation mais je vais vous donner des exemples qui vont vous montrer qu'en définitive on ne voit vraiment pas ce qui va être décentralisé parce qu'en fait, tout part de Rome et tout revient à Rome, et cette situation est souvent très gênante pour l'exécution de nombreux projets de la FAO. Je vais vous donner un exemple à partir de deux commentaires.

Il s'agit d'un projet de développement régional de la pêche continentale basé à Mopti.

En novembre 1974, il y a déjà trois ans, une réunion organisée par l'ASFIS, financée par l'UNSO, et préparée par la FAO, a décidé à Bamako de mettre en place un centre supérieur de formation en matière de pêche pour l'ensemble des pays de la zone sahélienne. Il s'agit bien de pêche continentale. La réunion a donc chargé l'ASFIS et l'UNSO de préparer la deuxième phase, qui consistait à formuler le projet, c'est-à-dire à organiser la manière dont l'école serait instituée. Le premier embryon d'institution de recherche va être mis en place et nous sommes maintenant à cette phase de formulation. Nous avons, à cette phase, un expert principal et des experts consultants. L'expert principal arrive à Bamako. Et tous les jours, sans qu'il en soit averti, des experts arrivent de Rome avec un itinéraire déjà préparé qui n'a rien à voir avec le travail qui devrait être fait. On leur dit d'aller à Nouakchott, alors que souvent il n'y a pas d'avions qui puissent assurer la correspondance. Cette question des voyages soulève véritablement une montagne de problèmes.

Ensuite, et c'est le plus grave, on nous envoie des experts qui font des rapports qui, même au temps des explorateurs, n'auraient pu être acceptés. Il en ressort, en effet, qu'à Mopti, il n'y a pas de ferment intellectuel, alors qu'à Mopti il y a un grand projet de développement de la pisciculture financé par la Banque mondiale avec cinq experts; il y a un projet de recherche avec deux experts financés également par la Banque mondiale; il y a un projet de développement de la pêche avec cinq experts italiens. Il y a donc beaucoup de projets à Mopti, qui est la deuxième ville du Mali, et qui est reliée à deux aéroports internationaux par des routes qui vont à Bamako et à Bobodioulasso. Après tout cela, on doute encore qu'il y ait un ferment intellectuel. En conclusion, il faut trouver un autre endroit pour implanter l'école.

Le plus grave c'est que les services du département des pêches de la FAO se font l'écho de ces rapports, et nous sommes en train de nous demander si, en fin de compte, le projet sera exécuté ou non.

Cette situation est extrêmement grave parce que, dans le cadre du Club du Sahel, nous avons demandé une aide à beaucoup de sources de financement. En particulier, les pays nordiques comme la Norvège, le Danemark, la Suède, sont prêts à intervenir dans le cadre de notre Club, mais ils disent qu'ils ne peuvent le faire que par l'intermédiaire de la FAO, ce qui est peut-être tout à fait normal. Comme le délégué du Danemark vient de le dire, ils ne disposent pas de suffisamment d'experts pour établir des relations bilatérales avec le pays.

Je voudrais que ces problèmes puissent être réglés, que dorénavant on tienne compte des organisations régionales de la FAO pour que l'on n'envoie plus sur le terrain des experts qui demandent le transfert de projets, déjà adoptés par l'ensemble des gouvernements, de la zone sahélienne à Paris ou à New York.

Je voudrais attirer votre attention sur cette question et je vous remercie.

E. RICO MEJIA (Colombia): Me complace mucho declarar que para nuestro país ha sido muy útil no sólo este documento de orientación que tenemos a la vista sobre los programas de campo de FAO, sino la cooperación que hemos recibido de la Organización a través de los expertos que han ido a nuestro país. Debo admitir que buena parte del éxito en las tareas depende también de la calidad de la contraparte, o de los expertos nacionales.

Si nosotros exigimos a la FAO expertos de alto nivel y ponemos al lado de ellos técnicos nacionales de buena calidad, los proyectos pueden marchar muy bien, como está ocurriendo en nuestro país con tres proyectos: uno de tecnología de alimentos, una planta piloto en la producción de leche, procesamiento de la leche; un matadero piloto también experimental y de enseñanza; y los proyectos o programas de desarrollo ganadero y de planificación agrícola.

Si bien tenemos muchas necesidades en estos campos, hemos avanzado bastante y la FAO ha colaborado bien con nosotros en estos terrenos, pero hemos sido exigentes al grado máximo y seguiremos siéndolo. Sabemos que FAO puede conseguir en cualquier momento para cualquier actividad los técnicos más calificados; si no fuera así es porque no se han tomado las necesarias precauciones o porque en el país recipiente de la ayuda de FAO no se ha cuidado al máximo grado el que esos expertos estén al nivel que les debe corresponder.

Repito que nosotros somos celosos en esto de la calidad del personal que va a trabajar con nosotros en terrenos especializados y no podemos más que reconocerlo aquí públicamente, pero cada día seremos más exigentes porque si bien tenemos grandes deficiencias, el hecho de ser conscientes de ellas nos da la autoridad para exigir técnicos de muy altas calificaciones, y de ello es claro ejemplo los resultados de los trabajos hechos en otros países mencionados aquí por representantes de Chile y Nicaragua en donde se han resuelto en poco tiempo problemas muy graves, y como estamos seguros que podremos hacerlo en el futuro cuando, y ojalá nunca ocurra, se presente en Colombia la roya del café o cualquier otra enfermedad en el campo animal o vegetal. Confiamos, pues, en que en la FAO podremos encontrar cuando lo requiramos la colaboración técnica necesaria; será preciso que la exijamos, que la solicitemos oportuna y directamente y con claro concepto de esa necesidad.

B. BABA (Tchad): Si j'avais demandé hier à intervenir au sujet du programme de terrain, c'est qu'un point mérite l'attention de la FAO et des organismes qui aident les pays en voie de développement.

Quand on parle d'agriculture, on a toujours tendance à dissocier celle-ci de la foresterie. Or, c'est une grave erreur que l'on commet dans les pays en voie de développement, pour la simple raison que ces deux départements sont complémentaires. Je vais illustrer cette affirmation par quelques exemples précis concernant les programmes de terrain.

Il y a lieu de penser que le support de l'agriculture est la foresterie dans les pays en voie de développement, pour la simple raison que ce soit dans le Sahel où beaucoup de gens meurent de faim en ce moment ou souffrent à cause du manque de couvert végétal, ou dans la zone soudanienne où l'élevage ne peut s'installer parce qu'il soulève des problèmes délicats.

L'agriculture déboise toujours davantage dans les zones soudanaises, elle en fait également dans le Sahel pour quelques cultures de subsistance sans penser que sans le couvert végétal, la terre arable, qui se dégradera très vite, ne peut plus subvenir à ses besoins, c'est-à-dire lui procurer du mil ou autres aliments indispensables et nécessaires.

besoin du couvert végétal pendant la saison sèche où il n'y a rien pour nourrir son bétail. Or, si nous laissons de côté la foresterie dans la zone marginale, on enlève à l'élevage ce qui pour le moment favorise son développement.

Donc le programme forestier a un rôle très important dans le Sahel et tous ceux de l'élevage doivent être appuyés par lui agissant directement sur le couvert végétal par la mise en défense et des aménagements sylvo-pastoraux ou indirectement grâce à la cueillette de la gomme arabique dont les débouchés sont sûrs et qui ne nécessite pas beaucoup d'efforts à l'éleveur en lui procurant des devises.

En troisième lieu, il y a la pêche. Tout le Sahel regorge de poisson parce que nous avons des lacs et des rivières très poissonneux. Or, nous avons dit qu'il faut conserver le poisson parce qu'il faut éviter les pertes. A l'heure actuelle, le pêcheur a besoin de bois pour fumer son poisson, et nous avons une pénurie de bois dans ces zones. Nous avons des zones où il n'existe même pas de bois. Les pêcheurs doivent prendre les bouses de vaches pour fumer les poissons, ce qui fait que l'agriculture ne peut utiliser ces bouses pour fertiliser le sol. C'est un deuxième élément pour le support à la pêche. Il faut du bois pour fumer le poisson afin de l'exporter, le conserver, et éventuellement préserver la bouse, qui sert à fertiliser le sol pour l'agriculture.

Comme vous le voyez, nous avons tendance à dissocier l'élevage, l'agriculture et la foresterie.

Ce que je demanderai à la FAO et aux autres organismes, c'est qu'ils mettent l'accent sur les programmes intégrés. Tout projet agricole doit au préalable passer au crible tous les aspects de la question pour voir si on ne peut pas établir un petit programme, ne serait-ce que le dixième du projet en question, de projet forestier. Ceci nous éviterait des surprises dans le futur puisque vous savez qu'à l'heure actuelle dans les zones dont je parle, que ce soit la zone sahélienne ou soudanaise, le déboisement est un problème crucial. Tous les Etats en voie de développement luttent mais ils ne peuvent réussir seuls. Un arbre a besoin de trente ans, cinquante ans, pour grandir, mais il suffit de trente minutes pour le couper et on ne pense pas à le remplacer. Or, vous savez que la pluie devient rare en ce moment. Le climat est changé. Tout cela a des conséquences sur la végétation.

C'est pour cela que j'attire l'attention ici, pour qu'au lieu de faire des projets agricoles à part, il y ait lieu de penser à faire des projets intégrés, pour que les trois départements puissent travailler ensemble et puissent éviter d'éparpiller leurs efforts.

G. CHACON (Ecuador): Indudablemente que el documento C 77/4 presentado por el señor Director General es un análisis bastante detenido de la labor que ha cumplido la FAO en el bienio que estamos terminando.

Considero yo que los países en general deben pedir la cooperación internacional en aquellos campos para los que realmente tienen problemas prioritarios. Indudablemente, en la escala de desarrollo esto varía entre la cooperación eminentemente técnica o la colaboración financiera, pero yo creo, como aquí se ha manifestado antes, que la primera obligación para promover un proyecto corresponde al país y luego a los organismos oferentes de la cooperación.

En el campo de la capacitación, considero que el experto internacional prioritariamente debe dedicarse a la transferencia de tecnología a contrapartes nacionales igualmente seleccionadas con rigurosidad por sus respectivos gobiernos. Debe enfatizarse este aspecto porque pretender que un experto internacional sea el que va a llevar en forma masiva la transferencia tecnológica al campesinado es algo que no podría realmente lograrse en el corto tiempo que un experto internacional permanece en un país.

Al hablar de capacitación se habla que en algunos casos se enfatiza en el establecimiento de centros de capacitación para campesinos o para técnicos, para la mujer, y esto es una de las ayudas más importantes que la FAO puede conseguir de organismos bilaterales de ayuda o de fondos del PNUD, porque realmente con estos centros de entrenamiento los países ya pueden realmente organizar programas sistematizados de capacitación masiva a cargo de personal nacional.

Quiero aquí hacer un aparte de que al hablar de la capacitación del agricultor, de la mujer, realmente estamos soslayando un aspecto importantísimo en nuestros países en desarrollo: es la capacitación de la juventud. Hace diez años en Toronto, con el auspicio de la Massey-Ferguson, la FAO organizó una conferencia en la que se hicieron las promesas más optimistas para promover el mejoramiento en la educación de la juventud y ¿qué es lo que ha transcurrido en esta década? podemos decir que como resultado quizá la indiferencia de organismos internacionales y del propio país; el éxodo del medio campesino a las ciudades va en aumento. Sería muy conveniente tomar en consideración esto cuando se organicen o se efectúen los preparativos para la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural-

Por otra parte, yo creo que las oficinas regionales y los propios países deben organizar sistemas adecuados de supervisión y control de los proyectos y programas de campo. Al momento, en muchos casos ha estado esto un poco desordenado y creo que esta sería una de las formas para lograr la mayor eficiencia y corregir defectos en los planes de operaciones.

Otro aspecto importante, que es una sugerencia en esta Comisión, es estandarizar el período o la época en que deben presentarse los informes periódicos de un proyecto. En algunos casos es trimestral, en otros cuatrimestral y semestral. Eso muchas veces no está de conformidad con la organización administrativa o financiera de un país. Sería bueno que la FAO adopte algún sistema para la presentación de estos informes y poder, entonces, sacar conclusiones útiles para los compromisos de contrapartida de cada país.

Por parte de nuestro país, Ecuador, estamos satisfechos del apoyo que FAO nos ha brindado, principalmente en los proyectos con PNUD, en los programas de cooperación técnica en los que ha habido dinamismo, agilidad, preocupación, y también vale mencionar aquí con especial deferencia el Programa de Seguridad Alimentaria que nos ha ayudado de la mejor manera posible.

R.W.M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): There are two points on which we may be able to make some additional contribution to the debate.

Firstly, on the question of training: C 77/4 brings up the question of the leakages which occur in training programmes in the recipient countries, and the difficulties of finding local, national experts in the same occupations after completion of their training. This seems to be a common problem to all governments. All government departments suffer leakages in their personnel to private enterprise, to international bodies, and to consultants -it seems to be a feature of bureaucratic organizations, and it certainly happens in my own Department. Nevertheless, a positive suggestion could well be that the philosophy of training, the philosophy of FAO programmes and training, could be broadened a little by greater integration of FAO training programmes with national educational programmes. It seems to me that we must see training as a national programme with the common good as an objective, and it may be that agriculture and the agricultural sector is not the sole gainer from these particular types of programmes.

My second point is on the Review itself. I notice from the document that 141 assessments were carried out in this particular biennium, and looking back at C 75/4 that there were 337 assessments carried out in that period.

Looking at Table 3 of C 77/4, I calculate that there are 1 508 current projects receiving FAO support, and my arithmetic tells me therefore that approximately 9 percent of projects were assessed in the biennium. I want to ask the Secretariat, what would be the norm? - what would be a programme of assessment in the future? - is nine percent low? - high? - or just what? Obviously, each project does not need to be reviewed every biennium: projects have greatly different life periods. Nevertheless, there must be some kind of norm that we could probably accept in the next biennium, which would tell us how many projects we would expect to see assessed at our next Conference.

D, LINDORES (Canada): I would like to make some brief comments concerning the relationship between UNDP and FAO. We are all familiar with the crisis of 1975 which, due to a variety of complex factors, led to the drastic and unpleasant measures taken by UNDP in early 1976. Admittedly, although I say "complex factors", I think we all feel that with certain managerial and management improvements, many of the measures which had to be taken at that time could have been avoided. It must however be remembered that the primary reason for the financial crisis of 1975 was an extraordinarily high level of expenditure in 1975, which resulted in a total depletion of UNDP's financial resources. As a result, the UNDP Governing Council instructed the Administrator in 1976 and 1977 to err on the side of the conservative in order to ensure that the programme would, first, survive, and secondly would re-establish its financial integrity. It was quickly identified that one of the primary problems of UNDP in terms of its meeting the legitimate acceptance for financing all specialized agencies in the field of technical cooperation was the lack of a proper management information system. In the opinion of my delegation, this diagnosis was correct, and we believe that such a system is essential to the future health of UNDP, and that the future health of UNDP cannot be divorced from the health of technical cooperation within the United Nations system as a whole.

As a result of this need for a revised, expanded management information system, a number of governments, including Canada, have made special contributions to UNDP to permit the establishment and development of a new system, aimed initially at improving the internal operations of UNDP, secondly, at improved

coordination with executing agencies, and eventually with linking all these organizations and the field officers in some kind of central and common system. This project is currently proceeding with the full involvement of IBRD and ILO as cooperating executing agencies. It is the opinion of my delegation that this project is critical to the efficient management of technical cooperation in the United Nations system. We would urge the full cooperation of FAO with UNDP in this endeavour to ensure, firstly, that FAO's interests are properly taken into account in the development of the system, and secondly, that UNDP's role as central financing institution for technical cooperation in the United Nations system can be properly fulfilled.

S.H. AL-SHAKIR (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): Several of my colleagues have spoken about the different points "before us this morning, concerning Field Programmes, and obviously I too would like to congratulate the Secretariat on its excellent document which opens the way to us for effective action, positive in nature, in the development of Field Programmes, and we are convinced that Field Programmes are the corner stones of any effort made by FAO.

My delegation would like to make some comments particularly about regional projects. These regional projects are the result of the interest which Member States have in establishing a specific programme at regional level. That is why the countries of that particular region have got together and asked FAO for aid and support, thanks to the Field Programme, in order to be able to solve some of their difficulties. Regional programmes therefore in our view are the best possible proof of cooperation between the countries of the region on one hand, and the countries of that region and FAO on the other.

Now with respect to these regional programmes and the restrictions and the difficulties that they have to face, we must work in order to overcome all obstacles and have an assessment of regional programmes which will involve the parties concerned. We think that there is an inherent contradiction in the way these programmes are run or managed, especially those programmes carried out within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme of which our share is \$5 million. Only 0.03 per cent has been used. I think we will have to look at this and see why the managing of that programme has failed, and put it right, so that the TCP can benefit all countries of the region. We must also give the management of these programmes a little more flexibility so as to take account of the conditions and environment of each programme. Obviously we have to fix a ceiling with a specific objective for these programmes. We are convinced of the opinion that the beneficial countries, the donor countries, ought to be given absolute priority in collaboration with FAO.

Turning to investments, we support this. Investments must lead to increased experience and be based on a study which will take account of the prevailing situation in any country. The studies must be carried out before any investment is provided for.

Turning to the problem of training, we think job training will mean that the training progress is at the right rate. Obviously we do like to send trainees abroad, but when they are sent abroad they must work in ecological environments similar to their own and the one in which they are going to work when they come back home. To sum up, we must overcome all these kinds of obstacles that the programmes have to face together with the help of countries concerned. We are still convinced that the programmes should be implemented in accordance with the National Development Plan. This is very necessary. Unfortunately though we have noticed that the implementation of national and regional programmes are being delayed because of their management, so we would like to ask FAO to assess, together with the countries concerned, these programmes, whether they be national or regional, and whether they are being financed solely by FAO or UNDP or the regional development funds.

We must strengthen the national bureaux and offices. We give them our support and FAO must too, because this will enable both national and regional programmes to progress.

Turning now to the question of experts, we feel that they're vital in any undertaking of this nature which is why we wholeheartedly approve what was said by the Representatives of Cuba, Bangladesh and Mali, with respect to Project Managers and experts and the need to ask the advice of the country concerned when recruiting experts: we are sure that capable and competent experts, and experts who are really keen to work in the conditions prevailing in a specific country will mean that the field programmes are implemented all the better. Quite clearly there are one or two drawbacks. They will have to be remedied.

We must also make sure to make the best possible use of national experience and national institutions, especially when drawing up feasibility studies, and also in the sequel to be given to these programmes.



There is another point which has not been mentioned yet and that is the participation of OPEC countries. Since we too are members of OPEC we would like to say that we do not like paragraph 4.27 to 4.60. The OPEC countries have given 50 per cent of the OPEC special fund to IFAD and we all know that IFAD is going to provide aid on rather flexible and concessionary terms to developing countries. Bilateral aid provided by different funds, different development funds of the regions don't pay their share in the form of scholarship or actual cash, or gifts, and even if the aid is given in the form of cash it is only provided on concessionary terms. Let us not forget that 3.8 per cent of the OPEC aid is given to developing countries, so the actual volume of aid, compared to the aid coming from developed countries or international financing institutions, is really very large, especially since aid is given on concessionary terms. These are the points I wanted to make, Mr. Chairman, apart from the support that I give to what was said by previous speakers when they spoke about project management, experts and the delays that occur in their implementation. Thank you.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): It seems I am in a privileged position being the last speaker - I can benefit from other people's experience. I have little to say at this stage, just a few remarks. First, my delegation is very happy to see greater involvement of FAO in the preparation of projects for financing. That is the kind of practical approach beyond purely technical assistance we feel very effective. We are happy to see a very large number of projects, for instance in agriculture, financed by the World Bank, have been prepared by FAO or at least FAO has been heavily involved in their preparation. We are happy to see such kind of development and, of course, we feel that resources of FAO for this kind of action should be reinforced, and we very much hope in the next biennium larger resources will be devoted for that kind of work support and preparation of projects. That is the first remark.

The second remark is that after barely a year of operation of the TCP we have already a rather remarkable record of achievements. We have already seen that our support for TPC was fully justified in a sense that the technical preparation programme of FAO is performing an additional role, very useful and necessary in the domain of technical assistance by quick action.

In addition to the programmes and projects financed by UNDP, the special character of TPC has already emerged in the actual operation of TPC. Remember this is the first year of life. Within Brazil we have had very happy experience already with TPC and we feel already in our experience that TPC is fully justified. In Brazil a number of projects are being carried on, especially in the domain of marketing, not only with fisheries. That is the kind of concentration we have used TCP for. Thus far we very much hope for TPC that very large resources will be used in the next biennium, so that this particular programme can be reinforced progressively in full coordination with other inputs of the UN system for technical assistance, especially with UNDP.

As far as the level of resources, I have already commented upon the fact that the level of resources of TCP for Latin America has been rather low, and we hope our region, which I think has barely over 16 per cent of resources to TCP, should benefit in larger amount from the programme in percentage terms. As far as the overall implementation of field programmes is concerned, we feel that FAO has been doing a good job in terms of using, for instance, national institutions, but still - as I commented before - more use of those institutions of developing countries could be made in the domain of research, training and consultants, for instance.

We also feel that in a number of cases the procurement of equipment should be made in the developing countries to a much larger extent. Also, experts from the developing countries should be used by the FAO in different programmes at field level.

As far as coordination is concerned, which we understand by reading the recommendation is a major point of concern, we feel this is first of all a concern which must be ensured at country level. The coordination agencies in FAO, with other agencies, have to make an effort to improve coordination. As far as we are concerned, we are happy with coordination at the Brazilian level, in our own country, of the different inputs of different agencies. But we feel, to make the point clear, that it is basically a question for the country concerned. We also feel that it is an important point, since there are several references in the document before us and particularly the main document before us on priorities and it is important that we recognise that priorities for technical assistance and field programmes must be defined by the countries recipient themselves. After all, the technical assistance component and the foreign assistance for technological development is a very small part of a much larger national effort. Therefore, priorities have to be seen in the total context of the national and external international inputs into development and progress and planning. This point, in our view, is quite important.

On the levels of resources, my delegation has already had an opportunity to comment yesterday in Commission I that the flows of external resources for agriculture have somehow diminished in 1976. This is quite clear in the main document before us. They have diminished in terms of quantity and also, at the same time, they have deteriorated as regards conditions, which is even more significant, since agriculture is a sector which cannot hold foreign external financial flows if the conditions are heavy and difficult.

In order to avoid progressive indebtedness it is very important that flows of financial resources are adequate, and also that the conditions are compatible with the requirements and conditions of developing countries. The terms of lending must be compatible.

A final point, probably more of a drafting nature, is the comment on page 31 of the English text of the main document on Country Programming. We feel that paragraph 2.51 perhaps reflects a too critical approach on Country programming. While we have to approach the subject with certain qualifications, it is sometimes still a valid exercise in terms of presenting a rational approach to the different inputs for technical assistance and technological transfers to the developing countries. We feel that the idea of indicative planning figures on a five year term is still valid. It was introduced in 1969 or the early 1970's, and in spite of the difficulties that have emerged lately as a consequence of the financial constraints of the UNDP, it is still a valid approach, and the developing recipient countries have much to gain in having some idea of the planning of what are external inputs, to complement their own internal efforts.

There are constraints and difficulties, for instance in paragraph 2.51 there is the suggestion that as the resources are pledged on an annual basis, the validity of indicative planning figures is limited. I would put it the other way around: the idea of country programming and indicative planning figures on five year terms was precisely to give an incentive to some preplanning of resources on the part of donor countries, and, of course, there are limitations on the process, but it is still a valid effort.

However, perhaps my observations on paragraph 2.51 show that I have read it in too critical a manner, I recognize the limitations of the exercise, but it is still valid, with these qualifications.

These are all the points I have at the moment, but I would like to make others at a later stage of deliberations.

A. BIN YUNUS (Malaysia): My delegation does not propose to go into the details of the document on Field Programmes, which is highly commendable. We only wish to voice our view on the selection of experts for the field programmes. In this respect, my delegation shares the sentiments expressed by several delegations. Malaysia would like to see more care being exercised in the selection of experts, so that the candidates are really appropriate in all respects for the projects envisaged.

We hope that FAO will give this matter its serious attention.

A. NDEGEYA (Rwanda): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais tout d'abord vous adresser les félicitations de la délégation rwandaise, étant donné que c'est la première fois que nous avons l'occasion d'intervenir dans ce débat. Mon intention est de me limiter à deux points précis du document C 77/4 "Examen des Programmes de terrain".

1. J'exprime ici la satisfaction de la délégation rwandaise quant à la rapidité et l'efficacité du PCT. Grâce à lui, nous avons pu mettre en route un projet d'élevage avicole. Nous avons l'intention de recourir encore au PCT pour quelques autres actions urgentes. Ce que nous souhaitons, c'est que les Fonds du PCT soient augmentés, étant donné que les projets susceptibles de ressortir du PCT sont très nombreux dans tous les pays en développement.

2. Ma délégation attache une grande importance à la gestion des projets sur le plan national (Chapitre II, 2.42). Les Directeurs nationaux des projets bénéficiant de l'aide de la FAO sont très souhaitables. Cela correspond en fait à une approche positive du problème de la décentralisation pour une efficacité accrue des programmes de terrain. Nul doute que cela permettra de "coller" réellement à la réalité des pays assistés par la FAO. La nomination des Directeurs nationaux dans des projets assistés par la FAO doit cependant respecter certains critères dont le plus important est l'efficacité. La qualité des experts est très importante. Tous les pays possèdent maintenant des experts nationaux de haut niveau. C'est parmi eux qu'il faudrait choisir et éviter surtout des choix plus politiques que techniques. <sup>1/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

K. CHOUERI (Liban): Je voudrais formuler quelques brèves remarques sur le sujet qui nous occupe. La délégation de mon pays ne peut qu'exprimer ses félicitations pour l'importance des activités de terrain déployées par notre Organisation, et les secteurs qu'elle a couverts au cours du biennium 1976-77.

De nombreux orateurs ont souligné la valeur du document que nous examinons, qui est clair, précis et bien présenté. A notre tour, nous louons les efforts entrepris dans ce sens par le Directeur général.

Certaines délégations ont réclamé l'exécution d'activités déterminées au cours des prochaines années. Certaines ont insisté sur la formation professionnelle, les aspirations futures, le recours aux organismes nationaux, etc.

Je ne peux que me référer au projet de programme soumis par le Directeur général, et qui a été positivement commenté par les délégations au cours des séances précédentes.

Ma délégation voudrait restreindre ses remarques au problème du choix des experts, sans aborder les autres activités qui ont fait, ici même, l'objet de nombreux commentaires.

Ma délégation estime que le choix des experts doit s'effectuer sans tenir compte de leur appartenance à la région, au siège, ou à tout autre organisme. Les seuls critères qui doivent entrer en ligne de compte devraient être les hautes qualités de l'expert, qu'il pourrait mettre au service du pays où il est appelé à déployer son activité.

Nous disons qu'il n'est pas possible de parvenir à des résultats positifs lorsqu'il est fait appel à l'aide de l'Organisation que si un appui et une collaboration sont obtenus sur le plan national. Une complémentarité d'action pourra alors être réalisée par une meilleure exécution des projets. <sup>1/</sup>

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): May I say, on behalf of the Secretariat, that we are indeed very grateful for the very detailed and constructive interventions. It would be impossible for me, and would go far beyond the time available, if I were to try to comment on each of them.

Many opened new fields for analysis in the next Review of Field Programmes, and I hope you will trust that we will base ourselves firmly on your interests in exploring new avenues in the next review.

I shall limit myself to replying to direct questions or remarking on issues on which special concern has been expressed. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will not, myself deal with issues brought up on the question of training, but will ask Mr. Mhajan to refer to them, neither will I speak on TCDC, reserving comments on some interventions until we take up that item.

I realize that to point out certain lacks of success in a public document like the Review tends to overshadow any subsequent reporting of success. Perhaps this has been true in regard to the discussion on Chapter 2, the Assessment of Field Programmes. But we think that the overall results of the assistance we execute are favourable. The 151 projects reviewed, which were taken up at random, may or may not have been fully representative of the whole field programme. What is important is that they all focus on the reasons for those failures which the Review has tried to identify. When I say "all", I mean the representatives of the three parties to which the delegate of Jordan referred: the beneficiaries, the executing agency, and the funding organization.

This is why, in my initial statement, I recalled the concern expressed by the Programme Committee that the Review's findings had not apparently received sufficient attention by the three parties it was addressed to. However, may I say that I have been encouraged that this time several delegates from developing countries have acknowledged their own role in this partnership, and referred extensively to it.

I would hope that this whole exercise of the Review will help our partners in the Field Programmes, the beneficiaries and the donors, to take corrective measures in regard to policies and procedures which compromise the impact of projects and programmes. We sincerely try to make take these measures on our side.

On this line, let me say that the Programme of Work and Budget you have considered carries major provisions to strengthen the backstopping function of the technical divisions. Field activities are a clear priority for the Director-General and in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget we were under clear, very definite instructions to provide inter-divisional estimates and adequate technical back-stopping for the field programmes. We believe that the deficiencies that we noted ourselves in the Review will be overcome.

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<sup>1/</sup> Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Regarding the various interventions focused on poverty orientation and basic needs, let me assure you that with the admonition from the Director-General, expressed in paragraph 37 of his Introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget, that we should avoid paternalistic attitudes that ignore the responsibilities of governments, and bearing in mind that it is for the governments to decide who takes care of first priorities, and that other needs may be essential for the government to be able to tackle these first priorities, our overwhelming concern is for the poorer among the countries, and among the people, and for the problems of food production. However, how to reach the most needy is a problem that is not solved, in all its implications - not by us, not by any of the organizations in the system. But it is in the minds of all of us, in trying to design our projects.

In this respect, we would ask the next Review to assess the achievements of rural developments. I want to recall to your memory our assessment of area development projects in the last Review, which also went that way, but necessarily in the next review, in some manner, we shall have to look again at rural development projects and their inputs.

Let me now come to more direct questions or issues. I would like to refer specifically to a few of those issues that were emphasized. They were mainly the use of experts, their duty station, the source of supply of equipment, and the question of further financial assistance after the termination of a project, which was brought up by the delegate of Chad. Additionally, I would like to say a few words on the question of management information between the agencies of the United Nations system and the UNDP, brought up by the delegate of Canada, and also to reply to the delegate of New Zealand about our plans for the next assessment.

With regard to the use of experts, I can assure you that the Organization welcomes new forms of technical assistance. It could not be otherwise, because the whole pattern of demand of the developing countries - the beneficiaries - is gradually changing with their having new technical capabilities themselves, institutions that can do much of the work that has to be done. Of course, the pattern changes, the system has geared itself for this change, up to the case where we welcome the full execution of projects by governments themselves, if this is their choice. The successful experiments that have been carried out on the use of national project managers are another indication, and another is that we have more and more expert-less projects.

However, let me tell you that these decisions, which result in a new form of project rather than the traditional, are decisions in which the main voice is that of the government, and are taken at the time when the project document is being formulated. But here a voice of warning. There is a very important study going on under the aegis of the Joint Inspection Unit, at the request of the Governing Council of the UNDP, on the cost and use of experts. To our relative surprise, we find that the returns from the very interesting questionnaires sent to governments of beneficiary countries show that the pattern of change away from traditional forms with expatriate long-term experts is going to be rather slow.

We still foresee for the next few years large demand under the old form, though we know that the pattern is changing, and we feel it exactly in our execution, in our operations.

An explanation, Mr. Chairman: several delegates and especially Bangladesh mentioned, looking at the figures we provided, the top-heavy component of experts in projects. Some of our figures are misleading. It applies also - Mr. Mahajan will refer to it - to the question of fellowships, because due to the UNDP crisis, cuts were made in projects where cuts could be made. For example, fellowships were cut in many cases, but much more equipment was cut, and this gave a greater relevance than to what was more difficult and more expensive to cut, which was experts. The question was brought up about duty stations and whether our experts are in the rural areas or not. Let me again tell you that we are satisfied that by and large they are in the rural areas. In a previous study made for the UNDP on cost of experts, what came out very clearly is that with regard to travel mobilization, the FAO experts were the most expensive in the system because they are in the rural area and they did require for liaison purposes and even, if you like, for their own welfare to travel to the capital, while projects of other organizations are more necessarily in well-populated centres.

We made a close examination, and of course, there are institution building projects, there are planning projects, etc, which are located in capitals, those have the projects in capitals, it is estimated that about 75 percent of the experts are in the rural areas.

With regard to the source of supply of equipment, which has been mentioned many times, I have an easy reply, but I will contradict myself, and that is that there are attitudinal barriers on the part of the receiving nations. On this I will return when we speak about TCDC. There is on the part of the receiving nations a desire to receive equipment of well-known brands from industries of developed countries, etc. This is true, but on the other hand, I cannot deny that in purchase we have an overwhelming influence; we purchase. Now, are we doing enough to change this pattern? I do not have an easy reply, but we identify

the problem. There is in UNDP now an experiment going on with regard to a more coordinated purchase of equipment, and we have a Working Group on that, and I will allow myself to suggest that the studies that have been made by this Group include this issue.

As I mentioned, Bangladesh and also in a way Cuba brought up the question of some kind of an assistance for the continuation of a project that is being turned over to the counterpart organization or counterparts, and there are various problems sometimes involved. One of them, financial, is: is the government ready to carry on?

The other one has to do with reports mentioned by Cuba. Let me take the latter point. I can tell you that we have gone through an exhaustive exercise the whole of this year on reporting, and I am very confident that you will notice appreciable improvement in the value of our reports, which, on the other hand, will not result in added expense to the Organization, as we will be much more selective, and we have together with the UNDP, in the case of UNDP, but it is applicable to all the donors, we have now come to realise how important it is to plan the reporting at the same time as we plan the project together with the government, that the whole process of the project execution must be properly accompanied' by an agreed plan of reporting, both on technical matters and the terminal report, so we expect great improvement there.

I have also abstained from referring to some interventions with regard to relations with UNDP, but I have taken good note of those interventions, as later on in the debate under item 15.2 we will probably come back to that. However, I would like, since probably this will not come up again, to refer to the intervention of Canada with regard to management information system. May I say on the side that I personally would agree with him that perhaps the major factor in the crisis which the UNDP faced was a question of management information system, and I can tell you that on behalf of FAO, as we have made it known, and lately there is a big interchange of visits with the consultants being used and the staff being used by UNDP to prepare this new system, that FAO will collaborate entirely in the setting of this new management information system by UNDP. But let me also say that we have always been confident, and we have not been proven wrong, that the information system of FAO has been adequate to the needs of the system and of the Organization. Perhaps here the big problem was the sudden and rather large decentralization of UNDP where there were so many decision-making points that appeared at once, where funds could be committed also, that the possibilities of the management system of UNDP to digest the information from the agencies was not sufficient. Even to this day we have problems. Possibly when we discuss relations with UNDP, we will discuss problems of delivery, which are of grave magnitude today and to which laterally Canada referred, and I must say that here again, in the beginning of this problem that we are facing of very low delivery, it was in great measure the agencies that had to alert as to what was going on, but whatever the system that is finally established by UNDP, we will feed into it and we will make the adequate provisions in our own systems to feed as required. We recognize the needs of UNDP.

May I finally say to New Zealand that the assessments that we have presented in Chapter 2 of the Review are in addition to the normal mid-term review of projects undertaken by the operating units themselves. This arrangement will continue in the future, except that efforts will be made to synthesize the results of the mid-term reviews and combine them with the findings of ad hoc evaluation services.

May I once again remark that our production of the Review of Field Programmes and the discussions in Commission II are truly becoming a model of self-feeding of one into the other and that I would hope that the next time we can add to this model on the part of all concerned, shall we call it another section, which is comment or information as to corrective measures that have been taken by any of the partners on issues that have been previously identified. I think that this would be one of the great constructive exercises in the system with regard to technical assistance.

CHAIRMAN: I understand Mr. Yriart would like to give the floor to one of his collaborators.

B.S. MAHAJAN (FAO Staff): I will deal very briefly with the few comments and questions that were raised on training and transfer of skills as part of the various technical assistance projects.

First of all, let me say that Chapter 3 on Training, which we presented in the Review this year, is just a beginning in the comprehensive review which the Director-General has initiated with a view to making FAO's training activities and programmes more responsive to the felt needs of the member countries more specifically, of the people at the grass roots level.

It will, however, be naive to pretend that we have all the answers we set out to seek when we started our quest for new policies and programmes in this regard. These answers must eventually come from the Member Nations more directly concerned. We were very pleased to get a somewhat enthusiastic endorsement of the premises outlined in the analysis presented in the Review, which has given us some comfort that we were on the right track. A number of delegates have raised questions about the definition of what we mean by training at the "grass roots" level and whether that will in any way discourage emphasis on training at other levels. The question of "grass roots" levels, I would like to submit, should not be treated in a very literal sense. While FAO has and will continue to deal at the farm level directly whenever opportunities offer, there is no question, as was mentioned by several speakers, that this is an area which the countries themselves and their own training programmes will have to deal with increasingly. The resources of FAO will never be enough, even if it was practical and possible to deal with millions and millions of farmers who need to be exposed to new technologies. At the same time, the emphasis in training in the past, which was well-placed in the light of the circumstances which existed then, has been at higher levels, and the question of transferring the results of training at this level to the farmers is still in doubt.

In this regard, may I draw the attention of the Commission to paragraph 3.2 which I think sums up what the general balance in FAO's training activities is expected to be. If I listened to the debate correctly, I believe, that has received your endorsement. I quote: "To place emphasis on farm level or vocational training is not of course to deny the continuing need for the training of higher level professional staff to develop research programmes and manage large agricultural and forest-based enterprises, as well as to make optimum use of marine resources. The higher technician and professional levels cannot be ignored if the momentum in agricultural development is to be sustained and accelerated in the coming years. The training of small farmers and other primary producers must however receive high priority in national training programmes in order to get agriculture moving in the economically stagnant areas."

I should also like to draw the attention of the Commission specifically to paragraphs 3.49 and 3.50, which were again emphasized in one way or the other by several delegates, commenting on the role of the countries themselves. These paragraphs suggest that the training at the primary producer level can only be fully effective within a clearly defined production programme in which the major emphasis is placed on providing small farmers and landless workers with opportunities and incentives to improve their outputs and incomes, with minimal capital inputs or risk. Such training, aimed at the demonstration and introduction of simple cultural practices (or techniques for artisanal fisherman,) is particularly vital in the context of presently stagnant agriculture or amongst groups of farmers and fishing communities which have been by-passed in the first phase of the technological breakthrough in developing countries. In the long run, as mentioned in paragraph 3.50, the development of the traditional farming sector will depend on far greater understanding of the problems and needs of rural people, and on actions taken to provide them with incentives to work on those problems and meet those needs. Given the predominately agricultural base of most developing countries economics it is essential that all levels of their educational systems include agriculture and related subjects in their curricula, and a number of delegates, we were happy to note, did accept that as a starting point for reorientation of their own policies to the question of transfer of skills, which was referred to by several speakers, there is no doubt, as was repeatedly mentioned, that transfer of skills is one of the primary objectives of technical cooperation. Unfortunately the evaluation material on in-service training fellowships and study tours within the framework of technical assistance projects is very scanty, but empirical evidence suggests that the results have been far from satisfactory. In the assessment reports reported in Chapter 2, it was pointed out that success in these areas has been limited by the operational demands on the expatriate experts, and an insufficient effort to persuade other technical units and staff within the government machinery, whose collaboration was essential of the utility and relevance of the training to be provided. Other reasons which were adduced during the assessment are the lack of suitable counterpart staff and movement of project staff into positions where the training they have received would not be used. These are, of course, the assessments made by the FAO representatives, and they do not take into account several very valid points which were mentioned by the delegates, representing their own views that the real transfer of skill will only come by increasing use of local experts. This is an issue which I think cannot be disputed. The more the developing countries are able to use their own experts effectively, the greater will be the success in transfer of skills either directly by doing the job itself or by exploiting the technical expertise of the experts available more fully.

The acid test of training is the extent to which it is utilized, which in turn is conditioned by the opportunities and support member countries are able to provide for exercise of the skills acquired through training in the execution of national development programmes. The question of fall in fellowships has been raised by some speakers. It is true the number fell as a result of the liquidity crisis, but the more important question, the qualitative one, or the impact of these fellowships, on national developments, has been often impaired by inadequate attention paid to selection and placement of candidates. Here I think we must share responsibility at both ends from both within FAO as well as by the governments concerned.

Mr. Chairman, the only other question which was raised on training is with regard to the monitoring and evaluation and assessment of needs of the training requirements by the countries. These are issues which as a professional evaluator I feel very pleased that countries are now beginning to emphasize and recognize their own role in carrying these out. The more such evaluation that is done by the countries themselves the more impact it will have in their abilities to influence the thinking within FAO and within the UN system and the international community at large. The time has come when I think that the countries are more or less in a position to assert themselves - their sovereignty of course has never been in dispute, but now they are able to assert this point of view in changing ingrained habits and traditional approaches followed in the implementation of aid FAO is no exception in this regard, but it is now much more responsive to the changed needs.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Mahajan for his explanations and answers. Delegates, that concludes our discussion on the Review of Field Programmes. I shall make an attempt to sum up our discussions very briefly. My task has, of course, been made very much easier by the very detailed explanations and comments by Mr. Yriart and Mr. Mahajan.

We have had 38 speakers on this item. I think there has been a general feeling among delegations that the presentation of the document was very good, and a great improvement. Some even used the word "excellent" and others even stressed it would be an example to be followed by other agencies. They found it gave a clear and comprehensive picture of the Field Programme, and the reduction in volume of the review was welcomed.

I think also it was generally agreed that this is a very important paper. Some thought the most important paper presented to this Conference. One delegate pointed out that it may be of even more importance to people outside this Conference than to us. It was also stressed that it was of special importance to recipient countries; that it also was very useful for donor countries, multilateral as well as bilateral.

There was general support to be found for the conclusions in the document, as well as those in the Programmes Committee's report though, of course, not on every point.

Turning now to the chapters, there was a general feeling that progress was made, and the gradual coordination of extra-budgetary funds with the regular programmes was welcomed. Several delegations expressed the need for close coordination between the beneficiaries, the executing agencies and the funding institutions, and said that they should work very closely together. Concern was expressed by many delegates for the reduction of the UNDP/FAO Cooperative Programme. Appreciation was expressed for the hardship caused to FAO in this respect, and some delegates thought UNDP could have handled the situation somewhat differently. The problem was, however, inherent in the UNDP resource base, and it was urged by one delegate that donors should increase their contribution to UNDP in order that it may reach its pledging target. One delegate stressed that the UNDP financial crisis had revealed the lack of a proper management system within UNDP, and between UNDP and the special agency. A programme to establish such a new management programme system had been initiated by UNDP. He urged FAO to cooperate fully in this, along with the other special agencies like the World Bank and the ILO. Some delegates also stressed the importance of UNDP as a central funding institution for FAO, but felt also that FAO should have access to additional resources. They welcomed also the improved relations between FAO and UNDP, especially at field or country level.

Several delegates stressed that projects should be recipient oriented rather than donor oriented. One delegate stressed that the multi-bi-products should be in line with UNDP Country Programme System, otherwise projects should aim at benefitting the poorest parts of the population in the poorest of the food priority countries. Some stressed the need for investment in agriculture on an increased scale, and hoped that IFAD would bring a new dimension into this. Another delegate thought that the resources of FAO for investment should be increased.

With regard to the TCP, of course, this has been dealt with under item 16, and many delegates referred to previous statements. Some stressed the value of speedy procedures, and others agreed with the Review, that it was too early to assess the results, and they looked forward to receiving the Review of TCP in 1978. One delegate stressed, however, that what he could see from the results already that this really was a remarkable achievement, and he used the words of additional action, and stressed the importance of quick disbursement, and he hoped larger resources would come to this programme, and also that it should be fully coordinated with other inputs from other sources, especially UNDP.

With regard to Chapter 2, Assessment of Field Programmes, the importance of evaluation as such was stressed by many delegates. Credit was given to the work of evaluation units. One delegate felt, however, that this unit should define its objectives, and another delegate suggested evaluation by

independent experts. Many delegates welcomed the critical analysis given of the Field Programmes in this chapter. They noted with regret that about 40 percent of all projects had shown insufficient results, but praised at the same time the frankness with which the Review spelt out the problems and the shortcomings, and it was hoped that this would lead to improvement of procedures in future.

The importance of ensuring the continuity of development activities once FAO technical assistance comes to an end was stressed by several delegations. Some delegations commented on the Review of Regional Projects in the Near East. One delegate thought that this Review was too pessimistic, but stressed the need for more effective coordination of projects.

Many delegations spoke on the subject of national management of projects, and urged that more attention should be given to government executional projects and increased use of national staff and national institutions. This should also be seen as part of the TCDC.

Some delegates warned against the reliance on foreign experts, and one delegate recommended a cut-down on the number of experts FAO sent to projects. He also thought the recipient countries should have more possibilities with regard to delivery of equipment. Finally, he called for a review of the whole concept of technical assistance.

With regard to country programming one delegate called for more flexibility. In view of the fact that the first 5-year cycle of UNDP had come to an end he suggested the detailed review of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Field Programmes. Another delegate wanted to question the system of UNDP country programming and the Country IPS.

With regard to the chapter on Training in Agriculture, this was considered by many delegates to be the highlight of the Review. It was generally felt that FAO should give high priority to training, and that increased attention should be given especially to training at the country and grassroot level - farmers and rural women. Some delegates stressed that training of rural women had improved but there was still a need for further increase. One delegate felt that greater attention should also be paid to the training of management experts, and another delegate thought that the philosophy of FAO training should be broadened, with greater integration of FAO training with national training programmes.

With regard to the FAO role, past, present and future, some delegates shared the concern expressed in this chapter. One delegate was disappointed that no attempt had been made to find solutions.

Distinguished delegates, I have tried to give a brief and balanced summary of our discussions under this important item. It is, of course, up to the Drafting Group to make a complete and accurate report of our debate for approval by our Commission and later by the Plenary.

12. Medium-Term Objectives

12. Objectifs à moyen terme

12. Objetivos a plazo medio

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): The cover sheet of the document states that the form of the document was determined by the Conference last time, and, in accordance with various Directives, up-dates the last document and should be read in conjunction with other major documents which you have already considered here - the Programme of Work and Budget, the Review of Field Programmes - and which are being considered, or have been considered in Commission I -in particular, the state of food and agriculture.

The contents of the document, as foreseen, cover recent developments concerning medium-term documents, the role of FAO, medium-term priorities and other relevant questions. The Programme of Work and Budget, which you discussed the other day, did in fact in its Introduction and Explanatory Notes deal with medium-term aspects of the programme, and at the beginning of each major programme in Chapters 2 and 3 there were further passages on the medium term. Therefore, you will not find in the central section of this document anything which is basically different from that.

One section which is different is the first part, on the state of medium-term planning, on which the Programme Committee of the Seventy-Second Session of the Council had something to say.

The Council agreed with the Programme Committee that harmonization of medium-term planning in the United Nations family of organizations was a desirable objective, to the extent that it was practical and feasible and was not pursued solely for the sake of coordination. The Director-General's Introduction to the Medium-Term Objectives paper has comments to make on this question, and, in noting that the



Council saw that the Programme Committee, in its discussion on the Programme of Work and Budget, endorsed the Director-General's approach, in particular not including quantification in medium-term planning whether contained within the Programme of Work and Budget or done separately - said "endorsed", but it should be "noted" instead - it did not endorse, it expected the Conference to discuss this.

Having regard to the Director-General's Introduction, I would myself say that only in the Director-General's signed Introduction to this document would you really find all the major issues concerning the medium term, including not only the format, but also the content, outlined in very brief but somewhat pungent terms, and I look forward to receiving your comments or criticisms, and guidance for the future.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): Thank you, Mr. Chairman - if you are looking for volunteers, we are always ready to jump into the breach!

The main tasks for the future - as my Minister for Agriculture has said in Plenary - are the following:

First of all, the optimum use, and especially the conservation of our natural resources. The need to take such measures has been expressed by the Latin American Regional Conference, as we can see in Paragraph 4.21 of our document number 23. Under the chapter on important technical and economic problems (paragraph 4.24 and following) mainly the paragraphs Water, Fertilizers, and Land Resources briefly mention these complex tasks. We feel that the conservation of natural resources should be the basis for the planned increase in production and this is a subject which should be accorded priority within the framework of medium-term objectives.

Secondly, my Minister mentioned as second item - the prevention of food losses, especially post-harvest losses. I think that everybody agrees on that. That is why we would have expected that this particular task be granted a special chapter in this document.

As far as the paragraph on the situation in regions is concerned, we believe that the following items require special attention:

- the key role of small farmers, who are the backbone of agriculture in Asia and the Far East;
- the need to have further development and application of agricultural technology and equipment which will be properly adapted to existing economic and social factors This is something that was stressed at the African Regional Conference in particular.
- the recommendation of the Regional Conference for the Near East was to give more attention to concrete measures in respect of farmers, and we are thinking in particular of better training and further training. This is mentioned in paragraph 4.65. The role of women will have to be given special consideration.

The planned harmonization of medium-term planning in the UN System, as the Programme Committee quite rightly stated, is indeed a difficult task. Discussions in New York about the subject have therefore not yet terminated. We agree with the Council in Paragraph 63 of its report about the 72nd Session.

We support the recommendations that medium-term planning should be connected as far as possible with the Programme of Work and Budget. In this way, it will be possible in every Programme of Work and Budget discuss the future aims of the programme, and thus avoid duplication. We agree with the Programme Committee in saying that one should not try to quantify medium-term objectives. An assessment of the means required as a non-committal pointer for more than a two-year period would be based on great uncertainty, so it would not serve as a basis for a proper technical assessment of the situation. Discussions of such assessments would not be useful and would endanger the flexibility of the medium-term objectives and planning.

Furthermore, I feel that we should have a document about the medium-term objectives with very clear-cut priorities. This however should be done only in a brief form. This would give us a general view of the priorities and this would serve as a basis for the detailed discussion in connection with the Programme of Work and Budget.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan)(interpretation from Arabic): The Programme Committee and then later the Council have already debated the matter and discussed this document which was presented to them by the Secretariat. As I said, the Council has already approved the proposals made by the Programme Committee about the need for continuing its effort in a distinct and separate fashion. I would say that we do not see the

point of the Secretariat preparing a different paper on the subject, because medium-term objectives already appear in the Programme of Work and Budget. It is only natural, therefore, for the discussion of medium-term objectives to be carried out when the Programme of Work and Budget is discussed in order that we may be completely sure that the programmes come within the medium-term objectives. To request the Secretariat to prepare a separate document, quite apart from being a duplication of effort, could lead to confusion since two pieces will have been done on the same subject. We must stress that medium-term objectives are already dealt with in the Programme of Work and Budget, and it is within the framework of the Programme of Work and Budget that we should discuss the subject.

Therefore, Sir, I propose that the report on the matter mention that it is no longer necessary for the Secretariat to give us a separate piece of paper on the matter, and that it would be preferable for the medium-term objectives to be discussed under the Programme of Work and Budget.

J.S. KHAN (Pakistan): I will try to be brief. We have studied very carefully document C 77/23 which we realise must be read together with other documents of the Programme of Work and Budget and the Review of Field Programmes and SOFA, and while agreeing that medium-term planning by FAO is essential in order to focus and orient its activities for a reasonable distance into the future, my delegation cannot at the same time help sharing some of the concern which has been expressed by the Director-General in his introduction to the document. In particular we feel that it needs to be seriously reconsidered, and the present format of the document is not very meaningful without some qualification or at least a broad indication of the resources required for the medium-term programmes, and here I think there would probably be a differing from the Programme Committee and the Council on this. We think that a mere list of objectives and priorities divorced from ideal resources required to give them effect is somewhat of limited use and value. My delegation feels that FAO should have a medium-term plan perhaps extending over three biennia on the lines of the national development plans, and these should reflect not only the collective goals and aspirations of Member Nations but also an indication of the resources required to give them effect.

Mr. Chairman our colleague from the Federal Republic of Germany talked of the difficulties of flexibility to quantification, but we do think that the biennial Programme of Work and Budget could then be used both as a short-term policy instrument to implement the medium-term plan, and I think this would provide the necessary flexibility to respond to any urgent shift in priority or to the actual availability of resources.

Mr. Chairman we must keep in mind that food and agriculture is by nature a slow and patient process which can be best conceived over a rather longer period of time.

Regarding the question of whether there should be a separate or a combined document, we also feel that since an attempt has already been made in the current Programme of Work and Budget document to also present a medium-term objective, there will not be a need for a separate document, and therefore we support the Programme Committee that there should be a combined presentation of both the medium-term objectives and the biennium programme.

If I may turn briefly to the contents of the current document, we can broadly support the role of FAO which is envisaged, and we can also endorse in general terms the medium-term priorities described in the document. We think that the regional institutions and priorities in the document also reflect quite correctly the aspirations of the members at least for Asia and the Far East and for the Near East in which we are represented. We would only stress that an important aim of the FAO in the years ahead should be to actively promote technical cooperation among developing countries.

Under the proposed measure for technical and economic programmes for the medium-term, we support the primary emphasis on increasing food and agriculture production, particularly through increased attention to investment activities, and we would suggest that a greater emphasis should be on the development investment in human resources.

Mr. Chairman, I will not go into further details because you have already had some of our views during the earlier interventions on the Programme of Work and Budget, and it would be repetitious if I go into that problem so I will confine myself to these comments.

D.M. ULNES (Norway): I would first like to thank Mr. West for giving his comprehensive introduction. I shall be dealing with the question of the role of nutrition within this Organization, and I am doing so on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway. Nutrition is an area of great interest to the Nordic countries and you may recall that we have spoken on this issue both at previous FAO Conferences and also in this Committee under Agenda Item 10, Programme of Work and Budget.

Nutrition receives increasing attention at international conferences dealing with world food problems. A great step forward in the world-wide recognition of the role of nutrition in development was made through the adoption of Resolution V at the World Food Conference. Since then, the World Health Assembly in May 1977 focussed on nutrition in its discussions recommending that WHO allocates additional resources for this field. More recently the World Food Council in its Manila Communique pointed out nutrition as one of the five priority areas for governments and international organizations in their fight against hunger and malnutrition. Also the UN University has made World Hunger one of its three priority areas.

These are just a few examples of the growing recognition that an increase in average per caput food production is not in itself enough to improve the nutritional levels of the hungry and malnourished. The issue is underlined in one of the background documents for the present Conference, The SOFA, from which it appears that in spite of an increased per caput food production in developing countries more people than ever suffer from a serious degree of hunger and malnutrition. This general statement is repeated in several of the other documents, at some instances even in quantified terms.

We recognize that the increased food production, in particular in developing countries, is the most important prerequisite for improving nutritional levels. To meet the basic needs for food among the poorest strata of the population more equitable distribution of both the resources for production and the food itself are the key issues. To give the basic needs approach a more tangible content, food consumption and nutritional considerations become a very important field that seems to require new approaches also in general agricultural strategies. Furthermore, when elaborating the goals and targets for food production, the food consumption targets should be systematically included, with a view to increasing the levels of self-reliance and community participation in programmes. In the agricultural training and extension more attention should be paid to food consumption and nutritional aspects. And as the last example we would like to mention the data collection and analysis, where the efforts should be directly concentrated on the poorest groups with less attention to the better-off groups who already meet the basic needs.

There is no doubt that FAO has a special responsibility in this area. In the constitution of the Organization nutrition is one of the very first words mentioned. I would like, Mr. Chairman, to cite the Preamble of the FAO's Constitution, which states that the following should be the main goals of the Organization, namely:

- 1) raising levels of nutrition and status of living of the peoples under their respective jurisdictions;
- 2) securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products;
- 3) bettering the conditions of rural populations;
- 4) and thus contributing toward an expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger.

We would like to stress, Mr. Chairman, the order of these goals in which that of raising the levels of nutrition was considered the primary one in the formulation of the Constitution.

Also, the FAO Conference has given high priority to nutrition. In the Strategy on International Agricultural Adjustment accepted by the 18th Session of the FAO Conference, Guidelines 4 and 6 recommend governments and international organizations to pay special attention to nutritional problems. In the Programme of Work and Budget discussed under Item 10, the improvement of nutritional levels is, and rightly so, one of the main goals for FAO. At the Third Session of the World Food Council in Manila, FAO stated its preparedness to take a more active role in the nutrition field.

However, this high priority does not seem to be reflected in the Medium-Term Objectives of the Organization. Nutrition is only mentioned in passing and receives no separate treatment in the document.

The conclusion of the Nordic countries is that it will be difficult for FAO to cope with the tasks foreseen in the nutrition field and to live up to the confidence placed in it by other international organizations and member countries, if the nutrition activities of the Organization are not being strengthened, both on a short and a long-term basis.

Another point of concern to the Nordic countries relates to the substance of the work of the Organization within the field of nutrition. The World Food Conference recognized that food and nutrition aspects are generally not sufficiently taken into account in the formulation of national development plans. It recommended that FAO, together with other UN agencies, should assist governments to develop intersectoral food and nutrition plans. The Food Policy and Nutrition Division of FAO has responded to this challenge and is now providing nutritional planning support to a number of developing countries in recognition that nutrition programmes cannot any longer be carried out in isolation.

However, it seems, to us that within the Organization itself, nutritional problems are still perceived in a traditional way. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that nutrition is dealt with in isolation from the other activities of FAO. This contradiction ought to be adjusted, and we suggest

that the FAO take up the recommendation of the World Food Council to assess the nutritional impact of its existing development programmes and incorporates nutritional considerations in its planning and programme preparations.

In our opinion, this is a very important activity in which the FAO has a natural obligation to show the way. At present we know very little about the nutritional consequences of, say, a fertilizer scheme or a dairy project, and this should be studied more closely.

Obviously, the Food Policy and Nutrition Division, with its limited resources, would be able to assist with such nutritional evaluation only within one or a few selected priority areas. However, in the long run this might enable FAO to give more appropriate advice in the field of food and nutrition planning than at present, when the art is still poorly developed.

To increase the resources for activities of a special responsibility to FAO, a possible way might be by reducing FAO's engagement in activities that are reasonably well taken care of by other organizations. An example could be feeding programmes where both UNICEF and WFP, as well as a number of voluntary organizations are involved.

In conclusion the Nordic countries further propose that in the future the expectations of the international community of the role of FAO in the nutritional field be reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget. Also we would like to see included in the Medium-Term Objectives a clear indication of the intentions of the FAO towards finding a better balance between direct and applied, and non-nutritional approaches to solving problems of malnutrition.

In conclusion, I would like to add that the Nordic countries have under consideration a resolution based on this statement and the resolution may be tabled at a later stage.

Having concluded this Nordic Statement, I would reserve my own country's right to come back and speak at a later stage with another Norwegian statement.

G. WEILL (France): Comme le fait ressortir le Directeur général dans son introduction, et comme ceux des intervenants qui m'ont précédé l'ont déclaré, nous imposons au Secrétariat une tâche extrêmement difficile en lui demandant, avec les modifications successives de nos prétentions, d'établir le document sur les objectifs à moyen terme que nous examinons présentement. Ces contraintes sont extrêmement nombreuses, et, lors des Conférences antérieures, nous avons régulièrement buté sur les difficultés que nous avons, comme le Secrétariat, à formuler en termes clairs les objectifs à moyen terme de l'Organisation.

Je voudrais, pour illustrer ces difficultés, me borner à prendre un exemple. Il s'agit de la lutte contre la trypanosomiase qui fait les ravages que l'on a dénoncés dans le continent africain. La trypanosomiase est mentionnée au paragraphe 4.43 à propos de la production animale et on pourrait la retrouver également dans la partie de ce document qui traite des problèmes à l'échelon national.

S'il est une activité qui justifierait une planification à moyen terme, c'est véritablement la lutte contre la trypanosomiasis qui demande la mise en oeuvre de moyens importants, une coopération internationale et certainement un étalement dans le temps.

Néanmoins, on nous a fait remarquer avec beaucoup de pertinence qu'il était extrêmement difficile de quantifier les indications se rapportant aux objectifs à moyen terme, et s'il en est ainsi, dans ces conditions, je dois dire que nous nous rallions aux propositions qui ont été formulées antérieurement par un certain nombre de délégations selon lesquelles on demanderait au Secrétariat de ne pas continuer cet exercice, et les objectifs à moyen terme feraient l'objet d'un examen à l'occasion de l'adoption du programme de travail et budget.

Nous venons d'entendre, au nom des pays nordiques, une déclaration fort intéressante sur l'importance qu'il faut attacher aux problèmes et aux activités de nutrition de notre Organisation. Je serai très bref pour dire que nous souscrivons tout à fait à la déclaration présentée par le délégué de la Norvège au nom des pays nordiques. J'ajouterai que les délégations des pays nordiques ont bien voulu approcher la délégation française pour la mise au point du projet de résolution dont a parlé le délégué de la Norvège. Nous souhaitons pouvoir nous associer aux pays nordiques pour soumettre à cette Commission Le projet de résolution auquel il a été fait allusion.

The meeting rose at 12.40 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

TWELFTH MEETING  
DOUZIEME SEANCE  
12ª SESION  
(23 November 1977)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours,

J.H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La douzième séance est ouverte à 14 h 50, sous la présidence de

J.H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 12ª sesión a las 14.50 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION  
(continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION  
(suite)

PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION  
(continuación)

12. Medium-Term Objectives (continued)

12. – (suite)

12. Objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, we continue with our discussion on the Medium-Term Objectives. The first speaker on my list is Denmark.

C. THOMSEN (Denmark): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor so early on this item which we have always considered to be of great importance for the planning of the work of this Organization.

My remarks will fall into two parts. The first part will be of a more general nature, and in making these remarks I shall speak on behalf of all the Nordic countries, that is, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark. The second part will contain some more specific comments on behalf of my Delegation only.

As far as the general remarks are concerned let me first say that we hope the period of calm, referred to by the Director-General, will lead to continued improvements and developments in this complicated but very important project area. At the same time we would like to pay our tribute to the Secretariat for the valiant efforts they have made in the past, and as a result of which it is only fair to say that the FAO has become a pioneer in this field of Medium-Term Objectives within the United Nations system.

With regard to the documents prepared for this Conference, we have already stated in connection with the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget that we welcome the insertion of an introductory section on Medium-Term Outlook under each of the major programmes. We only wish that the section on agriculture would have been a little more explicit on priorities.

Nevertheless, we believe there is scope for further progress and development in the pioneering work of the Organization. As stated by the Director-General, development in food and agriculture requires a long-term view, and this fact of life makes it imperative to have a framework within which to set our goals and targets. We also need a framework for our discussions of the future priorities within the activities of the Organization in order to look at these in their totality.

From this point of view there will, in our opinion, continue to be a need for a separate treatment, and probably a separate document on Medium-Term Objectives, to supplement the corresponding sections in the Programme of Work and Budget. The purpose of this document should be to provide a summary statement of objectives and priorities, which could form a better basis for the discussion of broad priorities than a more detailed examination of the separate sections in the Programme of Work and Budget will allow for.

As regards the quantification of objectives and priorities, the experience in the past and the results from the Programme Committee and the Council seem to leave little possibility, even for indicative figures. Nevertheless, we would suggest that consideration be given to the possibility of supplementing the presentation in the Programme Budget of the Summary of Estimates by Chapter and Major Programmes, in a compact table which includes figures in relative terms, percentage figures with a similar presentation in relative terms for the medium term. There is also a table, I think just before the one I just referred to, on proposed programme changes, also in relative terms, which in our opinion should form part of this total presentation. In this way it should be possible to provide a better overall picture of the proposed points of growth and of reduced priorities within the total Programme of Work in the Organization.

The separate document should also, we suggest, allow for further development of the present chapter on the Role of FAO, supplemented with a chapter on Medium-Term Priorities, which might be concentrated even more on the relative priorities for the different activities of the Organization than at present.

In this connection we fully support the statement of the Director-General to the effect that mandates for activities or priorities between them should be open to change, and that there is need for courageous thinking and action in the Secretariat and among Member Nations in this regard. In fact we believe that this is so important that it would be worthwhile to make extra efforts in order to allow for this.

Having made these remarks I should like to say that our main concern about the Medium-Term Objectives is to ensure that the Conference and the Commission II continue to have a separate discussion on the Medium Term Objectives of the Organization, and that there will be a written presentation of the total picture as I tried to describe it, which can link up with the situation in the present biennium, and in the coming biennium, with the relative changes involved.

We feel that the best way of obtaining this will be to continue to have a separate document on Medium - Term Objectives to supplement the Programme of Work and Budget, but if the same goals, objectives, could be obtained in a different way we can support that this may be a matter for further discussion.

I then come on to the second part of my remarks, which, as I said, are made on behalf of my own delegation only. We generally agree with the policy indications contained in Chapter 2 of the document before us, and I have no further comments on that.

With regard to Chapter 3 on other aspects of FAO functions, we share the desire to limit the amount of organizational change, and we welcome the plans for further examinations of the role and functions of the Regional Offices. We find it important that these continue to be looked at from the point of view of the managerial functions and their place in the managerial system of the Organization as a whole.

In relation to the section of Chapter 4 dealing with the role of the FAO during the Medium Term, we would like in a summary way to emphasize the following areas of priority, and I do this just by listing the headings in order to save time.

First, investment support in collaboration with financing institutions, and I emphasize in collaboration with.

Secondly, promotion of improved technology, and particularly as regards development of seed production and seed industry; improved water management; utilization of natural fertilizers; integrated crop livestock systems and use of by-products from crops for feed.

Thirdly, implementation of field projects resulting from the meat and dairy schemes.

Fourthly, the training of technicians, workers and small farmers, including the promotion of extension services.

Finally, and fifthly, activities to prevent food losses.

As far as nutrition is concerned, I should just refer to the joint Nordic statement which was made on this particular issue earlier on.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): The Medium-Term Objectives document contains a considerable amount of useful information. Several speakers have questioned the utility, however, of continuing the Medium-Term document. In our view, the document is intended to provide an overview of FAO member activities and problem areas for the next four to six years. The Programme of Work and Budget, although it does quantify resource allocation, it does not provide the desired coherent overview, therefore we would share the preference just stated by the distinguished representative of Denmark for the continuance of a separate Medium-Term document. I now would like to address ways in which the present document might have presented a more concise and meaningful overview ' for the benefit of FAO Member States.

The present document, in the general discussion contained in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.8, does not provide in our view sufficient focus for FAO's activities in the medium term. Also no priorities are assigned to the wide range of activities described in paragraphs 4.24 to 4.72 nor does the document provide in our opinion a basis for differentiating between higher priority activities and those of lesser importance. FAO, among specialized agencies in the U.N. system, should exercise the lead international role in combatting hunger and malnutrition. In order to do so effectively, its objectives and priorities should be clearly stated.

Concern for freedom from hunger should become FAO's overwhelming concern and, therefore, its operations should reflect this priority. FAO has increasingly concentrated its resources on food production and consumption problems of developing countries. In doing so, emphasis should be placed on facilitating adequate nutrition and access to food by the poor of the developing countries and particularly in the poorest of these countries.

The effective fulfillment of a FAO role and its related objectives which gives maximum concern to freedom from hunger requires the translation of policy into specific programme components and actions. These should be embraced by the FAO management and supported by the member countries, and to this end in the medium term, FAO, within its terms of reference, should in our view accord priority in the use of resources available to it for those programmes and policies which:

Firstly, increase food production in a way that will have a direct impact on domestic nutrition; Secondly, improve efficiency of distribution and consumption practices of households; Thirdly, attain more equitable distribution of food;

Fourthly, increase employment opportunities on and off farms in rural areas;

Fifthly, facilitate the flow of international resources to the agricultural sector, especially to those countries most in need of assistance, and promote the use of these resources in ways which facilitate adequate nutrition and the access of the hungry to food.

With particular regard to achieving the objectives of increasing food production and consumption through increased employment opportunities, FAO, in concert with other development-oriented agencies, should, we believe, pursue a broadly participatory, employment-oriented strategy for agricultural production, with emphasis on two primary objectives: production and employment.

The primary purpose of increased production should be to expand the supply of basic agricultural consumption goods for the poor majority. In fact, the test of the new agricultural production strategy should be to what degree the benefits of increased production go to the poor.

Improved employment, including self-employment, should help put increased income in the hands of the poor, and this, in turn, will increase the effective demand for food. Increased incomes in the agricultural sector will have a multiplier effect, increasing the production of goods and services in other parts of the economy.

It is the view of our organization that the broad objectives we have outlined above should be reflected in the full range of FAO's activities. In addition, in exercising its leadership role, FAO should identify those activities most likely to have a direct and immediate impact on the problem of hunger and malnutrition, and accord to the activities so selected a high priority in the allocation of resources available to it.

The process of economic and agricultural development is, of course, a complex one. No single remedy can address and/or resolve the agricultural problems of all countries.

Obviously, FAO should and must tailor its assistance to individual countries and this assistance should complement ongoing national, bilateral and multilateral activities. However, we suggest that there is a need for a greater focus on certain high priority activities which would seem particularly useful for all developing countries. Among these might be:

Firstly, strengthening local institutions, especially training, extension and credit; Secondly, transfer of technology and its adaptation to local circumstances;

Thirdly, support of poverty-oriented planning in the agricultural sector, including monitoring the nutritional impact of all activities;

Fourthly, reduction of field and post-harvest losses;

Fifthly, increased efficiency in the use of available water;

Sixthly, promotion of utilization of various developmental resources in ways that are integrated with efforts to increase employment, improve domestic food production, and facilitate adequate nutrition and the access of the hungry to food.

The above mentioned list is not meant to be exhaustive. It simply reflects our belief that FAO should concentrate on those activities where its strengths can provide the most effective services for member nations.



As member governments, we cannot ask FAO to redirect or reemphasize certain parts of its activity without, at the same time, assuring the Director-General that these same governments will continue their regular and extrabudgetary support for FAO. Indeed, it is incumbent upon us to assist the Director-General in his efforts to make ongoing programmes more effective and efficient. We should help him identify additional activities which do not rank as high priority and then support him in eliminating them. Donor governments should examine their overall development assistance to determine if it can be more supportive of priority issues agreed upon in FAO and those governments which are recipients of multilateral aid should bring their own priorities, as expressed in country programmes, as closely as possible into alignment with the medium-term plans of the FAO.

Because this will be a prolonged process, to attempt to set a budgetary target for FAO growth over the medium term would now be futile. Such a target would depend heavily on the re-direction and reexamination which we think is necessary. Our inclination is to believe that a close, realistic look at programme priorities and readjustment to bring FAO's current resources to bear on these most important areas of work will substantially reduce the need for other than minimal programme increases over the medium term.

I would now like to make more specific comments on some of the major problem areas emphasized by the Secretariat in paragraphs 4.24 to 4.72 of the Medium-Term Document.

On increasing agricultural production, the United States applauds FAO's efforts in increasing food production and particularly supports its proposed special attention to the small farmer.

Increasing agricultural production is a prerequisite to solving the problem of world poverty. However, unless such production increases are devoted to resolving the problem of rural poverty, they may not improve the nutritional status of those most in need. Priority consideration should, therefore, be given to those agricultural increases directly related to this objective.

In particular, we believe that the most abundant factor of production in low-income countries, namely labour, should be brought into the production process more effectively. Unfortunately, developmental policies followed in many countries have often tended to exclude low-income producers from access to resources and to institutions. Women, in particular, have been often excluded from sharing in benefits commensurate with their role in the production process. Obviously, increased income generated by groups now excluded from the production process will result in heightened overall effective demand for food as well as other goods and services.

On investment, FAO's Investment Centre, working closely with IBRD and Regional Development Banks, has played a significant and valuable role in preparing and formulation projects. In line with our earlier comments, we believe FAO's Investment Centre should increasingly identify and develop projects which are closely related to the objectives of reducing hunger and malnutrition, particularly among the rural poor.

On seeds, the statements seem to confuse general global goals and FAO's goals in this area. Certainly there is a need for new breakthroughs in developing high-yielding varieties and work toward this end is in progress at the international research centres and elsewhere. The work is being shared by the research centres with individual countries and we would expect these efforts to continue and expand. We believe FAO should promote the on-farm use of such varieties by improvements in seed production systems and in extension and distribution systems.

On food reserves and food security, as Secretary Bergland has already indicated in his speech last Wednesday before the Plenary, the United States is taking active leadership in a proposed new internationally coordinated system of national reserve stocks to reduce excessive swings in world market prices and extend world food security. We believe that this undertaking, particularly as it relates to wheat, should be under the auspices of the International Wheat Council. At the same time, we recognize the important role FAO has to play in collecting and disseminating information on the overall world food situation, and in the implementation of the International Undertaking on World Food Security -taking care, of course, to ensure avoidance of overlap with the work of the International Wheat Council.

On fisheries, FAO activities in this area should emphasize:

1. Development and improvement of small-scale fisheries at the local level,
2. Increased fish production through utilization of living marine resources with the newly established 200-mile zone of coastal nations,
3. Improved data collection and analytical abilities of developing nations on a regional basis,

4. Efforts to reduce the waste which occurs by discarding unmarketable species.

On forestry, the FAO forestry programme should complement the new priorities of FAO; we would therefore urge increased Organization support of those forestry activities which increase food production and protect water supplies, produce energy and provide rural employment. The interdependence of forestry and farming is recognized by both the FAO Agriculture Department and the Forestry Department. This is an important point which has been neglected in the past.

The FAO forestry programme gives needed emphasis to "Forestry for Food" and other actions to increase crop or livestock yields, particularly in areas where shifting cultivation is currently practiced. Likewise, the programme recognizes that the protection of watersheds is essential for providing a reliable source of water for downstream development. Afforestation should be accelerated as the main tool for halting desert encroachment.

It must not be forgotten that many countries are just as concerned about dwindling fuelwood supplies as about scarce food. The forest as a source of producing energy should receive heightened attention in

FAO programmes.

Finally, wood is the most readily available raw material on which to base development of local industries in many tropical countries. In a select few, wood products could rapidly be developed for export on the world market.

All of these vital activities would provide needed rural area employment as well.

On trade in agricultural commodities, work in this area should be primarily concentrated on activities aimed at strengthening information systems in developing countries and those activities supporting UNCTAD's Integrated Programme for Commodities.

On education and training, we would like to emphasize the importance of small farmer extension training programmes as a means of ensuring effective utilization of technologies, appropriate to local conditions. This type of training is necessary to accelerate agricultural production by small farmers. We are aware that this subject will be dealt with more fully in a forthcoming document on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

It might also be noted that the Secretariat document did not address the highly important areas of support of planning in the agricultural sector in developing countries and nutrition. The United States believes that these activities should be accorded high priority in the medium term. We have made more extensive remarks on these subjects under our general observations and on other agenda items.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to repeat the theme, already touched upon by other delegations, the urgent need to facilitate adequate nutrition and access to food by the poor of the developing countries. The large number of men, women, and children who suffer the scourges of hunger and malnutrition when the ability to alleviate their suffering and to ensure their human dignity is within our grasp requires our utmost dedication. We can and should do no less.

C. ERICSSON (Sweden): Mr. Chairman, our opinions of the format content of this document and its relation to Programme of Work and Budget have just been raised by our colleague from Denmark

We will try to avoid duplication of what we have said in earlier interventions in this Committee. In the following I will mainly comment on some specific issues which we have not touched upon so far.

In respect of Chapter 2, Mr. Chairman, we have a few comments.

In paragraph 2.11 under policy advice, reference is made to assistance to countries in planning and policy analysis. We gave already in the 1975 Conference our support to the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development which is now referred to as Agriculture Towards 2000. In the 1975 Conference we also supported Country Perspective Studies as a tool in the national development planning and as an input in the world perspective study. This was based upon positive reactions we had met in countries with whom we cooperate on a bilateral basis as well as in the preceeding COAG meeting. The Country Perspective Studies seem now to be almost banned.

We wonder if this is fully justified. Especially as there is a very positive reference made to the Perspective Study of the Sahel in the Review of Field Programmes which we discussed yesterday.

They may have been too sophisticated in some cases but in this respect corrective measures can be taken. We would appreciate some further explanation on this.

In the same Chapter 2, with regard to International Harmonization we also want to stress the importance of harmonizing different international projects on food through programmes such as the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

Concerning the work of the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme perhaps some less important Codex-committees could be abolished in agreement with the Director-General's statement in paragraph 2.4.

Even if we support the proposals for reducing the number of publications and meetings, we appreciate that the number of meetings within Codex Alimentarius has not been reduced. Of special importance we find the meetings within the Codex Committee on Food Additives, Codex Committee on Pesticides and Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. In our opinion these committees should meet annually.

As regards part 4 of Chapter 2, Technical Cooperation and Field Programme, we also want to make some short comments. In paragraphs 2.25 and 2.26 the coordination of external resources at country level is touched upon. In the discussion in this Commission it has not come out so clear as we want, that the coordination of external resources as such - as well with the ongoing development activities in the country - is a responsibility of the country itself. It should be a primary concern of the Director-General to support by all measures the strengthening of the country position in this regard.

In the Review of Field Programmes which we dealt with on Tuesday there are references made in paragraphs 2.7, 2.8 and 2.14 to the limited involvement of the countries in planning and execution of externally financed projects. This can only be overcome if the FAO projects are looked upon as the identification of external resources to the national projects or programmes as such. Such an approach will secure the ongoing of activities even after the FAO projects have phased out. In this connection we support what has been said by some delegations of the need to further scrutinize the package of external resources, with the aim to reduce even more the foreign personnel component.

We appreciate what is stated in para. 2.27 that the linkages between Regular Programme and Field Programme activities - trust fund activities included - will be further strengthened. This could even be said the other way around: that the RP activities should more strongly reflect priorities and needs as demonstrated in the Field Programmes. I am not going to elaborate but will refer to what we said in our first intervention under Programme of Work and Budget.

We hope that these two points will be considered in the further planning of the FAO programme.

Coming to Chapter 4 Medium-Term Priorities, we have said the most already when discussing the Programme of Work and Budget. We thus refer to what we have said - and which is in line with the Director-General's proposal - on a further poverty and basic needs orientation by means of an integrated rural development on post-harvest losses, on forestry for local community development, on small-scale fishery and land and water resources and their utilization. We may add here the importance of labour intensive rural small-scale industries, which are referred to in paragraph 4.3.

Our view on nutrition has already been given by our colleague from Norway. As regards activities on the involvement of women in the rural development process we refer to what will be said later on by our colleague from Finland.

The said does not mean that we find some other activities less important, such as seeds, fertilizers, livestock production, etc. In these areas well-defined programmes are under way and we are confident that they will develop accordingly.

A. PAPASSARANTOPOULOS (Greece): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my delegation I would like to join in congratulating you and the Vice-Chairman on your election.

We fully recognize the attempts that have been made so far by FAO in the field of medium-term planning. We endorse the view that medium-term planning in FAO should provide a framework within which the Organization's activities and programmes should be developed. We find that FAO's medium-term objectives are consistent with the preliminary findings of the study of the world economy in the year 2000 which is being carried out by the United Nations and aim at the achievement of medium-term goals as proposed in the Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade.

We agree that the medium-term objectives should be incorporated in the Programme of Work and Budget as an integral part of it. We also support the efforts made by the United Nations for harmonization and coordination of the medium-term planning of its Specialized Organizations.

Concerning the means, that is the resources that FAO needs to achieve these medium-term objectives, we appreciate the previous attempts at quantification of these resources.

Taking into consideration that FAO means are of economic, institutional and political nature, we think that the growth rate of budget should not be necessarily constant but a more flexible one. It all depends on strategy and priority which determines the budget level. This is also closely related to the optimal use of the available resources which reflect the efficiency of the activities and programmes of FAO in the medium term. We think that under the current world circumstances any attempt to determine numerically the resources required in the medium term will be proved fruitless.

In our opinion the FAO's medium-term objectives and priorities can contribute definitively to the achievement of the world's goals on food and agriculture.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): Mr. Chairman, in this intervention my delegation will confine itself mainly to the form of the present document and on the future of medium-term planning in FAO. My delegation is aware of the directives of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference and agrees to them.

I therefore acknowledge the fact that in general the Director-General has followed up those directives. We have now studied the document before us; our guess is that everybody is satisfied. The question is, then, does that mean that it is a good document? We have some doubts. Mr. West asked in his introduction for some guidance for the future. In general, my delegation is in agreement with the delegate of Pakistan, particularly on the problem of flexibility.

In my government's view, a medium-term plan must be drawn up by the executive head of the Organization. He must base himself, amongst other things, on the needs and wishes of Member States, and attempt to formulate a coherent set of objectives to be attained by the end the period.

The draft medium-term plan should include an analysis of alternative and perhaps competing means of action to achieve these objectives, taking into account the activities undertaken or to be undertaken by other organizations within the United Nations system.

Furthermore, the draft plan should review the activities already embarked upon. In order to arrive at a comprehensive system of planning and budget preparation, the medium-term plan should also state the human and financial resources to be mobilized through assessed or voluntary contributions for carrying out the plan. Drawing up plans without reference to the financial means necessary for their implementation is unrealistic. The plan will then merely be like the document now before us, a list of intentions, and will not help Member States to select priorities.

On the basis of a planned proposal, including an approximation of future costs under the Regular Budget, and from extra-budgetary resources, a final decision is in the hands of Member States. In considering a proposal, they have to state their priorities, indicating which programmes should be expanded, remain unchanged or be curtailed. In order to create more room for the necessary new initiatives or existing activities, programmes which can be considered as obsolete or marginally useful or ineffective should be curtailed or cut.

Indicative planning figures may result from medium-term plans thus scrutinized, which are generally acceptable and which mean they give value for money, and these figures are usually in real terms the parameters within which the following Programme of Work and Budget has to be prepared.

The above outline of medium-term planning seems to be generally acceptable. The Director-General is right in mentioning the long discussions within the United Nations system, but last year the General Assembly - by and large the same governments as represented here - adopted, by a consensus - and I stress by a consensus - paragraph 3 of Resolution 31/93. In that paragraph, the same outline for future medium-term plans is given as I have just presented to you. Since all our governments have accepted that part of Resolution 31/93 of last year's session of the General Assembly, my delegation proposes formally to the Conference the adoption of the system of medium-term planning in FAO, based on that Resolution.

It will be clear, from what I have said, that my delegation is not in agreement with the recommendation of the Programme Committee to incorporate the document on medium-term objectives into the Programme of Work and Budget. We prefer, like various other delegations, a separate document.

I shall now go into the substance of the medium-term objectives of FAO. I have already indicated that my delegation is in general in agreement with that part of the document, but this is partly caused by the list of intentions.

The basic objectives also mentioned in the Director-General's Introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget have been commented upon by my delegation, and in general it agrees with them. Also, some specific objectives are welcomed, as in paragraph 2.25 and 2.26, FAO's commitment at the country level, and in paragraphs 2.9 to 2.12 on policy advice.

My delegation, like others, has already made some substantive remarks meant for the medium term, during the discussions on the Programme of Work and Budget, and that is why I am confining myself to the structure and format of the document on medium-term objectives. I suggest implementing the recommendation adopted by almost all of us at the last session of the General Assembly on medium-term planning.

Mrs. M. PEKKARINEN (Finland): I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the four Nordic countries, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, on the subject of women in rural development within the context of medium-term objectives.

Whenever dealing with economic and social development, especially within the context of agriculture and rural development, the vital role of women must be remembered. At the 1975 FAO Conference held during the International Women's Year, the problem of women in development was dealt with under a separate item and a special resolution on the role of women in rural development was unanimously adopted. Since then, more emphasis seems to have been devoted to integrating women in rural development. We also noted with great interest the positive attitude expressed by the Director-General, in his opening statement, in wishing to recruit more women from developing countries to participate in the work of FAO. We welcome this initiative and hope that the Member States will do their best to provide FAO with suitable candidates.

Also the World Food Conference in its Resolution 8, recognized that the rural women in the developing world account for at least 50 percent of food production. Thus, complete rural development of any country requires the maximum participation of women as well as men. We can say that raising agricultural production and improving nutritional standards is not realistic, without reckoning with the work impact of women. If this is not recognized, very slow progress indeed is to be expected. Therefore, the fact that half the world's population is not given the possibility of making full use of their capacity and capability must be seen as an obstacle to social and economic development. We believe that FAO can work hard in helping member countries to overcome this problem. It is a matter of great concern that almost 80 percent of the developing countries themselves have no programmes or institutions to involve rural women in development. The vulnerable position of women has become even more precarious through the modernization process and they have to a limited extent so far been reached by activities designed to improve the conditions of the rural poor. Therefore, we find it necessary that FAO should to a greater extent take into consideration the position of women when planning and implementing projects. As it is now, it is difficult to find training projects other than in areas of nutrition and home economics.

Several studies have clearly indicated the potential for mobilizing women's energies to increase both food and cash crop production. We feel that this potential is best reached through training and education programmes. Another way is by providing women with adequate equipment, to reduce the unnecessarily large amount of time spent on, for example, processing foods and fetching water. We believe that such programmes would best benefit rural communities as a whole, if both women and men, on equal terms, are involved. Home economics and nutrition are fields where not only women but the whole family can be activated. Thus, a sense of shared responsibility for the welfare of the family is developed. The goal of such programmes would at the same time be to reach the vast majority of rural people, who are yet regrettably isolated from the mainstream of national development efforts. We know that this is not done in a short time. Also we must keep in mind that the role of women in development is an integrated one. To separate women's projects from other rural development projects would be against the nature of the activities that women, especially in rural societies, are responsible for.

This does not go against increased and speedily added efforts to increase projects in nutrition and home economics. These are fields in which development, to a large extent, depends on women. Other possible projects that could be based on women's activities, such as handicrafts and art, are activities through which rural women could become economically more independent. Such programmes should not be difficult to achieve in many developing countries where traditional culture cultivated by women is of real value.

The involvement of women in the planning, decision making and implementation process is an important factor in any project concerning women. Not only does this give the necessary dimension to such projects, but serves to increase women's motivation and provide for their engagement in the projects. Motivation comes slowly if no shared responsibility is allowed for. Neither is greater effort to be expected from women, if the result obtained is not in their interest or aimed to help them. Finally, by including women in the planning stage, we avoid the mistake of trying to implement projects, which were drawn up with the needs of male farmers in mind, in countries where women constitute the largest part of the agricultural workers. Likewise, female extension staff is a guarantee for productive contacts with the rural women. It is not encouraging to find that only about 5 percent of the fellowships granted by FAO in 1976 were for women. Here, we look for greater efforts, in line with the many resolutions already adopted.

In conclusion, I would like to refer back to the resolution on the role of women in rural development adopted by the Eighteenth Conference. We propose that the aspirations reflected in that resolution in the future be more definitely indicated in medium-term programmes aiming at the overall improvement of rural family life.

Sra. Doña A.C. BERTA de ALBERTO (Argentina): El establecimiento de los objetivos a plazo medio cobra especial relevancia en el marco de la FAO sobre todo si tenemos en cuenta que uno de los elementos centrales de su labor, o sea la actividad en el campo de los productos básicos y el comercio, es vital para alcanzar los objetivos contenidos en las resoluciones de la 6a y 7a Asambleas Generales Extraordinarias de las Naciones Unidas. En este sentido y sin perjuicio de las tareas que sobre este tema se llevan a cabo en otros foros internacionales como la UNCTAD y GATT, etc. mi delegación desearía enfatizar y realzar el papel de FAO no solo como centro de convergencia de los resultados que se obtengan en el campo de los productos básicos sino también como núcleo generador de las políticas de instrumentación correspondientes que permitan alcanzar los objetivos del segundo decenio para el desarrollo.

Si bien en el párrafo 2.11 del documento C 77/23 se señalan como elementos centrales de la labor de la FAO su actividad en materia de productos básicos y comercio en cooperación con la UNCTAD, etc., creemos que es conveniente subrayar la necesidad de conservar a la FAO como caja de resonancia de los progresos y tropiezos que se registren en otros foros. De esta manera no procuramos otra cosa que el afianzamiento de la FAO como núcleo de coordinación de todos los aportes que se hacen a la comunidad internacional en los distintos aspectos y niveles del ámbito alimentario y agrícola, función que por otra parte se ha visto reforzada por la creación relativamente reciente de organismos como el CMA, el FIDA y el GCPAIA. Y es precisamente por su función tradicional de núcleo que el establecimiento de objetivos a plazo medio cobra especial relevancia en el seno de la FAO. Es ella, como ya dijimos anteriormente, quién debe articular las modalidades más idóneas para instrumentar los lineamientos y alcanzar los objetivos del segundo decenio para el desarrollo en el ámbito de la agricultura y la alimentación. En este sentido observamos dos modalidades altamente oficiosas: en primer lugar el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y en segundo lugar las perspectivas que se abren en FAO para la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. El Programa de Cooperación Técnica agrega realmente una nueva y promisorio dimensión práctica a la FAO, orientada a la acción y a la labor en el terreno. En cuanto a las perspectivas de la CTPD, o sea, en cuanto a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo como una de las vías de quemar etapas hacia las metas propuestas, según consta en el párrafo 4.5 del documento que nos ocupa, nos congratulamos que sea la FAO uno de los organismos más antiguos de la familia de las Naciones Unidas, la Organización que más rápidamente ha acogido y proyectado esta idea relativamente nueva de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

En este sentido, mi delegación desea manifestar su más amplia adhesión a la iniciativa mencionada en el párrafo 4.5 acerca de la necesidad de aumentar la cooperación técnica y económica entre los propios países en desarrollo y la necesidad de que se concrete rápidamente el apoyo de la FAO y de la Comunidad Internacional, a lo que se hace referencia en el informe.

Asimismo queremos en especial reiterar la disposición de nuestro país de brindar en forma activa asistencia técnica a otros países en desarrollo, si bien este tema podrá ser ampliamente debatido al considerarse el punto 13 de la agenda de la Conferencia.

Por otro lado, mi delegación desea destacar algunos aspectos del documento C 77/23 que nos preocupa especialmente. En primer lugar, el análisis que el mismo hace en el nivel regional, se ha limitado básicamente a un diagnóstico parcial de la coyuntura actual sin mayor relación con los objetivos y prioridades a plazo medio.

En el caso de América Latina, específicamente, consideramos que el párrafo 4.21 no solo no explicita los objetivos a mediano plazo, sino que tampoco contiene un desarrollo adecuado a la importancia del tema.

En segundo término, y con relación al estudio de las Naciones Unidas sobre la economía mundial en el año 2000, a lo que se hace referencia en el párrafo 4.21, queremos manifestar nuestra total coincidencia con lo expresado en el punto 2.141 del informe del 33° período de sesiones del Comité del Programa, documento CL 72/4, en el sentido de que la FAO debe evitar estudios teóricos a largo plazo e irrealistas cuyo alto costo limita en gran medida la labor de la organización en las actividades prácticas y de corto plazo que son mucho más promisorias y efectivas.

Al señalar esto no hacemos más que reiterar una de las orientaciones indicadas por la 18a Conferencia y el 69° y 71° Consejos, que por otra parte se refleja en las pautas sentadas por el Director General en su introducción al programa de Labores y Presupuesto y al documento C 77/23 sobre Objetivos a Plazo Medio.

En tercer lugar y con relación al capítulo de Pesca, o sea los párrafos 4.50 y 4.55, quisiéramos insistir sobre la necesidad de no despilfarrar recursos en programas teóricos y de resultados aleatorios o cuyo aprovechamiento cabal requiere luego inversiones de tal magnitud que se encuentran mucho más allá de las posibilidades de los países en desarrollo.

Finalmente, y en lo que respecta a la necesidad y utilidad en sí del documento C 77/23 en su conjunto, mi delegación quisiera expresar que tiene ciertas dudas acerca del aporte que el mismo representa, sobre todo teniendo presente que la mayor parte del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio fue concebido y presentado en su contexto a plazo medio. Como ya lo ha señalado muy bien el delegado de Jordania y otros oradores que me han precedido esta tarde y esta mañana también, ello hace inevitable la superposición entre ambos documentos. Al respecto deseamos expresar que compartimos en buena medida la reflexión del Director General en el párrafo 3° de su introducción al documento C 77/23 acerca de la mayor viabilidad y utilidad de una planificación a plazo medio que tenga en cuenta la fórmula original del Comité Especial de los Catorce, o sea: “programas y presupuestos para dos años con estimaciones correlativas de recursos para dos bienios consecutivos, que constituyan indicadores, no compromisos, en lugar de disponer de documentos separados de carácter bienal y de plazo medio.

En este sentido también debemos recordar que se expidió asimismo el Comité del Programa, en su último período de sesiones, al convenir en el párrafo 2.146 de su informe, que consta en el documento CL 72/4, que el documento C 77/23 constituye una base útil para los debates de la Conferencia pero que en el futuro deberá incorporarse al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

P.G. STAVNUM (Norway): I apologise for taking the floor once again, but this time I would like to make a statement on behalf of the Norwegian delegation, and I will concentrate on forestry and fisheries.

In his general statement, the Minister of Agriculture of Norway mentioned the need for investments in forestry. He also indicated the Norwegian Forestry Act, which says that every forest owner has the obligation to invest in the forest a part of the sales value of wood. This forest levy is for the time being 10 percent. The actual investment in forestry is substantially higher than this minimum. A sufficient investment in forestry is imperative for several reasons. In some parts of the world, this seemed to be the only way to rescue land productivity against erosion, desert encroachment, etc. The need for wood for industrial purposes is rising and seems to be a prerequisite for general economic development. This increase in demand cannot be met without extensive investments several decades before the wood is needed.

Wood is the raw material for a substantial part of energy production in the world. In this respect, it gives three times as much energy as hydroelectric power. The productive forest areas are pressed by urbanization, traditional agricultural activities, recreation and mismanagement.

Investments, including the introduction of appropriate technologies that make new forest areas accessible and are made in a form that fits the local socio-economic conditions will create employment for rural populations where alternatives scarcely exist. An extensive investment programme is therefore necessary not only in the future but now. As these investments tend to be of a long-term character, the problems involved often do not reach the proper priority in governmental plans.

For the reasons mentioned, it is important that funds are made available for investments in forestry.

On the national level this can probably be done by securing a fixed part of the income from forestry to be ploughed back to the forests.

Internationally, it should be studied which existing funds could be used for this purpose. IFAD would certainly here find effective ways of approaching its goal.

Investment plans should be worked out with a view to the broad role of forestry in society: fibre for the world; income for the country; employment for the rural population; energy and shelter.

The type of investment in trees and equipment must be carefully planned to fulfill its purpose.

To facilitate a meaningful discussion on what can be done by FAO to improve the situation in this field, I would suggest that the Secretariat prepares a document on "investment in forestry including forest industries" for the next meeting in the Committee on Forestry.

The document should preferably include discussion on: (1) The form or type of investment taking care of all the aspects of forestry. The question of employment is often forgotten. (2) The amount of actual and desirable investment is important and might need analysis that include timber trends, estimates on a world basis. (3) Financial sources available on national and international level.

Turning to fisheries, Mr. Chairman, the Norwegian delegation has with interest noted the policy proposals set forth in the document C 77/23 provided by the Secretariat and welcomes this opportunity to discuss broad policy objectives and offer guidelines for the development of global fisheries in the medium term.

It is our view that perhaps the greatest task before us is to review possible means and mechanisms for a better utilization of available fish resources. During the general debate last week the Norwegian Minister of Agriculture had occasion to stress the importance we attach to this matter: how best to exploit the substantial but equally finite resources of the oceans to maximize the protein and nutritional benefit that can be derived from world fisheries.

An increased emphasis on research, designed to develop new fish products in furtherance of this objective is required. Indeed a solid basis in this field is already created and we have with particular satisfaction noted the emerging interest in, and acceptance of, the fishmeal (FPC-B) for human consumption, a product which we hope will become a useful protein supplement in future food aid.

It is further necessary to assure that the new structure of control and management of the living resources, as introduced in the emerging new regime of the sea, will come to make the desired and intended impact on the pattern of harvesting of the fish resources.

In particular, there is a need to assist the developing coastal states to enable them to take advantage of the opportunities offered to them in their exercise of jurisdiction over substantial living resources situated off their coasts. In this work we feel that FAO itself should play a prominent part; both through the strengthening of its own regional fisheries bodies and further expansion of ongoing FAO projects, and also in serving the function of an intermediary between developing and developed coastal states to facilitate contact and cooperation between nations whose fisheries are presently at widely different levels of development. In particular the following modes of cooperation and development assistance should be encouraged: (1) transfer of appropriate technology, taking full account of prevailing conditions and peculiarities in recipient countries. (2) Donor countries should make available their accumulated experience and expertise, for example through increased exchange of scientific and administrative personnel. (3) Help develop the general infrastructure of the fishery industry. (4) Assist in the formulation of general development plans.

All this is to be looked at as general efforts designed to promote an indigenous fishery capacity and thus lay the foundation for a long-term self-sustained growth process in these countries.



We thus feel that a main priority in the years to come will be to focus our efforts, either through bilateral agreements or under the auspices of FAO itself on the development of fisheries in the emerging economic zones of developing coastal states.

We must, however, be prepared, though this no doubt will be a venture to be viewed in a long-term context, to seek to develop presently unutilized unconventional resources, possibly under international auspices and similarly devise means to assure an equitable and effective distribution of such resources.

K. ITANO (Japan): I would like to make a very brief comment on the item we are now discussing. My delegation is in agreement in general with the Medium-Term Project priorities put down in the document C 77/23. Nevertheless, we feel that in view of the limited resources setting up of overall priorities sometimes leads to no priority. Therefore, it is desirable to identify top priorities so as to enable the Organization to carry out its objectives in an integrated manner. In this connection, my delegation is of the view that one of the top priorities should be promotion of integrated rural development by drawing on all-round in-depth studies related for the production, distribution and marketing, and also on food and agriculture information collected under FAO initiative all over the world. In this context, we also would like to stress the need of further improvement of global food and agriculture information systems.

S.S. MAHDI (India): We would also join the other speakers in expressing our appreciation for the document, within the limitations that were imposed by the directions of the last Conference. At the same time, Mr. Chairman, after having a look at this paper our delegation wonders whether we should continue with this document or not. When I make this observation I do not mean any criticism of the people who are involved in the preparation of this document. In fact, when I say this it is a comment of self criticism in the sense that so far unfortunately we as a collective body here, as the governing body of FAO, have not been able to make up our mind as to what we want in terms of medium-term objectives or plans. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, and I apologise very profusely, for saying this, I find myself in a very baffling situation. What are we discussing here? Are we discussing the Programme of Work and Budget all over again? Are we discussing a list of intentions? Are we dealing with some kind of a policy direction to the FAO Secretariat, or are we having a purely academic discussion? Mr. Chairman, these are not rhetorical questions. I know whatever we decide here has implications for the resources of the Organization, both in terms of money and personnel. In this confusing situation I cannot help but congratulate the small band of officers who have put together this document. So whatever I will say about this document will not so much be directed to the effort that has been made, but to the lack of clarity of thinking and cohesion and lack of unanimity consenses which has been very apparent in this forum in the past, and continues to be so even today.

Mr. Chairman, if you look at the document it is a brief paper of 18 pages. Three pages are devoted to the Introduction; three to the background of medium-term programming in FAO, as well as in the United Nations system; three pages to the reproduction of the various manifestos we have issued in the various regional conferences; that covers almost half the document. In the rest of the nine pages we have FAO's priorities and programmes for the medium term. And what does this medium term mean? That is also not very clear. Whether it is six years, ten years, end of the century, next century. These things are not very clear. Now, within nine pages we want to discuss, quantificate and give guidance to FAO's Secretariat about what the Medium-Term Programme and Objectives should be. Mr. Chairman, it is not possible.

My delegation would be interested in a particular aspect. The other delegations may be interested in some other aspect, and then we again have a shoppire list. So I would very much appeal to you that if it is not possible to resolve the question of the future shape of this document in this Commission, let us make a recommendation that there should be some kind of a Working Group of this Conference which should go into the question a little more deeply and decide now once and for all, because I cannot say that, but at least once for the next five to six years, as to what kind of thing we want.

Whether we want this list of intentions, or we want a medium-term programme as is being prepared in some other organizations of the United Nations system, or we want to do away with this document and have only some indications of the medium-term developments in the Programme of Work and Budget.

I fully realize that in a debate like this it is not possible to resolve these questions, and therefore I make a very specific suggestion for your consideration, Sir, and for the consideration of other delegates present here: that we should go into this question deeply. There is no point in continuing

an activity the purpose of which is not well-defined. We come here; we look at the documents; we express our appreciation; we make a few comments; we comment on certain programmes - and that is all. All this gives a sense of unreality which we could well avoid.

I am sorry that my general observations about the document were a little lengthy. Now I would like to come to a few specific aspects.

The question of quantification has been raised from this floor. I fully appreciate the point of view of those who are not in favour of quantification, but at the same time I would like to say that we should not be too much afraid of quantification, especially when we know that quantification in a medium-term document does not mean commitment - and even if it did, why should we be so afraid of it? After all, we have a common objective, and we want to help and assist the developing countries in their development.

Therefore, I shall support the arguments which have been made from this floor for some kind of quantification of the medium-term programmes. Without quantification, the whole thing remains too amorphous, too general. Without that, such documents would be suitable material for academic seminars and not for decision-making government bodies.

The next question I would like to raise is that of coordination. I entirely agree with the comments of the Director-General in his Introduction, that the attempts in the United Nations system to coordinate the programmes of work and budget of different agencies at the programme, sub-programme and lower level, are fraught with difficulty. The only way out is to have a proper medium-term programme and document, where this kind of harmonization can take place. If this does not happen, I am afraid it will be unreasonable to demand that the FAO Secretariat, or any other secretariat, should coordinate its activities with other parts of the United Nations System. I emphasize that it is a very essential task, but we cannot do it on the basis of this kind of document that we have in our hands today.

As I have already said, when we look at the document we express our interest in this or that programme. In conformity with doctrine, I am also constrained to comment on two aspects which are missing from this document.

These observations are related to paragraph 4.3 which deals with the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action. This is a goal which has been set by the international community for the industrialization of the developing countries. This example again illustrates my point. In 4.3, we see the essence of a certain goal which has been set by the international community. After that, when we try to see what role FAO is going to play in achieving that goal, we can hardly find anything. This is an aspect which I would like to emphasize: that FAO should play its role in the field of industrialization insofar as it relates to its activities, which will be mainly agricultural industries; and they should find proper reflection in any medium-term programme that we make in future.

Secondly, I find that the document merely deals with the problems of production. But we are a little concerned that the subject of nutrition per se has been ignored. The question is, how can FAO claim to assist in tackling the colossal problem of malnutrition if, besides production, it does not have a medium-term programme on nutrition. This problem has been referred to by other delegations, and I would like to join my voice to theirs. As you know, the second session of the ad hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition will be held in Rome in March 1978, and it will give consideration to the subject. My delegation would like to state that it attaches great importance to those nutritional activities which have an impact on the hungry and malnourished, particularly in the rural areas, and which would affect our food supplies as well as consumers in rural and urban areas. In this context, I would name the activities which deserve to receive additional assistance in the medium term: these are nutrition surveillance, nutrition intervention such as feeding programmes, training and food control. Once again, we would like to emphasize the role of national institutions from developing countries in all these areas.

Mr. Chairman, if you have formed the impression that I have been rather negative, I would like to balance this by saying that in the document I find a very interesting new line of thought, which we would like to encourage. That deals with power and energy, and is described in paragraphs 4.37 and 4.38. We feel that this work deserves the greatest consideration by FAO, and any activity in this regard in the short and medium term will have our full support.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): I am grateful for the opportunity of following immediately upon the delegate of India, who spoke so eloquently about the problem of the position of this particular paper in our deliberations, because it is a difficult question. As the Director-General pointed out in his Introduction, there is bound to be some overlap between documents such as the Programme of Work and Budget, Medium-Term Objectives, and so on; and I think we must accept that this kind of duplication will be part of our work.

Indeed, in many ways it seems to me that we have approached major problems in this Conference from a variety of angles, and have looked at them afresh from each of those angles. That said, I must say that we do feel in the United Kingdom that there is a place for a paper of this kind, which gives us an overview of the future as seen by the Secretariat - who are, I think, to be congratulated on the quality of the paper which they have produced.

Like the United States delegation, we were a little disappointed that priorities were not really assessed in any detail, although we accept that this is difficult to do when one is looking well into the future without the benefit of financial quantification of any of the activities proposed. Frankly, I again feel for the delegate of India here, and we would have wished for some quantification if this were possible. But we think it is not possible and that the present document gives us the best compromise that we can have. Within the limitations stated we think that it provides a very adequate framework for discussion of FAO's priority areas, provided that it is read, as intended, in conjunction with all the other major papers - the Programme of Work and Budget, the Review of Field Programmes, and the State of Food and Agriculture. The paper is an improvement on its predecessors; it is briefer, it has a very practical approach, especially in its qualification of the organizational side of FAO's activities.

We also support the emphasis given both here and in other papers to continuous evaluation, of both the regular programme and projects, and we welcome the Director-General's clear statement that such reviews of all activities will be carried out progressively in the future. In short, we think this is a good paper with limited aims which it achieves very well.

If I may now turn to a discussion of some of the contents of the paper, particularly section IV, which deals with medium-term priorities.

Again, we find the sector on major technical and economic problems a little sad in a way, in that the problems covered are so well known to all of us and seem so intractable. We feel also that the measures to be taken which can give physical increases in yields are largely known, and that to some extent the problem is one of applying the knowledge already gained. There has been great advance in research in agriculture in recent years, but the application of that research has lagged far behind.

There are one or two specific points under the heading of economic problems. In particular, improved technology is obviously a necessity, but it is not entirely a question of inputs alone to improve technology. A most important item also is a higher standard of husbandry, including timely sowing of seed, appropriate seed rates in the soil, weeding, and care of the crop. These things alone, without technological input, can do much for yields at the cost of a little more - and perhaps a little more skilled-work in conjunction with inputs from outside, which are essential if full benefit is to be obtained.

On seeds, which we regard as a very vital element in the development of agriculture, we take the view that without an organization or organizations capable of multiplying and supplying new seeds to the farmers, plant breeding is merely an interesting academic exercise. Indeed, we feel so strongly about this, that in 1976 the United Kingdom sponsored the setting up of a post-graduate course in seed technology, which is now training both United Kingdom and overseas workers in this vital field.

But it seems to me that, when we come down to it, the vital problem underlying all of this - the problem about which we have talked in many ways - is the farmers' attitude to change.

So long as all these new inputs, new education and new technology are merely a matter of teaching the farmer without consideration of the reasons which leave him in the situation which he finds himself today, we shall fail to get real improvement. This I think is now well understood, but it needs to be said because it is, I think, the vital point underlining all our deliberations. The farmer needs to be assured of minimum risk in any new development because his resources are slender and he cannot afford to fail. He must have a market for any increased produce which will not disappear as soon as he has it. He also needs a market in which he can buy the goods he needs for a better life with the cash he earns.

We must, I think, see the problems of the farmer and the society in which he lives, and these problems vary from place to place and from time to time, and perhaps a new species of extension work is required into this. We have here a problem of reeducation which affects both the teacher and the taught, and unless we can get to that level I think progress will be slow.

I am encouraged by the signs in this gathering and in the other Councils I have attended that this problem is very much recognized and the need for a true balance of interest between the farmer in the field, the new technology which can be applied to him, and the teachers who come to help him is really appreciated.

N.E. NORCOTT (Canada): Mr. Chairman, in our view document C 77/23 as far as it goes is a very useful document which sets out in broad terms the medium-term objectives of FAO, and we believe in that sense it is a good paper. However, we believe, as other delegates have mentioned, that an appropriate way to deal with the issue of medium-term objectives and plans still needs to be addressed by FAO. We recognize that the document is not a medium-term plan and that it was not meant to be one. However, it is the view of our delegation that the establishment of medium-term objectives is certainly one of the most crucial steps in the establishment of a medium-term plan.

Medium-term objectives are the basis on which programmes can be developed, and unless the objectives are set out in fairly precise terms it is extremely difficult not only to devise the most effective policy responses, but also to evaluate the efficiency and effective result programmes. While the document does provide information on areas for future action by the FAO, the objectives which it sets out to identify are phrased in such general terms that it is difficult to make effective use of the document for planning purposes.

C 77/23 represents an honest attempt to provide medium-term objectives. We feel it does not go far enough. Specifically if the objectives are to be of real value to Member States and the Secretariat it will have to be far more specific. Our delegation believes that the time has come for FAO to expand activities in this area beyond the mere establishment of broad general objectives. Medium-term objectives are not an end in themselves but only a means to develop the response to perceived needs. We think that FAO should strive to produce a true medium-term plan which includes specific medium-term objectives quantified where possible, details of priorities, timing of activities and an indication of the resource, requirement and allocations between programmes. Such a document would not only make it far easier to relate programme outputs to the objectives and priorities of the Organization, but would also allow the Organization to make the most efficient use of the resources available to it.

We recognize the development of a medium-term plan is not an easy task, but we think it is an essential one, specifically at the time in which we find ourselves. We would suggest over the next biennium the Director-General, in cooperation with the Council and other bodies such as Committee on Forestry, Fisheries, Agriculture, Programme and Finance Committee, develop a format for mid-term planning and begin the development of specific mid-term objectives which could be discussed at the next Conference.

Turning to the priorities outlined in the document, Mr. Chairman, I can say in our view the priorities listed are sound and we can support them. We have already had rather lengthy discussions on the Programme of Work and Budget, Review of Field Programmes and other agenda items, and we feel the discussions that have taken place on the questions of investments, food reserves, food security, reduction of food losses, education and training, international and agricultural adjustments; we believe that the discussions that have taken place on these matters certainly highlight the issues and long-term or medium-term objectives for the Organization, and we will be discussing fisheries later this week.

I would add, however, that in the forestry area the processes of desertification and agriculture are in our view destroying forests on a major scale, and this problem should be reflected and examined in FAO's medium-term planning.

Many of the other points I think I need not go into in any detail. I think that we would support the suggestions that have been made by several other delegations, that in view of the importance of this topic to the Organization a separate document on these medium-term objectives is essential, and naturally this will require an even closer relationship between this document and the Programme of Work and Budget and other related documents.

H. AL-AKHRAS (Syria) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, allow me to express my gratitude for what was said by the distinguished representative of India. Firstly, because he has saved me the need to make a lengthy statement and he has saved a lot of time for this Committee. Secondly, also because what he has suggested is in the view of my delegation an important turning point and a positive one in our discussion, but I would like to add a few remarks to what has been already said by the distinguished representative of India.

The increase of agricultural production, particularly food production, the reduction of food losses and the improvement of nutritional standards, all these remain long-term objectives and continuous ones, as long as there is a problem of hunger and food shortage in the world, but the stage of agricultural development differs from one country to another, and therefore I believe that each country has its own objectives and its own priorities in the medium-term level, and each of course vary in accordance with the economic development and criteria set by each country. Secondly, they also vary in accordance with the system of the values, ideals and habits akin to the society of each country. No country can know the priorities of another country better than this latter country does.

Mr. Chairman, I share with my other colleagues the remarks concerning the importance of laying down most specific medium-term objectives which should be helpful to the Organization in assisting the different member countries of the Organization and helping them to carry out their own priorities. If it is necessary to do so my delegation suggests either that this should be carried out in a document which should be discussed before we discuss the document on the Programme of Work and Budget, or otherwise there would be no point in issuing the document to be discussed after discussing the document on the Programme of Work and Budget, or that it should constitute the first part of the document concerning Programme of Work and Budget.

Mme, E. MAMMONE LENER (Italie): La délégation italienne adresse ses félicitations aux auteurs du document traitant des objectifs à moyen terme. Plus que tout autre, ce document permet d'apprécier l'activité que la FAO exerce jour après jour pour rester fidèle à celui qui est son objectif institutionnel, à savoir permettre que tous les êtres humains, dans un avenir plus ou moins proche, puissent manger à leur faim.

La délégation italienne trouve que la formule actuelle du programme à moyen terme est satisfaisante. Elle permet de jeter quelque lueur sur ce que sera le développement futur de l'activité de l'Organisation.

Nous voudrions manifester aussi de façon particulière l'intérêt que nous prenons à participer au réseau d'instituts de recherches qui a été mis en place pour faciliter les échanges d'informations et les transferts de techniques entre pays ayant des problèmes communs, en particulier pour l'Europe, en vue de pouvoir faire face aux problèmes que posent les calamités naturelles dues à la détérioration géologique du pays.

En ce qui concerne les priorités, la délégation italienne voudrait insister pour que la FAO renforce la recherche dans les secteurs de l'énergie et de la mécanisation dont il est question aux paragraphes 4.37 et 4.38.

Pour répondre à l'invitation du Président, je vais arrêter ici mon intervention, mais je dois dire que chacun connaît les soucis que fait naître l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources d'énergie disponibles, et cela suffit à expliquer notre insistance pour que ce domaine soit toujours suivi et placé au centre des préoccupations de l'Organisation.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Je vais me borner à deux ou trois observations assez brèves. Ma délégation partage la préoccupation du Directeur général telle qu'il l'expose dans son introduction, à savoir: ne pas disperser une grande partie des ressources de l'Organisation dans des études de planification. Les plans n'ont jamais nourri personne si ce n'est les planificateurs, mais alors aux dépens des intéressés.

Il est clair également que le programme de travail et budget se place nécessairement dans un contexte à moyen terme, parce qu'il est inconcevable qu'une organisation élabore un budget tout à fait indépendant de ce qui précède et de ce qui suit. Ceci pour dire que nous estimons qu'il ne faut pas exagérer l'importance de cette planification.

Cela dit, je voudrais tout de même joindre mes remarques à celles d'un de mes prédécesseurs - en l'occurrence le délégué des Pays-Bas - qui a suggéré qu'on tienne compte à l'avenir de la résolution 51/93 de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies, qui fait aux pays membres cette recommandation en matière de moyen terme.

Quant au document lui-même, qu'il me soit permis de faire une ou deux observations: d'abord, l'objectif à moyen terme comme l'objectif à long terme de la FAO est d'essayer de donner à manger aux populations du monde. Et le document contient toute une énumération des moyens que la FAO met en oeuvre pour tenter d'atteindre cet objectif. Nous sommes généralement d'accord sur les moyens qui nous sont proposés, et que nous connaissons d'ailleurs fort bien, ce sont ceux qui sont actuellement déjà appliqués. Peut-être certains accents peuvent-ils être déplacés; les orateurs précédents en ont relevé certains. Je pense, par exemple, à la nutrition.

Ma délégation voudrait également mettre le Secrétariat en garde au sujet de l'importance attachée à la recherche. Nous estimons que la recherche doit être essentiellement laissée aux instituts régionaux et autres et que le rôle de la FAO doit être surtout de transférer le résultat de la recherche vers le terrain.

Je dois relever un dernier point qui figure dans la conclusion du document. Ma délégation n'est pas tout à fait du même avis que le Secrétariat en ce qui concerne les paragraphes 5.5 et 5.6. Le document dit: "Il semble peu probable que les fonds du PNUD et des fonds fiduciaires affectés à la FAO pour l'exécution de projets augmentent plus rapidement que les ressources totales disponibles pour l'aide au développement". Ma délégation ne partage pas cette préoccupation. Elle ne partage pas non plus la conclusion que la FAO en tire au paragraphe 5.6 à savoir que "il sera certainement nécessaire que les ressources mises à la disposition du programme ordinaire augmentent à un rythme régulier, et même exceptionnel".

R. PASQUIER (Suisse): Les perspectives à moyen terme présentées par le Directeur général sont, à notre avis, conformes à l'esprit des délibérations de la Conférence de 1975. Le progrès en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation dépend d'un ensemble de facteurs, d'un ensemble d'actions sectorielles complémentaires, qui doivent être menées de front, chacune pouvant devenir un élément imitatif. C'est pourquoi nous ne sommes pas surpris que le Directeur général n'ait pas tenté de les ranger dans un ordre de priorité. Nous sommes d'avis que dans bien des pays l'élément crucial du progrès en question est la commercialisation rationnelle des produits, fondée sur des prix adéquats à la production d'une part et à la consommation d'autre part. Le Directeur général mentionne ce facteur au paragraphe 4.26. Nous souhaitons que la FAO y donne l'importance voulue dans son programme d'action, en accord avec les pays intéressés.

En ce qui concerne la présentation, il nous semble justifié d'élaborer pour la prochaine Conférence un bref document traitant à nouveau de manière spécifique des objectifs à moyen terme.

O. MBURU (Kenya): My only reason for intervening at this stage is to express my delegation's support for the idea of having a document on the medium-term objectives. A few delegations have condemned the idea of such a document, some have condemned it in very strong language, and I thought in case the Secretariat is in a dilemma as to whether they should produce the document or not, I should express my delegation's support for it. I agree with those who have expressed the opinion that there is certainly room for a separate document on medium-term objectives.

My final comment is to support the proposal by the Norwegian delegation that, in connection with investment in forestry, the Secretariat should write a paper for discussion at the next Committee on Forestry meeting. We think that investment in forestry is a crucial issue, involving, as it does, employment and development in the rural areas and the introduction of industry, therefore increasing the value added to forest products, as well as the transfer of technology.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): When the debate began rather late this morning, just before lunch, there was a certain reluctance to speak, and I was reminded of the two farmers sitting outside a pub in an English village. They sat there in quietness for some time, then one said to the other, "I think that is a bull over there". A quarter of an hour later, the other one said, "No, it's a cow". There was then silence for half an hour, the first one got up and started to go and the second one said, "Are you going home?" He said, "Yes, too much argument here".

After lunch, it proved to be rather different, and in fact, we have had 21 speakers, by my reckoning, fourteen from what one might call developed countries; I am not sure whether I have counted the Nordic countries twice or three times, because they have used a very interesting device of having one speaker for all or some of them on different subjects. This greatly facilitated our proceedings, although I am not quite sure to whom I am replying. There were seven speakers from developing countries.

I think everybody, in the end, including those who spoke in the morning, made a very thoughtful, critical but constructively critical debate, which has been, on the whole, a more rewarding experience than previous debates on this item, although, as in the past, more has been said about the format of the document than about the substance. However, I would like to begin with the substance.

On the question of priorities, it was pointed out by most delegations that they had said a good deal in the debates, whether in Plenary, or through their Ministers, or in the debate on the Programme of Work and Budget, on the priorities. But some gave interesting indications about priorities in broad terms over a medium-term period, and we shall study the verbatims and refer these comments to the substantive departments and divisions to take into account from now on.

One of the more immediate occasions on which they will have to take them into account is in the technical committees which are Committees of the Whole. The technical committees are the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Fisheries and the CCP. Those three consider medium-term documents. So I think this was rather missing from the debate, because it is there that a great deal of the hard work on deciding what are medium-term priorities is done, and is then reflected in these documents which you receive at the Conference.

In that connection, I would say that the suggestion was made about investment in forestry. This will be referred to the appropriate people, because there is a procedure, in consultation with the chairmen of those committees, for determining the agenda. So we shall look into that in a constructive way.

A number of delegations spoke about the omission of a reference to nutrition. In hindsight, I would agree with them that this is a missing section which ought to have been here, but I would like to come back to that point in a minute because it was also said by someone that they were disappointed not to find a separate section on the prevention of food losses. The problem here is that not only are these subjects discussed in the general debate, but some of them are discussed in Commission I. There is a whole document, and a great deal of trouble over a resolution going on in Commission I and in contact groups.

Would it really have made any difference to have a separate section on food losses also in this document? Nutrition or any other subjects, let us say the Law of the Sea, are being discussed in the general debate as a separate item in Commission I, in the Programme of Work and Budget, in Review of Field Programmes, in Medium-Term Objectives, in the State of Food and Agriculture. It is a lack of documentation here or is it something else?

India made some very forceful remarks on the dilemma with which delegates are presented because of this, and that I will deal with, if I may, when I come back to the question of format.

What I am doing at the moment is to indicate that if I do not discuss all priorities, it is because that we really do not need to do that at this stage, especially as we will take note of the remarks made by some delegations, and being meticulous bureaucrats, you can be sure that we will compare the rankings that were given by some delegations, if only to prove that they were different.

Now, on nutrition, I would like to come back and say that whilst it was an omission, which I admit and apologize for, not to have had a section in this paper. In fact what delegates said about the substance of what FAO should be doing is spelt out word for word in the Programme of Work and Budget, in the Medium-Term Section beginning the chapter, and in the programme on nutrition itself. So there is not any difference on substance, it is just a question of where to look for it, and we ought to be making things easier for delegates, not harder. So I am not quarreling with the criticism that it was not easy to find it.

On women in rural development, we had some very constructive and clear thinking actually provided by two feminine delegates, only one of whom is here at the moment. There is only one correction I would like to make to what Finland said. She referred to a remark made by the Director-General in his opening address about more women candidates in FAO. He did not in fact say from developing countries, he said from Member States.

On Planning I really have nothing I can add to what was said in the Director-General's Introduction on the top of Page VI of the document itself, and as regards Planning and Nutrition, I remember distinctly going through quite a lot of uncomfortable moments in this room two years ago when people criticized the very large increase in the budget for nutrition planning and for planning in general, and I remember the Council subsequently endorsing the Director-General's proposals for striking out most of the work or resources on the Regular Programme for Country Perspective Studies. We stand ready to help countries with Country Perspective Studies if they ask for them and if there are resources outside the Regular Programme for them, so the position is consistent with what the governing bodies have decided.

The only other question on priorities I would like to comment on is the one on basic needs, which figured largely in a number of speeches, particularly that of the USA. At first I thought that the USA was criticising an omission in the document but then I realised that the USA was agreeing with what the Director-General had to say in his opening address in the Plenary and in this document.

If you read his Introduction, you will find that a great part of the emphasis is precisely on the rural poor, on their having income and their having employment, on their having basic needs, in fact. This figures in the penultimate paragraph on the bottom of the Introduction, VI in the English text of the document, but he also added a thought there which we in the Secretariat keep in our minds very much, that we must be careful not to allow this concern with certain countries that we should concentrate on certain aspects of basic needs which however well-intended and however welcome generally might seem rather disproportionate or paternalistic in their approach. It is for the developing countries themselves to say what their basic needs are and to devise their plans to deal with them. It is for the Organization to assist them, on request, using national institutions as far as possible, rather than to try and dictate to them what they should be doing in these fields, so with that qualification, I was relieved to find that there was no real difference at all.

Turning now to the question of format, we have had a whole range of opinion embracing the extremes from the Netherlands and Belgium, on the one hand, to those like Jordan - not present - who supported the Programme Committee view on the need or otherwise of a medium-term document and what kind of document it should be. I myself do not remember what it was that the General Assembly Resolution said exactly, and I doubt whether many delegations present are in possession of that Resolution, but it applied, as far as I remember, to the United Nations only. The last medium-term plan of the United Nations for 1978-81 consists of 510 pages in two volumes and I cannot really see you demanding the Director-General to go back on a policy which he has put forward to you and you have adopted for dispensing, forever if possible, with such a waste of paper for such a purpose.

The first volume of this 510 pages contains narrative statements for major programmes, sub-programmes and so forth. We have been through all that, and it was dismissed as a useless shopping list in FAO.

The second volume contains summary data on the current budget by major programmes showing growth rates for major programmes over the previous biennium, which you have, presenting various kinds of assessments and assumptions, but in this document no attempt is made to project absolute levels of resources and no indications are provided in order of priority.

I do not want anything I say on the subject about what other organizations do to be taken as criticism of what they do, because if that is what their governing bodies want, that is what they should do. I would only say that we in FAO have been through most of these stages that other people are developing. We have been through the narratives which we dismissed as shopping lists, we have been through the process of grading major programmes A, B, C, D, delete E, etc, and we have come to this stage because none of those exercises proved to be satisfactory. I see the distinguished delegate of Ireland nodding. I remember that when we had A, B, C, D, E, he or his colleague at that time declared that even if we had spent the whole week and had documents reaching to the ceiling, we still would not reach agreement as to what was A, B, C, D, E, etc. It was better not to do that. We have even had a Working Group of the Conference to sit down and try and determine what they really wanted. We had that about two biennia ago, and what they determined they wanted was broadly what we have now.

So I turn rather for inspiration if I want it - I am talking about inspiration, not about your instructions, Mr. Chairman, which will come later - to what I think was the majority view and I must avoid abrogating your task of summing up the debate, but it seemed to me that most people said, "let us have a separate document," and then they made suggestions about how to improve that document without going into quantification or at least without going into a degree of quantification such as I have just suggested, either in dollars or in percentages or otherwise, but some of indication which



would provide some kind of realistic framework for medium-term consideration, and I think that was more or less the majority view, but we shall see when you sum up and when the Drafting Committee come back and the Commissions speak on it. And I think this kind of majority view, if it is that, was initiated by Denmark, who was one of the early speakers, and then supported later. If I may say so, when Denmark began he said, "I am going to make my comments in two parts, first on the format and then on behalf of the Nordic countries and then on priorities on behalf of Denmark", and at that moment my heart sank a bit because I remembered the story of Rossini, the famous Italian composer, who was holding auditions for young aspiring composers, and they had to present to him two pieces and he would adjudicate which was better, and in one case the aspiring composer played his first piece on the piano and Rossini said, "That's enough, you can go", and he said, "But I haven't played the second part". Rossini said, "I've heard enough. I'm sure the second part is better."

But in fact, it was not like that, and both parts were good, if I may say so. Now, I do not know which part was better, but anyway he began this process and he made a number of constructive suggestions about how we might continue with a separate document but do better next time, and this was followed by other delegations, so if that is the judgement of the Commission and it is adopted by the Conference, I am sure the Director-General will heed it and will give me instructions accordingly for the next occasion.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. West, for your very detailed answers to the questions and comments. I do not know whether you have facilitated my task for making a summing up. I think you have given as good a summing up as any chairman could do.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): just a point of clarification on what was said by Mr. West. It was my delegation which stated that we were a bit surprised that for the reduction of food losses there was no specific chapter in this document. This is perfectly true; we did say so but we did not say how long this chapter should have been. What we would have hoped was that food losses should have been at the beginning of the section dealing with major technical and economic problems, or that we might have found this subject even before we come to this section. In doing so, it would have stated quite clearly that priority had been given to this matter. We thought that there should have been a clearer statement of priorities, and I hope that this will be possible in future. This at least I think was the desire that was visible in this debate.

There was no lack of documentation about food losses. We have got documentation on this subject elsewhere. It was its priority position that we had in mind, and I think that in this we agree with a number of speakers this afternoon.

S.S. MAHDI (India): Mr. Chairman, before you come to the summary of the debate, I would like to elaborate a little on what I said and this for the simple reason that at the end of the debate and the reply we have received from the Secretariat, we are back to square one so far as this document on medium-term planning is concerned. It is still not clear to me when we assemble here for the next Conference, when I may or may not be here, what will we be discussing? Will we be discussing a similar type of document? Will we be having by then some kind of a medium-term plan, will it contain some quantification or what?

That is why I made my rather pragmatic suggestion that the Commission may consider recommending the creation of a small ad hoc Working Group consisting of certain governments. We should go into the question a little deeper and then come out with recommendations, otherwise we will be faced with the same dilemma and the same situation which we were faced with today, and this will happen year after year, and biennium after biennium.

CHAIRMAN: Any other comments? If not, I will make an attempt to very, very briefly sum up our discussions. I think I can be extremely brief since Mr. West has just given you such a detailed, I should say, summing up of our discussion himself. As far as I can see, there seems to be general agreement in this room on the importance and the need for defining Medium-Term Objectives for FAO, and many delegations have commended FAO on their efforts in this field and I believe one delegate even said FAO was a pioneer within the United Nations system with regard to this. There have, of course, been disagreements on whether to have a separate document or not. Some thought that it should be included in the Programme of Work and Budget, but several others thought it would be better to have a separate document as now. One delegate, or two delegates, termed this as the need for an overview for the future. I think the main point that was brought out from those who wanted to have

a separate document was really to ensure thorough discussion on the Medium-Term Objectives. I have the feeling that was really the main point. Some agreed it would not be possible to quantify Medium-Term Objectives, but others thought that at least an attempt should be made. Some delegations thought that FAO should expand upon just drawing up Medium-Term Objectives and look even a bit further and strive at medium-term planning, and as far as I understood it was suggested one should start with a mid-term plan. One delegation suggested that FAO should adopt the system of medium-term planning as agreed upon in UN Resolution 3193 of last year, but Mr. West has already commented on that. Otherwise I think it was general support for FAO's role and priorities as presented in the document C 77/23, and I shall not try to give you an account of all the activities to which the various delegations attached importance and felt that FAO should concentrate on in the future, in the medium-term. I should just mention a few points which were brought out during the debate, and which perhaps deserve special attention. One of these was the FAO's role in combating hunger and malnutrition, and it was stated that freedom from hunger should be FAO's main concern. Another point was concentration on the rural poor in the poorest food deficit countries, and on the projects which have a direct and immediate impact. Other points were increased food production and reduction of food losses. Some delegates also mentioned especially TCDC, which they thought FAO should give special attention to in future. There were, of course, some other items, or some other subjects that were the subject of special intervention, like nutrition and the role of women. As far as nutrition is concerned, it was pointed out that FAO had a special responsibility in this area, and referred to the FAO Constitution, and also that FAO itself had declared its preparedness to play an active role in this field. It was pointed out that this was not taken quite care of in the paper on Medium-Term Objectives and they hoped that this would be done in the future. As far as the role of women is concerned, it was said that FAO should to a greater extent take into consideration the position of women planning and implementing projects, and they pointed out especially important was training and education programmes.

As far as forestry is concerned, there was a concrete proposal by one delegation, supported by another delegation, that the Committee on Forestry should make a special paper on this.

Distinguished Delegates, I think this is as much as I can do to sum up our discussions. There were, of course, many, many other points that were brought out, but it would go too far, I think, to comment on these, and also Mr. West has already done so, so I think I will stop here.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is, in fact, I will not say a point of order but just that we understand, Sir, that you felt obliged to slightly change the order of business of the day in taking Medium-Term Objectives first. It happens many of the developing countries were prepared the other way around and, therefore, I would suggest, Sir, we have some flexibility in case any member has compelling points to make on Medium-Term Objectives. On such an important thing, I hope that you will allow us to make very brief observations. I must say if at all I would make it extremely brief tomorrow. If members have on Medium-Term Objectives some points to make, would you allow them to make them tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN: Since, as you say, the delegate of Brazil, we had to change our timetable rather suddenly we have to allow for that.

A. Z. M. SHAMSUL ALAM (Bangladesh): I wanted to be sure there would be the opportunity to express views on the Medium-Term Objectives tomorrow also. In that case, we may take a few minutes of time.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate from Bangladesh, this point was raised by the delegate from Brazil. I understood there might be a few who wanted to speak on this item tomorrow. We would much prefer if you would hand your statement to us and we could include it in the Verbatim Record, but I do not feel in a position to refuse your demand because we have changed the timetable for the day, and I think if you insist you should have the right to do so.

R.I.TORRAS (Cuba): Mi delegación quiere apoyar lo que ha sido planteado por la delegación de Brasil y por la de Bangladesh. No creemos que el tema de los objetivos a plazo medio, que es un tema muy importante y que constituye el desarrollo futuro de la Organización, sea un exponente de que haya habido un debate exhaustivo sobre el mismo. El señor West nos ha dicho que las intervenciones han sido de 25 países desarrollados y de siete países en desarrollo y no creo que esto sea un exponente de que haya sido un gran debate sobre el tema. No creemos que el tema se haya cerrado y las conclusiones a las que se ha llegado son parciales en este momento porque hay varias delegaciones que desean hacer sus intervenciones y le rogaríamos, señor Presidente, que nos indicara cuando estima que se puede abrir el tema para su discusión.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, there are requests for speaking tomorrow but you could, of course, speak today if you like. I simply had no other speakers on my list, that is why I closed the debate, because no one had indicated that they were going to speak, but I would, of course, prefer that you spoke now, and especially since Mr. West will not have the possibility to be present tomorrow, and I think it is important that he should hear your statements. Are you prepared to speak tonight? I ask the delegates of Brazil, Bangladesh and Cuba.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Unfortunately tonight I am not prepared. I was prepared to speak on TCDC. Thank you.

N. DIMITRIU (Roumanie): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais exprimer en premier lieu l'appréciation positive de la délégation roumaine pour la manière dont M. le Directeur général nous a présente les objectifs à moyen terme.

Nous apprécions avant tout ses efforts pour concevoir et présenter de façon intégrée les objectifs à moyen terme et le programme et budget. Ainsi que le Directeur général le souligne, on ne considère pas le programme de travail et budget comme un segment séparé, mais comme une partie d'une ligne continue, à savoir les objectifs à moyen terme et, plus loin, les objectifs à long terme. De cette manière, les objectifs à moyen terme de la FAO constituent le cadre pour les activités et les programmes de l'Organisation, tels qu'ils se reflètent dans le programme de travail et budget biennal.

Cela nous paraît d'une importance capitale afin que notre Organisation puisse s'acquitter avec succès des devoirs qui lui sont dévolus par son statut.

Je voudrais maintenant, Monsieur le Président, faire quelques remarques concrètes sur le document qui nous a été soumis au sujet des objectifs à moyen terme:

Premièrement, on mentionne dans le chapitre II, quand on parle du rôle de la FAO, la nécessité de l'harmonisation de l'activité de la FAO avec celle des autres Organisations internationales du système des Nations Unies. Nous sommes entièrement d'accord sur ce point, mais nous voudrions remarquer qu'il est en même temps nécessaire de définir les OMT et même les objectifs à long terme et que la FAO les harmonise également avec les objectifs de développement que chaque pays se propose dans le domaine de l'agriculture. C'est ainsi que l'Organisation pourrait mieux orienter ses ressources vers les besoins les plus importants des différents pays.

Deuxièmement, on précise au chapitre IV: priorités à moyen terme, la nécessité de concevoir les OMT de telle façon qu'ils correspondent aux objectifs du nouvel ordre économique international. Cela est tout à fait normal, parce que la FAO ne pourra vraiment contribuer à la solution du problème alimentaire que dans la mesure où toute son activité sera intégrée aux efforts visant à l'instauration du NOEI. La remarque que nous voudrions faire porte sur le concept de base du NOEI dont on fait mention au chapitre IV, paragraphe 4.1.

Si l'on fait une énumération suivant l'ordre des priorités, il nous semble que le premier objectif du NOEI, en ce qui concerne l'agriculture, doit résider dans l'accroissement substantiel de la production dans les pays en développement parce que seulement ainsi on pourra assurer le droit fondamental de l'homme à la nourriture.

Nous sommes heureux de constater que la FAO se propose d'accroître sa contribution à la réalisation de cet objectif de première importance.

Conscients du caractère absolument prioritaire de l'activité visant à l'accroissement de la production, ainsi que de l'importance des autres priorités mentionnées dans le document, nous voudrions quand même

relever qu'aurait dû être incluse parmi celles-ci l'activité de la recherche scientifique. Nous pensons qu'elle ne doit pas être absente des objectifs à moyen et à long terme, même si certains de ses aspects sont inclus dans les autres activités déjà mentionnées.

Pour ce qui est des priorités par région géographique, je me borne à réitérer ce que nous avons déjà dit à propos de l'Europe, quand nous avons discuté le programme de travail et budget. Cela nous paraît valable, et même davantage en ce qui concerne les OMT. Enfin, la délégation roumaine se déclare satisfaite de voir la FAO accorder une attention accrue au développement de la coopération technique et économique entre les pays en développement, et cela en priorité dans le cadre du NOEI.

Je n'entrerai pas dans le détail. La délégation roumaine se réserve de parler sur ce dernier point quand nous en discuterons ces prochains jours.

Je désire cependant mentionner que la délégation roumaine est prête à avancer toute une série de suggestions en ce qui concerne les actions à entreprendre pour développer davantage la coopération technique 1.

CHAIRMAN: May I then have an indication which delegations intend to speak on this subject and I think we ought to do that first thing tomorrow. Would you please raise your flags? After that, I think we could close the list of speakers so that we at least know where we stand. The delegations that have requested to speak tomorrow are: Iraq, Bangladesh, Cuba, Brazil and India. Any others? If not, the

list of speakers is closed

13. Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries in the Field of Agriculture and Food

13. Coopération technique entre pays en développement dans le domaine d l'agriculture et de l'alimentation

13. Cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en materia de agricultura y alimentación

J.F. YRIART (Subdirector General, Departamento de Desarrollo): Tenemos delante dos documentos que se refieren a este tema: el documento C 77/4 en sus párrafos pertinentes y el documento C 77/LIM/17.

Principalmente deseo agregar en esta introducción a lo que se dice en dichos documentos el interés del Director General en la promoción por todos los medios posibles de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, o CPTD como lo llamamos normalmente, tanto en la agricultura como en los montes y en la pesca.

Quisiera también poder aclarar más las interpretaciones, así como las nociones erróneas que han surgido en discusiones sobre CPTD en otros foros. El concepto que caracteriza el CPTD no es nuevo, pero ha ganado importancia en los últimos años debido a la creciente toma de conciencia entre los países en vías de desarrollo de que la tecnología desarrollada en países industrializados no necesariamente es la más apropiada para sus propias necesidades. Esto es verdad sobre todo con respecto a la agricultura y sectores afines debido a causas ecológicas, así como debido a la gran diferencia en la estructura socio-económica del sector rural en países industrializados y en aquellos en vías de desarrollo.

La necesidad del CTPD se ha visto reforzada además por avances substanciales tecnológicos rápidos que han tenido lugar en las dos últimas décadas en el sector agrícola en varios países en desarrollo. El desarrollo y la introducción de variedades mejoradas de semillas en particular para el trigo, el arroz y el maíz, son ejemplos extraordinarios. El control de la langosta del desierto es otro ejemplo. Otros campos donde quizá el progreso no ha sido tan práctico o por lo menos no tan publicitado incluyen nuevas técnicas de conservación de suelos y aguas e irrigación y drenaje para el control tecnológico de la salinidad, producción de carne y leche, reciclaje de desechos orgánicos para la producción de compuestos y gas metano, acuicultura, entrenamiento de científicos agrícolas y personal de campo, obras cooperativas y otros tipos de asociaciones de campesinos, dirección y transmigración de esquemas de asentamiento de tierras, desarrollo de cuencas, acuerdos sobre productos básicos y muchos otros. Esta no es una lista completa y no cubre el enorme potencial de desarrollo de pesca en profundidad y explotación de montes tropicales donde la FAO ya está trabajando activamente y forjando una cooperación entre países en desarrollo con intereses comunes en tales sectores.

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1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Aun cuando el potencial del CPTD en la agricultura, en los montes y en la pesca es prácticamente ilimitado, hay que reconocer los inmensos obstáculos que los países en desarrollo tienen que superar para realizar dicho potencial. La barrera psicológica, es decir, la tendencia a mirar a los países industrializados como modelos de desarrollo en todas las esferas va disminuyendo. Sin embargo, hay una falta de información que podría ser designada por organizaciones como la FAO basándose en experiencias que han dado buenos resultados, así como en acciones realizadas en un país entre varios interesados. Existe el problema de crear instituciones técnicas en cada país que podrían ofrecer una red de cooperación autosuficiente para la promoción del CPTD en sectores específicos. Este es el punto esencial del rol actual de la FAO en la promoción del CPTD tal como ha sido ratificado por el Consejo de la FAO en su 70a sesión.

Una cuestión vinculada con lo antedicho que ha recibido considerable atención en recientes discusiones sobre el CPTD en el marco del sistema de las Naciones Unidas es hasta dónde la FAO y otras agencias especializadas pueden hacer uso con más énfasis de la experiencia así como de otros insumos de países en desarrollo para utilizarlas en otros países en desarrollo en el curso de la implementación de proyectos de asistencia técnica. El progreso en esta dirección se ve inhibido por una parte por el prejuicio bastante generalizado en países en desarrollo a favor de insumos provenientes de países industrializados; por otra hay que reconocer los contactos tradicionales que han sido establecidos a través de los años entre los miembros de estas organizaciones en los países en desarrollo e instituciones e individuos en Estados Unidos y Norteamérica. Las razones no son difíciles de explicar pero los remedios para corregir tales prejuicios, a mi modo de ver, no serán fáciles de lograr. El problema es nuevamente la falta de información que el Director General quisiera superar mediante medidas concertadas conjuntamente con el PNUD y otros organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas en los años venideros. La política de una discriminación positiva a la cual se hace alusión en el documento que tienen en sus manos, con respecto al uso de instituciones nacionales podría ser interpretada en general como aplicable al uso de los insumos de los países en desarrollo en la implementación de programas de asistencia técnica.

Estamos actualmente examinando recomendaciones específicas que han surgido de las discusiones en el Consejo de Administración del PNUD el verano pasado en este campo. Los reajustes que sean necesarios con respecto a reclutamiento, becas o procedimientos de contratación, con miras a promover un mayor uso de insumos provenientes de países en desarrollo tendrán que ser lo más expeditivos posibles, pero únicamente después de haberse asegurado que éstos no comprometen de ninguna manera los intereses de un país receptor o la calidad técnica de los servicios que se esperan de nuestra Organización. Cualquier medida que se tome para promover el CPTD tiene, efectivamente, que ser considerada con un criterio de factibilidad operacional, con consciencia de calidad de la asistencia técnica y trámites de acción por un lado, y también debe ser considerada la relevancia de estos insumos con respecto a la necesidad específica de cada país recipiente. El financiamiento de iniciativas de interés general para los países en vías de desarrollo, imaginativas, y que requieren inversiones en el campo de la agricultura y del desarrollo rural es otro límite importante que debe afrontar el CPTD. Ejemplos que a uno se le ocurren de inmediato y que requieren inversiones son la utilización de la energía solar y del viento en la mayoría de los países en desarrollo; el procesamiento y conservación de la producción agrícola para evitar desperdicios y pérdidas de cosecha y así aumentar el ingreso agrícola y el empleo; la creación de industrias forestales y de pesca y el desarrollo de nuevas maquinarias e implementos agrícolas que armonicen con los parámetros específicos de trabajo y empleo de cada país.

Los países productores de petróleo se beneficiarían directamente de estas inversiones en algunos casos; y los países industrializados - incluyendo los países socialistas, contando, como cuentan, con el capital y la tecnología apta para las necesidades corrientes de los países en desarrollo - en muchos de los campos mencionados tienen un rol clave en la promoción del CPTD dentro de un marco más amplio de un nuevo orden económico internacional.

Desearía en este momento disipar algunas dudas que los países industrializados pueden tener con respecto al CPTD. No debemos ver al CPTD como un sustituto de la cooperación técnica tradicional entre países desarrollados y países en desarrollo, sino como una ampliación de tal cooperación; no debemos verla como un desafío a intereses establecidos en los países industrializados sino como una búsqueda de tecnología que es más apropiada a la movilización de vastos recursos humanos y naturales en los países en desarrollo sin suplantarte artificialmente sus esquemas sociales y culturales por otros de sociedades industrializadas.

CPTD es una esencia, una parte integral del empuje hacia un marco más racional de cooperación económica internacional, al cual darán su apoyo, sin lugar a duda, todos los países aquí presentes. Es también en este espíritu que el Director General quisiera hacer una contribución substancial al plan de acción y a la documentación que la Conferencia de Buenos Aires, ahora prevista para fines de agosto o principios de septiembre de 1978, deberá considerar. Los comentarios y las propuestas que se harán en el curso de la discusión que se desarrollará en esta Comisión servirán, seguramente, para ayudarnos a prepararnos mejor para la Conferencia y para nuestra actuación ulterior.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Yriart, the Assistant Director-General, for his introduction. We will take up the discussion of this item tomorrow morning after we have heard the speakers on the Medium-Term Objectives. In the afternoon we may possibly go on to discuss the World Food Programme, if time permits.

Composition of Drafting Group

Composition du Groupe de rédaction

Composición del Grupo de Redacción

CHAIRMAN: I come now to the Drafting Group of Commission II. This has been the subject of consultation and I am now in a position to give the names of countries which have been suggested as members of the Drafting Group. They are: Bangladesh, Benin, India, Iraq, Mexico, the Netherlands and the United States. Are there any observations from the floor?

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): Je voudrais proposer au nom du groupe africain la candidature comme président du comité de rédaction de M.F. D'Almeida, du Bénin; il est connu de vous tous puisqu'il participe aux travaux de cette commission.

Si nous avons accepté la procédure proposée, c'est uniquement pour faciliter votre tâche. Connaissant les liens qui existent entre votre pays, la région nordique et les Etats africains, nous avons accepté cette procédure qui n'a pas été appliquée dans les autres commissions.

Nous voulons faire savoir pour que ce soit clair pour tous, que la région africaine n'est pas le paria de cette organisation. Nous n'acceptons que personne s'imisce dans nos affaire intérieures. Cette période est révolue. Je demande que mes paroles soient inscrites au procès-verbal et que tous les pays en prennent connaissance.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation fully and warmly supports the proposal made by our colleague from Guinea, that the representative of Benin, Mr. Francis d'Almeida, be Chairman of the Drafting Group. We are fully confident that he will do excellent work in this very important Drafting Committee. I must say that I am even more happy to recommend that particular proposal, since even the name of this candidate, d'Almeida, is a Brazilian one. This is perhaps a sample of the bridge of solidarity that exists between Africa and Brazil across the Atlantic.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Francis d'Almeida has been suggested Chairman of your Drafting Committee. Are there any other comments? If not, I take it that you all agree. I congratulate the Chairman of the Drafting Group.

I hope that the Chairman of the Drafting Group will make contact with the Secretariat, because I think the Secretariat are very eager to load quite a lot of work onto him.

J.L. SAULT (Australia): Mr. Chairman, I notice on the list of countries that you read out that there is no representative of the South-West Pacific region included on the list of members of the Drafting Committee. It has been traditional for our region to be represented on the Drafting Committee for this Commission, and the countries of the region would wish that we again be represented on this occasion. I would, therefore, like to propose that New Zealand be added to the list of countries for the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished Delegates, there is a proposal that New Zealand should be added to the list of members of the Drafting Committee.

J.S. KHAN (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, first of all I wish to say that we are very happy to see our colleague from Benin as Chairman of the Drafting Committee and we are sure they will do an excellent job under his able guidance.

On the point of Australia I think the suggestion is a valid one because all the regions of FAO should have positions on the drafting groups and this is a practice followed, and we can go along with this proposition.

CHAIRMAN: Can I take it everyone agrees? This seems to be the case, so the name of New Zealand is added to the members of the Drafting Group.

F. D'ALMEIDA (Bénin): Je remercie les délégations de la Guinée et du Brésil qui ont proposé ma candidature au comité de rédaction, et je remercie toute la commission II qui a bien voulu accepter cette proposition II s'agit d'un honneur rendu au Bénin plutôt qu'à ma personne. Néanmoins, comme on ne peut travailler qu'en collaboration, je compte beaucoup sur votre collaboration. Ce n'est qu'ainsi qu'on peut travailler de façon correcte.

CHAIRMAN: This I believe concludes our discussion for today. We resume tomorrow at 09.30 hrs. with the discussion of the Medium-Term Objectives to be followed by the Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries.

The meeting rose at 17.50 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.50 horas





## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/II/PV/13

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

THIRTEENTH MEETING

TREIZIEME SEANCE

13ª SESION

(24 November 1977)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 09.50 hours P. Laowhaphan, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding.

La treizième séance est ouverte à 9 h 50, sous la présidence de P. Laowhaphan, Vice-Président de la Commission II.

Se abre la 13ª sesión a las 9.50 horas, bajo la presidencia de P. Laowhaphan, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II.

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION  
(continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION  
(suite)

PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION  
(continuación)

12. Medium-Term Objectives (continued)

12. Objectifs à moyen terme (suite)

12. Objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: It is my great honour to take the chair in the absence of the Chairman and I hope delegates will be able to give me their full cooperation so that we can finish our work. We now continue our discussion and I think I should remind delegates of the discussion yesterday on item 12, Medium-Term Objectives. We finished this discussion yesterday; Mr. West, the Assistant Director-General, has already answered questions and Mr. Dahl, our Chairman, summed up the discussion yesterday. However, if there are still some delegates who wish to speak on the subject, they may have the floor.

M. K. AL-SIKTI (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): After looking at document C 77/23 on Medium-Term Objectives, my delegation would like to repeat and second what was said by the delegate of India yesterday afternoon. That is, that this document does not reflect the activities and programmes of FAO in the course of the last biennium.

The document shows objectives of a very general nature. Mr. West told us also that this document should be an integral part of the Programme of Work and Budget; we therefore wonder why we are given a separate document concerning the medium-term objectives.

When we come to the Review of Field Programmes, we do not think that this should deal with medium-term objectives. That is why we would stress the need for having medium-term programmes and not objectives. We would thus leave to the Secretariat and to member countries the decision on the time at which the medium-term programme will be presented.

A.Z.M.O. KHAN (Bangladesh): After I listened to the response of the Director-General, the Medium-Term Objectives, as presented, seem to be a very vague statement with certain pious wishes which are not reflected in the work of the programme. For example, there is a reference to the rural poor and the landless, but if we look at the programme it is the traditional programme of the so-called green revolution.

The objectives on strategy also gloss over the institutional problems which exist for permitting the rural poor to have access to resources. So I would suggest that, in all honesty, they should eliminate all the rhetoric about the rural poor, the unemployment problems and the structural changes that are required, and make it a technological objective. So there could be three ways of attacking the problem: structural change, technological change and reforming change.

In the initial pages, the paper refers to all the rhetoric, but in the actual work programme it is purely technological and I think we should be honest and say so.

Secondly, the paper refers to the reason for not quantifying or not integrating the resources necessary and also for not grading, as they say, but without a broad indication of the resources required, I do not think it is of much use to prepare the paper. I would agree with the delegate of India who referred to it more forcefully.

Finally, in the Programme on Fisheries and Forestry, there is some reference to tapping the biological reserves, particularly in the oceans. But, again, the paper has glossed over the problem of aquaculture which can reach the poorer fishermen who are at the bottom of the heap.

So my only submission would be that this paper should be recast, it should be called a Production Programme on Objectives and all reference to the landless and land reform as objectives should be left out, because land reform is not "also", in many cases it is a "must" for inclusion in the production programmes in many countries. So I would think that, as an inter-governmental body, FAO should be honest enough to state that it cannot do certain things because these are basically political problems for countries. What FAO can do is production programmes and it should therefore help countries with these production programmes.

J. R. GOMEZ RICANO (Cuba): Permítanos, en primer lugar, reconocer la importancia del documento C 77/23, pues, a juicio de esta delegación, contiene un valioso análisis y objetivo de interés para los países, en especial para los subdesarrollados. En segundo lugar, deseamos hacer las siguientes observaciones:

En el Capítulo II sobre la función de la FAO, nuestra delegación apoya los planteamientos que se hacen en los párrafos 2.8, 2.10 y 2.11; así como todo lo relacionado con el Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

En el Capítulo III, resaltamos la importancia y apoyamos la implantación de un Sistema de Evaluación del Programa Ordinario a partir de 1978.

Ya en el Capítulo IV, estamos de acuerdo también en reconocer el valor que reviste el aumento de la cooperación técnica y económica entre los propios países en desarrollo, como paso previo a la consecución del nuevo orden económico internacional y en el papel que en ello puede jugar la asistencia y apoyo de la FAO y el resto de la comunidad internacional, según se expresa en el párrafo 4.5.

En el párrafo 4.7 no estamos de acuerdo en señalar como único motivo del estancamiento de la producción agrícola *per capita*, al crecimiento demográfico; más bien asociaríamos aquí la conclusión a que es posible llegar en el párrafo 4.20, o sea que el problema principal radica en las débiles estructuras socioeconómicas existentes, que no permiten garantizar el sustento mínimo alimentario a toda la población.

Lo que se indica para América Latina en el párrafo 4.19 sobre los grandes progresos en el aumento de la producción agrícola y la productividad, el aumento de las exportaciones y precios de los productos del campo; así como la mejoría de la dieta calórica, mencionando promedios, es una verdad aparente, pues más adelante se cita que más de 40 millones de latinoamericanos están malnutridos y viven en condiciones de extrema pobreza. Por otra parte, los precios y las exportaciones de algunos productos ciertamente han subido, pero la mayoría de los rubros principales de cuyas exportaciones depende la economía de los países del área, continúan siendo bajos. Las perspectivas que se vislumbran de la situación alimentaria continuarán siendo trágicas, así lo atestigua la conclusión preliminar del estudio de la ONU sobre la Economía Mundial en el año 2000 ya que, a juzgar por lo que ha estado ocurriendo en el decenio que transcurre, es muy difícil que los índices de crecimiento agrícola del 5 por ciento, el del 25 por ciento de la producción industrial mundial y los 67 000 millones de dólares procedentes de las exportaciones que se consideran necesarios alcanzar en dicho año por los países subdesarrollados se logren si no se incrementan las actuales ayudas oficiales y las de los organismos internacionales del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas; así como la capacitación general y tecno-científica del personal necesario. Además, se haría imprescindible la eliminación del intercambio desigual y de las atrasadas estructuras socio-económicas que aún subsisten.

En lo referente a mejora tecnológica, agua, fertilizantes, lucha contra plagas y enfermedades de las plantas, semillas, fuerza motriz y energía, lucha contra las enfermedades de los animales y los aspectos de tierras, no establecemos ninguna prioridad, por la interrelación que todos tienen en el aumento de la producción agrícola y pecuaria, sino que estamos de acuerdo con los esfuerzos que hará la FAO para que los objetivos propuestos se cumplan.

La lucha por la reducción de las pérdidas de alimentos es otro objetivo de tal dimensión para lograr mejores índices de alimentación y nutrición que no vacilamos en apoyar plenamente lo que se expresa en los párrafos 4.47, 4.48 y 4.49.

En el logro de los objetivos planteados en el sector pesquero, destacamos solamente la importancia que en ellos tendrá la colaboración entre países, especialmente entre países en desarrollo.

De otra parte, apoyamos las medidas que se plantean en el párrafo 4.52 en relación con este sector de la pesca.

En lo que atañe a montes, nuestra delegación está de acuerdo con los objetivos que se proponen en el párrafo 4.63 y con las actividades que desarrollará la FAO en los países para alcanzarlos, expresados en el párrafo 4.64. Sin embargo, y antes de concluir, deseamos que se nos permita llamar la atención sobre lo siguiente: Para nosotros fue significativo, y también para varias delegaciones más, no disponer este año en la Conferencia de un documento principal sobre la situación forestal mundial que sirviera de base a una discusión más viva y profunda sobre este importante recurso, que la que fue posible en el marco del tema sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Consideramos que un recurso que ocupa más de 4 000 millones de hectáreas en el mundo y que tantas implicaciones tiene en el almacenamiento de agua, control de la erosión, protección de la fauna, cultivos, ganadería, paisaje y medio ambiente en general, aparte de su importancia económica directa, y que constituye, junto a la agricultura y la pesca, una de las actividades principales de la FAO, debe aparecer como un documento principal a discutir en la Conferencia.

En igual sentido debía suceder con la pesca, que constituye una importante fuente de recursos alimenticios para todos los pueblos del mundo. Ambas constituyen sugerencias que hacemos a la Secretaría para que se tomen en cuenta en el futuro.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I was going to make a rather detailed intervention commenting on different points, but since I am speaking quite late in the debate I decided not to do that but just make a comment of an organizational nature.

Our feeling is that we could easily endorse most of what has been said in terms of specific comments on different points here, but what is important, in our view, is to know the purpose of this exercise. We have a feeling that the way the document is prepared is not quite conducive to the kind of guidance that the Conference is supposed to give to the Secretariat in preparing programmes, in this case for the biennium 1980-81, which I understand to be the main objective of this document. We feel that the medium-term objective would be much better discussed with much more usefulness if the whole exercise were prepared in terms of a strategic approach in which we will have instruments and measures and policies in different groups, since each country has its own priorities.

I could speak at length on the problems of fisheries and forestry and give a number of suggestions, but obviously each of us puts greater emphasis on these according to our own priorities in sectors A, B, C, D, and E, whatever it is. We feel it would be much more useful if the document in the future were set in categories of groups of policies in such a way that we can dose, graduate the kind of emphasis to be given each sector.

For instance, we could have group measures in terms of policies to increase areas under cultivation and what policies FAO should try to give, either through information or simply by better analysis from infrastructure, to land use, to mobilization of labour, to marketing improvements in marketing, for instance. A group of policies in terms of increased productivity of areas already under cultivation and the other groups of measures and policies could be discussed and different emphasis could be given, general policies and measures which will be valid practically in all conditions from research training, improvement of rural credit, for instance, management techniques, cooperatives, storage facilities, also policies geared to inputs into agriculture, and there we could discuss fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, mechanization with its different emphasis.

In other words, instead of a rather descriptive paper on what FAO is doing, we should have a paper oriented in terms of strategy more than anything else, and I feel also that such a kind of paper would therefore permit a more useful discussion and at the same time perhaps influence more even government planning, as appropriate. And that perhaps is a useful interaction between the Member Nations of the Organization and the Organization itself. I understand that I am not making any concrete suggestion, but simply a possible rearrangement of how to approach this exercise, and of course, Mr. Chairman, it is just for your consideration and that of our friends here.

AMIDJONO (Indonesia): My delegation goes along with previous speakers who expressed their views that there would be a separate medium-term document within which FAO's activities and progress have to be developed, and FAO adopts a system of medium-term objectives.

Touching on medium-term priorities, I would like to refer to the regional situations as elaborated on pages 8 and 9 of document C 77/23. From that elaboration we may conclude that food production and supply are still common problems to the majority of members of the Organization.

A long journey must be made to increase food production. It may come about through intensification, expansion of agricultural land, improving institutions or small farmers organizations, etc.

There is still a great potential in many countries, particularly in developing countries, to increase areas under cultivation. Take for example in Indonesia, where a transmigration scheme is being undertaken and promoted. Of course, a transmigration project should be located at the right place, and

this will involve activities to determine suitable land for agriculture. In this case FAO's contribution could play a very vital role, which also means it assists Member Countries to develop the agricultural Sector, to expand arable land to increase food production, to utilize forests effectively and efficiently, and at the same time also to solve social problems, that is, the problem of over-population in a certain island.

The next areas where FAO would focus on are activities which support agricultural production directly, such as supply of superior planting materials at the right time and proper or modern technology, followed by agricultural product processing and their marketing.

With regard to the success of agricultural development, we recognize that efforts to increase food production rely on the full participation of farmers, whose skill and ability should be continuously improved. Therefore, training of farmers and field extension workers should be given high priority.

A.Z.M. SHAMSUL ALAM (Bangladesh): Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for opening the discussion on medium-term objectives. In fact, this is the third important document under consideration before the Commission, the first two being the Programme of Work and Budget and the Review of Field Programmes. In a sense, Mr. Chairman, this is more important than the other two because it sets out what our objectives are during the next few years. Unless we are certain about our objectives, we cannot properly plan our activity and draw up suitable work programmes.

Like all other FAO documents, this is also a well written document in a very flowery language, some paragraphs on their own merit can become treasured pieces of literature. Some paragraphs of the Introduction by the Director-General I read a few times. How beautifully he described the hopes and the frustrations, success and failure of the developing nations in the field of agriculture. I cannot resist the temptation of quoting only two lines if you permit me Mr. Chairman. "Even if they (startling result in the short run) occur, they are often transitory - the sweet rain of success suddenly stops and the streams trickle away into salt and sand. The notorious cycle of good harvest and low prices followed by reverse, is exacerbated by the often cyclic character of economic developments in rich countries which have a large impact on the poor nations. The fact remains that on the plains, in the paddy fields, and along the mountain slopes, success is hard won, precarious and sustained only by unrelenting efforts".

Now, Mr. Chairman, we agree one hundred percent with the role of FAO as observed in paragraph 4.74 (P. 10), as now foreseen during medium term, will still be largely concentrated on increasing agricultural production in the developing countries with emphasis on the major problem areas as explained in paragraphs 4.65 through 4.72 i.e. entire chapter IV on priorities. But we have our reservations as regards the ability of FAO to play the role.

The first question that we can ask - "What is meant by medium-term? Two years, 4 years, 5 years or 10 years. I did not get the answer. Some other agencies have their own conception of medium-term of specific period 1978-1983 as in the case of WHO, 1977-1982 as in the case of Unesco. We think FAO also should have its specific period medium-terms. It should not be left undisciplined and unspecified. five years may be taken as medium-term as in the case of some other organizations if there are no objections.

Mr. Chairman thought how much funds could be invested in the food production through FAO's field programme could not be determined in view of the decision of the Council; but how much the requirement of funds to realise the objectives in each specific field should have been indicated.

It is not possible to determine how much funds we need unless it is known what are the objectives in specific terms. The objectives laid down in this document are vague and generalized conveying very little sense. If the objective is laid down as overall increase in food production: increased yield in the field of fishery, livestock, forestry then it is almost meaningless unless it is stated how much increase, or what percentage of increase and where and lastly at what cost.

We are really appalled at the quality of this document placed before us. We have all respect and confidence in the technical skill and competence of FAO experts to advise us on our planning, but this document does not bear any testimony of that professional skill. As it has been pointed out, yesterday, by some delegates, we really agree that this document needs thorough rewriting. Yesterday our Assistant Secretary-General narrated a humorous story at the lack of interest of the delegates to talk on this. But this document does not merit, in its present form, elaborate discussion.

Rural development, land reform, income distribution, nutrition etc., are very important aspects of any development planning but these have been perhaps inadvertently omitted. After all, adding three paragraphs does not have a serious implication, while FAO is not responsible or accountable for implementation of the action programme for realisation of the objectives.

It is easy for FAO to lay down many, many objectives, because its role is more or less connected with basic functions of information, advice, research, international harmonization, etc.

As regards specific areas of priorities, we would like brief reference to a couple of points. Need for the development of seed technology can hardly be over emphasized. In our environmental condition Mr. Chairman, we suffer from menaces of early floods, just before the harvesting golden rice fields go under water due to early flood.

To raise multiple crops it is necessary to treat the seeds in artificial condition so that time required for maturity in the field decreases by the corresponding period. Vernalisation technology is a vital need and deserves the attention of FAO.

The need of reduction of post harvest losses has been reiterated again and again in various forums including the Director -General of FAO who is reputed for his pragmatic approach. This document says in paragraph 4.47 (page 13 bottom) that half the cereal deficit could be met by just reducing the food losses. The savings that can be achieved by reduction of losses have been estimated at \$7.5 million. The importance of the reduction of food losses is recognized by FAO in words but not in action. Otherwise the allocation for reduction of food losses in the \$211 millions budget would not have been \$11.8 million whereas FAO spends \$8 million on official business travel.

The need of fishery production in the tanks, rivers, crop fields has been emphasized. Unfortunately with application of pesticides, fish in the rice fields are completely destroyed. It is necessary to develop insecticides which will harm the insects and not the fish.

It has been stated in this document that FAO would play their role in eradication of hunger and malnutrition. What is that very role Mr. Chairman? It appears from the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79 and the Field Programmes that the regular budget of \$211 million is entirely an establishment budget except \$ 25 million allocated for TCP. Again 67 % of the extra budgetary resources available from UNDP trusted funds, other UN agencies are spent on consultants and experts.

Mr. Chairman, developing countries would not be much worse off if all FAO consultancy services are avoided for one year. In most cases the key-role players are imposed on the recipient countries and they are, except for a few notable persons, not sought for. We are to accept an expert, not a jute who has never seen a jute plant in his whole life.

This morning the Chairman was discussing at the breakfast table with my two colleagues who obtained their Ph.D. degrees in the western countries about consulting services. I asked them what they would prefer - a FAO consultant, who cost \$60 000 to \$100 000 a year or 1 000 tons of wheat food, for Work Programme for digging irrigation canals. The choice was obvious. Developing countries prefer a deep tubwell which cost around \$90 000 to a consultant because irrigation canals or deep tubwell leads immediately to production and output.

Mr. Chairman, World Food for Work Programme has created greater impact in increasing food production than most other FAO consultancy service.

CHAIRMAN: I think we have concluded our list of speakers for this morning, since this agenda item has been answered by Mr. West and the summing up by our Chairman yesterday. Anyhow, I shall try to sum up what the Distinguished Delegates have been discussing this morning, and I will be very brief. I think, mostly, the position remains the same as the summing up from the Chairman yesterday. The majority of the Commission would like to have a separate document on the medium-term objectives. I think we can conclude this from our discussion this morning, from our further speakers, so that I think that your advice and suggestions will be for the consideration of the Secretariat and will be in the report of the Commission.

So I think we should go on to the next agenda item. I think we are a little behind the timetable.

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1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

R. PASQUIER (Suisse): Vous venez de constater, Monsieur le Président, que nous sommes en retard sur le programme de travail de la Commission. D'autre part, vous avez certainement été informé que la Commission I était ces jours derniers pratiquement à court d'interventions, qu'elle manquait de travail et suspendait ses séances.

Je voudrais, au nom de la délégation suisse, proposer qu'avant la fin de ses travaux, notre Commission examine la redistribution des sujets à traiter entre la Commission I et la Commission II, pour la prochaine Conférence.

Je me suis permis de faire cette intervention plutôt sous forme de motion d'ordre, parce que, si nous attendons vraiment la fin de nos débats pour soulever ce point, je crains que nous n'arrivions pas à faire une suggestion pour la prochaine Conférence. Je ne demande pas l'ouverture d'un débat à ce moment, sur ce point, mais vous propose plutôt d'inviter les délégations à réfléchir à cette question. Notre suggestion aurait été que les nouvelles orientations dans les activités de la FAO soient dorénavant transférées pour discussion à la Commission I, tandis que la Commission II aurait pu se limiter aux activités courantes. Mais peut-être y a-t-il de meilleures propositions en vue d'une distribution plus adéquate.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for the suggestion from Switzerland. I fully agree with you. Your advice will be put into account the Secretariat will take note of.

13. Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries in the Field of Agriculture and Food (continued)

13. Coopération technique entre pays en développement dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation (suite)

13. Cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en materia de agricultura y alimentación (continuación),

O. MBURU (Kenya): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor on this subject of Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries. This subject, in fact, has been mentioned several times by many delegations, both in the Plenary and other Commissions, and in particular in this Commission when we were dealing with the Review of Field Programmes, and also with the medium-term objectives. My own Minister, in particular, expressed full support to the Director-General in his future undertaking to make Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries a reality. He did, however, request the Director to try to accelerate the pace, so that the effects can be felt by many more developing countries. The areas of cooperation outlined in document C 77/4, the Review of Field Programmes 1976 - 1977, paragraphs 4.0 to 4.58 are quite satisfactory to my delegation. Here we would like to emphasize the use to the maximum effect of national institutions and their own staff in the developing countries for implementing their selected programmes. This would be the only way to reduce direct execution of projects by the expatriate staff or consultants financed by the aid agencies. Cooperative endeavour between countries should also be encouraged in all other programmes in this regard. The exchange of experts between the developing countries to man the identified projects would be an ideal goal for FAO to aim at.

We believe the kind of programmes envisaged in paragraph 4.6 of document C 77/4 I referred to earlier, and which FAO intends to develop into specific proposals for discussion by the Member Nations during the Conference on TCDC in Buenos Aires, would go a long way in strengthening the technical cooperation amongst the developing countries.

On the first item, that is crop research, I would like to suggest that mention should be made of streamlining and strengthening current procedures, particularly in connexion with the tree seed for forestry development, and also conservation of genetic resources should not be overlooked. I also note among the items outlined in that paragraph that in the field of forest industry pulp and paper research has been singled out. I would suggest that other forest industries, particularly in the field of saw

milling should be included, and in particular saw milling training, I think, has a lot of scope for cooperation amongst developing countries. My delegation would like to see the Director-General treat the Technical Cooperation Programme as a regular feature of his budget presentation beyond this biennium. This would, no doubt, assist the process of the de-bureaucratization and at the same time accelerate the rate of decentralization to the country level. The technical Cooperation Programme should serve the purpose of strengthening the Director-General's ability to respond to critical and emergency agricultural situations arising from developing countries. It should also serve as a pace setter in long term undertakings of a development nature in the respective countries calling on the Director-General with specific requests.

Mr. Chairman, referring to the point just raised by the distinguished delegate of Switzerland, I too would be in agreement for a re-distribution of items between Commissions I and II, because it is true that we have tended to run behind schedule, whereas Commission I has tended to be ahead of schedule.

CHAIRMAN: I think before we go on to the next speaker on my list I would like to give the floor to Mr. Ristic, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries, so that he can give us some idea of the preparations that have been made, as we may find it useful in our deliberations.

S. RISTIC (Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries): It is a special pleasure for me to be able as the Chairman of the Preliminary Committee to attend this part of the 19th Conference of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization discussing technical cooperation amongst developing countries. Agriculture and the food processing industry, forestry and fisheries, are of primary importance for the future social, economic and human prosperity of the developing countries. This conditions a need for developing the appropriate ways and means to broaden cooperation among developing countries. That means the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience in this field. This topic, no doubt, will be given a prominent place at the coming UN Conference on Technical Cooperation amongst developing countries, which as all of you know, according to the decision of the UN General Assembly is to take place in August next year, in Argentina.

The Preparatory Committee for the UN TCDC Conference accomplished a very important part of the job at the past two meetings, which had a very constructive - I would say that it is very important to stress - response of all Member Countries and the international organization. I can state with pleasure that the FAO representatives participated actively at the meetings. The preliminary agenda was determined, instructions for the preparation of national papers were adopted, the budget propositions and the rules of the Conference Procedure were decided upon and a constructive discussion concerning the first draft of the plan of action, and some documents prepared by consultants were completed. The Secretariat of the Conference was given clear instructions concerning future work on the draft plan of action and in preparation of other supportive documents. However, the quality of the draft of the plan of action, which will be presented to the Conference, does not depend only on the Secretariat and consultants. The Preparatory Meeting attaches special significance to the national papers and the participation of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the UN systems in preparation of the documents and the participation of the Conference. It is expected that the experience of FAO and the discussions at this particular meeting, that means this Committee of the Conference, shall produce new ideas and proposals which will be used in the preparation of that plan of action. The trust, expectation and support which the developing countries place in international activities in the field of agriculture and the food industry, processing, forestry and fisheries should be reflected respectively in the plan of action on TCDC. The third session of the Preparatory Committee to be held in May next year will be dedicated almost entirely to the draft of the plan of action and supportive documents.

Mr. Chairman, I note with pleasure the emphasis the Director-General of the FAO is giving to TCDC Conference in the programme of the organization. It is already an encouraging support to the success of the forthcoming Conference. It is also a very important recognition by the Director-General that the TCDC is a very important instrument of international cooperation generally.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to point out a few of the standpoints of the countries which were reached at the previous preparations for the Conference. I think during the regional meetings of TCDC, during the preparatory committee meetings and finally during the Kuwait meeting, which produced the Kuwait declaration. The first point I want to stress and summarize, the previous preparation, that the TCDC is a new dimension in international cooperation, bearing in mind its integrated feature and approach. But TCDC does not mean a substitute for traditional technical cooperation. You could say that it is more complementary to the present activities and the traditional technical cooperation.



TCDC does not represent a confrontation with the developed countries, but a platform at which the interests and contributions of all members of the International Community to the success of TCDC are expected.

At all regional TCDC meetings, the developing countries gave their unrestrained support to TCDC as the one integrated dimension of international cooperation, and expressed full willingness to participate actively in the implementation of present and future activities.

I would like to stress the second point: that TCDC is a very important step in the process building of a new international economic order, because it effects great changes in present world economic relations. The fact that high priority was given to technical cooperation among developing countries in the action programme of non aligned countries adopted at Colombo as well as in the documents of the Conference on economic cooperation in Mexico points to this.

TCDC does not mean a new international machinery, but it should motivate the activities of all Organizations of the United Nations Development System, and other international organizations, to broaden TCDC's component in long range programmes and objectives.

The point which I want to make on the basis of the proposed discussion is that TCDC does not represent the monopoly of any organization within the UN system. The success of TCDC depends on the extent to which all the specialized agencies and other organizations in the United Nations system will include this dimension in their strategy and programmes and apply this in practice. The developing countries expect effective inter-agency cooperation which will enable a rational utilization of their modest and limited resources. In this framework, I find the present interest - the interest of the developing countries - is the only criterion for decisions and actions.

And last, but not least, the success of TCDC depends on the efforts made at the national level to set up a development strategy to build and strengthen national capabilities for applied research, consultancy, engineering, etc., and other measures which are to be undertaken in order to broaden the role of TCDC on a national level.

It is obvious that the practical realization of TCDC depends on whether it will be included in the programmes and in the practice at the national level of developing countries. It will also, of course, depend on including its component in the activities of developed countries. But the prime prerequisite is that regional and inter-regional cooperation within the United Nations system will also be very much absorbed by the TCDC.

Allow me to say a few words concerning the national preparation for the coming United Nations TCDC Conference.

The national preparations include not only the national papers, but they mean creating a favourable climate in the government, economy, research and consultancy organizations, and for this cooperation to be expanded and enriched in both form and content.

It is expected of the specialized agencies and other international organizations within the United Nations system, that they greatly broaden the TCDC component in their programmes, and in practice, even in the preparatory phase of this important world meeting. As I stated earlier, I note with pleasure that it is successfully developing within FAO, and that the TCDC component will be greatly broadened within the programmes and the practice in the future of this, for the developing countries very important international organization.

I would like finally to once more express my belief that this discussion will be a creative contribution to the preparation of the United Nations TCDC Conference, and will also adopt concrete measures for the broadening of TCDC in its domain. We expect that FAO will continue with its accurate interest, participation, and contribution, in the preparation for this important international conference.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Ristic. I hope that delegates will note what has been said by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on TCDC, and I am quite sure that it will be of great assistance to them in their discussion.

B. HARLAND (United Nations Development Programme): After the excellent introduction to this item and resume of TCDC by Mr. Yriart, and the statement which you have just heard by Dr. Ristic, I will be extremely brief.

In UNDP's Statement in the Plenary we have already referred to the significant contribution to the Conference FAO has already made. The document Review of Field Programmes 1976-1977 contains many ideas which will be incorporated into the basic document, namely the Plan of Action for the Conference.

Last evening I spoke by telephone to New York and the Administrator Mr. Bradford Morse who as you know is the Secretary-General of the Conference. He asked me to address a special appeal to delegates on the planning and preparation of national reports for the Conference. Mr. Morse considers TCDC as one of the most important developments in new dimensions of technical cooperation and the implementation of the New International Economic Order. It is also one of the cornerstones of the two themes approved by the Governing Council in its June Session in the Role and Activities of UNDP, namely the alleviation of poverty and technology transfer.

Recently Mr. Morse has appointed Dr. Abdel Maguid, formerly Minister of Planning of Egypt, as Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference. Under the guidance of Dr. Maguid preparations for the Conference are moving forward. Consultants have been appointed to prepare papers on the role of consultants, institutions and experts in developing countries for TCDC. Members of the Secretariat together with Consultants have been travelling to the countries to assist in the preparation of the national reports. An Inter-Agency Task Force has met on several occasions and is providing valuable advice and guidance particularly in the preparation and development of the Draft Plan of Action. FAO has actively participated in this Task Force. The Conference Secretariat is preparing a statement of issues requiring special attention by the agencies. The Administrator feels it is important to maintain a continuous dialogue with agencies on the Conference preparation and the Draft Plan of Action. A deadline of 20 February has been set for the final draft of the Plan of Action.

UNDP staff have assessed the Special Unit for TCDC in developing an information referral system for TCDC. Countries have been requested to designate a focal point within the government for TCDC. A questionnaire has been sent to governments and the Resident Representatives in order to solicit information of consultant organizations, training institutions, and individuals who in the opinion of the government have the capacity for TCDC. This information is fed into a computer and the first compendium has already been issued to governments and Resident Representatives. This listing contains approximately 1700 individual names of firms, institutions and individuals. It will be updated every six months.

I should stress that the decision to list an organization is up to the government. Finally, I will follow very carefully the debate here this morning and report fully to Mr. Morse.

J. FAUCHON (Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement): J'ai été très intéressé par les deux déclarations qui viennent d'être faites et aussi par les textes du rapport, en particulier les points 4.40 et suivants indiquant les principales activités susceptibles de se développer comme résultats de la coopération entre les différents pays en voie de développement. Un point me paraît extrêmement important, c'est la liste figurant au point 4.46 du potentiel qu'offrent les pays en voie de développement en matière agricole. Le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement est très intéressé et directement concerné par cette liste. En effet, j'y retrouve la plupart des points déjà acceptés ou actuellement développés par le Conseil d'administration du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement. Je me bornerai à en citer quelques-uns. Le point e), lutte contre la désertification, a fait l'objet de la Conférence sur la désertification, tenue à Nairobi à la fin du mois de septembre. Elle a émis un plan d'action qui a été soumis à l'examen des différentes agences, en particulier à la FAO. Nous travaillons actuellement à Nairobi pour la mise en oeuvre de ce plan de lutte contre la désertification; nous attendons d'ailleurs sur ce point une décision de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies; de toute évidence, une coopération et une coordination entre la Conférence mondiale de la CTPVD et l'UNEP pourraient s'établir.

Le point b) sur la lutte contre les ravageurs et le point f), lutte contre les porteurs de maladies, intéressent directement l'UNEP, qui a des projets communs avec la FAO dans ce domaine.

Le point g), recyclage des déchets organiques, très important, est actuellement soumis à l'attention de nombreuses agences, et en particulier bien sûr de la FAO; l'UNEP participe à cette question en particulier par le développement de certains projets communs avec la FAO.

Le point h), possibilités d'augmentation et d'utilisation des sources d'énergie non conventionnelles, est actuellement l'objet d'une série de travaux et de projets entrepris par l'UNEP en relation avec une série d'institutions comme le CNRET pour le développement de projets en matière d'énergie éolienne, d'énergie solaire et de production de méthane par la fermentation de déchets organiques. Sur ces sujets, une coopération extrêmement étendue pourrait se développer entre pays en voie de développement, et cela pour deux raisons: la première c'est que, contrairement à ce que l'on pense fréquemment, certains pays

en voie de développement poursuivent des techniques très avancées en matière d'énergie solaire - par exemple au Niger en matière de fermentation organique, en Inde. Il est certain qu'il y a là des possibilités d'échanges d'informations mutuelles; peut-être le problème est-il moins de faire des recherches sur les nouvelles formes d'énergie que de répandre massivement les résultats de certaines expériences faites dans certains pays.

Nous sommes également intéressés à l'UNEP par les problèmes écologiques en général, et je voudrais simplement en retenir deux. Le premier concerne l'aménagement des bassins fluviaux, comme celui du fleuve Sénégal ou du Mekong, et également peut-être le développement lié à la mise en oeuvre du Canal de Jonglei au Soudan, problèmes très importants pour lesquels les échanges d'expériences entre pays en voie de développement seraient extrêmement précieux. Il existe ainsi de nombreuses expériences ponctuelles qui n'ont que rarement fait l'objet d'échanges systématiques d'expériences, dans la mesure où nous pouvons les connaître.

Enfin un dernier point, sur lequel je voudrais insister, c'est le problème de la gestion de la vie sauvage. Ceux qui vivent en Afrique - et à Nairobi nous sommes assez bien placés pour en connaître - savent combien la vie sauvage est menacée dans la plupart des pays par le développement de la démographie et par la modernisation en général de la vie rurale. Un peu partout des expériences sont faites qui restent également à l'état ponctuel. Il n'y a que dans certains pays d'Afrique actuellement, et peut-être d'Asie, où des expériences massives de gestion de conservation de la vie sauvage sont entreprises; ces précieuses expériences méritent d'être diffusées au bénéfice des nombreux pays qui doivent par exemple développer des parcs nationaux. C'est là, à mon avis, un sujet important sur lequel pourrait se pencher la Conférence.

En conclusion, le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement est très intéressé par la Conférence mondiale sur la CTPVD; il espère y jouer un rôle important non seulement sur le plan de l'information mais également sur celui de la suite à donner à la Conférence directement par une coopération entre les programmes eux-mêmes, en particulier dans les projections futures des activités qui pourraient être prévues dans le cadre du plan d'action de la Conférence et par la mise en oeuvre de projets nationaux permettant à certains pays de profiter des expériences faites dans d'autres.

Sra. Doña I. DI GIOVAN DE SUAREZ (Argentina): Mi delegación quisiera referirse a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo como una nueva dimensión de la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo económico.

Deseamos también referirnos a la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo que tendrá lugar en Buenos Aires en 1978 y a la acción que esperamos que la FAO desarrolle en ambos aspectos; es decir, por un lado deseamos mencionar las contribuciones que esta Organización, con su trayectoria y su experiencia, puede efectuar para que la Conferencia sobre Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo logre resultados concretos y operativos aplicables a la agricultura y a la alimentación.

Por otra parte, y ya en un enfoque a mediano plazo, aspiramos a que la cuestión de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo se convierta en un tema habitual en las agendas del Consejo y de la Conferencia. En fin, que esta modalidad de cooperación sea acogida ampliamente por la FAO y la ejecución de sus programas de campo.

La cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, estamos convencidos, es un mecanismo tendiente a movilizar los recursos de los países en desarrollo y maximizar el aprovechamiento de los mismos. Como ha dicho ayer el Subdirector General del Departamento de Desarrollo, no tiende a sustituir ni a reemplazar al sistema tradicional de asistencia técnica, sino que es una ampliación de la misma; propende a la movilización de los recursos y a la transferencia horizontal de tecnología sin reemplazar artificialmente los esquemas sociales y económicos de los países en desarrollo.

Entendemos que es un proceso en el cual todos los países en desarrollo están llamados a participar, tanto en calidad de aportantes como de receptores de expertos, equipos, métodos de trabajo y capacitación.

Creemos que en todos los países en desarrollo existen capacidades actuales o potenciales que pueden ser de interés y beneficiosas para los demás.

Es de particular interés para toda la comunidad internacional en su conjunto que los centros de capacitación establecidos en países en desarrollo, las tecnologías elaboradas o adaptadas por nuestros países a las características socio-económicas, en fin, los caminos recorridos por algunos países en desarrollo hacia la concreción de sistemas de producción, almacenamiento, manipuleo, industrialización de productos básicos adecuados al mundo en desarrollo tengan una debida difusión y sean incorporados por otros países.

En efecto, cuando decimos que los países en desarrollo han elaborado tales tecnologías locales no podemos menos que pensar, en primer lugar, en el sector de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Permítaseme recordar en esta Comisión la Resolución 1/71 del Consejo celebrado en junio del presente año propuesta por el grupo latinoamericano que conto con el apoyo inmediato y la valiosa contribución de otros países de fuera de la región, a quienes estamos agradecidos por su colaboración. En base a esa resolución se insta a la Organización a participar activamente en esta provisoria vía de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en dos aspectos principales: En primer lugar, en un sentido inmediato se solicita a la FAO que contribuya con su experiencia, con sus expertos, para que la Conferencia de Buenos Aires arroje resultados concretos sobre cooperación técnica en el campo de la agricultura y la alimentación. Pensamos que quizá la FAO pueda aportar un documento conciso y sistemático en este sentido y auspiciar una reunión preparatoria a nivel de expertos con carácter previo a la Conferencia de Buenos Aires, para que analice este documento y proponga recomendaciones concretas y un programa de acción a ser debatido durante la Conferencia.

En otro nivel, con un sentido más general y permanente, se trata de efectuar los necesarios reajustes en la política, procedimientos y programas de la Organización para acelerar la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en términos operativos, a través de una mayor utilización de instituciones, servicios, expertos, consultores y equipos de los países en desarrollo en la ejecución de los programas de campo en otros países en desarrollo.

Pensamos, asimismo, que la FAO puede apoyar las acciones nacionales, subregionales y regionales destinadas a promover la transferencia de tecnología entre países en desarrollo.

También pensamos que sería conveniente estudiar mecanismos de difusión e información sobre instituciones y personas que en el campo de la agricultura y la alimentación pueden contribuir a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo; y en este sentido permítaseme manifestar nuestra satisfacción por el anuncio del representante del PNUD sobre la lista que ha mencionado de estos posibles agentes de contribución a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo y que ya comienza a salir en su primera serie.

Deseamos agradecer a la Secretaría en particular el documento que se ha presentado sobre este tema, es decir el capítulo 4 C del documento C 77/4, así como el C 77/LIM/17 que actualiza esa información. Consideramos que ambos constituyen una buena síntesis preliminar de las posibilidades que se brindan a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. Contiene el párrafo 4.46 un buen listado de los sectores posibles en los cuales esta cooperación puede ser particularmente exitosa. Asimismo se señalan algunos obstáculos que por el momento limitan su programación, su expansión.

Con referencia a los obstáculos reales y presuntos, mi delegación se permite hacer en esta ocasión referencia a un documento de las Naciones Unidas, documento DP/2/29 volumen 2 sobre normas, reglamentaciones y prácticas del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas para la contratación de expertos, designación de equipo, etc. En este documento se señalan algunos obstáculos prácticos para una mayor utilización de insumos provenientes de países en desarrollo en los programas de asistencia técnica. Se menciona como inconveniente, por ejemplo, la ausencia de listas confiables, la carencia de antecedentes por parte de instituciones estatales o privadas de países en desarrollo para actuar como centros de capacitación o como proveedores de servicios. Asimismo se menciona lo que se ha dado en llamar barreras actitudinales de los propios países en desarrollo destinatarios de la asistencia técnica.

Sin adentrarnos mucho en este tema, que esperamos será objeto de discusión más profunda en el futuro a medida que el tema adquiera mayor entidad, mayor atención y se progrese en la identificación de posibilidades y obstáculos en cada campo concreto, deseamos exhortar a la FAO a desplegar sus esfuerzos para superar estos inconvenientes, tanto de orden técnico o práctico como de índole psico-social o actitudinal. En este sentido nos complace traer a colación el criterio de discriminación positiva enunciado por el Director General en el 70º período de sesiones del Consejo celebrado en noviembre de 1976; discriminación positiva en favor de instituciones nacionales recientes y relativamente débiles de países en desarrollo que, de otro modo, no podrían competir inmediatamente con las de países desarrollados según los procedimientos vigentes de selección y subcontratación. Esperamos que este criterio de discriminación positiva proyectado para el programa de cooperación técnica se compenetre de los objetivos de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo para que sea la FAO, una de las organizaciones más antiguas de la familia de Naciones Unidas, la que marche a la vanguardia en la aplicación de esta promisorio nueva dimensión de la cooperación económica internacional.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, permítame llamar la atención en el sentido de que un proyecto sobre este tema copatrocinado por el grupo latinoamericano y Rumania ha sido sometido al Comité de Resoluciones para seguir el procedimiento pertinente y solicitamos que en su momento sea sometido a la consideración de esta Comisión.

Sra. Doña G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Nuestro país ha venido siguiendo con gran interés los aspectos relacionados con la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, tema que ha tomado extraordinaria vigencia especialmente en los últimos eventos internacionales.

Nuestra delegación quisiera expresar su satisfacción por el enfoque que en relación con el mismo contiene los documentos presentados por la Secretaría. En efecto, tanto en los pronunciamientos del señor Director General, como en las concepciones contenidas en este documento sobre el examen de los programas de campo se expresan criterios que Cuba comparte plenamente.

En primer lugar, es válido mencionar que a menudo no se reconoce que varios años antes de que el concepto de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo comenzara a tomar forma y vigencia en los foros internacionales existía ya un grado considerable de cooperación técnica entre estos países. Esta colaboración existía y existe. Se trata ahora de promoverla y hacer que las agencias de las Naciones Unidas tomen una participación más activa en esta acción, para lo cual se hacen algunas recomendaciones en el documento presentado por la Secretaría, las cuales compartimos plenamente.

En segundo lugar, es bueno recalcar que la posición asumida por nuestro país en distintos foros internacionales y que ahora reiteramos en la FAO es que la colaboración entre países en desarrollo debe considerar un amplio y vasto campo; la cooperación técnica es una parte del mismo, pero forma parte de un concepto más amplio, que es la colaboración en los aspectos económicos y sociales con la mayor amplitud posible.

Por último, en este sentido de cooperación técnica no pueden existir donantes ni receptores; los países participantes deben hacerlo con un alto espíritu de solidaridad, de manera que los beneficios que se otorguen no en todos los casos deben ser retribuidos en la misma cantidad o proporción. Esto depende del nivel de desarrollo de cada país participante.

Es obvio que lo anterior se facilita cuando de proyectos regionales se trata, pero también debe ser aplicable a todo tipo de proyectos o convenios de carácter bilateral, multilateral o bimultilateral entre los países en desarrollo, de lo cual en América Latina es ejemplo el sistema económico latinoamericano, el cual en sus comités de acción abarca campos muy análogos con la FAO como son la pesca y el sector agropecuario. En ese sentido la Oficina Regional de la FAO para América Latina en sus convenios de colaboración con el CELA, con el Sistema Económico Latinoamericano, ha tenido en cuenta estos aspectos, pero consideramos que podrían hacerse mayores esfuerzos a fin de ampliar esta colaboración.

Es muy importante la relación bilateral en este campo, en nuestra opinión y esto entra dentro de la concepción de la FAO. Las agencias especializadas de las Naciones Unidas pueden jugar un papel decisivo como catalizador y factor complementario para que los países puedan incrementar su acción en este decisivo campo. Es así como se materializarían las concepciones expresadas por la FAO con las cuales, repetimos, estamos plenamente de acuerdo.

Según expresó nuestro Ministro de Colaboración Económica en la Plenaria de esta Conferencia, Cuba desde hace varios años viene desarrollando la prestación de asistencia técnica, y la colaboración mediante convenios y proyectos con países en desarrollo, a pesar del bloqueo económico que aún se nos mantiene; pese al mismo, Cuba realiza un modesto pero importante esfuerzo enviando médicos, maestros, técnicos agrícolas y brigadas constructoras a los países subdesarrollados que lo han solicitado. Con estos modestos aportes reafirmamos nuestro criterio de que la cooperación técnica forma parte de un concepto amplio que es la colaboración en los aspectos económicos y sociales.

Por último, nuestra delegación quisiera expresar su apoyo a la Conferencia sobre Cooperación Técnica que se celebrará en Buenos Aires en el año próximo, ya que la misma significará un paso de avance en el intento común de crear instrumentos positivos de transferencia de técnicas adecuadas que complementen nuestros niveles de desarrollo.

P. CELAN (Roumanie): Come nous l'avons souligné plusieurs fois, à côté des efforts propres de chaque pays, efforts dont le rôle est primordial pour tout développement économique et social, la coopération internationale peut et doit apporter à ce développement une contribution des plus importantes.

Cela est valable aussi en ce qui concerne le développement de l'agriculture pour l'accroissement substantiel de la production dans ce domaine, accroissement qui constitue, à notre avis, le seul moyen d'arriver à une solution définitive du problème alimentaire auquel les pays en développement sont confrontés.

Cela constitue d'ailleurs l'un des objectifs fondamentaux de la stratégie en vue de l'établissement d'un nouvel ordre économique international. Nous ne pouvons pas imaginer la réalisation de cet objectif dans un autre cadre.

En parlant de la coopération internationale, nous sommes heureux de constater qu'on est de plus en plus conscient du fait que, dans le cadre de cette coopération, un rôle toujours plus grand revient à la coopération entre les pays en voie de développement eux-mêmes.

L'importance de cette coopération et la nécessité d'entreprendre des efforts pour l'intensifier ne font plus aucun doute. Nous en voulons pour preuve, entre autres, les décisions de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies et, notamment, les résolutions 3201 et 3202 de la Vie session spéciale concernant la déclaration et le programme d'action pour l'établissement du nouvel ordre économique international, où l'on en fait expressément mention. Ensuite, la déclaration sur le développement et la coopération économique internationale (à savoir la résolution 3362/S VII) ne consacre pas moins d'un chapitre à la coopération entre les pays en développement. En 1976, à Mexico City, a eu lieu une conférence consacrée exclusivement à ce sujet. Et finalement, comme on le sait, conformément à la décision de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU, une conférence des Nations Unies sur la coopération technique entre les pays en voie de développement va se tenir à Buenos Aires l'année prochaine.

Voici énoncés seulement quelques éléments qui mettent en évidence la portée de ce problème, l'importance que revêt et revêtera encore davantage à l'avenir la coopération entre les pays en développement eux-mêmes pour la solution des différents problèmes auxquels ils se trouvent confrontés.

En nous limitant à l'agriculture et à l'alimentation, nous sommes d'avis que dans ce domaine plus que dans d'autres peut-être, existent des conditions de nature à favoriser l'instauration d'une coopération très étroite entre ces pays. Cela s'explique si l'on tient compte des possibilités et de l'expérience qui existent dans ce domaine de l'agriculture dans beaucoup de pays en développement.

Nous pensons qu'il est du devoir de la communauté internationale dans son ensemble de promouvoir et d'appuyer tout effort ayant pour but l'intensification de cette coopération. Et, parce que nous parlons de l'agriculture, nous pensons que c'est à la FAO que revient le rôle le plus important dans ce sens.

Nous sommes heureux de constater qu'au cours des deux dernières années, notre Organisation a déjà pris des mesures dans cette voie. Nous sommes heureux également de constater que, dans le cadre des objectifs à moyen terme, la FAO se propose de situer parmi les priorités l'accroissement de sa contribution au développement de la coopération entre les pays en développement dans le domaine de l'agriculture.

Nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter de cette orientation, mais nous considérons aussi qu'on devrait faire davantage. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous estimons absolument nécessaire que l'actuelle Conférence générale adopte d'autres mesures concrètes tendant à la fois au renforcement de la coopération technique et à l'accroissement de la contribution de la FAO à la réalisation de cet objectif.

Dans ce sens, la délégation roumaine a avancé toute une série de propositions concrètes, propositions qui font l'objet du projet de résolution que plusieurs pays latino-américains et notre pays ont préparé, et qui a été présenté au comité des résolutions en vue d'être, je l'espère, adopté par notre Conférence. Mais tout d'abord, nous nous attendons à ce que ce projet de résolution soit diffusé à notre comité.

Partant de ce projet de résolution et au risque d'être un peu long dans mon intervention, je voudrais insister un peu plus sur ce que la Roumanie considère comme priorités dans la poursuite de l'objectif de coopération entre les pays en développement, dans le domaine de l'agriculture. Nous pensons qu'entre autres devraient être considérés:

- a) accroissement de la productivité dans l'agriculture et la production animale;
- b) développement des technologies et industries alimentaires;
- c) amélioration et utilisation rationnelle des ressources en terres et en eaux;
- d) recherche et développement des moyens dans le domaine de l'outillage et du machinisme agricoles;
- e) amélioration du stockage des produits agricoles, y compris méthodes pour la réduction des pertes;
- f) développement des pêches et de l'aquaculture, de même que des forêts et de la production du papier;
- g) promotion de la recherche scientifique et application à la production agricole de technologies de pays en développement;
- h) formation du personnel;
- i) assurance de la disponibilité de fonds nécessaires pour atteindre ces objectifs.

Quoiqu'il en soit du projet de résolution ci-dessus mentionné, nous considérons nécessaire que les pays en voie de développement prennent eux-mêmes toutes les mesures utiles pour renforcer leur coopération réciproque. Parmi ces mesures pourrait se situer à notre avis l'organisation de réunions à différents niveaux, ayant pour objectif l'identification et l'adoption de programmes et projets concrets de coopération. Il ne s'agirait donc pas de réunions de caractère général, mais de réunions spécialisées.

M. LIMAN (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation would like to congratulate the Secretariat for focussing attention on a subject which I am sure is dear to the hearts of all developing countries. We appreciate the efforts made by FAO to forge cooperation between this group of less privileged countries of the world. Many of our countries still suffer acutely from the orientation which we acquired during period of colonial tutelage, when developing countries looked up to the developed countries as the only partners in progress, forgetting that perhaps near them in a neighbouring country the technology they are looking for is not only available but perhaps more relevant. By way of illustration, I would like to recount an experience when we were looking for a new agricultural extension technology. We found that the experience in the Philippines with Masagala 99 and the Indian experience were the most relevant to the needs of my country. Similarly, my country has forged close collaboration with many other developing countries. I believe other developing countries can quote similar examples of collaborative effort. However, developing countries are not doing enough to forge these links and to exploit the complementarity between them. There is an apparent lack of information about what areas exist for meaningful productive cooperation. While individual countries can do a lot to create this awareness and make more determined efforts to engender this sort of collaborative effort, an International Organization like FAO is of course undoubtedly a better place to do this. The examples of what FAO has been able to do so far support this assertion.

The Nigerian delegation therefore supports unreservedly a greater effort by FAO in this area. Perhaps an easier starting point will be bilateral and regional cooperation, and here I think the FAO Regional Office have a major role to play.

My delegation would also like to support the point made by the document about the exchange of experts between developing countries. We believe this will certainly enhance this cooperation. No doubt, to make an impact it will be necessary for FAO to have an inventory of the possible areas of cooperation and then to use existing institutions, as FAO has been doing, as vehicles for this bilateral or multilateral cooperation.

A case in point is the planned forestry facilities of Nigeria, which was strengthened by the FAO and UNDP and are now being used by other West African countries as a training ground. One must not fail to stress, however, that FAO's role can only be regarded as that of a major catalyst. Developing countries must be prepared to come together to share experiences and to join hands as well as to pull together the relatively meagre resources for investment in projects such as river basin developments, fertilizer manufacture, and so on, to name a few. I ought to stress, however, that we do not see TCDC as a substitute for worldwide international cooperation. In a world of growing interdependence, international cooperation at all levels is required now more than ever before. We see TCDC, therefore, as a complementary dimension to international cooperation in agriculture. The Nigerian delegation therefore supports FAO's initiative in this area.

The list given at page 67 of C 77/4 as possible areas of discussion and cooperation between developing countries is well thought out, in our opinion, and ought to provide a useful basis for the projected conference on TCDC.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): First I must mention I am glad to see you at the podium this morning. I will certainly not take much of your time in expressing the general position of Yugoslavia vis-à-vis the whole idea of TCDC. I very much hope that we have already expressed ourselves very clearly in the Plenary as well as on other occasions.

Though I might sound like a slogan, I would not but repeat what the others here have said, and Yugoslavia sees TCDC as a vital, very important new dimension or avenue of international economic cooperation.

We have attentively listened to all previous speakers, especially Mr. Ristic, who by the way is a very good friend of mine, who spoke in his capacity as chairman of PLATCOM, and also we listened carefully to the representatives of UNDP and UNEP. We are glad that the preparations for the Conference are now well under way.

We have also studied Cuba's declaration produced by it as its side in one of the UNDP documents, and that has been produced by highly qualified consultants, among them Mr. Morse.

It is not my intention to go into details, but it is our view that two points especially deserve attention; first, that TCDC, or as we call it now, horizontal cooperation, by no means should be taken as a substitute for traditional or radical coordination. We think that this important point is especially well elaborated in the Cuba declaration. The other point is that the enormously complex task of promoting and implementing the idea of TCDC should not be assigned to any single mechanism or international organization.

Coming to agriculture, I would stress that agricultural institutions in developing countries heavily dominate in the overall institutional framework in those countries. It is quite a logical consequence of the developing process. The very nature of agriculture, especially climate, certainly calls for regional and sub-regional cooperation, but it leaves quite adequate space for inter-regional cooperation, too. This was especially stressed in the relevant document of the Fifth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Colombo. It is well known that the Conference especially stressed the need for TCDC, and in particular in the field of agriculture.

In view of what I have already said, I think it follows clearly that we see a very important role to be played by FAO both in promoting and implementing the idea of TCDC. We share the view expressed in the document for this session, and the same idea was expressed by Mr. Yriart in his opening statement that a prevailing part of existing FAO activities should be categorized as TCDC type of activities.

May I also mention that through a whole series of JIU reports on regional cooperation we learn that FAO has already played a very active role in promoting cooperation among countries at the regional level. Consequently, we see special efforts of FAO's regional offices and to the same extent of country offices.

I will only touch on one point in that context. That is the problem of information. We see a very important role of both regional and country offices in compiling adequate information. May I mention, for example, that we see urgent need for a comprehensive list of institutions with the features of these institutions in as great detail as possible. Of course, other FAO activities of a general type like AGRIS and others can provide necessary background for promoting the whole idea.

Coming to the UN Conference, the UN Conference is not an aim in itself. It should be, in our view, considered only as a very important step of a longer term process.

A brief comment on the action taken on the basis of Council Resolution 1/71. Bearing in mind the contents of the resolution, first of all, frankly I would admit that our delegation expected something more than we got from this session. I am referring to the relevant part of the Review of Field Programmes document, and also to document C 77/LIM/17. We are, however, very pleased to note that the Director-General is personally firmly committed, as mentioned in the document, and especially that Mr. Ristic, in his statement, witnessed very carefully the active role played by FAO at all preparatory sessions so far.

We, of course, very much hope and are almost positive that FAO will continue to participate actively in the preparation for the Conference, and we see as particularly important the role of FAO in preparing the programme of action document.

I would just like to say a few final words. What I have already said will, I hope, evoke the general agreement of the Conference on the Draft Resolution introduced by Romania. We hope that there may be a few points which will still deserve discussion and we shall come to them when the resolution is to be considered in the Commission.

SANG WOO PARK (Korea, Rep. of): My delegation would like to welcome FAO's proposed activities in promoting technical cooperation among developing countries. We understand that, so far, the transfer of some technologies or techniques from developed to developing countries has been somewhat unsatisfactory in certain areas, merely due to the differences in culture, resources, institutions, infrastructure, the degree of development, et cetera, between the developed and developing countries.

It is obvious that agricultural technical cooperation is completely different from cooperation in building an airport or an atomic energy plant in the developing countries, because agriculture is based on soil, climate and the social and economic environment. In fact, the main challenge in technical cooperation is how to institutionalize the better or advanced technologies in developing countries, rather than merely transferring them to the developing countries.

The new technologies transferred should become the respective countries' own technologies in this regard.

I believe TCDC will be a very effective measure to make the developing countries equipped with the appropriate technologies. Developing countries, especially in the same region, face similar agricultural problems. They also have similar agricultural resources, institutional arrangements and environment. Therefore, each has useful information, ideas, and experiences to solve the other's agricultural problems.



I think, that developing countries already have been cooperating with each other on a bilateral basis or multilateral basis. However, there must be some lack of cooperation in desirable fields because of many reasons. In this respect, strengthening FAO activity in TCDC is very desirable. It will facilitate the existing cooperation system and initiate necessary cooperation. I also hope that the TCDC between different regions will be given a greater emphasis.

Mr. Chairman, the possible fields in TCDC are well laid out in paragraph 4.46 on page 67 of the document C 77/4. The fields included here seem to be very technical indeed. Sometimes I get confused in distinguishing the difference in science and art. If a professor in agronomy is in the classroom, he might be a scientist, but if he goes to the fields he might be regarded as a technician. I wonder if we can include some other fields. Firstly, the mobilization and full participation of rural grassroots in integrated rural development is the main factor to make TCDC really effective. The way to cooperate in this area may be desirable to be considered. As stated by the head of our delegation in the Plenary the main challenge in rural development might be now to unite rural peoples easier; how to mobilize the rural people, and how to make them accept the new technology. Therefore, I suggest this area,

Secondly, cooperation in establishing and implementing agricultural development plans may be desirable because some less experienced countries will benefit from this kind of cooperation by escaping the possible trial and error.

Distinguished delegates, you may have access to booklets which were delivered to you by the delegation of the Republic of Korea. One book is Korean agriculture, which has many pictures in the book, and the other one is a booklet about Saemaul Undory, in other words the Korean version of integrated rural development. As shown by the booklets, my country has experience of success in three successive agricultural economic or development plans; integrated rural development; development and dissemination of new high-yielding variety of rice and other agricultural development projects, and fishery development projects.

My country has been sharing experiences with fellow developing countries, and will continue to do so.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to assure you that my country will fully cooperate and actively participate in TCDC programmes.

G. CHACON (Ecuador): Mi país observa con gran expectativa la Conferencia sobre la Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo y felicita realmente a Naciones Unidas y a FAO por el interés que demuestran en este tipo de relación multilateral o bilateral. Indudablemente, todos los países nos encontramos en una etapa dada de nuestro desarrollo y es necesario, para ganar tiempo en esta lucha frente a la escasez de alimentos y a una población creciente, tratar de aprovechar los valores culturales, los factores naturales, los recursos ecológicos de que dispone cada país.

En el caso de América Latina, y en el grupo Andino especialmente, no obstante existir el acuerdo de Cartagena desde 1969, apenas desde 1974 se le ha dado importancia al sector agropecuario con algunos enunciados que tratan de materialización en una planificación subregional. Creemos que en este campo la FAO puede desempeñar un papel muy trascendental para lograr armonizar los criterios de los países y aprovechar al máximo su recurso.

En el momento actual, creemos que el reto que tenemos los países en desarrollo es mejorar la eficiencia de nuestra producción agrícola y de alimento. Reconocemos que FAO y Naciones Unidas, en el caso del grupo Andino, han demostrado siempre su simpatía, su apoyo; prueba de ello es que una misión preparó un documento en el año 1976 acerca de la producción e intercambio de semillas realmente autóctonas, que desde la época del Incario, Bolivia y Perú principalmente las explotaban y mantenían a sus poblaciones perfectamente nutridas.

A más del apoyo que se necesita a nivel subregional y el intercambio de información, de experiencia, consideramos que es conveniente para fortalecer esta cooperación llegar a los acuerdos complementarios bilaterales. Que eso es lo que realmente evita el papel de ser donante y receptor, en que se pueden adquirir iguales compromisos, en que se pueden tener los mismos derechos.

Entendemos que en los campos de investigación agropecuaria de producción de planificación de comercialización, de producción y de insumos en capacitación en códigos comunes, de sanidad agropecuaria, son los principales en que tenemos expectativas en el sector agropecuario para los países en desarrollo.

F. D'ALMEIDA (Bénin): Je ne serai pas trop long parce que beaucoup d'orateurs ont traité de ce que je voulais dire. Je me bornerai à apporter un certain nombre de compléments. Dans le cadre de la coopération technique jusqu'à présent nous pouvons considérer que les choses se font au niveau des gouvernements et des services techniques. Etant donné l'orientation que prend actuellement la FAO, qui voudrait de plus en plus se rapprocher des populations rurales, il serait bon que la coopération s'étende à un niveau plus bas. C'est pour cela que j'appuie l'intervention de la Roumanie, du Nigeria et de la Yougoslavie, qui pensent que grâce aux projets interrégionaux, le grand projet entre pays pour l'aménagement des bassins par exemple, les populations peuvent arriver à coopérer. La meilleure des coopérations à mon avis, puisque nous travaillons pour les hommes, c'est que les hommes arrivent à coopérer, à mieux se connaître et à mieux s'apprécier.

Au niveau de la FAO, il faudrait que dès maintenant beaucoup de projets soient régionalisés ou même interrégionalisés de façon que les peuples arrivent à mieux se connaître. Dans ces conditions, il serait bon d'ajouter, à la liste des sujets proposés l'alimentation et la nutrition. En matière de formation il ne doit pas s'agir simplement de former toujours des cadres de haut niveau mais aussi des cadres moyens plus près du terrain, plus près de populations qui sont à même de mieux passer le message.

En ce qui concerne la Conférence mondiale sur la coopération technique, je me pose la question de savoir s'il n'aurait pas été nécessaire que ce genre de réunions se tienne d'abord au niveau régional, de manière que l'on fasse à ce niveau le point pour savoir comment s'y fait la coopération. Il s'agirait ensuite de savoir si ces réunions entre pays en voie de développement, de la région Afrique à l'Amérique latine, de l'Amérique latine à l'Asie, ne peuvent pas se faire avant une conférence mondiale, où nous nous trouvons entre pays développés et pays en voie de développement, ce qui pose certainement des problèmes sur le plan des technologies. Est-ce qu'une telle conférence mondiale ne serait pas une espèce de conférence à grande échelle comme la conférence Nord/Sud?

Ces questions me préoccupent; je ne sais pas si ce genre de conférences se tient déjà au niveau des régions, mais nous devrions arriver à harmoniser nos positions, à faire le point au niveau régional, à savoir quels sont nos besoins avant de tenir une conférence mondiale de ce genre.

S.S. MAHDI (India): Thank you for giving me the floor, Mr. Chairman - and let me express my happiness to see you on the podium when we are discussing a very important subject which is close to our concerns and to yours. At the beginning, I would like to express my delegation's appreciation of the opening statement made by Mr. Yriart last night. It was precise, it touched on several aspects of the problem, and it gave a good start to discussions. Also, as I am clearing the preliminaries, let me express the appreciation of my delegation for FAO's role so far in participation in the preparations for the TCDC Conference. We have heard about this from earlier speakers, and we can only take satisfaction in what FAO is doing in this regard. However, I would like to make a distinction between FAO's participation in the Conference and FAO's own responsibility in this area. Irrespective of whether the TCDC Conference was going to be held or not, FAO has, and had, always a responsibility, especially since the concept of TCDC has gathered momentum during the last two or three years.

A related comment is as follows: within the United Nations system, TCDC is not the responsibility of any particular part of the system. It is the responsibility of all the components of the United Nations system, and especially the specialized agencies. Here, I entirely agree with what has been said by our esteemed colleague from Yugoslavia.

Similarly, we feel and strongly feel, and have reasons for doing so that TCDC within FAO is not the responsibility of any particular unit of the Organization. It is work which should infuse and permeate the work of all units in the Organization, of the technical and policy units. However, we do feel that for organizational convenience there should be a focal point in FAO, as there is a focal point in the United Nations system, so that there should be a unit which should be entrusted with the task of monitoring what is happening and stimulating action in this regard. Our delegation would very much like this particular unit to be identified as early as possible.

Regarding the remaining part of my statement, let me apologize in advance for any critical tone that you may perceive. I can however, assure you, Sir - and through you, Mr. Yriart and his colleagues - that in view of the importance that we attach to the subject, our observations and our endeavour will be constructive.

I hope I will be excused if I like the delegate of Yugoslavia express certain disappointment at the implementation of the Resolution adopted by the FAO Council on TCDC on this subject at its June 1977 Session. In response to the specific mandate given in paragraph 3 of that Resolution, we expected

a more comprehensive report. Instead, we have about 18 paragraphs included at the end of the Review of Field Programmes, and an information document. The context of the section on TCDC in the Review of Field Programmes is very well prepared. It diagnoses many things, it also gives some prescriptions. It contains certain valuable insights. So it is good, as far as it goes. But I'm afraid that it does not go far enough, and although as I said, it contains certain home truths, so far as the approach to the TCDC is concerned it does not give an adequate picture of what is actually being done in FAO on this important subject.

Similarly, Document C 77/INF/17, I am afraid, also suffers from the same inadequacy.

As you know, by now a number of studies have been carried out, and the broad outlines of a policy framework are emerging. In this connexion, special mention should be made of the studies carried out under the auspices of UNDP as a part of the preparatory process for the Buenos Aires Conference to be held in September 1978. Also, initiatives have been taken by OPEC, by African Heads of State by Latin American integration movements, by the intra-government bodies in West Asia, and by numerous bodies in Asia and the Pacific. In this regard, I should like to mention the Mexican Conference of the Summit Meeting of Non-Aligned Countries at Colombo. Along with these, we have the Kuwait Declaration, which has been referred to by a number of speakers. This was formulated by a panel of high level independent consultants, and declares that TCDC is a historical imperative brought about by the need for a new international order. It is a conscious, systematic and politically motivated process developed to create a framework of multiple links between developing countries.

Here, I entirely agree with what has been said by the delegates of Cuba and Ecuador that TCDC institutions must not involve donor/recipient relationships or a new dependency link between developing countries themselves.

As I said just now, even at this stage, a policy framework has been urged. What is now required is action - action on a continuous and consistent basis. Here we find that there is much scope for improvement.

Last evening, the Secretariat in its introduction talked of the attitudinal barriers existing in the developing countries. There is no doubt there is some truth in this formulation. However, we are living in a dynamic situation. Attitudes are changing. What was true a few years ago is true no more. I can give you an example from my country. We have agreed to the establishment of a FAO country office in India and we have very clearly shown our preference for a nominee from a developing country. This is just an example which shows that the fact of attitudinal barriers on the part of developing countries need not be emphasized too much and should not be an apology for lack of action.

While we are talking of attitudinal barriers, it will not be amiss to mention the attitudinal barriers of the Programme Managers which have been referred to in the Review also. Some people are still under the impression that TCDC is nothing but old wine in new bottles. When we talk of TCDC, we are told that this has been happening all the time, so what is new? This reminds me of the story of two archeologists. One of them in his excavations discovered a copper wire and reached the conclusion that telegraph existed 3 000 years ago. The other one, who did not want to be left behind, said that in his excavations he did not discover a copper wire which clearly demonstrated that wireless existed 3 000 years ago. If the international organizations are to play their part in the process of TCDC, they will have to get rid of these attitudinal barriers to which I have just referred.

We propose therefore - and we would wish this proposal to be taken into account in the Chairman's summary and not omitted as were some of the proposals which he made last night - that the Programme Managers and those who are involved should be provided with short reorientation training courses on TCDC. It should not be difficult to organize this activity and this will go a long way in sensitizing those who are directly concerned in making them appreciate the new realities.

We feel that an assessment of attitudinal barriers in the FAO against use of inputs from developing countries and concerted action by the Director-General to overcome these countries' barriers is essential. These barriers of course arise from ignorance and inadequate appreciation of technological development in recent years, and partly due to ingrained habits and traditional links with institutions and persons in developed countries. We can approach this problem in a very practical way. Mr. Chairman, you know that we are approving a fairly considerable travel budget for FAO staff. Now by the simple device of asking the experts who are travelling to various countries to identify and report on the national institutions and on the capacities that they come across during their tours, we can collect plenty of very valuable information. So this is my second express proposal which it should not be difficult to implement.

Mr. Chairman, while I am saying all this, I do not deny the continuing importance of North-South flows. They are as useful as in the past, and they will be needed in the future. However, the Northern world models cannot alone, - and I emphasize the word "alone" - provide the most relevant response to many development needs. The time has come to facilitate and accelerate these South-South flows. Channels of communication and contact between developing countries remain relatively weak. World flows and structures are still predominantly organized on North-North and North-South axis. South-South cooperation links among the developing countries will therefore have to receive a conscious, continuing and systematic emphasis.

The publication of the UNDP Directory of Services for TCDC, which lists over 900 institutions in 67 countries is a step in the right direction. We are not aware of the extent of cooperation between FAO and UNDP in this endeavour. I am sure some cooperation has taken place. In any case, we would like to stress that FAO should discharge the responsibility in its sphere of activity in this regard. There is a need for identifying and appraising institutions and capabilities within the developing countries which can be utilized effectively in other developing countries. FAO can play this role effectively and disseminate results with a view to promoting their increased use in technical assistance programmes and building up networks of national institutions with common and complimentary objectives.

Mr. Chairman, as I have just said, the policy framework for strengthening and use of national institutions is most welcome, but we need some precise guidance about implementation of this policy. As implementation is the responsibility of practically all substantive units in FAO, the question is who will monitor the progress and evaluate the results for providing feedback to countries and to units within FAO. This is an area which will need urgent attention.

We feel that our identification of potential for TCDC in specific subject matter areas among clearly defined groups of countries with common interests or complementary resource endowments is essential. In this regard there must be a careful balancing of the apparent level of technology and its immediate relevance to the country concerned, because as you know all that glitters is not gold, and the march towards development is tedious and long.

I would like to emphasize another point with regard to the TCDC work. We feel that among the priorities of FAO work in TCDC/should be included the strengthening and the negotiating capacities of the Third World as a whole. This aspect is particularly related to the work of Commodities and Policy Analysis Division in FAO. I will not dwell in detail on this item. I would only refer you to the Preparatory Committee document, "TCDC as a new dimension of International Cooperation." This document has been prepared by the Sussex Institute of Development Studies.

Again, we are glad to note in Mr. Yriart's statement, that FAO is currently examining the specific recommendations which have emerged from discussions in the UNDP Government Council last summer on the subject of using inputs from the developing countries. Mr. Chairman, if I can refer to the statement, if I remember rightly, Mr. Yriart said that any adjustments which are considered necessary in our recruitment, fellowship or contracting procedures to promote increasing use of developing countries' inputs will be made as expeditiously as possible but only after making sure that those adjustments do not in any way compromise the interest of the recipient country or the technical reputation of the Organization itself. We entirely agree with what has been said in the latter part of this statement about the technical reputation of FAO and the interest of the recipient countries, but we would like to say that before examination of these rules, regulations and procedures, let us not pre-judge.

Mr. Chairman, now I am coming to the end of this statement. We fully realize that TCDC is primarily the function and responsibility of the developing countries themselves. Even before the Buenos Aires Conference it was perceived what was happening in this field and the process is being accelerated. The question therefore, is whether the UN would play its part in this process. We feel that the UN has a role until developing countries can put in place their own institutional arrangements. This role should be a supportive role, involving suggestions for research, bridging of information gaps and providing a forum for exchange of experience. Again, I would like to emphasize what the delegate from Romania has said that the developing countries themselves should try to organize consultations between themselves, and where necessary they should have the assistance of international organizations.

I would like to mention one more thing. We are glad to note that in the document C 77/LIM/17 that touches on the Director-General's report, and I quote, "firm personal commitment to the promotion of TCDC in areas which fall within FAO's sphere of activities". We would like to support this commitment with all the force at our command. At the same time we express the hope that his colleagues in the FAO Secretariat, at all levels, will fully share the Director-General's personal commitments and will work to further the cause.

Mr. Chairman, one brief word about our interests in the TCDC s Conference to be held in Buenos Aires. We are making thorough preparations for it; I have got a ten-page brief on the subject which I do not want to unload on the Commission. Suffice it to say that we have appointed a Steering Committee, a number of Ministries are coordinating their approach, and we hope to participate fully and extensively in this regard.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me quote again the COAG Declaration which says that TCDC may be facilitated or hindered but it cannot be stopped.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to quote the last sentence of the COAG Declaration which says that TCDC and the forthcoming Conference on TCDC should be seen as an opportunity for the World Community to help realize the latent creativity of two billion people and thus open new horizons for mankind. Let us seize this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, and go ahead with the work.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, we have before us one of the most' important subjects which this Commission has to discuss and we hope that FAO is going to give it priority in its general policy.

Mr. Chairman, the fields of cooperation of course vary, but I would like to stress one specific area and that is training. In this respect the language problem is one of the most difficult aspects of this training and technical cooperation between developing countries is one of the best ways of surmounting this obstacle, not only from the technical point of view, but also in order to reduce the costs of cooperation without forgetting that the problems of developing countries are similar, and this is particularly true when we deal with the countries in one single region. We therefore believe that FAO should place emphasis on training as being a basis for such technical cooperation. We are glad that FAO is doing so already and hope that a technical cooperation centre will be set up in Egypt as indicated in paragraph 4.44 of document C 77/4.

We would also like to say that we have benefited from the information provided by AGRIS reasearch which is carried out in member countries. It is of great importance to us in establishing research in countries which have the same conditions as we have. Mr. Chairman, we can only emphasize here the national institutions and the use to be made of these institutions. We are very glad to note the initiative taken by FAO to give more means to these institutions so that they can cooperate in the strengthening of this TCDC

We would also like to thank FAO for the preparatory work done for the Buenos Aires Conference. We believe that the list which appears in paragraph 4.46 in this same document, the list of topics for cooperation, provides a useful basis for future debate. We would also like to give our support to what was said by the delegate of Benin concerning regional consultations which should precede an international conference.

CM. KASSAMI (Uganda): As was mentioned in Uganda's country statement in the Plenary, my country gives high priority to technical cooperation among the developing countries, and welcomes efforts by various international bodies to facilitate this cooperation, and the inclusion by FAO of this item on its agenda.

My delegation is particularly encouraged by the measures FAO has taken in the implementation of 1% regional and sub-regional projects. As has already been mentioned, cooperation among the developing, countries is made difficult by a number of barriers. These will require greater efforts by developing countries, in order to overcome them.

First, long periods of political and economic domination have tended to create biases in developing countries in favour of experts and materials from the developed countries. We share the optimism of the delegate of India that the situation as regards barriers in attitudes is changing, and we welcome all endeavours to accelerate this process.

Secondly, the vast amount of resources available to large multinational companies has enabled them to advertise themselves vigorously so that they are almost household names in the supply of consultancy services and material, while the very limited resources of institutions in the developing countries imply that less is known about them. For this reason, my delegation welcomes the dissemination of information on what is available in developing countries, where and on what terms. We hope that FAO and other international agencies will continue to help in this respect.

In the field of research, there is still more need for cooperation, if the limited amount of resources available to developing countries is to be used to their best advantage. To date, due to limited information on research being undertaken in various developing countries, efforts have tended to be duplicated.

In the area of agricultural commodity trade, the developing countries are limited because of the predominance of a limited scope of primary products, and the lack of organized markets between them.

Furthermore, the established infrastructure tends to be organized along the traditional lines which tend to favour trade between the developed and the developing countries rather than between the developing countries,

Here reference is being made to problems of communication, shipping and clearing arrangements between the developing countries.

In view of all these problems, my delegation would recommend that efforts in the collection and distribution of information should be accelerated. We also recommend that FAO should continue to assist in quality control measures, and help member states who require assistance in drawing up quality control legislation.

My delegation further recommends that efforts at untying aid should be made by all donors, so that machinery and equipment can be secured from developing countries.

Having made those general observations, my delegation would like to mention some specific areas in which we invite cooperation with other developing countries. In the field of crops, my country has an established cotton research centre, and is ready to cooperate with any developing country in the exchange of research results.

In the field of fisheries, we are willing to cooperate in the exchange of information on fresh fish research. In the field of livestock, we welcome cooperation in pest control in neighbouring states, and the exchange of research information on disease control with all developing countries.

On the other hand, my country welcomes expertise from developing countries in irrigation, small scale agro-industry, the production of low-cost agricultural equipment, food preservation and other fields. We hope the forthcoming conference on technical cooperation will facilitate this exchange.

Finally, in view of the broad nature of possible areas of cooperation, we urge that priority areas should be defined, so that immediate attention can be turned to them,

L. ZAGOTE (Côte-d'Ivoire): A l'heure où la solidarité internationale est plus que souhaitable, il est bien normal que les pays en voie de développement échangent des expériences techniques, non seulement avec les pays développés, mais également entre eux. Ceci pour la bonne raison que ces pays sont souvent dans des conditions d'environnement naturel favorable.

On a souvent parlé à notre sujet de ce qu'on a appelé "le miracle ivoirien". Cette déclaration a souvent été faite par des personnalités étrangères. Mais pour nous, il n'y a pas de miracle. Il s'agit d'une expérience, qui, au prix de mille efforts a donné un résultat modeste. M. Andrew Young, dans sa déclaration sur la Conférence McDougall a parlé de cette expérience. Il s'agit pour nous d'une expérience qui peut être améliorée à partir de l'expérience des autres, mais d'une expérience qui peut aussi aider les autres pays. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons pleinement l'effort de la FAO qui tend à développer la coopération technique entre les pays en voie de développement.

Nous dirons que nous avons déjà fait beaucoup avec les autres pays. Nous citerons la coopération avec le Sénégal; nous avons même institué une commission intitulée "commission ivoir-sénégalaise". Nous avons une coopération semblable avec le Nigeria avec qui nous avons signé une convention d'assistance technique. Enfin, nous avons beaucoup d'autres relations avec des pays comme le Brésil, dans le cadre de l'élevage, mais il serait plus intéressant pour ce qui nous concerne que les pays voisins de la Côte-d'Ivoire entrent dans une phase de coopération technique plus approfondie, de sorte que nos populations, qu'il s'agisse des populations du nord, de l'est ou de l'ouest, puissent profiter de l'expérience des autres.

C'est pourquoi, une fois de plus, nous appuyons cet effort que tente la FAO. Nous avons ouvert les portes de la Côte-d'Ivoire pour qu'on puisse voir qu'il ne s'agit pas d'un miracle; il s'agit d'une petite expérience que tout le monde peut copier. Malheureusement, des obstacles existent. Il

faudrait que ces obstacles soient dépassés pour que la coopération puisse s'exercer réellement dans le domaine technique. La finalité de toute politique étant l'homme, il est souhaitable que l'option politique ne fasse pas obstacle à la coopération technique.

A.L. ZAIDAN (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): On the two papers that we have before us, we find these documents are excellent because they provide a basis for technical cooperation between the developing countries and agriculture. We support this document, and in particular we would like to say that it is not just a question of declaring one's intentions to cooperate, but of translating these intentions into action.

The Sub-Regional Centre for Fisheries which Kuwait harbours, suffers from a lack of technical cooperation. We hope that this centre will be able to work in better conditions in the future if technical cooperation comes to life and becomes operational and effective.

This is what we are aiming at in any development programme we engage in. That, we feel, is the very essence of the Kuwait statement concerning technical cooperation, and I would like to thank all those who have paid tribute to the importance of the Kuwaiti statement.

The balance between industry and its dire effects, such as pollution, and the need to muster and control industrial waste, should appear on the list proposed where technical cooperation would be possible. Particular importance should be attached to solar energy, oil, crude oil and energy studies. All research carried out in the developing countries should receive the benefit of our full support so that they can carry out the technical cooperation programmes.

In order to attain our objectives, we must not lose sight of the agricultural aspect which is of primary interest. If the implementation of any specific programme requires funds and financial resources, I think that another element which must also be placed at the disposal of this cooperation is the transfer of technology and the dialogue between the countries of both North and South who are establishing a new international economic order.

Obviously, countries and regions differ greatly from each other, which is why this effort will have to be diversified in order to be of benefit to all.

Srta. C DOMINGUEZ (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá considera que el examen de la Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo, para desembocar en una Conferencia Mundial sobre tan importante tema en Argentina el próximo año, es uno de los pasos más importantes que se han hecho para garantizar en un futuro próximo el mantenimiento de la unión y de la presentación de un solo frente común por parte de los países en desarrollo para superar los problemas relacionados con el mantenimiento de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, para aumentar la productividad de la tierra, de la mano de obra y del capital y superar nuestras dificultades en la relación de los términos de intercambio que ya son tradicionales con respecto a los países desarrollados. Encontramos en la Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo un amplio espectro de posibilidades dentro de la complejidad de nuestra situación alimentaria, y del desarrollo rural que, seguramente, enriquecerá a nuestros países en aspectos tan importantes como la capacitación y el adiestramiento a todos los niveles, la elevación de nuestra tecnología y el establecimiento de sistemas de producción, procesamiento y comercialización de alimentos más de acuerdo con nuestras particulares condiciones ecológicas, económicas y culturales y quizás también mediante la creación de instituciones regionales especializadas.

Hasta ahora hemos encontrado algunos campos de cooperación por nuestra propia cuenta entre nuestros países, pero es necesario examinar mucho más detalladamente y en forma sistemática, los avances relativos, los proyectos pilotos y las características institucionales de cada país para conformar un sistema más completo de información de modo que la próxima Conferencia Mundial sobre Cooperación Técnica a celebrarse en Argentina logre verdaderamente sus objetivos.

CHIN FENG-CHU (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation would like to make a few comments on technical cooperation among developing countries. First, technical cooperation among developing countries is often better suited to their conditions and their needs. It plays an important role in giving fuller scope to productive self-reliance in the research on agricultural technology in developing countries, breaking the technical monopoly and the blockade of the super-powers and helping to destroy the old order and establish a new one in the international economic realm.

Secondly, with our economies mostly based on agriculture, we developing countries have rich traditional experience in the developing of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and animal husbandry. Agricultural technicians in the developing countries know their own needs best and are most familiar with the conditions of agricultural production in their respective countries and their regions. In the past few years, opportunities for agricultural technical cooperation have already been carried out in some regional organizations and producing countries as well as among developing countries. This is very encouraging and has brought visitors.

Thirdly, these facts illustrate both the need for and the feasibility of carrying out technical cooperation among developing countries. Therefore, we think that it is necessary to discuss technical cooperation among developing countries in the field of food and agriculture.

Fourth, we are of the opinion that in order to promote technical cooperation among developing countries it is essential to undertake it in a planned and selective way by drawing on the experience that has already been accumulated and starting with projects that are most urgently needed by the developing countries and that can be successfully carried out. Such technical cooperation may vary in the form it takes; it may involve integrated annual or long-term projects, as the case may be. In sum, it must be voluntary on all sides and should aim at economy and effectiveness.

Fifth, in this connexion, FAO has proposed to utilize the institutions, experts and facilities of the developing countries in executing certain field projects and TCDC projects. In our opinion, this is a feasible idea, and we give it our support.

Sixth, for developing countries to exchange experience, learn from each other, support each other and carry on technical cooperation, this manifests a brand-new international economic relationship. It is a very promising undertaking and should be given active support. It is our hope that the present discussion will further promote the work in this field and pave the way for the forthcoming Conference on Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries, so that the Conference can be held in the spirit of the Declaration and Action Programme adopted by the Sixth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly and contribute to the establishment of a New International Economic Order.

D, BASSIOUNI (Sudan): My delegation gives a lot of importance to the Technical Cooperation Programme Amongst Developing Countries, and I think the document has really identified a number of fields where cooperation can be built between developing countries. I think one of the most important areas of cooperation is planning and education, and there are a lot of advantages in this because I am sure a number of developing countries can benefit greatly from neighbouring countries; I mean institutions in neighbouring countries can always afford places more cheaply to these countries, and I think this is where there is a lot of scope for cooperation. Cooperation in know-how of national institutions also can be an area where there will be a lot of cooperation.

But one thing worries me about this particular programme. It is the fact that a number of countries are already attached to institutions by tradition, and sometimes it is difficult to persuade them to see that there are more advantages in cooperating regionally with other countries. The problem which I see as confronting this particular programme is how do we catalyse the cooperation among these countries? How do we make them see that there is a lot of advantage in cooperating among themselves? I think that is one subject which should really form a very important part of our discussions, especially in the forthcoming Conference on Technical Cooperation. I think it is not simply identifying the areas of cooperation but really catalysing and mobilising many countries, which should form a very important element. I think that is a very important aspect which the Conference should not lose sight of.

J. SZÁNTÓ (Hungary): I think nothing more has been left for me to say on the TCDC Programme before us, since the previous speakers have already said what my delegation also supports very much, so I will be very brief.

My delegation concurs with the TCDC and is very much looking forward to the results of the Buenos Aires Conference. You may recall that Hungary, when intervening in the previous sessions, has already mentioned that we have a firm intention to broaden our cooperation with the developing countries, and we believe that TCDC is an excellent framework for that.

May I refer to Paragraph 4.45 of document C 77/4 on the importance of training programmes and training activities. We do agree with FAO putting heavy emphasis on these activities, and we also would like to promote practical oriented training in order to upgrade the skill and expertise of experts coming from developing countries, both in technical and managerial disciplines.



P. CELAN (Roumanie): Je voudrais intervenir brièvement sur notre ordre du jour de cet après-midi. Figurent sur notre programme deux points: Coopération technique entre pays en développement dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation et Programme alimentaire mondial. Or, nous savons que la Commission des résolutions doit nous présenter un texte à ce sujet. Dans ces conditions, et si vous étiez d'accord, il serait préférable d'inverser ces deux questions en commençant à l'ouverture de la séance par le Programme alimentaire mondial. La Commission de résolutions doit se réunir, d'après mes informations, à 18 heures; elle sera alors à même de nous présenter son projet de résolution que nous pourrions examiner pour en terminer sur la coopération technique.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Romania. I understand from the Secretariat they still have many resolutions still pending, and I think when we go on this afternoon to further our discussion on this agenda item, by this time we will be finished with our agenda item, that is the TCDC, so that the resolution will be finished and we can continue and go on to the next agenda item. If Romania have no objection about this we can agree on this.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La Séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/II/PV/14

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

FOURTEENTH MEETING

QUATORZIEME SEANCE

14ª SESION

(24 November 1977)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours

P. Laowhaphan, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 14 h 55 sous la présidence

de P. Laowhaphan, Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 14ª sesión a las 14.55 horas, bajo la presidencia de

P. Laowhaphan, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION  
(continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION  
(suite)

PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN  
(continuación)

13. Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries in the Field of Agriculture and Food (continued)

13. Coopération technique entre pays en développement dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation (suite)

13. Cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en materia de agricultura y alimentación (continuación)

R.S. KAMARA (Sierra Leone): First of all, a word of acknowledgment of the introductory remarks of the Assistant-Director General on the subject, and also to the representatives of the other Specialized Agencies and Bodies.

It is superfluous and unnecessary each time to repeat that a particular topic is of interest, as almost all topics are of interest and significant to the development process in agriculture. In relation to the contributions made so far in the debate, I shall limit myself to one specific topic or area which has been briefly referred to, but not sufficiently, which I consider extremely relevant to the problem of technical cooperation amongst developing countries, TCDC. I refer to the problem of the dissemination of information, but more specifically I really mean communications, although rather timidly. I use the word "timidly", bearing in mind that the main preoccupation of this Commission, and the Conference for that matter, is that of agricultural development and its attendant progress in FAO's task of trying to find food for the world.

Progress in any endeavour is difficult, if not impossible, if the channels of communication are poor or non-existent. By communication I mean not only the aspect of establishing a single link between people and communities from one country to another, but also communicating our reports from individual to individual or one country to another through the medium of the spoken word.

The dissemination of information at the moment presents one of the most serious barriers limiting contact between countries, particularly among the developing countries of Africa. To illustrate the point, at one time my country urgently required a vaccine from Chad. To avoid making a long story of it, the vaccine arrived in the end, although very late, after considerable damage had been caused. The reason for the delay was the fact that the vaccine had to be sent first to Paris, before finally reaching Sierra Leone.

This is one incident, but it might interest some members of this Commission to know that if I want to make a phone call from Freetown to Liberia, the call will first have to be put through London. It is still quicker to travel from Sierra Leone to Europe, than, say, from Sierra Leone to Mali.

Language is one of the most important means of communication, and yet this poses a serious obstacle, particularly between Anglophone and Francophone countries. To illustrate another very important point, recently, communications between a representative of a research organization, and members of my ministry broke down simply because there was no effective interpreter between the representative, who spoke mainly French and very little English, and members of my own ministry who spoke only English. An attempt made by the speaker to act as interpreter was short lived when the meaning of a very important technical point was involved and there was no dictionary.

My delegation supports the views of various speakers, particularly that of the delegate of Nigeria, when he stated that the problem of TCDC is an international one, in which the role of FAO must be regarded as catalytic, and the efforts of developing countries complementary.

Communication is still largely a matter that resides in the developed countries, and here we would urge FAO - and this has already been demonstrated in the Director-General's statement - that he should be in a position to use his good offices to stand between us and the developed countries in putting our views across.

If we have more training programmes, particularly training programmes whereby people from Francophone countries are given courses in English, and Anglophone countries vice versa, I think we would go a long way towards breaking the barriers that would definitely plague us in our attempts to communicate with each other.

C. WILL (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I note that I am the first of the representatives of the donor countries to speak, and I am very glad to have this privilege. My government attaches as much importance to technical cooperation between developing countries as to economic cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and recipient countries. We feel that technical cooperation between developing countries is an essential instrument for promoting the self-reliance of the developing countries.

In document C 77/4, the Director-General has put ideas before us which not only give us an exhaustive description of the present situation, but also give very valuable indications for  $\rho$  strategy in this field.

In view of the similarities between countries within one region, agriculture is an excellent starting point for cooperation between developing countries. For the same reason, we, however, also believe that such cooperation is of the utmost importance, precisely for agriculture.

A number of areas have been mentioned in the document, and FAO wants to contribute towards identifying them more exactly. We believe that the selection of such fields of interest is correct.

The know-how available in the developing countries themselves and also the equipment which is produced in these countries should be used as much as possible. Of course, we also are aware of the difficulties from the point of view of personnel, as mentioned in the document, but we believe that this is essentially a training problem.

We believe it is of the greatest importance to procure equipment in the developing countries wherever this is possible. In this case, the primary effect within the project itself would be accompanied by a secondary effect of the production industry in the developing country.

Apart from that, repairs and maintenance of such equipment would be much better assured and more economic than if such equipment and materials had to be imported, which would take a lot of time and foreign currency of the importing country. My government is already making use of this potential to the greatest possible extent in our bilateral aid. For instance, project vehicles, pumps, machinery and so on are no longer being supplied by the Federal Republic of Germany, if it is possible to find such equipment in the project country itself, or in a neighbouring country which is also a developing country.

I could give you a large number of examples from our bilateral aid. Buildings for schools, workshops, or grain stores are being built by local firms in the country itself, and are paid for out of our bilateral aid. We see to it that only those parts are imported from the Federal Republic of Germany which cannot be produced in the project country.

In this connection, I would also like to draw your attention to the efforts made by my government to see to it that technical assistance projects are carried out as joint ventures with the developing countries.

A further important example of the support for all the cooperation between developing countries is that we have stopped tied aid in the case of projects involving capital aid, and we did so quite some time ago.

My government agrees with the Director-General that the building up and strengthening of national institutions is one of the basic prerequisites for useful cooperation between developing countries. Here again, agriculture - particularly with regard to agricultural research - is one of the very best starting points. For a long time now national research institutes have been promoted by bilateral and multilateral aid. We are very glad that such and other institutions are to be supported by specific FAO measures, because these are so important for the development of the country concerned. We are convinced that education and training of staff will play the most important role in this connection, as was pointed out by a number of speakers.

In this connection, we also agree with the delegates of Nigeria and Yugoslavia in their view that the regional and special offices of the Specialized Agencies can play a very important catalytic role.

We are of the opinion that in future the question of technical cooperation between developing countries will have to be seen as a very important factor in determining the feasibility of projects, both by the donor and by the recipient countries.

In conclusion, I would like to say a few words with regard to what was said by the delegate of India in connection with the document before us. We also had expected rather more, because it seemed that more was announced, but I believe that FAO was not too far wrong. Very valuable indications are contained in this document but FAO could not anticipate what has been said today, what is still being said and what will be decided by the regional conferences. Therefore, I believe that the proposal made by the delegate of Benin is very important, and it should be looked at very carefully before the regional Conferences or the World Conference on Technical Cooperation between the Developing Countries are organised, in order to discuss specific projects. This is because in this case we would not be dealing with abstract theories but rather with concrete examples.

We feel that cooperation with developing countries would give us the possibility of getting extremely valuable information.

The World Conference on Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries is something that we are looking forward to with a great deal of interest. We believe that in this connection harmonization of the enlightened interests of the industrialized and developing countries can be achieved.

G. LYAKOV (Bulgarie): Conformément aux souhaits de la 71ème session du Conseil, rappelés au paragraphe 162 de son rapport, un chapitre spécial est consacré, dans le document "Examen des programmes de terrain 1976/77" à la coopération technique entre les pays en voie de développement.

La délégation bulgare note avec satisfaction que le Directeur général a déjà pris des mesures appropriées en vue d'assurer la participation active de la FAO à la Conférence des Nations Unies sur la coopération technique entre les pays en voie de développement, et elle donne à ces mesures son entière adhésion.

En vue des préparatifs de cette Conférence, ma délégation remarque que l'avis donné par le Directeur général sur la CTPVD représente un tableau concis et lucide de la situation et des problèmes qui en découlent.

A partir des techniques et de l'expérience acquises comme conditions et facteurs de la coopération technique, sont passés en revue et analysés le rôle et la compétence des organisations internationales, et plus particulièrement de la FAO, en tant que catalyseurs et soutien propres à cette coopération.

La délégation de la République populaire de Bulgarie considère que le chapitre en question montre le rôle actif de la FAO dans les domaines clefs de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, dans l'assistance pour la lutte contre les épizooties, contre les ennemis des cultures, contre les carences et les abus des ressources naturelles, s'agissant notamment de l'érosion et de la salinité des sols. L'Organisation a accumulé une précieuse expérience en matière de coopération internationale dans la formation et l'éducation des spécialistes agricoles à différents niveaux et disciplines, ainsi que dans les systèmes multilatéraux de recherche agricole, réseaux scientifiques, et de l'information, CARIS et AGRIS.

Ma délégation estime que la méthode proposée pour stimuler et soutenir la coopération technique, notamment au moyen de projets tendant à l'établissement des liaisons régionales et interrégionales entre les institutions nationales, selon les orientations déjà données dans le cadre des activités bénéficiant d'une aide de la FAO, correspond aux nouvelles tendances positives enregistrées dans ce domaine, tendances déjà examinées au sein de cette Commission. A ce propos, la délégation bulgare partage l'opinion émise sur l'utilité de l'expérience des pays européens pour les pays en voie de développement. Elle estime que l'expérience accumulée par le biais de la coopération régionale européenne dans les recherches agricoles et leurs résultats peut profiter aux pays en voie de développement en dehors de la région.

Ma délégation partage l'opinion émise quant au rôle de la FAO pour la diffusion des renseignements sur les institutions nationales et les moyens d'action pouvant présenter un intérêt pour d'autres pays, obligeant en quelque sorte l'Organisation à être en mesure de porter à l'attention de certains pays les méthodes ayant donné des résultats positifs dans d'autres et qui pourraient être appliquées dans les pays en voie de développement.

En donnant plus d'importance à la coopération technique avec les pays en voie de développement, la République populaire de Bulgarie a partagé, et partage, avec certains de ces pays, dans la mesure de ses possibilités, son expérience dans les domaines divers de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation notamment pour l'élaboration et l'évaluation des projets et leur réalisation, ainsi que pour l'éducation et la formation, dans les instituts bulgares, des spécialistes de ces pays.

D'après les accords bilatéraux de coopération scientifiques et techniques des spécialistes bulgares en matière d'agronomie et d'amélioration hydraulique, de la médecine vétérinaire, de la viticulture et autres, ont travaillé et travaillent actuellement dans différents pays du tiers monde.

En reconnaissant la nécessité d'une coopération active avec les pays en voie de développement, a été créée en Bulgarie une entreprise spécialisée pour l'évaluation et la réalisation de projets sur le principe "terre-produit fini", ainsi que pour la bonne fin des tâches particulières du développement agricole, comme l'organisation de fermes coopératives et de fermes d'Etat, pour l'étude et la réalisation de projets de mise en valeur des terres et des eaux, pour le développement de l'élevage, pour l'infrastructure et pour l'aménagement des zones rurales.

Y. PRIDAN (Israel): Mr. Chairman, your wish together with, the very pertinent observations of my distinguished predecessors make it necessary for me to shorten my speech. Next time I will have to ask for the floor earlier.

My delegation would nevertheless like to express its appreciation for the efforts deployed by FAO to promote TCDC and would like to give its support for the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries to be held next year at Buenos Aires.

While we are not able to make a great financial contribution to worldwide agricultural development, my country is however gratified to have been able to share its agricultural experience and the result of its research with many fellow developing countries over the past two decades. Activities undertaken range from grassroots training of farmers in elementary farm practice, planning and implementation of rural development projects as well as sophisticated aspects of applied agricultural research.

My country believes very much in the process whereby a developing country is able to profit from needed technical assistance on one hand and at the same time to share with others its own very relevant experience accumulated throughout *its* own process of development. The initiative undertaken by the FAO is therefore a welcome initiative that complements and strengthens the technical cooperation already existing among developing countries. My country will be very happy to contribute to its success in a very substantive manner.

S.A. MADALLALI (Tanzania): My delegation is pleased to note that the exploitation of the great potential for technical cooperation that exists amongst developing countries is now being seriously considered. Indeed, the scope for such cooperation would require considerable international coordination. Thus the Buenos Aires World Conference on Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries would be a very important mechanism which would enhance the implementation of TCDC and the promotion of further cooperation at regional and sub-regional levels.

My delegation endorses the proposals for discussion at the TCDC Conference, as outlined in paragraph 4.46 of document C 77/4, the strengthening of regional institutions and the establishment of regional and inter-regional links in order to implement these proposals. In doing this we would urge the FAO to pay particular attention to cooperation in crop and animal research and disease control programmes, early warning systems for periodic crop pests such as desert locusts, grain-eating birds and army worms, as well as joint campaigns against tsetse and tick-borne diseases. Such precautionary measures should also be exercised in the fields of forests and fisheries and, more important, wildlife. There should be greater effort and cooperation in Game Reserve Management training and joint anti-poaching campaigns to prevent the threat of extinction of valuable wildlife. As regards farm machinery and equipment, I would like to mention here that one of the most effective means of disseminating technical cooperation in this field amongst the developing entries is through the organization of agricultural machinery shows in which different countries and agencies can participate. I would like to refer to a specific example in which a Rural Technical Meet was organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat at Arusha in August 1977, and was attended by rural agricultural workers from Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana, Mozambique and observers from many Commonwealth countries.

The meet was very successful in terms of introducing different agricultural equipment and technologies that each country was using in enhancing higher productivity. Although the attendance to the meet was limited by a language constraint, as mentioned by Sierra Leone, we believe that in future, greater participation could be had if FAO's participates in preparing and coordinating such shows and fora.

My delegation wishes to recommend that such meets should be adopted as regular FAO regional and sub-regional programmes. The Inter-Country Asian Farm Machinery Project might be a basis for cooperation which should be expanded to the African and South American Regions and indeed internationally.

Finally, my delegation wishes to stress that technical cooperation amongst developing countries should be viewed as a more systematic coordination and utilization of existing basic technology which does not cut off the flow or transfer of technology from the developed industrialized countries to the developing countries. TCDC should be viewed as an effective tool for achieving economies of scale in the selection and spreading of technologies amongst developing countries while taking account of current technological development in the industrialized world.

H.M. HASHIM (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation feels that technical cooperation among developing countries constitutes the cornerstone of rural developments in these countries because of the importance of mechanization in the different phases of agricultural production, whether it is at purely farm level or at harvest level, and the importance of increasing and improving agricultural production and processing and the need to cut down manpower.

We feel that technical cooperation amongst developing countries should be based on the principle of intensive mechanization, taking into account the following criteria in developing countries: the nature of the soil and the climatic conditions, the irrigation systems and their possible adaptations; the training of agricultural workers so that they may learn the new agricultural technology, the presence and availability of machinery and agricultural equipment and their spare parts.

We think that agricultural mechanization is extremely important. Nevertheless, we are not overlooking the importance of technical cooperation in other sectors of agricultural production, especially in agrarian reform, the development of water resources, irrigation and draining methods, and also in the fight against different diseases and other pests, and so on.

It is important to develop all agricultural resources, because in the light of research carried out in various fields, we will be able to gain benefit from our different experiences and increase our production.

With respect to the coming Conference on Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries, we propose that the subjects which are going to be dealt with at the Conference be listed and sent out at once so that we can give our opinions on them.

A.Z.M.O. KHAN (Bangladesh): Our delegation fully endorses the documentation on TCDC from paragraph 4.40 through 4.58, particularly 4.50 to 4.57. I would like to emphasize here the point made by the distinguished delegate of Argentina in the morning, which is about positive discrimination and selective incentive for national institutions or local capabilities. This is definitely a forward looking step the FAO has presented to us, but as pointed out in paragraph 4.49 there are problems in this, in as much as the donors giving capital assistance sometimes tie up with both technical assistance from developed countries as well as expatriot technical assistance from developing countries. This results sometimes, as we have found out, in a partial dependency relationship. This we have found out also in respect of technology transfer, that if the technology that is transferred goes above the understanding of the users there is a permanent master-client relationship, which we would like to avoid. In that context, it may be advisable if the FAO could find out an inventory of countries with common interests, or complementary endowments with more or less similar levels of technology with advancement here and there which can be adapted to the other country. This would help in the machine not being the master of people, but the people being the master of the machine, and in that process the dependency relationship will disappear to a large extent. The problem, of course, in the question of finding local capability has been the lack of an inventory, and we are very glad to learn from UNDP that an information record system is being worked out, or has been worked out. We would urge FAO to also see that this system is related to the donor countries so that they know exactly what local capability exists, both institutionally and individually. Again the question is that whatever has been pointed out in paragraph 4.46 are the potential fields of technical cooperation. As you know, Mr. Chairman, there is already donor cooperation for instance in crop research. We have various foundations, IRRI, ICRISAT and other programmes and projects. There are also bilateral cooperations in fisheries, for instance. UNDP, a welcome change, is financing, for instance, training of aquaculture in some countries, in Han Chou in China, and things like that. These are all very welcome steps, but compared to the total quantum of technical cooperation or aid flow, I am afraid, as the document itself points out, it is very marginal, and since FAO has taken this very bold step of talking about positive discrimination and inter-regional training, we would hope that FAO would follow up on this and try to see this becomes a much more important step in the really important new dimension in international technical cooperation.

Finally, as is pointed out in paragraph 4.57, if I remember correctly, this general thing has to be followed up in specifics, and we hope that in specific technical cooperation TCDC programmes in crop, in livestock, in fisheries, very particularly in commodity, agreement would be worked out, FAO would help



the various countries of the region to work the specific problems out, because without the specifics all this general talk can again disappear into mere rhetoric which happens most of the time in most of these international deliberations.

J.M. STHOMBING (Indonesia): In the context of TCDC agenda item my delegation is of the view that document C 77/4 does cover the activities which could be done amongst developing countries. However, Mr. Chairman, among those fields which have been mentioned in paragraph 4.46, my delegation would like to stress and add the need of the exchange of experiences of such farmer organizations within the developing countries, as well as with the developed countries.

The idea is very clear: since the small farmers have small bargaining power, they need to work cooperatively.

There is no doubt that in some developing countries cooperatives or farmer organizations and the like have made the significant progress of improving agricultural production as well as the marketing activity in order to increase income of small farmers. In this respect the valuable experience of one country in terms of approach, management and the system as a whole could be implemented in the other countries.

To back up this idea we would like to refer to the recommendation of the FAO expert consultation on experiences and models of cooperative and other rural organizations engaged in agricultural production, held in Budapest last month, that stated the "establishment of production orientation as a fundamental principle when initiating or developing the AGRIS co-op system", adaption of cooperative experience, as to other social, economic, cultural and political conditions, instead of transferring such experiences directly,

Mr. Chairman, my delegation is of the view that FAO could play a key role in this field as a catalyst, since the Organization has experience of exchange of many field programmes.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would like to take this opportunity to refer to the importance of the FAO expert consultation on cooperatives development and rural organization that will be held in Indonesia next year, in which my delegation expresses our appreciation,

R. FAHMY (United Arab Emirates) (interpretation from Arabic): We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the effort it has made in preparing this document. We would like to say that amongst the subjects covered under paragraph 4.46 of the document I find training and education, and I would like to add that technical cooperation between developing countries should essentially be carried out in a specific region and in the different regions. This would be the best possible service that could be granted to developing countries, because what is right for a developing country in one particular region may not meet the requirements or be in the interest of a developing country in another region,

I confirm and support what was said by the representative of Egypt and I agree with what was said by the representative of Kuwait when he spoke of the need to profit immediately from the services rendered by the regional fishery centres situated in Kuwait, and we would like to ask FAO to speed up the process of finding a solution to the problem of this fishery centre.

We would also like to support what was said by the representative of Saudi Arabia about the need of introducing mechanization in agricultural production. We agree with everything he has said and we feel that the Technical Programme, TCDC should give priority to this question.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation supports what was said by the representative of Benin about the need of establishing a preliminary dialogue between countries of the same region, so as to familiarize themselves with the problem of the regional sub-region, also in an attempt to find a solution at a regional level before calling upon the international Conference which is going to be held in Buenos Aires.

Miss K.P.MAHER (United Kingdom): Firstly I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the production of the two helpful working documents, the Review of Field Programmes and C 77/LIM/17 we have before us. We are grateful also for the clear introduction to this subject from Mr. Yriart and from the Chairman of the Proprietary Committee for the 1978 United Nations Conference,

Other delegates, particularly those from the developing countries, have spoken eloquently about the present and potential value and the need for TCDC. I doubt whether there is anything of substance I can usefully add, and I intend to be brief. I simply want to say that my delegation fully supports the concept of TCDC. We are pleased that many speakers have stressed that this is in no way a substitute for worldwide economic cooperation but rather complementary to present arrangements. This coincides with the views of my delegation. Although TCDC is not a new concept, indeed it is clear from the examples we have been given today it is very much a working arrangement and much remains to be done.

We are confident that the 1978 Conference has a major role to play, both in focusing attention on this important subject, and in indicating guidelines for future cooperation. We note with satisfaction that FAO will be making a major contribution both to the Conference and to the practical application of TCDC. Indeed, as paragraph 4.40 of C 77/4 points out there is almost unlimited scope for TCDC in the field of agriculture, and we support the priority areas which FAO have picked out for special attention, and listed on page 67 of the Review of Field Programmes.

Finally, I would like to say that the United Kingdom will actively support the concept of TCDC, the success of which will depend upon the cooperation of all agencies of the United Nations, upon all countries, developing and developed alike, and upon the many institutions in those countries. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

R.A. THOMAS (Gambia): My intervention will be very brief. I remember an old adage that says "When equals are yoked together the weak are too often at the mercy of the strong; we must learn to work together, pray together and to play together."

The developing countries are yoked together by poverty, hunger and malnutrition, among other things. We must all learn, therefore, the effort to work together, to share all our experiences together and to cooperate with each other in as many fields as possible.

Developing countries must be ready and willing to exchange ideas freely, and to permit a free flow of technical information, and more importantly to assist one another with the secondment of technical assistance personnel as necessary.

Technical cooperation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry is no doubt existing among developing countries at bilateral, multilateral or regional levels. What is now required is for FAO to reinforce and improve the efforts now being made.

Mr. Chairman, I therefore welcome the proposed Conference to be organized in Argentina on the subject of TCDC. May I respectfully suggest that the Conference considers the setting up of some contacts in the FAO regional offices through which developing countries could liaise with each other in order to recruit scientific or specialist officers whenever vacancies occur and suitable nationals are not available to fill such posts. This would help to reduce our dependence on the developed countries for the recruitment of such experts, who are not always readily available, and would also ensure that our countries' programmes do not suffer,

E.B. MONGA (Zambia): My delegation would like to join the other Member Nations in thanking the FAO Secretariat for the document on Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries, which we feel has been well presented. The Zambian Delegation is aware of the FAO's efforts being accepted by both developed and developing countries, through various organizations and agencies - something which could quite easily be avoided if coordination and cooperation were exercised. In this regard, my delegation would like to congratulate the Economic Commission for Africa for its efforts in fostering and helping technical cooperation among countries of the African region.

My delegation would like to welcome the initiative taken by FAO in its preparation for the World Conference on Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries, which will be held in Argentina. We believe that the efforts of TCDC will in the final analysis not only help to minimize the use of the scarce available resources among developing countries, but will also create an awareness of the very much needed technologies available in our countries today,

I realize that we are short of time, so I shall not comment further at this stage.

P. GRIFFIN (Ireland): First of all I would like to congratulate Mr. Yriart and the Secretariat on the document which we have before us, which is not only informative in regard to developments to date, but is also constructive and helpful in assessing future needs.

Technical cooperation among developing countries is by definition primarily a matter for the developing countries themselves, as has been mentioned this morning - notably by India. However, as a representative of a country which is not too far above the dividing line, I would like to make a few remarks on the subject.

The first point I would like to make is that the announcement by the Director-General of the launching of the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme was overwhelmingly welcomed by the member countries. In so far as there were any reservations, I should think that they were probably of the "wait and see" variety, and it is for this reason that I am interested in those parts of this paper which refer to this programme.

For instance, paragraph 1.3 states that for the first time in its history FAO was able to respond expeditiously to Member Nation's more urgent requests, and paragraph 1.53 lists the first projects which have been financed by TCDC. Paragraph 1.59 states that one of the programme's main aims is to provide a rapid response, and that that "has been achieved by reducing extensively the time required, after receipt of Government requests". I refer to this primarily because I had already heard from a totally independent source about two of these projects and the speed with which they were implemented. I would like to express my gratification that TCDC appears to be justifying itself extremely well so far, and I am sure that this will continue.

Secondly, I would like to make a few remarks about technical cooperation and TCDC in general. On the most important points which are listed on page 63 in particular, I would like to say that I agree with the remarks which have been made by a number of countries - I remember in particular China and the Federal Republic of Germany - in regard to the importance of using to the utmost the manpower, equipment and facilities available in the developing countries. In this connection, training is of course of the utmost importance. I would say that stress might be laid - although perhaps not primarily in the FAO field - on helping farmers to make their own tools, maintain them, construct their own farm buildings, etc. This would provide remunerative work for them and save the expenditure of very scarce resources.

Furthermore, in order to facilitate this type of thing, it seems to me that, apart from cooperation between developing countries, local cooperation in the developing countries is very important. A good deal of work is being done in this field by ILO, and I believe - although it is not mentioned here - that FAO does cooperate, and I would advocate that it does so as fully as possible.

Among the items which are listed on page 63 I would mention specifically item f, "Promotion of cottage and small-scale industries" etc., and m, which may, along with n, to some extent cover what I have said. Item n reads "Establishment and strengthening of community centres and organizations to assist and encourage weaker sections in the community towards collective self-reliance". This could cover local cooperation, but it seems to me that possibly that encouragement could be spelt out a little more.

Miss M.L. MOTSAMAI (Lesotho): Lesotho has had technical assistance from FAO and other United Nations agencies. This assistance has mainly been in the fields of livestock - in the eradication of sheep scab; marketing of livestock products; crops both irrigated and dry land.

The produce marketing corporation deals with both distribution of inputs and marketing of outputs.

Exchange of experience is being undertaken with other neighbouring countries.

On the subject of training - institutions in other developing countries are being used mainly in management and technical courses. For example, contacts have been made with the Potato Centre in Kenya. The establishment of such a contact and consultation has had an impact in the evaluation of a newly established seed potato industry in the mountains. Trainees are being sent to other developing countries for soil conservation measures and other fields in the development of agriculture.

We are in the process of establishing our research division which is going to undertake applied activities as against basic research.

The main objective is to involve the farmer at field level. We would highly appreciate exchange of ideas and methods from other developing countries where the same conditions exist as in Lesotho.

We would therefore support the idea of holding the World Conference on TCDC in 1978.

K. CHOUERI (Liban) (interprétation de l'Arabe): En ce qui concerne le point 4.41 du document dont nous traitons actuellement, je voudrais dire que ma délégation appuie les efforts consentis par la FAO dans le développement de la coopération technique au moyen de la coordination des projets interrégionaux et interpays. Et ce, parce que nous avons chez nous, des projets pilotes dans divers domaines, en particulier dans le domaine de la lutte antiacridienne et antiaviaire, et des projets de recherche divers.

Je voudrais ici rappeler certaines réalités en matière de création d'un réseau de recherche et d'instituts de formation en matière de mécanisation agricole. Commentant ce qui est dit au point 4.43 du document en question, je voudrais dire que depuis quelques années, nous avons commencé des recherches qui ont démontré que 70 pour cent des machines et outils ont besoin d'être réparés et que les opérations de réparation, de même que les pièces de rechange ne sont pas toujours disponibles, et que l'utilisation d'un tracteur ne dépasse pas 15 hectares par an alors que dans les pays développés cette utilisation est de 60 hectares.

En ce qui concerne le point 4.46, je ne peux que souligner avec la plus grande gratitude les opérations auxquelles la FAO a apporté son assistance en vue de la préparation et la réalisation de la Conférence de coopération technique entre pays en voie de développement et les efforts consentis pour mettre au point la liste des sujets qui seront traités dans cette conférence, et ce en vue de couvrir tous nos besoins et de répondre à nos aspirations.

En ce qui concerne les institutions nationales, je voudrais dire que nous sommes parfaitement conscients du rôle de ces institutions dans le développement agricole, car les instituts de recherche scientifique en matière d'agriculture ont été détruits au cours des derniers événements qu'a connus mon pays. Nous avons traversé une période particulièrement critique et difficile et les projets relatifs à la production céréalière ont été durement touchés et la FAO a joué un rôle stimulateur très important en répondant à notre appel d'assistance. Elle a aidé les institutions nationales à distribuer l'assistance qu'elle apportait aux petits agriculteurs. Nous ne pouvons que souligner l'ampleur du rôle de coordinateur de la coopération technique joué par la FAO à tous les niveaux. Nous lui en sommes très reconnaissants.

Mrs. L. MARIANO (Philippines): The Philippine delegation joins the other delegations in thanking the Director-General for the highly commendable document C 77/4 and especially the chapter on Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries.

In southeast Asia, there are several bodies which undertake, to a limited extent, cooperative efforts in fisheries and agriculture. Among these ASEAN and SEAFDEC are the most important. We welcome the greater emphasis which FAO would put on TCDC especially in aquaculture, sustenance fishery development, education and training and even in deep sea fishing-. The fields of expertise found in the developing countries which may readily be applied in other developing states are substantial enough and need to be put together and be made available to interested parties. FAO could go a long way to act as the catalyst along this endeavour.

We welcome the programme of FAO to assist the establishment and strengthening of national institutions of Member Nations and especially the dissemination of information about institutions and other facilities in different developing nations, especially, those which would be of interest especially on training and research.

We welcome the policy of positive discrimination for the development of our national institutions. Along this line the Philippines Delegation supports wholeheartedly the resolution on Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries in the Field of Food and Agriculture as sponsored by Argentina and other Latin American States and Romania.

A. FASLA (Algérie): La coopération entre pays en voie de développement constitue une nouvelle dimension de notre époque, surtout après la prise de conscience par le tiers monde de ses droits et de la manière dont il les défend. Cette coopération qui est appelée à se développer, que ce soit dans le secteur économique, dans le secteur social et technique, revêt une importance capitale et doit être le complément de la coopération authentique et réelle qui devrait s'instaurer entre le Nord, riche, développé, et le Sud, pauvre et en voie de développement.

Au niveau du tiers- monde, notamment au niveau des pays non alignés, un vaste programme de coopération technique est élaboré, et au niveau de l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies, une conférence d'une importance capitale est en cours de préparation, et je crois que de nombreux gouvernements ont déjà envoyé des rapports nationaux concernant cette conférence qui doit avoir lieu à Buenos-Aires l'année prochaine.

La FAO apporte sa contribution tant à la coopération technique entre pays en voie de développement qu'à cette conférence prévue à Buenos-Aires et d'une manière générale nous appuyons les points présentés comme domaine où une éventuelle coopération technique devrait être promue entre pays en voie de développement. Il est certain que ces domaines ne peuvent pas s'appliquer à toutes les régions ou à toutes les sous-régions. Je prendrai le cas de l'Algérie où nous souhaitons qu'une coopération technique très vaste puisse être instaurée, mais nous souhaiterions que cette coopération technique touche d'abord les domaines qui nous concernent au premier chef, comme par exemple la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin, comme la lutte contre la désertification, comme le problème des ressources en eau, comme les recherches en ce qui concerne la pâte à papier.

Or, en Algérie, nous faisons un effort considérable pour la promotion de la coopération technique puisque nous ouvrons nos instituts agronomiques d'agriculture ainsi que nos centres de formation moyens qui correspondent aux lycées agricoles, à de nombreux ressortissants d'Afrique et de Pays arabes. Nous avons de même de nombreux experts venant de régions africaines dans certains de nos centres de recherche. Nous estimons que la FAO devrait jouer un rôle capital dans le renforcement des institutions nationales ainsi que des institutions régionales déjà existantes où en voie de création, je pense particulièrement aux différents centres qui sont en voie de création ou qui vont l'être. Je pense aux banques de données industrielles créées par l'ONUDI, je pense également, à toute une série de centres régionaux qui se trouvent dans le cadre soit des institutions du système des Nations Unies, soit dans le cadre de coopération strictement régionale en dehors du système des Nations Unies, comme la coopération maghrébine, la coopération dans le cadre de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine.

Notre pays ne ménagera aucun effort pour assurer le succès de la Conférence de Buenos-Aires, et nous estimons qu'une étroite coopération entre toutes les institutions du système des Nations Unies pourra contribuer également au succès de cette conférence qui revêt pour nous une importance particulière.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation has already referred to the question of technical cooperation among developing countries. For a number of years, Brazil and all developing countries have been trying to promote the concept of technical cooperation among developing countries, promoting the idea in our own national efforts, and the delegate from Algeria referred right now to the efforts developed by the Algerian Government to extend that cooperation. I could also mention very happily, a number of similar initiatives which we are trying, but of course we do not have the resources which are obviously limited, to extend such cooperation.

What we are discussing here, however, is more in terms of what the FAO and other agencies of the United Nations system can and should do. We feel that since FAO has a very important role in a very important section of the technical assistance activities within the United Nations system, it is more appropriate that FAO make a very special effort to promote technical cooperation among developing countries. Such an effort must be done in a rather innovative manner. FAO must stimulate also cooperation. I referred in a previous comment on the role of the FAO representatives at country levels, that on a number of occasions they could have a very useful role in stimulating initiative when projects are identified, and trying to see to what extent such projects could better be implemented through cooperation with other developing countries. Therefore, it is not only a question of approved recommendations but really for FAO to take initiatives, to try to stimulate cooperation even. Also it is important that within its own work FAO, and of course my comments relate to all units of the system, that they adjust their procedures in such a way as to favour the utilization of the technological know-how available already in developing countries.

At present I must say that most of that utilization has been limited to experts and even somewhat limited to members. There is very little recourse to institutions, training institutions, institutions of extension, institutions of research, and it is specifically geared for consultancy and preparation of feasibility studies and sectorial plans. We feel that the time has come for FAO to take a much more affirmative position in relation to TCDC, fully in line by way of what the General Assembly has recommended us to do and fully in line with expectations that the Buenos Aires Conference has raised.

We have also within FAO and in the preparations for the Conference for Buenos Aires, to try to define the areas of priority. We have so far spoken little about priorities. This is a process from now to Buenos Aires so that we know in the agricultural field and food production where special emphasis could be laid, and where initiatives could be more fruitful.

Speaking about areas of attention, I would give one example which I feel is fully valid. It is the question of research. Nowadays, developing countries are already devoting quite an effort and quite some resources in research. That is valid for each of the three regions being developed, for Africa, Asia and Latin America. The one area in which FAO could have a very innovative and stimulating role is the coordination of research, and try to maximize the effort of developing countries in research. That is just one example of the kind of innovative action that FAO can promote and will surely be doing a very useful function for all developing countries.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, we are very happy to see that FAO will in the coming months and until the Conference at Buenos Aires, try to speed up, not only to write recommendations and write papers, but also try in practical action to check in every field activity to what extent resource to other developing countries could be perhaps the most effective way to implement and fulfill a certain objective. It is of course always up to the recipient country to decide what it wants, to always try to explore in the recipient country in which way it would be preferred, and even prefer, to have technical support from other countries in the developing world which in many instances are better equipped since our environment is the same. Our world is very similar in the developing regions, and often very different from the world in which people live in the developed areas of the world.

That is all I wish to say, but if there is a resolution on this subject, I would very much like to be able to comment on it after seeing the text.

A. LOPES RIBEIRO (Portugal): We think that Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries is something of paramount interest for our Organization.

All of us are quite well aware that every country in the world spends a lot of time and money doing exactly the same things that others are doing or have already done.

Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that we are living in a changing world and this is very true in all aspects of our day-to-day life. There is no doubt, also, that cooperation is and must be more and more, the order of the day if we wish, and I am sure we do, to contribute to a better world to live in.

This is the reason why we, within our limited possibilities, are always ready to cooperate, as much as we can, with every country and, of course, with any international organization.

Cooperation in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries amongst the developing countries, should be, and can be, reinforced for the benefit of all nations.

We already have good examples of such cooperation. Among them I would like to point out the scientific networks put up by the European Commission on Agriculture. It is a quite new line of cooperation but the good results already achieved must be emphasized and followed.

Thinking thus, we would like to see FAO giving full support to the Buenos Aires conference and making all possible efforts for the success of TCDC Conference.

We would like to see the items to be dealt with in such a conference well selected 1/.

J.F. YRIART (Subdirector General, Departamento de Desarrollo): Creo, señor Presidente, que hemos tenido una discusión positiva y fructífera para el secretariado desde que nos ha ayudado a identificar los campos de actividad, que se prestan para cooperación entre los países en desarrollo. También ha sido importante para enfatizar algunas de las limitaciones que habrá que vencer para llevar adelante estos programas.

Me ha resultado agradable, señor Presidente, ver que las delegaciones han encontrado que el camino que ha tomado la FAO en esta materia es correcto y ha confirmado las selecciones que hemos hecho en principio como posibles campos de acción. Quisiera agradecer al señor Presidente de la Comisión Preparatoria de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre CPTD por su intervención, y sobre todo quisiera agradecerle por haber dicho él con la autoridad que le inviste cómo es necesario que también los países se preparen para colaborar en esta magna empresa del CPTD, ya sea para poder prestar asistencia o recibir asistencia, como sucederá generalmente que ambas posiciones cabrán en un mismo país sin que los países tengan una estrategia de desarrollo propia, sin que hayan identificado instituciones apropiadas para colaborar tanto para beneficiarse de tal ayuda como para prestar tal ayuda, será difícil llevar adelante la acción a nivel nacional.

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1/ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

Es muy cierto, en ese orden de ideas, que la promoción del CPTD no es un monopolio de nadie, de ninguna organización, gobierno o persona; y yo diría que tampoco, señor Presidente, puede ser un monopolio de las agencias del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Ha habido interesantes intervenciones donde se nos han recordado otros organismos, organismos financieros, organismos de investigación, organismos de enseñanza, que también tienen grandes contribuciones para hacer.

Por nuestra parte, tomamos esto muy en cuenta y la FAO sabe que trabajará como uno de todos los que estarán cooperando para llevar adelante el CPTD.

Así, hemos visto en los informes de las Conferencias Regionales que ya se han celebrado, que ha comenzado un intercambio de opinión al nivel de región, como varios delegados han hecho notar, que sería necesario un intercambio preparatorio de la Conferencia Mundial, que estoy seguro que tanto la Comisión Preparatoria como el Secretario de la Conferencia Mundial, están tomando en cuenta en los informes de las reuniones regionales que han tenido lugar generalmente bajo el auspicio del PNUD.

Quisiera referirme más concretamente a observaciones que se han hecho y que atañen directamente a la FAO, o donde se cree que la FAO debe tener una intervención en las acciones necesarias. Se hizo notar por varios delegados que debiera buscarse que el marco de acción del CPTD fuese interregional y no sólo regional. Creo que en eso verdaderamente hay alguna opinión generalizada en ese sentido, y en ese contexto se mencionó además que en otros contextos el rol que le cabría en la promoción del CPTD a las oficinas regionales de la FAO, nosotros creemos que la promoción del CPTD es un rol muy importante de nuestras oficinas regionales y están empeñadas en eso; y en algunos casos ya, mostrando frutos importantes en identificar, campos de acción en las visitas de los técnicos y de los expertos en los países, y dado el conocimiento que tienen de la región después sugerir a otros países y hacer así el puente necesario para que se produzca un proyecto o una acción del CPTD.

Anotamos cuán conveniente sería que esta labor que ya comienzan a estar realizando las oficinas regionales también ahora entre ellas, entre las oficinas regionales, empezando a intercambiar información como lo estamos haciendo dentro de la Sede para poder hacer este puente interregional. Quiero decirle, señor Presidente, que, como base de preparación de nuestra contribución a la Conferencia de Buenos Aires, iniciamos una consulta sobre campos en que podrían hacerse este tipo de proyectos a todas las divisiones técnicas de la Organización y a todas las oficinas regionales.

Quiere decir que nuestra contribución a la documentación de Buenos Aires contribuirá a informaciones sobre proyectos, donde sería posible hacer puentes interregionales. Igualmente creo, como han manifestado los delegados, que hay un rol definido para los representantes de la FAO en los países que, como lo hemos dicho en una discusión anterior, tendrán suma utilidad y muy estrecho contacto con las instituciones nacionales en el sector agropecuario, y estarán por lo tanto especialmente calificados para poder identificar en cada país qué institución puede jugar un papel en la asistencia en la solución de ciertos problemas con otros países.

Se ha hablado de los problemas de información y comunicación. Están mencionados en nuestros documentos, lo repetí yo mismo el problema al presentar el tema, y un gran número de delegaciones hablaron de que la principal limitante es el problema de la información y las comunicaciones. Yo creo que en efecto ese es el gran problema que tenemos que enfrentar.

No sé si los delegados creen que publicitar, publicidad, es una palabra, un vocablo noble o no noble, pero la verdad es que lo que tenemos que hacer es poner al alcance de todos las experiencias que están sucediendo en diversos países para que sepan dónde pueden buscar ayuda. En ese sentido debo decir que toda la acción de informática de la FAO será sumamente útil. Desde AGRIS, CARIS, los diferentes documentos técnicos que presentamos; pero estoy de acuerdo que tendremos en el futuro que tener en mente una dirección en nuestros trabajos de documentación y de información, aun también en la preparación de proyectos de informe, tendremos que tener bien en mente que toda esa información que tendrá que jugar un rol en otros países en desarrollo, que buscarán en esta información también que les indiquen lugares donde pueden encontrar soluciones técnicas, científicas a los problemas que les preocupan. Finalmente, señor Presidente, quiero referirme a sugerencias que se nos hicieron más concretas, diría también más administrativas si usted quiere. Se ha sugerido que las agendas de los órganos rectores de la FAO debieran de incluir siempre temas relacionados con la promoción del CPTD. Se ha sugerido que el Programa de Labores y el Presupuesto de la FAO debiera reconocer también la labor que debe desempeñar la Organización en esa materia.

Y finalmente, se ha sugerido y tengo entendido que el Proyecto de Resolución que ha presentado la Argentina, con el apoyo de otras delegaciones latinoamericanas y Rumania, se refieren a una reunión previa a la Conferencia de Buenos Aires.

Cabe decir, señor Presidente que en esta materia, naturalmente, la limitante es que son los órganos rectores de la FAO los que formulan su agenda. Yo creo, sin embargo, que no será difícil dada la importancia que todas las delegaciones parecen dar a este tema, que de alguna manera se refleja el tema en las agendas, ya sea porque estará con su título completo o porque estarán en la agenda tratados puntos donde CPTD será cada vez más un componente de la acción y de los programas.

En cuanto a los problemas ya más presupuestarios, me quiero referir primero a una posible reunión preparatoria de la Conferencia de Buenos Aires, y no quiero ser negativo.

Permítame señor Presidente por lo tanto decir que en esa reunión, si se pudiese organizar en un tiempo conveniente, la principal contribución de la FAO debiera ser el documento que va a ir a la Conferencia de Buenos Aires, pues eso sería un material preparado cuidadosamente y que daría una base ordenada para la discusión. Así que me permitiría hacer una recomendación de que, de realizarse una tal reunión, se realizase después de que esté pronto el documento de la FAO, que será a comienzos de marzo.

En cuanto a la organización de la reunión en sí, señor Presidente, es evidente que sería preferible que los gobiernos la organizaran, pues no están previstas las reuniones que debe organizar la FAO ni está previsto presupuestariamente. Yo creo que esta es una materia que en la discusión ulterior se vería hasta qué punto los países desean que sea la FAO quien haga una inversión en esto, que, no está previsto repito, y no sé en este momento cómo podría el señor Director General atender esta recomendación, por lo que debo reservar enteramente su posición para una discusión ulterior.

La participación de la FAO en una reunión evidentemente estaría asegurada y también, como digo, si ustedes pueden contemplar la fecha, la FAO podría hacer la mayor contribución con el documento de trabajo para la reunión.

Creo que esto es todo lo que tengo que decir hasta el momento.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I think we have come to the end of the debate on this agenda item. I think I will not take very much time, only two minutes in summing up what we have been debating so far. I, do apologize for not going through all the details that you have raised, because I am quite sure that our Assistant Director-General has given you some of the answers. I just want to sum up what has been debated.

The members of the Commission were of the unanimous opinion that the World Conference on TCDC would surely provide appropriate technology and the change of exchanging experiences among the developing countries, and there should be a stipulation as to the relationship among the donor and recipient countries.

Some members stated the Conference should be organized at the regional level in order to get a clear picture of the needs of developing countries before the convening of the Conference.

Many delegates expressed their appreciation for the active work of the Preparatory Committee of this Commission of the FAO and also expressed the opinion that there should be concentration on some training programmes at medium and high levels and advised FAO act as a catalytic agent to strengthen cooperation among developing countries.

I think that almost covers the whole of what was said, but I have to apologize because something may be missing.

S.S. MAHDI (India): Mr. Chairman, I listened very carefully to the broad summary that you have made. As you said in your own statement, you have made no attempt to cover all the points that have been raised, and this observation is very well taken. We have the PVs, the Secretariat has its notes, and the members of the Drafting Committee have also jotted down the things that have been said, and we hope that the whole flavour of the debate will be able to be reflected in the draft which we will discuss in the Drafting Committee, which will take into account a number of other points which you have deliberately left out in the interest of making the summary brief. That will be taken into account.

F. D'ALMEIDA (Benin): Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, pour votre résumé et je remercie M. Yriart pour ses commentaires.



Je ne voudrais pas jouer le trouble-fête mais, comme vous l'avez dit vous-même, beaucoup de délégations ont demandé qu'il y ait des réunions préliminaires avant la Conférence mondiale. Compte tenu de la réponse faite par M. Yriart, il semble que cela ne soit pas possible avant cette Conférence mondiale.

Je voudrais poser le problème de savoir, étant donné que nous sommes tous d'accord sur cette Conférence, s'il ne serait pas possible de la retarder un petit peu, afin que des consultations puissent avoir lieu pour que nous ayons une Conférence réellement efficace. C'est une question que je pose au Secrétariat.

J.F. YRIART (Subdirector General, Departamento de Desarrollo): Lamento que mi explicación no haya sido clara, pero las reuniones previas regionales ya han tenido lugar organizadas por el PNUD. No sé si tal vez el señor Presidente deseará, me permito sugerir, que el Presidente de la Comisión Preparatoria de la Conferencia dijese algunas palabras sobre esto.

S. RISTIC (Chairman, Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries): I intend to be very brief and will try to respond to the questions about the Conference.

As Mr. Yriart mentioned, we have already had the Regional Conference on TCDC with the participation of a number of the countries of the region, but also the regional meetings were open to all other countries. For instance, my country participated in three regional meetings on TCDC.

We should also mention the Kuwait meeting that was organized in preparing some of the documents on the participation of the distinguished consultants from many other countries, and also I should add the contribution of FAO, the contribution of UNIDO and other international organizations in the preparatory phase of our Conference.

At the last meeting of the Preparatory Committee in September of this year, we definitely decided to have the Conference in late August or early September, and we suppose that everything will be prepared on time, and especially in the preparatory phase. Of course, on behalf of the Secretariat of the Conference in the preparation of the national papers, there should also be very important supporting documents for the preparation of the Conference. From that point of view, I think that we will also receive the support of such a distinguished gathering to have the Conference on time, as was proposed and decided by the Preparatory Committee.

With your permission, I should mention once more that the previous date for the Conference was determined to be March of next year, but in order to prepare the national level and also for the support of the international organizations, we definitely decided to have the Conference in August or September of next year.

S.S. MAHDI (India): The issue that was under discussion just now was the expert consultation, which is a part of the draft resolution tabled by Romania, which is going to the Resolutions Committee. We have had a first reaction from the Secretariat about this proposal, which of course is not yet in the form of a resolution. I would suggest that the time between now and tomorrow, when this draft resolution will be actually tabled in the Commission, may be used for working on the broad implications of this suggestion on the basis of which the Commission could make its recommendations for or against.

J.H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, took the chair

J.H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia, J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

14. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme

14. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO

14. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, we will now take up Item 14, United Nations/FAO World Food Programme. This item will be introduced by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr. Vogel.

G.N. VOGEL (World Food Programme): Although I have the pleasure of meeting some of you at the recent session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, this is my first official contact with you as Executive Director of the World Food Programme, with you as representatives of the full membership of the FAO, one of WFP's two parent organizations. I therefore commence my task of keeping you informed about WFP's activities and obtaining from you your ideas and guidance concerning the field within which we operate. WFP's basic aim and method of using food aid to help people help themselves has had a great attraction for me firstly, ever since I became acquainted with the Programme. In the service of my own government in private industry, or with the Canadian Wheat Board, my lifetime career has been in food. It was therefore a source of great satisfaction to me when I was selected to serve as the Programme's Executive Director. My experience since assuming this function almost two months ago has strengthened that feeling of satisfaction.

Serviced by a capable and, dedicated staff and guided by an understanding intergovernmental body, I have found the Programme vigorously pursuing its purposes. I am aware of the contributions which my predecessors have made to this state of affairs and I keenly feel the responsibility which is now mine.

This Commission as before it the Report of the FAO Council on its most recent session, which in paragraph 18 indicates that the Council endorses a target of \$950 million for pledges to the WFP during the biennium 1979-80 and presents for recommended adoption by you a draft resolution establishing this target and requesting the Secretary-General in cooperation with the Director-General of FAO to convene a pledging conference early in 1978.

Recently, in New York, I spoke to the Second Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, WFP's other parent body, which, in accordance with a recommendation of the Economic and Social Council, endorsed for adoption by the plenary of the General Assembly a resolution similar in content to the draft now before you.

The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes recommended the target figure of \$950 million at its Fourth Session. In so doing, it recalled that, in accordance with the Programme's regulations, pledges could be made in the form of commodities, services and cash, but that the cash and services components should, in the aggregate, amount to at least one-third of total contributions. I should like to stress that it is of great importance for the operations of the Programme that the aim of one-third of contributions in cash or services be achieved.

The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes reached agreement on the target figure of \$950 million after careful consideration at both its Third and Fourth Sessions. I believe that, in proposing the figure, the Committee struck, the best possible balance taking into account the needs of the developing countries on one hand and the aspect of attainability of the target on the other. I am therefore hopeful that this figure will also meet with the approval of the Conference.

While this figure \$950 million is a substantial one, nearly one-third higher than the target for 1977-78 which we hope to attain before the end of the current biennium, I should emphasize that the apparent increase is misleading and that the attainment of this target by itself would not permit an expansion of the Programme's activities. Taking into account the requirements of previously approved projects and the balance of resources expected to be on hand at the end of 1978, new resources at the \$950 million level for 1979-80 would only allow the Programme to continue making commitments to development projects at the rate of \$300 million per year, as it is doing this year and hopes to do in 1978. Yet, the Programme has requests in various stages of preparation which would cost WFP in the order of \$600 million. These include many requests from least developed and most seriously affected countries and for assistance to projects which are of top priority. There are, therefore, clearly ample opportunities for WFP, if given the resources, to extend its development assistance.

In concordance with the remarks of the Director-General in his opening speech before the Conference, I would stress that while there are welcome and hopeful features in the overall food and agriculture situation in the world, there are countries and regions populated by many millions, where malnutrition prevails and even worsens, and where more employment and higher incomes are sorely needed. This situation presents a continuing challenge to the WFP, and to all food aid programmes, but especially to those like WFP which distribute food directly in the poor through the project approach. This is more a question of judicious investment than one of simple solidarity, since we build human resources and skills through feeding projects and projects which use food as an incentive to work.

There can be, and there should be if we heed the prescriptions of the World Food Conference and the World Food Council, a greater shift in food aid from bilateral to multilateral channels and hence a greater proportion of global food aid directly focussed upon self-help projects. There will then be a

surer, increase in welfare, a more certain reduction in inequality and a greater investment affect and a better future. Also as far as WFP is concerned, it should not be overlooked that for every twenty dollars of aid channelled through the programme, only about one dollar is spent on administration.

The Chairman of our Conference, in his opening remarks, spoke very movingly about the need for giving special attention to the feeding of hungry children, and about the effects of malnutrition on their future lives and development. I should like the Conference to know that this year, about 43 percent of WFP's commitments are for school feeding programmes or for programmes for supplementary feeding of pre-school children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. Under one of them, for example, 70 000 tons of food costing \$28 million will be used to provide supplementary feeding to over one and a half million children and mothers in India, over a period of only 18 months.

Also may I add in this connection that WFP is giving full support to the praiseworthy objectives of the International Year of the Child to be observed in 1979. We see reflected in them the essentials of our own aims as far as they effect the better welfare of children in all parts of the world. Over the life of our Programme more than \$750 million, or more than a quarter of our total resources to date, have been devoted to improving the nutritional status of vulnerable groups comprising not only pregnant and nursing mothers but also pre-school children and children of primary school age. Our assistance usually takes the form of supplementary diet to complement the food received at home and so make up for deficiencies in proteins, fats and certain minerals and vitamins. WFP aid to the vulnerable groups is particularly well fitted to help and, in some cases, to stimulate governments to give increasing attention to attacking malnutrition among those sections of the population where it represents a major problem.

In accordance with United Nations and WFP's own priorities, the Programme continued in 1977 to concentrate its aid on the least developed and the most seriously affected countries. More than three-quarters of our annual commitments went to these countries, if we include assistance to Viet Nam, whose inclusion in the list of most seriously affected countries was recently recommended by the General Assembly.

These are typical of the projects in many other countries where we operate. I believe you will agree that the kind of activities which I have described are of the greatest value and that they merit to be expanded. As I have already said, however, we will be able to continue at the current level during 1978 only if pledges for 1977-78, which now stand at \$615 million, reach the target for this biennium of \$750 million. I therefore strongly urge donors which have not yet already done so to announce their pledges for the current biennium at an early date, as well as others in a position to do so, to make additional pledges so as to attain this target in the very near future. As regards the possibility of expanding activities in the 1977-78 period, I have already told you that this would require resources in excess of the \$950 million pledging target. It is therefore very appropriate for the draft resolution on the pledging conference to express the hope that the resources contemplated by the target figure will be augmented by substantial contributions from other sources in recognition of the prospective volume of sound project requests and the capacity of the Programme to operate at a higher level.

Among resources in addition to regular pledges which have greatly benefitted the Programme to date are the grains which signatories to the Food Aid Convention have chosen to make available to us in satisfaction of their obligation to provide food grains as aid to developing countries. The Food Aid Convention of the International Wheat Agreement 1971 is running out in June 1978, but I am confident that it will be immediately succeeded by another. I refer in this connection to the recommendation made in the Manila Communique that the new Food Aid Convention should be established with a view to contributing in an appropriate manner to the attainment of the target approved by the World Food Conference of 10 million tons of grain as food aid per year and that the negotiations should cover provisions for the movement of a larger amount of that food aid through the World Food Programme. We understand the last recommendation to mean that aid channelled through WFP under the Food Aid Convention should continue to be additional to regular pledges to the Programme.

Further in addition to regular pledges, another new and important resource of the WFP is the International Emergency Food Reserve established pursuant to a recommendation of the General Assembly at its Seventh Special Session. You will recall that the Assembly proposed that this Reserve should be placed at the disposal of the WFP so as to strengthen the Programme's capacity to deal with crisis situations in developing countries and that the Reserve should have a minimum level of 500 000 tons. Although the establishment of such a Reserve was unanimously accepted by governments in 1975, the proposal level has not yet been reached. The contributions made so far since the inception on a cumulative basis amount to a little over 400 000 tons.

At present, of this amount, 258 000 tons remain available taking into account withdrawals already made as well as new contributions recently announced including quantities which will become available early in 1978. I should like to express the appreciation of the WFP to all countries which are already participating in the Reserve, namely: Norway, Sweden, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Australia and the European Economic Community and to express the hope that they will soon be joined by others. Also in this appeal for wider participation, I would include countries able to make cash contributions, as this would greatly increase the effectiveness of the Reserve as an international contingency fund. In the longer run, I hope that there will prove to be no ambiguity about the fact that the Reserve should be a continuing Reserve, subject to replenishment.

I wish in this connection also to inform the Conference that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes decided at its recent meeting to increase our annual allocation for emergency assistance from \$40 to \$45 million in both 1977 and 1978. Allocations for subsequent years will be decided in the light of a review in the 1978 Autumn session of the Committee, based on a study to be conducted by WFP jointly with FAO and the United Nations.

The demand for emergency food assistance has increased considerably in the current year. Since the beginning of 1977, the Director-General of FAO has authorized 23 emergency operations at a total cost of nearly \$48 million. Eighty-seven percent of these resources will be used to aid victims of natural disasters, amongst which droughts predominated, the remainder will aid victims of man-made disasters. Requirements over the coming months are now estimated to be substantially higher as a result of critical situations in Viet Nam and Laos and in certain countries of the Sahel.

In regard to the Sahel, there is a danger that the devastating drought of the early 70s may to some extent be repeating itself, and consequently the Director-General and I, along with others, are watching carefully the now worsening situation there. I expect to visit the region soon to become directly acquainted with the facts. Meanwhile, we had the benefit of the visit to the recent fourth session of the CFA of the Minister of Rural Development of Niger, His Excellency Boulama Manga, who is also Minister Coordinator for the Inter-State Committee for the Struggle Against Drought in the Sahel, who said that his Committee estimated that emergency food needs of the affected Sahelian states are already of the order of a minimum of 500 000 tons, and appealed to all potential donors to respond to these needs at the earliest possible time.

Although WFP is doing, and will do, its best within its available resources to help in this worsening situation, it is already clear that the entire needs of the area cannot be met from WFP's resources alone. It is therefore evident that the world community must take further necessary relief action.

During the recent CFA discussions I had the honour to chair a meeting of potential donors of such aid, at which a number of governments informed us of their probable or definite contributions, and I hope we will soon get further similar announcements from others who were then not yet ready to announce the extent of their participation in Sahelian drought relief. We have all learned from past experience that there are considerable logistical difficulties in supplying relief operations in the Sahelian zone. If all donors were to attempt to provide assistance at the same time, congestion in the ports of arrival would again inevitably occur, increasing the difficulties and costs of moving the food to the stricken areas, and delaying help to the needy. Permit me therefore to stress the importance of the closest cooperation among donors, in which WFP accepted to play the role of coordinator, as we have frequently done before in similar situations.

The present favourable global situation obviously has a bearing on the ability of food exporting donor countries to provide food aid. It may be thought that at the same time it would reduce the need for assistance from WFP. However, I repeat that by no means all developing countries have shared in the bounty. A larger number of the most seriously affected countries are in greater need of food imports than ever before. Moreover, even in countries where good harvests would reduce or eliminate, for the time being, the need for bulk aid to meet import requirements, the need for WFP's aid may continue, for WFP rations are primarily distributed directly to people who do not have the means to satisfy their nutritional needs in the market. At the same time, a temporary improvement in the food supply situation does not of itself enable the Governments concerned to take over the support which WFP has been extending to some development projects.

This being so, I should like to end my statement by again appealing to all countries in a position to do so, to contribute generously to the Programme. I urge you all to regard the Pledging Conference, and the attainment of the 1977-78 and 1979-80 targets, as matters of urgent humanitarian importance.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): From the Canadian point of view, this is one of our favourite programmes, and from the very beginning Canada has been very actively involved, and takes every opportunity to speak on the subject.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Executive Director on his excellent introduction. I only wish I had had it three weeks earlier, as I could then have telexed it home, and I would not have needed to work so hard at the meeting of the World Food Programme, because he has covered everything so well. Indeed, we can find nothing to disagree with - and not because he is a Canadian, that would encourage us to disagree with him. The only point of disagreement would be on how much more should be done - that is the important aspect.

For us, the World Food Programme is one of the big success stories in the United Nations family. It is a programme which started with considerable doubt, on an experimental basis, with a figure of 100 million dollars for three years, and the pledges barely reached 70 million dollars in the first year - a shortfall of 30 million dollars. Now, the programme is receiving more than \$200 million a year, and is likely to rise to over \$200 million a year.

It is also a story of action. Too many of the activities in the United Nations have been studies - feasibility studies and more feasibility studies, which are of course necessary, or meeting upon meeting, at which we discuss the same items and say the same things time and time again. But in the World Food Programme, from our experience of it since the very early days, since 1963, has been an agency of action, and through its programme it has reached the very needy people. It has not stopped along the way for the benefit of others, but it has remained a programme basically for the needy people, and it involves them in action programmes as well as assisting them. That is what makes this such an interesting programme. Yesterday people were speaking about a "bureaucratic committee". That does not apply to this programme. We are moving in the right direction in strengthening this agency, because I am sure we all agree that it is the very poor that must be helped. They are of course the hardest to work with. It is easier to handle such matters in a big city with central machinery, but I would rather see higher administrative costs to ensure that the assistance goes where it is most needed.

The Programme is important because it supplements food supplies where they are most needed. It is a programme which involves economic development and encourages the use of food aid for employment, a programme which is calling upon representatives to work with it. It is also a social development programme, wherever there is a question of encouraging education in the public schools, encouraging education at the training level, improving vocational facilities, and improving the food which goes into hospitals. It has a tremendous diversity.

What we also like about the Programme is that it does not only involve the Food Programme per se of the FAO or the United Nations in New York - it also involves Unesco, ILO, WHO, and many other agencies who become involved - and this in itself is a very important contribution towards having many agencies working together for a similar and common objective.

In respect to the target, as has been said by the Head of our delegation, and as our own delegation had indicated in the Committee for Food Aid in the Council, we support the \$950 million target but we must also be realistic about that target. We believe that, as the Executive Director said, there must be new contributions, and there is scope for new contributions. There are many contributors who are now in a position to carry out their pledges, and this is also essential if the Programme is going to be successful.

We support the Resolution. We would like to congratulate the Executive Director for picking up the language of this Organization so quickly - indeed, while listening to him, I had the feeling that he had been around for a very long time.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): First of all, I would like to congratulate the Director on his post and on the brilliant explanation he has given of the activities of the Programme. What he has told us is not only a reflection of his own opinions, but of those of all concerned as regards Canada's assistance since the outset.

This Programme is clearly the best ever set up within the international community. It touches the furthest flung corners of the world. Our Organization's reputation in most developing countries is mainly due to the existence of this Programme. The Programme then has a very important role to play, because it contributes tangible advantages to all. It is not just a matter of publishing documents and adopting recommendations which nobody reads.

We feel that the figure proposed by the World Food Programme is a very modest one and a very realistic one. I think we are bound to adopt it and to support it, and we trust that all States, whether they are traditionally donor countries or countries which have the means to become donor countries, will announce their pledges as soon as possible. In this context I would like to pay tribute to the aid given by Saudi Arabia to this Programme. I hope that all countries with vast national resources, such as oil, or others - indeed all the wealthy countries - will effectively assist this programme and we hope to hear very soon that these countries will respond to this appeal.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): My delegation would like to express its appreciation of the World Food Programme, and to wish every success to the newly appointed Executive Director and to his staff.

Hungary is a member of the Committee on Food Aid Policies, and as a contributor to the World Food Programme feels that the activity of the Programme offers substantial assistance in food emergencies in the countries concerned. We particularly appreciate the aid which has recently been approved by the CFA to Viet Nam, for her reconstruction and her rehabilitation.

My delegation supports the pledging target in paragraph 18 of CL 72/REP. I should also like to refer to paragraph 19 of the same document appealing for new pledges to be pledged at the forthcoming pledging conference. Giving attention to this paragraph, my Minister in his statement to the Plenary, announced that Hungary is going to increase her contribution to the Programme by 20 percent starting from 1 January 1979. This will be duly repeated, Mr. Chairman, at the Pledging Conference early in 1978.

K. REXED (Sweden): Sweden welcomes the appointment of Mr. Garson Vogel as Executive Director of the WFP. We have already seen him in action, newly appointed, at the fourth session of the CFA, and been much impressed by his capacity and his leadership. His introduction to this item of the agenda was good evidence of this and of his quick grasp of programme activities and problems.

To his predecessor, Mr. Thomas Robinson, we give our sincere thanks for his excellent leadership during an important period of the WFP's existence. His dedication to the WFP and his emphasis on efficiency has contributed to establishing the WFP as the unquestioned authority on food aid.

Sweden has been a member of the board of WFP for three years. During this period, the WFP has assumed new responsibilities and gone through a period of rapid expansion. We have thus had the honour of serving on the CFA during an especially interesting period on the World Food Programme.

Sweden's term of office ends on 31 December of this year. In accordance with the principle of rotation between Nordic Countries in international bodies, Norway has been elected by ECOSOC to succeed Sweden as member of the CFA. Sweden hopes to be able to serve again on the CFA. Meanwhile we will continue our support for WFP and will, as observers, follow the work of CFA with great interest.

It is against this background that we will now make some comments on the WFP's activities. After a period of rapid expansion after the World Food Conference, the WFP now aims at maintaining an annual commitment level of US\$ 300 million during the coming biennium. On this basis, the CFA has proposed a pledging target of US\$ 950 million for the biennium 1979-80. Sweden supports this target.

Seen in relation to the target of US\$ 750 million for the present biennium, it does however represent an ambitious increase. New and increased pledges will be needed if the target is to be met. An informal meeting of new and traditional donors held before the formal Pledging Conference, might aid in achieving both the target and a just burden-sharing between donors.

The cash share of contributions to the WFP is still well below the one-third of the aggregate prescribed in the general rules. The Executive Director pointed in his general introduction to a need for an increase in this share. In our view developed donor countries which give less than one-third of their contribution in cash or services should therefore consider increasing the cash share of their contribution towards one third.

The present composition of the CFA represents a balance between donor and recipient countries. This balance is essential for the fulfillment of its coordinating and policy formulating tasks. It should not be changed without consultations between the groups concerned.

The CFA has at its May and October sessions this year adopted new general rules for the World Food Programme. Sweden is pleased to note the consensus reached at the Fourth Session of the CFA on the support for liberation movements approved by the UN and OAU. We thus fully endorse the interpretative statement made by the CFA on the relevant paragraph of the general rules. The new general rules clearly set out the new coordinating and policy formulating function of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. These functions are separate from the traditional function of the former Intergovernmental Committee on the World Food Programme that is the running of the WFP itself. The Executive Director of the WFP and the CFA might now give attention to how this should be reflected in the administrative and financial structure of the World Food Programme.

Two of the most urgent of the food aid policy questions are the recommendations for an increased multilateral channeling of food aid and for forward planning of food aid. Sweden has accepted, and for its part, implemented these recommendations and urges other donors to do likewise.

The World Food Programme is mainly supporting development projects through food-for-work projects or through nutrition intervention programmes. The Executive Director has in his introductory statement pointed to the great value and the great extent of these activities. We fully support the present policy of concentrating these activities to LDC and MSA countries. Increased attention should be given to the dangers of negative effects on production and marketing structures and consumption patterns in the recipient countries.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Sweden has during its term in the Committee on Food Aid and Programmes, especially supported WFP's capacity for emergency relief, and has urged that it should be improved. Sufficient resources should be made available for the direct emergency operations decided by the Director General of FAO. The Programme should continue its aid to refugees, especially in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and to reconstruction efforts. The possibilities of supplementing the direct emergency operations with more purposeful projects under the quick action procedure or under the authority of the Executive Director should be studied. Here we welcome the study on the World Food Programme's Emergency Relief activities that will be prepared for the 1978 fall session of the CFA.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): First of all I would congratulate Mr. Vogel on his appointment to Executive Director of the World Food Programme. Mr. Vogel is a citizen of great power who has always participated actively in the programme's work and has given particular importance to the programme. In view of this we are convinced that the Executive Director will not fail to reflect this specifically in the programme through the special attention he will pay to its activities.

We feel that it is an action-oriented programme and we have always drawn attention to this sort of programme. We are among the countries that benefit most from the activities of this programme and as a member of the CFA we would express considerable satisfaction with the work done by the programme in order to satisfy the needs of the recipient countries and the aid given and the important priorities involved.

We would like to thank the donor countries and we hope that the established objective will be reached as regards participation because several of our development projects depend on this assistance. We have had interest shown by both developed and developing countries in improving food standards, especially in the most seriously affected countries. This is the reason why we invite donor countries to diversify their aid and participation in order to reflect such a varied range of needs.

We would pay special homage to the aid given by Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is also giving special assistance to the World Food Programme and this is helping us to maintain the excellent level of activities within the programme.

B.P. DHITAL (Nepal): At the outset the Nepalese delegation would like to congratulate and highly commend the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for presenting the activities of WFP in a comprehensive and lucid manner.

We wish the Executive Director further success in his efforts to help the needy countries. The assistance provided by WFP has been of great help to many needy countries, and Mr. Chairman, Nepal has been one of them to receive WFP assistance and naturally we are grateful for the assistance.

WFP has a novel task for feeding the hungry. The basic objectives of WFP to help the needy countries to help themselves has been fulfilled in many instances.

The greater emphasis now of distributing food directly in rural areas through work programmes on project approach has greatly helped not only to meet the food deficit but also it has created additional employment to help increase the income of the rural poor.

In the light of the importance of the programme and the need for food aid, we think that the target of voluntary contributions of US\$ 950 million for the biennium 1979-80 is reasonable, and we support the proposal. We hope that these resources will be augmented by substantial additional contributions during the Pledging Conference.

P.G. STAVNUM (Norway): As the Norwegian Minister of Agriculture said in his general statement last week, Norway fully supports the pledging target of \$950 million for the biennium 1979-80 as recommended by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its last Session. My delegation supports the draft resolution to this effect.

A pledging target of \$950 million will enable World Food Programmes to keep up its present level of commitments of about \$300 million to projects for social and economic development during the next two to three years. We have full confidence that the World Food Programme has the capacity, as well as the capability, to deal with such a commitment level. A target of \$950 million, however, presupposes increased contributions to the programme. We therefore urge traditional as well as new donor countries to make every effort to ensure the full attainment of this target.

As far as Norway is concerned, we are prepared to take our share of this increased commitment. Norway's total contribution to the World Food Programme in 1977 amounts to about \$19 million. Norway is thus among the major contributors to the programme. By far the greatest part of Norway's food aid consists of fish and fish products.

We have noted with satisfaction the increased interest in fish meal for human consumption, the so-called fish protein concentrate, type B. The result of the acceptability tests recently undertaken by FAO shows that FPC, type B, has been favourably received in many countries where the population is used to eating fish.

Through the World Food Programme, Norway will finance FPC pilot projects in a number of countries in Africa and Asia, where the acceptability tests have been positive. We believe that food protein concentrate, type B, could constitute an important protein supplement to the diet of large population groups.

Norway has, for the last few years, participated in CFA as an observer. However, as a result of the close cooperation among the Nordic countries, and in accordance with the principle of rotation, Norway will succeed Sweden as a member of the CFA as from 1 January 1978. We look forward to participating actively in the CFA in the future.

J.S. KHAN (Pakistan): Like previous speakers, the Pakistan Delegation would also like to congratulate Mr. Vogel on his appointment as the new Executive Director of the Programme. We welcome his appointment and we wish him well and all success in the challenging task before him.

We also want to take this opportunity of placing on record our appreciation of the services rendered by his predecessor, Mr. Robinson, who has served the Programme sincerely and with devotion.

Since FAO is a co-parent of the programme, these biennial conferences afford us a very valuable opportunity to comment on the growth and development of our Programme. Pakistan would like to say that we are fully satisfied with the commendable role being performed by WFP in promoting socio-economic development and in meeting emergency situations.

Today, the Programme enjoys the support and the confidence of all, both the donors and the recipients, and we feel it has effectively demonstrated the value of multilateral food aid. We recognize that the success of the Programme depends, to a great extent, on the support of the donors, and my delegation would like to place on record our appreciation for the support shown by all the traditional donors and the new donors, particularly from OPEC. Here again, I would like to single out - like Egypt - the valuable contribution made by Saudi Arabia.



The Pakistan delegation is also in agreement with the broad policy measures which are today being followed by the Programme, with their focus on food-for-work projects aimed at the poorest sections of the rural community, as well as the feeding of vulnerable groups, in addition, of course, to the responsibility of the Programme to respond to emergency situations.

We also feel that the emphasis on assisting the most deserving countries, like the LDCs and MSAs, is a correct one, and we would hope that these policies would continue in the future.

We would like to suggest that during the current improved world food situation and with increased food grain availability, the Programme could play an expanded and useful role in promoting food security, through helping to build up and to maintain food reserves. We hope that the Programme will pay serious attention to this as an important new policy measure.

The Pakistan delegation is also satisfied with the beginning made by the new reconstituted governing body, the CFA. We think it has got off to a good start. It has an expanded role to play, apart from the management of the Programme, it has important new policy functions to perform.

Mr. Vogel, in his very interesting introductory statement, touched upon several of these important new policy functions, and we would not like to add anything else, we have noted those. But there is one point to which we want to draw attention, one important new policy function which has fallen on the shoulders of the Committee. That is the development of an improved policy framework for food aid. Here my delegation feels that progress has been slow. The broad guidelines of an improved policy for food aid have already been laid down by the World Food Conference and they have been further elaborated by the World Food Council. We would urge that the CFA, as recommended by the 3rd Session of the World Food Council, should intensify its efforts to develop and implement an improved policy framework for food aid. We would suggest that the aim of this policy should be to improve the level and direction, the stability and usefulness of food aid, and to promote nutrition, employment and development in recipient countries.

We hope that the CFA will be able to work our more direct aims of this new policy and present the results to us by the next session of this Conference.

Finally, on this all important question of the pledging target, my delegation fully supports the target of \$950 million for the 1979-80 biennium, as well as the Draft Resolution before us. We are convinced that the Programme has developed the capacity and it has the ability and it has the managerial efficiency to handle a programme of this magnitude. This fact, coupled with the actual and growing requirements of developing countries, leads us to hope that the target will not only be achieved, but will be exceeded.

We have noted particularly the information given to us by Mr. Vogel that this target is a minimum target, just to keep the programme operational at current levels. We would hope that these resources would be augmented by additional resources over and above the target.

Finally, let me say that Pakistan - although a recipient developing country - will continue, as always, to make its modest contribution towards the attainment of the target.

K. ANDERSEN (Denmark): On behalf of the Danish delegaci3n, I would like to recollect what our Minister said in the Plenary a few days ago. He gave his full support to the World Food Programme and the proposed pledging target of \$950 million for 1979-80. At the same time, he declared that the Danish government has agreed upon an increase of the Danish contribution to 100 million kroner in 1979, and to 110 million kroner in 1980, subject to parliamentary approval. He gave the World Food Programme his assurance of a continued active cooperation on the part of the Danish government.

At the last meeting in the CFA, a few weeks ago, here in Rome, the Danish delegation supported and urged the World Food Programme to continue with the present annual commitment rate of \$300 million for new economic and social development projects. At the same time, we expressed our satisfaction that the activities of the World Food Programme, to a still larger extent, are concentrated on these development projects in the LDC and MSA countries.

Some may recall that we had a lengthy discussion on the item of emergency operations at the same meeting, and on the role of the World Food Programme. The Danish position on this item has always been very clear. We have, over the years, supported the idea of the allocation of some resources to emergency purposes, in order to help distressed people.

We therefore agreed to the proposed level of \$40 million annually for this purpose. We have agreed to the increase in the emergency allocation of \$5 million in 1977 and 1978, but we find, as a matter of principle, that emergency assistance, if necessary, should be financed to a higher degree from the International Emergency Food Reserve, in order to secure that the resources in the World Food Programme are available for regular development assistance which, in our opinion, is the very task of the World Food Programme.

As we stated at the 4th CFA meeting, we support that a study on emergencies suggested by Canada should be prepared by the WFP Secretariat, and we are looking forward to the presentation and the debate at the 6th Meeting of the CFA next autumn.

A.F. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh): Let me join other delegates in congratulating Mr. Vogel on his appointment to the high post of Executive Director of the World Food Programme. My delegation also congratulates the Executive Director on his very comprehensive and forthright presentation of the World Food Programme's role in helping the LDC and MSA countries.

As is known to all of us, the WFP has been trying to attack the problems of malnutrition among the vulnerable groups of people like mothers, and children, and also providing employment through the food-for-work programme to millions of unemployed and under-employed rural level work force.

Bangladesh is one of the LDC and MSA countries, and we have been receiving substantial World Food Programme assistance through vulnerable group feeding programmes, food-for-work programmes and also emergency food aid.

Recently, in April of this year, in one of our districts, the early floods destroyed the crop completely, and WFP very quickly acted to come up with emergency food aid and that saved the situation. Otherwise, there could have been a situation of famine and hunger, and we have especially to thank the World Food Programme for moving very fast and very effectively in those critical days.

My delegation also thanks the World Food Programme for all the assistance that we have been receiving and also donor countries who have been making donations to this multilateral aid.

We have published a book called "War on Hunger", based on the food-for-work programme that we have been running with the WFP's assistance, and the booklet is now available in the document section. I would request fellow delegates kindly to look at the booklet.

The scope of the food-for-work programme in our country is almost unlimited. As is known, Bangladesh is a fused delta accretion, formed by the mighty rivers Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Jamuna, carrying billions of tons of silt every year. So there is almost unlimited scope for the clearance of silt and the development of land and water resources. We have been greatly benefited by this food-for-work programme in developing our water and land resources. I was actually ready to make a long statement about the necessity of revising the food rates, but in deference to the wishes of the Chairman, I do not want to dilate on that, but I want to draw the attention of the Commission and also the Executive Director that in order to achieve better the developmental results out of this food-for-work programme, it is necessary to revise the norm of food rates in the food-for-work programme. The reasons I explained separately during my discussion with the senior officials of the food-for-work programme and I do not want to dilate on this, but I just want to draw the attention of the World Food Programme authorities to this important aspect so that we can more effectively use this food aid in developing the water and land resources in our countries.

My delegation also supports the Executive Director's proposal for having food reserves for the food security of the deficit countries, and my delegation is supporting this proposal very strongly.

We also support the proposal of the Executive Director for the \$950 million of budget for the biennium 1979-81, and we also support the draft resolution before us. In fact, WFP is in a position to absorb more than what has been asked for in the coming biennium.

H. REDL (Austria) (interpretation from German): Mr. Chairman, I shall be brief, but if I may, I would like to make just a few comments. To begin with, I would like to thank the Executive Director for his very clear and complete introduction to the item, and I wish him every success in his new position.

I would like to give you my view of the document. My country has always supported WFP activities, and so we note with satisfaction that cooperation during this year has been very harmonious for both parties concerned.

Turning now to the paper before us, I would like to say that we will continue to support all the future activities of the WFP, to the best of our ability. We are particularly glad that the food produce placed at the disposal of WFP for emergency aid to developing countries is large, and we are glad to see that the WFP costs are being kept low. With respect to the resolution, I would like to say that we can accept the target for that period.

A. FASLA (Algérie): Je voudrais tout d'abord souhaiter la bienvenue à M. Vogel au sein du PAM, comme nouveau directeur exécutif et l'assurer du soutien de l'Algérie dans sa nouvelle mission qui est certes très difficile, mais en même temps très noble, et pour laquelle la communauté internationale doit l'aider.

Le Programme alimentaire mondial est l'un des meilleurs programmes existant au sein du système des Nations Unies. C'est un programme d'action, un programme qui grâce au dévouement et à l'efficacité des fonctionnaires qu'il emploie, grâce au souci d'économie qui préside à cette action - le directeur exécutif a indiqué que sur 20 dollars de dépenses, un dollar seulement allait aux dépenses de l'administration alors que, dans certaines institutions, plus de la moitié du budget est absorbé par les dépenses administratives - grâce à cela et grâce à la solidarité agissante et qui devrait se renforcer, de la communauté internationale, le Programme a permis à des millions d'êtres humains, notamment aux couches les plus misérables, d'être soulagés de la faim, de la misère même.

Nous apprécions l'aide qu'accorde le PAM aux réfugiés, de même que nous voudrions souligner le rôle prédominant du PAM dans les projets de développement dont nombre de pays en développement dont l'Algérie ont bénéficié et dire que nous souhaiterions que cette orientation soit maintenue et renforcée.

Le soutien du PAM aux programmes nationaux dans le domaine social, dans le domaine de l'éducation, de l'emploi et autres, est très appréciable et très important. Si nous estimons que la priorité devrait aller aux pays les plus pauvres, et c'est normal, nous considérons également que les pays qui font des efforts pour leur développement ne devraient pas être pénalisés, et qu'une attention devrait leur être accordée si jamais ils en font la demande.

Je voudrais dire en terminant que l'objectif de 950 millions de dollars proposé est un objectif raisonnable, si l'on tient compte de l'ampleur de l'assistance demandée, et si l'on tient compte du fait que l'assistance demeure en termes réels à son niveau actuel. Ma délégation appuie fermement le projet de résolution.

Y. LIKE (Ethiopia): May I congratulate Mr. Vogel upon his appointment as Executive Director to head this not only humanitarian but also in its own way a development organization, WFP. We believe that this food aid does not and should not only help to assist the immediate needs of the needy, to save lives and produce healthier and stronger people for a better society, but it also contributes to undertake development programmes, which has a multiplier factor in development.

My Government is one of those countries which received food aid assistance at and through our bad days following one of the worst droughts in our history.

Mr. Chairman, the Executive Director, the Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation, would have liked to be present at this point of the session, but for reasons beyond his control he has not been able to make it because he is in New York for similar purposes, but accept my appreciation for this gesture and act by the WFP and through it to all donors.

We are also one of those first countries to use food distribution with partial cash payments to undertake development programmes like road construction and settlement programmes in agricultural fields. We therefore encourage the Executive Director and recipient countries to increase the effectiveness of the food aid programme through undertaking food development programmes.

Finally, we would fully endorse the Executive Director's proposition of \$950 million pledging target, the level of the food reserve, and his intention to encourage those who can to make further contribution to this noble aim, increasing its activity of providing food aid to the hungry and the malnourished.

G. CHACON (Ecuador): En primer lugar, nuestros mejores deseos, señor Vogel, en su cargo de Director Ejecutivo del PMA. Nuestro país reconoce los esfuerzos, la actividad pragmática que la cumplido la ayuda del PMA en nuestro país, sobre todo como generador de fuentes de trabajo y de la ampliación de la frontera agrícola en las zonas de la región amazónica. Consideramos altamente apropiada la eficiencia administrativa del PMA al utilizar apenas el cinco por ciento de sus recursos en tales efectos.

Los puntos fundamentales que deseo dejar aquí planteados son los siguientes: como se prevé el incremento a 950 millones, y esperamos nuestro reconocimiento a los países desarrollados que ya han manifestado aquí su compromiso de ofertas, creemos que debería estudiarse que la tercera parte que se prevé sea en efectivo, se contribuya a los nuevos proyectos para generar así posiblemente la adquisición de algunos alimentos conocidos por los grupos marginales en sus propios países o en el nivel regional, de tal manera que los alimentos provenientes de los países desarrollados, muchas veces desconocidos para los sectores campesinos de un medio, puedan combinarse con ciertos productos que podrían producir los pequeños agricultores organizados en los países en desarrollo. También desearía dejar aquí planteado cuál va a ser en el futuro la relación entre el PMA directamente y los representantes de FAO o del Director General. Les hablo por la situación de mi país. En la actualidad el representante del PMA es el representante del PNUD, pero como próximamente el Director General de la FAO tendrá su representante personal en nuestro país, desearíamos conocer si él será el encargado de los asuntos del PMA.

KWANG SHIK WON (Korea, Rep. of): First of all, I would like to express my thanks to the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for his very clear and comprehensive explanation and the introduction to the World Food Programme.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation is fully aware of the importance of the programme and appreciate very much the contribution made by the programmes for the reduction of poverty, improvement of nutrition, easing emergency situation in food supply and development of food, and agricultural development as a whole. In this regard I recognize that the target of \$950 million would be very much reasonable and realistic for donor and the recipient country as a whole as well. Therefore, on behalf of my government my delegation would like to express our full support for the resolution on the target for WFP pledges for the period of 1979–1980, which was transmitted by the Seventy-Second Session of the Council.

A.L. ZAIDAN (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): To begin with I would like to congratulate the new Executive Director of the World Food Programme on his appointment and I wish him every success in the future. Kuwait feels that the document which refers to the WFP is excellent, and we approve it. We are convinced that the Programme is a basic requirement of the Third World countries who wish to try and meet the requirements of their population in the face of natural disasters and malnutrition. Kuwait is going to try and give more than it has in the past to it. Our contribution appears in the statement made by the head of our delegation in Plenary. You can refer to it if you wish. As an oil producing country, Kuwait takes its responsibility towards its brother countries very seriously, as well as making every effort to develop its own economy and improve the society in Kuwait.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to support and welcome the efforts made by the OPEC countries in trying to find a protein in petroleum, and we hope that developed countries will do the same, and try to find alternative proteins in other products.

P. GRIFFIN (Ireland): First of all I would like to welcome Mr. Vogel on his first visit to the Conference. I have had the distinction, the honour, of meeting him before at the CFA session held last October, and Mr. Vogel has referred to his satisfaction on his appointment. I can assure him the satisfaction of the CFA, if I can interpret their feelings, is equally great this satisfaction is largely due to the fact that the CFA has always been efficient, action oriented and as Mr. Shefrin said, "a people orientated" Committee, and I think we have all felt Mr. Vogel is also all of these things.

However, to proceed, first of all I should say that Ireland has been on the CFA Committee for quite a number of years and the World Food Programme has always played a prominent part in our allocation of food aid, and whilst we cannot regard ourselves as a major donor indeed, nevertheless, per capita we are prominent. We have always been prominent, at least in per capita terms, and we have tried to keep our contribution in line with the increase each year. So it gives me great pleasure to say, as my Minister announced last week, Ireland supports the target of \$950 million. In fact our delegation at the CFA explained the reasons why it supported the target, and, in fact, we do support it, but we also, like a number of other delegations, would urge those who have the potential to do so, and who do not contribute at the moment, to become donors to the programme. And those who feel they could increase their contribution to do so also. Incidentally, I might mention that I am expecting - I am not stating

but I am expecting - that we will continue to tailor our contribution to the growing demands on the programme at the next Budgeting Conference. Now I hope that also we have under consideration at the moment the question of forward planning and I think that we may be able to assist in this way also. Well, I think that our views have been fairly often expressed on the World Food Programmes. It is not necessary for me to reiterate them in detail. However, we do approve the programmes, the broad lines of the programme policy, its concentration on MSA and LDC countries, and the emphasis it gives the feeding projects which are of vital importance, and some of which I have seen in operation myself, and I feel that they are certainly a tremendous contribution to human resources which are not only humanitarian work but are also an investment in the future development of the country concerned. I might say that we share the views expressed, I think it was by Sweden, that in so far as the cash resources have proved inadequate, though if I recollect aright they are improved, we would like also to urge those donors who do not give the full proportion of cash to do so and express our appreciation of the help that Saudi Arabia gives in this regard.

Finally, I am not quite certain what the delegate of Pakistan meant when he mentioned the policy framework, in regard to policy framework for food aid had been slow. I think what he did mean was perhaps the programme has been a little slow in implementing the new responsibilities which have devolved on it since it was reconstituted the CEA. If this is what he did mean I would agree and support what he has suggested, that perhaps we should do a little more in this direction of coordinating multilateral and bilateral food aid, considering the whole question of food aid as a unit, which is a task which was entrusted to us. With those words, Mr. Chairman, I conclude my remarks.

Mme L. DE AZEVEDO (Portugal): J'ai écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt l'exposé si précis et utile que le Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial vient de nous faire sur ce programme.

Au sujet de ce qui se passe dans mon pays, je voudrais dire ce qui suit:

Après la Conférence mondiale sur l'alimentation, et en réponse à certaines résolutions de cette Conférence, la Commission portugaise de la FAO a créé un Groupe de travail pour la nutrition qui a eu en vue de mettre à exécution au niveau national un programme coopératif d'éducation et de nutrition auquel participent les techniciens des Ministères de l'agriculture, des pêches, de la santé, de l'éducation et du commerce. Les services responsables du Programme de travail agissent surtout auprès des enfants d'âge scolaire par les professeurs de l'enseignement primaire, auprès des femmes enceintes et allaitantes par les techniciens de la Santé publique et auprès des populations rurales avec la collaboration des techniciens agricoles et d'économie familiale du Ministère de l'agriculture et des pêches.

Les programmes utilisent comme moyen d'action des cours de formation de base sur la nutrition et des journées de travail mensuelles pour la formation continue sur la nutrition, des colloques, des séminaires, des expositions dans les foires agricoles régionales les plus importantes, des campagnes sur certains thèmes spécifiques comme la valeur nutritionnelle du lait et ses dérivés protéiques, l'utilisation des pesticides, la conservation des aliments, la planification familiale, etc.

Nous avons aussi depuis le 28 janvier de cette année mis en exécution un projet pour une campagne d'éducation alimentaire qui touche toute la population portugaise en utilisant les moyens de vulgarisation auprès des masses, la radio, la télévision et la presse. Nous avons eu l'appui technique de la FAO pour cette campagne et nous espérons l'obtenir encore l'année prochaine.

A notre demande, et en prenant connaissance de l'action intensive de l'éducation en matière d'alimentation et de nutrition, que nous avons entreprise au Portugal, le PAM l'a approuvée au-delà du projet d'urgence pour les Portugais par d'autres projets d'aide alimentaire pour les enfants d'âge scolaire des régions les plus carencées, soit à peu près 300 000 enfants et par d'autres projets également pour les femmes enceintes et allaitantes assistées aux Centres de santé du pays, soit à peu près 100 000 mères. Cette aide du PAM permet de corriger la carence protéique de l'alimentation des groupes de la population portugaise que je viens de citer.

Les résultats obtenus auprès des enfants se sont traduits par un meilleur rendement scolaire des élèves, un plus grand développement physique et une fréquentation des classes plus assidue, compte tenu d'une meilleure approche des parents vers l'école et les professeurs avec toutes les réussites qui en résultent.

Mon pays a assumé naturellement les frais de chargement et de transport des marchandises fournies: lait en poudre, fromages, et farine de blé, ainsi que tout contrôle technique et administratif nécessaire pour la réalisation de ces projets. La nécessité d'avoir des entrepôts pour le stockage des produits offerts a obligé notre gouvernement à faire des efforts pour disposer d'installations suffisantes aux niveaux national, régional et local, et pour développer aussi les moyens de transport indispensables de manière que les produits alimentaires puissent arriver aux écoles et aux centres de santé dans les

meilleures conditions d'utilisation. Ainsi, cette aide en produits alimentaires a été elle aussi à l'origine d'un processus de développement très important au niveau des infrastructures nationales par les aides bénéfiques que les enfants et les mères du Portugal ont déjà reçues du PAM, de la FAO et autres organisations internationales, et qu'ils auront encore à recevoir dans l'avenir. Au nom de tous les enfants et mères du monde qui ont pu bénéficier de cette aide nous voulons dire un grand merci.

Nous voulons aussi vous rappeler que les hommes dans le futur seront ce que les hommes d'aujourd'hui voudraient qu'ils fussent, grâce aux aides de toutes sortes que ces derniers voudront ou pourront leur donner. En les sauvant aujourd'hui, ils assureront leur propre sauvetage de demain. La famine est sans doute l'arme la plus terrible pour la destruction de l'humanité. Nous sommes sûrs que si nous ne faisons pas aujourd'hui ce que nous devrions faire pour supprimer la famine dans un avenir pas trop lointain, nous mettrons en danger la sécurité et la paix dans le monde.

Avant de terminer, j'aimerais rappeler ce que les autres membres de ma délégation ont déjà dit. Il ne suffira pas de donner des aliments pour résoudre les graves problèmes liés à la famine et à la malnutrition; il sera indispensable aussi de donner à tous les peuples les possibilités de produire en quantité et en qualité suffisantes les aliments essentiels de façon à réduire au minimum la dépendance de certains pays à l'égard des autres. Le droit de vivre dans la véritable acceptation du terme est sacré et doit être le même pour tous les hommes.

Je finirai en exprimant mon espoir quant au résultat de cette Conférence, qui nous aidera à trouver les meilleures solutions aux graves problèmes que nous aurons à résoudre de manière que les conditions de vie soient les mêmes, ou presque les mêmes, les meilleures en tout cas, pour toutes les populations.

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

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/II/PV/15

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

### FIFTEENTH MEETING QUINZIÈME SÉANCE 15ª SESIÓN (25 November 1977)

The Fifteenth Meeting was opened at 09.50 hours

J.h Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quinzième séance est ouverte à 9 h 50, sous la présidence de

J.H Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 15ª sesión a las 09.50 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

PART II -ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION  
(continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE -ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION  
(suite)

PARTE II -ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION  
(continuación)

14. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme (continued)

14. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO (suite)

14. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Before we start our discussions, I would like to draw attention to the fact that after having discussed item 14 we go on to item 15.3 Relations With Inter-Governmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations including International Trade Unions, and we will then probably in the afternoon continue with item 15.2, Other Questions Arising From the United Nations and Other Specialized Agencies.

We should try to finish our discussions on this item this afternoon. If not, I have to scare you with having a meeting tomorrow, on Saturday, the reason being that Monday is our last day for the debate when we will discuss 15.1, Relations With the World Food Council, the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and we have not very much time for this, so unless we are able to complete our discussions on item 15.2 this afternoon, it seems that we will have to have a meeting tomorrow. What makes it even more difficult is that we will only have interpreters until 5.30 tonight, so I would appeal to you all in your own interest to be as brief as you really can so that we can avoid having a meeting tomorrow.

O. DIALLO (Mali): Je remercie le Directeur exécutif du PAM de son excellent rapport introductif qui a mis en lumière tous les aspects du PAM, et lui souhaite plein succès dans ses nouvelles fonctions.

Au-delà des aides de secours d'urgence, l'aide du Programme alimentaire mondial joue sans conteste un rôle considérable dans l'exécution du programme de développement agricole dans les pays en voie de développement.

L'aide alimentaire du PAM est une aide qui doit permettre aux pays bénéficiaires de s'aider. Cette philosophie bien comprise permet aux bénéficiaires d'éviter une perpétuelle dépendance alimentaire et au PAM d'atteindre ses objectifs.

Dans mon pays, le PAM soutient plusieurs projets de développement économique et social: promotion de l'industrie laitière, réinstallation de familles sinistrées sur les terres aménagées, travaux d'irrigation des terres rizicoles, travaux de forestation et d'hydraulique rurale et pastorale, alimentation complémentaire des hôpitaux sahéliens et des cantines scolaires.

Les résultats obtenus, malgré quelques difficultés dues principalement à l'acheminement compliqué, sont très encourageants. C'est pour moi l'occasion d'exprimer ici notre reconnaissance aux pays donateurs pour leur importante contribution au Programme alimentaire mondial.

Ma délégation apporte tout son appui aux propositions du Directeur exécutif sur les objectifs de contribution au Programme alimentaire mondial pour la période 1979-1980.

K. CHOUERI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Nous avons écouté avec la plus grande attention l'exposé introductif du Directeur exécutif du PAM et le rapport qu'il nous a fait sur les activités du Programme et les perspectives tracées pour le programme futur.

Nous voudrions tout d'abord exprimer notre entière satisfaction pour la désignation de M. Vogel au poste de directeur exécutif; nous sommes pleinement confiants qu'il poursuivra la tâche que s'est tracée le PAM. Nous sommes convaincus que le montant des contributions fixé pour la période 1979-1980 pourra être atteint et couvert rapidement pour que le PAM puisse mettre rapidement au point ses projets et ses programmes.



Nous soutenons également le directeur exécutif lorsqu'il dit que cet objectif sera dépassé dans un avenir prochain, et nous espérons que cela sera effectué au début des années '80, au moment où se tiendra la conférence sur les contributions, au cours de laquelle on fera appel aux divers gouvernements des Etats Membres pour qu'ils annoncent leur contribution pour la période 1981-1982, et ce, afin d'atteindre l'objectif des contributions que nous auront proposées la Conférence générale et la FAO.

Nous saluons le PAM pour l'aide d'urgence qu'il fournit aux pays membres. Nous savons quelle est la valeur de cette aide, surtout lorsqu'elle est fournie aux pays membres en temps de catastrophe, en temps de crise, et c'est pourquoi ma délégation ne peut qu'exprimer sa profonde gratitude au Programme pour l'assistance qu'il fournit aux pays les plus démunis et les plus nécessiteux, et nous rendons également hommage aux résultats atteints par le PAM en matière d'aide au développement intégré.

Nous appelons les pays pourvus à continuer à contribuer avec générosité au Fonds du PAM, et les pays bénéficiaires ne peuvent que saluer toute initiative prise dans ce sens; nous mettons l'accent sur l'importance de la coopération internationale par le biais du Programme alimentaire mondial, et c'est pourquoi nous soutenons le projet de résolution qui nous est soumis.

Sra. Doña G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Permítanme en primer lugar, en nombre de la delegación de Cuba y en el mío propio, felicitar al doctor Vogel por su nombramiento como Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, función en la que le deseamos el mayor éxito. Asimismo, lo felicitamos, señor Vogel, por la elocuente introducción al tema que discutimos. A todos nos es conocida la función desempeñada por la asistencia del Programa Mundial de Alimentos en el fomento de la producción y distribución de alimentos en los países subdesarrollados y, en especial, en los países más gravemente afectados. Nuestro país reconoce además la importancia creciente del PMA, así como la experiencia que ha adquirido en la esfera de la ayuda multilateral, y considera que ha conseguido notables progresos en la ejecución de las recomendaciones de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación sobre políticas de ayuda alimentaria.

Nuestra delegación ha seguido con interés los debates alrededor del tema de los objetivos de promesas de contribución al PMA desde que los mismos fueron analizados en el 4º período de sesiones del Comité de Política y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria, así como en su posterior análisis en el 72º período de sesiones del Consejo. Ya que estamos conscientes de la necesidad de que el PMA prosiga su acción tanto encaminada a satisfacer las necesidades alimentarias de urgencia como a través de la ejecución de proyectos de mayores inversiones, pero siempre encaminados a mejorar los niveles alimentarios de las capas más vulnerables de la humanidad. Por todos estos aspectos nuestra delegación apoya la Resolución que sobre el objetivo de promesas de contribución al PMA para el período 1979-80 ha remitido el Consejo a esta Conferencia en su 72º período de sesiones, y muy en especial al objetivo de contribuciones voluntarias de 950 millones de dólares, de los cuales no menos de un tercio sea en dinero o en servicios.

Quisiéramos también destacar la necesidad de que los objetivos y promesas de contribución sean definidos a comienzos de 1978 a fin de que el PMA pueda enfrentar la tarea de la planificación de la ayuda a los países necesitados sobre bases seguras. También quisiéramos señalar que en la medida de las posibilidades se incrementen las compras que el PMA ya está realizando en los países subdesarrollados, puesto que estimularía indirectamente la producción agrícola en esos países. Asimismo, consideramos de gran importancia el incremento de la ejecución de proyectos destinados a desarrollar directamente la producción de alimentos, puesto que sería una vía factible para la solución del hambre y la malnutrición que azota a grandes masas de la humanidad.

Por último, quisiéramos recalcar la conveniencia que representaría para los países subdesarrollados el que se utilicen en mayor grado sus buques mercantes para transportar los productos del PMA.

M.A. BA-AMER (Yemen, People's Dem. Rep. of) (interpretation from Arabic): The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Yemen would like to express its deep gratitude to WFP for the aid which has been given to us by the programme, especially after the floods and the drought, which is something that happens very often in many of the developing countries which are members of the Organization.

While I stress with satisfaction our appreciation of the efforts made by the Executive Director, we would like to say that often the evaluation missions sent to look at the projects of the Programme will be welcome to us and that we would be glad to have any new type of aid to be given to our farmers and to our nomad husbandmen, and aid in the form of protein supplies to cover our needs.

In order to be brief, Mr. Chairman, I would like to state it is necessary to reconsider the question of diversification of the food basket and enriching this basket by more protein foods.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Vogel on his appointment as Executive Director of the Programme and we wish him full success, in the interests of all the developing countries.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): I will try to be extremely brief since we participated in the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes itself, but I would like to welcome Mr. Vogel here also in this second commission of the FAO Conference, like we did a couple of days ago in the second committee of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, WFP is of great importance to us, and especially the development oriented character of our WFP. In our view its assistance after an emergency situation is probably even more important than emergency assistance itself, because then one can work on structural improvements.

My delegation is in agreement with the target for WFP pledges and, therefore, the Draft Resolution submitted to us. We can also agree with the Draft revised general regulations. We welcome the fact that these regulations maintain the importance of the autonomous status of WFP, and also welcome WFP's relations with both parent bodies, the United Nations and FAO, and also with the other Specialized Agencies which work closely together, the International Labour Organization; the World Health Organization and Unesco. We welcome that fact very much, and the improved coordination with the UNDP.

C. WILL (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): We would like to thank Mr. Vogel, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for the excellent introduction which he presented to the Commission yesterday. My Minister in his statement to Plenary has already indicated the positive attitude of our government towards the World Food Programme. We would like to assure the Executive Director again of the full support he will receive from the Federal Republic of Germany for the World Food Programme.

R.W.M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): Mr. Chairman, New Zealand has been a member of the WFP since its creation. During the 1975/76 biennium New Zealand pledged about \$1.5 million, about a million dollars of commodities, in cash half a million, and for 1977/78 approximately the same amount was pledged. New Zealand has also made available cash in recent years for the purchase of non-food aid for WFP work for food projects, for example motor vehicles and forestry equipment.

In our experience we have found WFP a well-run and useful organization. The level of our participation in 1979/80 biennium will depend on our overall aid allocations for the 1978/79 financial year. Although we do not expect to increase our food aid contributions either bilaterally or multilaterally, we do however support the concept that wherever possible food aid should be channelled through the WFP. Our concern is that some donors are using their bilateral programmes to work around normal channels and disturb food market levels of prices and products and we would like to see these things kept in regular channels.

F.M. KANGAUDE (Malawi): Mr. Chairman, I am sorry not to have taken my advantage when it was due, but my microphone was too far from me and I could not catch it in time.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you very much for allowing me to speak on behalf of my delegation and my government on this Draft Resolution on the target for the World Food Programme pledges for the period 1979/80. Mr. Chairman, bear with me as I join the previous speakers in first congratulating Mr. Vogel for being appointed the post of Executive Director that he now holds. After listening carefully to his concise, and yet up to the point and moving opening remarks yesterday, I am compelled to say that we have here a man that is a very rightful choice to head the WFP; a very sympathetic and understanding man, a man who we think has lived among the poor, desolate and malnourished people, men, women and children of the suffering world.

We in Malawi recognize the understanding that prevails in the prosperous developed nations and those well disposed countries that are capable of contributing substantially to the World Food Programme. We are among the recipients of the world foodstuffs that are so generously donated by countries which are so remote from our frontiers that we feel we must make sure that such foodstuffs are used not to alleviate hunger and malnutrition only, but are contributing further to our increased efforts in attaining self-sufficiency in such essential elements that are lacking in the guise of the poor. Foodstuffs in Malawi are issued to the under fives; the pre-school children; the young farmers as they are opening farms at settlement schemes, and the farmers and the training centres. It would, therefore, be inappropriate for us not to express our gratitude in this Commission to the countries that are thinking of our difficult situation in combatting malnutrition particularly, and have pledged, and are continuing to pledge, their contribution to WFP, as pleaded by the Executive Director and his predecessors. We are grateful to them and we wish to assure them that their generosity is being very much appreciated not only at the high levels of our government, but by the actual recipients themselves, the consumers. We wish to assure you, Mr. Chairman, and the donors, that while we are grateful and are making good use of the food given us, we will continue to be grateful for continued donations and pledges, as have already been indicated by the distinguished delegates here.

Finally, may we be allowed to say, Mr. Chairman, that the pledges from new subscribers will be received with due acknowledgment and appreciation.

We support the Draft Resolution, and express the hope that as it gets adopted more response from potential donors will already have been coming forth.

L.H. SMITH (Barbados): Barbados is one of the beneficiaries of the World Food Programme and this delegation would like to take this opportunity of expressing its gratitude for the valuable support which we have received under this programme. The assistance is directed and provided to improve nutritional standards among the young children, pregnant women and nursing mothers.

We note the many benefits mentioned by the Executive Director in his report yesterday afternoon. It should also be mentioned that in our country we have additional benefits, beyond those mentioned in this report. The programme also takes the opportunity to teach those nutritionally vulnerable members of our community better methods of preparing their food, and to encourage better dietary habits among this group. Further, the programme also offers some opportunities for additional employment among some members of the lower income families in our country.

We would therefore like to support this Resolution, and we express the hope that within a very short time all the countries which are in a position to contribute to this programme will do so generously, recognizing that the benefits go far beyond the simple objectives of feeding nutritionally deprived people.

This delegation would also like to wish the Executive Director every success in his efforts on behalf of the World Food Programme, and we hope that he will find them personally satisfied.

N. DIMITRIU (Roumanie): Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de féliciter le Dr Vogel pour son élection au poste de Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial. Nous sommes décidés à collaborer avec d'autres pays pour la consolidation du rôle de la FAO dans la solution des problèmes présentant un grand intérêt.

En ce qui concerne le Programme alimentaire mondial, la Roumanie soutiendra entièrement son développement et y participera par sa contribution en produits alimentaires. Dans le cadre de ce programme, il sera nécessaire d'intensifier les efforts vers une utilisation accrue de l'aide pour le développement sans diminuer pour autant l'aide accordée dans les situations d'urgence. A notre avis, cet aspect devra ressortir comme tel dans le futur budget de la FAO.

Il nous paraît possible d'obtenir une rationalisation et une meilleure orientation de ce budget de manière qu'une partie toujours plus importante soit employée à des actions liées à l'aide directe du Département agricole.

AMIDJONO (Indonesia): First of all, I would like to express my delegation's congratulations to Mr. Vogel on his appointment as Executive Director, and we wish him success.

The World Food Programme has a very important place in helping developing countries to overcome hunger and malnutrition and in efforts to increase the production.

My delegation expresses its gratitude for the help rendered in my country.

My delegation is in essential agreement with the Draft Resolution on the target for the World Food Programme pledged for the period 1979/80, particularly with the amount of \$950 million.

G. DUCOMMUN (Suisse): La délégation suisse aimerait féliciter notre nouveau Directeur du PAM, M. Vogel, et le remercier en particulier pour l'excellent exposé introductif qu'il a fait hier.

Nous voudrions exprimer notre satisfaction de ce que le PAM réussit à réduire les frais généraux à moins de cinq pour cent du budget global. Nous estimons ainsi que notre souhait, exprimé de multiples fois, de réduire ces frais administratifs a été satisfait.

D'autre part, nous voudrions dire notre grand plaisir de voir que les achats que le PAM effectue avec les liquidités dont il dispose sont presque réalisés entièrement dans les pays en voie de développement, dans la proportion, je crois, de 98 pour cent. Je répète que cela nous donne toute satisfaction.

R.S. KAMARA (Sierra Leone): I have asked for the floor, as a delegate from a developing country to which the World Food Programme has meant so much. It has risen to the great expectations which we all had for it during the years in which it has been in operation. This has been largely due to the effective leadership demonstrated by those who have been entrusted with this great responsibility, including FAO, and above all the man at the helm, the Executive Director. My delegation has no doubt that Mr. Vogel will bring to the office the rich and varied experience he has gained in serving his country.

We in the developing countries appreciate the spirit of cooperation shown by the developed countries, and we do hope that they will find satisfaction in knowing that the money spent is money well spent.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation would not like to permit this item to be closed without offering some very short comments on the developments within the World Food Programme. We are happy to see that during the current year the World Food Programme has shown once again very positive signs of viability and strength. We are very happy to see the appointment of the new Executive Director, Mr. Vogel, at the head of the Programme.

We are also very happy to see that the CFA was in a position to recommend the Council to endorse the target of \$950 million for the biennium 1979/80, and we feel that by adopting this target the World Food Programme would be in a good position to continue to develop in an effective manner.

We feel, however, that the target adopted barely covers the requirements to keep the project delivery at the current level. Therefore, we very much hope that donor countries will be in a position to respond positively to the target set for the biennium and in such a way that the World Food Programme can continue its operations in the manner carried out in the past.

There are positive developments within the World Food Programme, for instance the local attention to development projects. We are happy with that.

We also feel that in the current year, 1977, the Committee on Food Aid has taken on a new life and examined very important matters which are of relevance to our discussions within this Conference, in terms of an improved policy of food aid in its different elements. We feel that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes has done excellent work during the current year, and therefore we are happy to see that the World Food Programme will be in a position to continue to give this assistance in an effective manner - and in fact, it is well known that the World Food Programme has become one of the success stories within the United Nations system in terms of development assistance provided in an effective manner with minimal bureaucracy, and to the best interest of recipient countries.

A.Z.M. SHAMSUL ALAM (Bangladesh): I would like to emphasize that of all the programmes of FAO, the World Food Programme is perhaps one of the most effective, and the most productive and fruitful in terms of food production. The other programmes of FAO may have very far reaching results which are not very visible in the immediate future, but this programme is helping us directly just at the right moment.

In our country, this food programme is not only for bridging the nutrition gap, or adding to the food basket - it is utilized more and more as a form of investment in, for instance, digging irrigation canals, which leads to increased production within the area. This creates a greater impact than many other programmes and supports directly the vulnerable group. It has our unqualified support.

We prefer 1 000 tons of food which cost FAO \$70 000, which, in a year's time, leads to extra income of another \$70 000, if it can be properly invested in the lifetime of the scheme. Compared to most other programmes, and expenditure by FAO on consultants and other schemes, studies, and surveys, this programme is undoubtedly the best and the most helpful for developing countries.

We support the Resolution, We do feel, however, that the amount should be increased so that the scope of activities could be enlarged - \$960 million might perhaps be better.

As I have said, we use this Programme in our country mainly as a form of investment principally building up agricultural infrastructure. The workers in our country are paid in kind. The food is given for one day's work. Sometimes it is very difficult to carry the food to the work site and distribute it in time. In view of the use of this Programme for investment, it may perhaps be more convenient to pay part of the amount in cash, by selling the food to the government of the country for a public distribution system. Perhaps there may be an objection to us giving them cash instead of food but payment in part cash part wage would, in terms of productivity and convenience, be more effective.

In our country, at the present time, this scheme is mostly in the form of food for works programmes in the rural areas.

We are wondering whether there could be further diversification. For instance, there could be food for poultry farming, dairy farming, afforestation, plantation of food-bearing trees and all types of activities which lead to production of food. If that could be done it would be better.

With these words Mr. Chairman, expressing our unqualified support and best appreciation of this programme, and as a beneficiary, the most fruitful beneficiary of most of the UN activities and FAO activities, we express our gratitude and thanks for this very novel and good work.

M.I. BARRY (Haute-Volta): Ma délégation voudrait d'abord exprimer ses vives félicitations au Directeur exécutif du PAM pour sa nomination à la tête de ce grand organisme humanitaire, et l'assurer de notre entière disponibilité pour le soutenir dans sa tâche exaltante mais combien difficile. Son exposé introductif très brillant et très clair nous a permis de percevoir l'action dynamique et efficace du PAM.

Le Programme s'est occupé de problèmes humanitaires, des problèmes d'urgence, des projets de développement dans mon pays. C'est pourquoi nous attachons une grande importance à ce Programme, et nous souhaitons que le PAM augmente l'aide qu'il accorde à notre pays.

Je voudrais également féliciter le PAM pour la souplesse de ses interventions, en permettant l'achat des céréales locales, ce qui encourage l'accroissement de la production nationale vivrière, et octroie également des revenus supplémentaires aux paysans. Les populations de mon pays sont réceptives aux aides du PAM en nature et entreprennent des travaux en investissements humains très utiles, grâce à l'intervention du PAM.

La contribution du PAM dans les cantines scolaires et celles des hôpitaux est également très appréciée dans mon pays.

Etant bénéficiaires du PAM, nous ne pouvons que nous associer aux orateurs précédents pour soutenir la résolution présentée sur l'objectif de contribution du PAM 1979/89, en particulier le montant de 950 millions de dollars.

M.A.K. EL MOKHTAR (Mauritanie) (interprétation de l'arabe): Monsieur le Président, nous voulons remercier sincèrement et de tout coeur le Dr Vogel pour l'exposé magistral qu'il nous a présenté hier et qui nous a permis de comprendre parfaitement ce Programme alimentaire mondial qui vise à consolider la situation alimentaire dans le monde.

Mon pays fait partie des pays bénéficiaires du PAM, et nous voulons ici exprimer le sentiment que nous devons tous oeuvrer dans l'esprit de fraternité qui doit régner dans nos activités. Nous sommes les membres d'une même famille.

Je profite de cette occasion pour mettre l'accent sur la nécessité de fournir une aide accrue aux nomades de mon pays qui ont subi des catastrophes depuis 1966, et depuis cette période les quantités de pluies enregistrées dans notre pays ont été insuffisantes, ce qui fait que nous ne pouvons pas développer notre secteur agricole et notre production agricole en vue de subvenir aux besoins de toute notre population.

Nous espérons donc que les pays donateurs, dans un esprit de fraternité, augmenteront leurs contributions au PAM pour sauver des millions de vies humaines, et je voudrais signaler au Directeur exécutif l'appel qui lui est lancé par ces millions de personnes qui ont le regard tourné vers lui.

P. ALPEN (Australia): I should like to endorse the remarks which were made quite recently by the distinguished representative of Bangladesh, and to say that my delegation wholeheartedly supports the Draft Resolution.

Australia is a strong supporter of the World Food Programme which, as we have said before, we believe to be a very efficient and very effective organization.

E.K. PORTE (Liberia): My delegation wishes to congratulate Mr. Vogel on his appointment as Executive Director of the World Food Programme and to thank him for a very interesting introduction to the subject under discussion.

My country is a beneficiary of the WFP and would like to register our gratitude for the kind of assistance rendered in this regard. We would like to join other speakers in supporting the Resolution before the Commission for adoption.

V. DAMJANOVIC (Yugoslavia): I wish to express our congratulations to Mr. Vogel on his appointment as Executive Director, and at the same time I wish him considerable success in his novel job. My delegation will give full support to the Draft Resolution for the next pledging to reach the target of voluntary contribution of US\$950 million.

H. OGUT (Turkey): The WFP is consistently important for developing countries, especially on the side of project implementation in development activities. My country believes that the World Food Programme will play a more active role in the future for the development of food and agriculture sectors of the developing nations. For that reason we would like to consider and endorse the Draft Resolution put forward in CL 72/REP page 4 relating to the World Food Programme. Our delegation are greatly satisfied with the activity of the World Food Programme and we believe that the World Food Programme will be successful in the future in reaching the hungry people of the world.

S. MADEMBA SY (Sénégal): Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour joindre ma voix à celles qui m'ont précédé et dire à M. le Directeur exécutif Vogel combien nous avons été heureux de sa nomination.

Je voudrais aussi présenter ici l'intérêt et l'appui que mon gouvernement accorde au Programme alimentaire mondial, et exhorter les dirigeants de ce Programme à poursuivre leur action.

Mon ministre a déjà eu l'occasion d'exprimer à M. Vogel, au cours de l'audience qu'il lui a accordée il y a quelques jours, non seulement l'intérêt que le Gouvernement du Sénégal attache au Programme alimentaire mondial, mais aussi quelques vues sur la façon dont le Sénégal entend que l'action de ce Programme soit menée. Je crois me souvenir qu'il a mis l'accent sur la nécessité de la mise en place, en temps utile, des vivres destinés par exemple à parer à des situations d'urgence.

Ledeuxième argument sur lequel il a insisté, c'est que nous pensons que l'aide alimentaire est bien, mais l'aide alimentaire n'est quand même pas une fin en soi, et que les programmes de développement qui sont supportés par l'aide alimentaire doivent être poursuivis en profondeur.

K.M. AL-ISHAKI (Iraq):(interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, the delegation of Iraq would like to give its support to the proposal made by Bangladesh concerning the fact that food for out-work projects should be replaced by payment in cash. This proposal would make it possible to make very considerable savings and to carry out these projects as well as possible.

D. DANG MEKOULA (Cameroun): Nous voulons également féliciter le Directeur exécutif du PAM pour sa nomination. Le Cameroun bénéficie de l'assistance du PAM depuis un certain temps, et malgré sa forme transitoire, cette aide est très utile pour le développement des petits projets, l'assistance au secteur social.

Nous apprécions cette aide parce que, comme vous le savez, la production alimentaire en Afrique est en stagnation. L'aide du PAM nous permet donc d'accroître cette production.

Nous espérons que l'assistance du PAM va continuer et nous soutenons vigoureusement le projet de résolution.

M. ARIFI (Maroc): La délégation marocaine voudrait pour sa part s'associer aux autres délégations pour souhaiter plein courage et succès à M. Vogel pour les nouvelles responsabilités dont il vient d'être investi.

Le PAM est un outil très apprécié dans mon pays. Il a permis, dans plusieurs domaines, de résoudre des problèmes socio-économiques et il a un impact positif sur les populations rurales.

De ce fait, nous appuyons sans réserve les propositions faites par le Directeur exécutif du PAM.

Je voudrais néanmoins proposer qu'en dehors des pays donateurs classiques, certains pays en voie de développement puissent contribuer pour certaines matières alimentaires qui se trouveraient en excédent chez eux, ce qui permettrait de résoudre des problèmes d'ordre alimentaire dans d'autres pays démunis. Il faudrait en quelque sorte essayer de créer une CTPD alimentaire.

RAMADHAR (India): My delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Executive Director on his appointment. India has been one of the main beneficiaries of world food projects, and assistance from WFP has been very beneficial in executing the developmental projects, and also in improving the nutritional standard of our people.

The work done by the World Food Programme in this regard has been fully appreciated in my country, and there has been a distinct impact in India with the help that we have received.

I would like to commend the efforts of WFP, and at the same time support the adoption of the Resolution before us.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other speakers? If not, I will now finally give the floor to the Executive Director, Mr. Vogel. I am sorry you should have to wait so long for the floor, but you must look upon it as the price of success.

G.N. VOGEL (World Food Programme): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, I shall try to be brief because I know of your time problems. Needless to say, on behalf of myself and all my colleagues, we appreciate very much the almost universal tone of the kind remarks which have been made. In fact, it is somewhat embarrassing.

The Programme is not perfect, the Canadian Delegate, in the first remarks yesterday, pointed out that it was good and doing a good job, but it was not perfect. We would be the first to admit that, but we will certainly be working continuously to try to do everything possible to improve it. It is a big job, a heavy responsibility for everyone in the Programme, and as the delegate for Lebanon said, it is in fact a sacred task, which is a heavy responsibility.

Our overhead costs have been very low, at the 5 percent range. We have done our utmost to keep them low, we shall continue to do so, but I must say that as the new Executive Director, I think this needs reexamination. Sometimes it is possible for such costs to be too low at the expense of efficiency and this we must examine.

A number of delegations expressly and specifically wanted to thank us in the Programme, and this is not really a correct description. You should not thank us, it is our job to help in every way we can. I feel that we are all partners together in what we are doing, particularly the partnership is between the donors and the recipients, and then the Programme, so it is a three way partnership, with the Programme itself almost the catalyst between the two, with the support which we fully need of our governing body, the Committee on Food Aid Policy. So it is a wide ranging partnership, and it will only work and work well if we regard it as such.

A number of delegates referred to the new situation in which we now find ourselves -the Committee on Food Aid Policy, as well as the Programme- on the question of our policies. Up till now, the Programme has been an operational agency in the field, which you have already been describing, but arising out of the World Food Conference, there are new terms of reference given to the CFA, and therefore to the World Food Programme, with respect to food aid policy generally, both bilateral and multilateral. How do they all fit together? We are expected from time to time to make recommendations to the World Food Conference.

Some delegates thought that both the CFA and the Programme were a little slow in getting under way in this respect. This is perhaps true, but I must repeat that it is an entirely new responsibility, an entirely new set of circumstances for both the CFA and the Programme. However, a start has been made, and I have in my hand three documents, three policy papers which have already been presented at the Second Session of the CFA in the autumn of 1976. More papers are being prepared now, at least another three, for the next session in the spring, and another major one for the autumn session next year. So a start has been made, but it does create new responsibilities, new problems which eventually will have financial implications, because if it is a new thrust of work, it will have to be planned in the context of how the costs are met.

It is hardly fair that the costs should continue to be met out of the ordinary resources of the Programme, which means that it is at the expense of the food contributions. These are all matters which will not be solved overnight, but certainly require serious consideration.

At least two delegates -Cuba and Switzerland- referred to the desirability of making as many purchases as possible in the developing countries, and as the Swiss delegate pointed out, we are doing that at the moment -to the extent that we use cash to buy food- about 98 percent being spent in the developing countries.

We have also taken note of the remarks of the two delegations, Iraq and Bangladesh, with respect to the sales of food and the use of cash. That is all I can really say. We have taken note of it, it has been a matter of some debate, as you probably know, in the CFA and there are broad policy implications to it.

Finally, I would just like to deal specifically with the question asked yesterday by the delegate of Ecuador when he referred to the regional offices of FAO and asked what would the relationship be between the World Food Programme and those offices and particularly how about our longstanding relationship with the UNDP. I would answer that by saying that we have a very close working relationship with all the UN family of organizations, and a particularly close one with FAO, because it is one of our parents, together with the United Nations. You would expect us to have a particularly close relationship with FAO and FAO regional representatives because world food, and food and agriculture are, after all, very closely related subjects.

I must answer your question specifically, however, by pointing out to you that in the new regulations for the World Food Programme which have just recently been enacted, it is spelt out that the resident representative of UNDP shall be the representative of the World Food Programme. So, based on the regulations which have just been passed, that is the situation. I think that is all I can say or all that it is necessary for me to say.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I must apologise for arriving so late, but I had other matters of importance to deal with. Before we pass this item, I would just like to say that the United Kingdom has always given and will continue to give its warm and firm support for the World Food Programme. In doing so, I would like to associate myself with all the nice things which so many people have said, not only about the Programme, but about the appointment of the new Executive Director.



It is a very rare occasion when one can join one's warm congratulations with a genuine feeling of pleasure at the way in which the World Food Programme is clearly going to be managed in future.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other comments? If not, I shall try to make a brief summary of our debate on this item.

First we heard the excellent introduction by the new Executive Director, Mr. Vogel. I think all delegates congratulated Mr. Vogel on his appointment, and wished him every success in his efforts. A number of delegates also paid tribute to his predecessor, Mr. Robinson.

I think the delegates were unanimous in their support for the resolution before us and for the pledging target of \$950 million for the period 1979/80.

The hope was expressed that contributions from traditional and new donor countries would be forthcoming in order to achieve this target. Satisfaction was expressed for the work done by the World Food Programme - I think the words I noted were-it was efficient, action-oriented and people-oriented, as it was so well put by one delegate. Another delegate this morning termed it as one of the success stories of the United Nations System.

It was also pointed out or noted with pleasure that it had been possible for the World Food Programme to reduce overhead costs to less than 5 percent, which certainly is an achievement.

There was broad agreement also with the general policy of the Programme. It was stressed by several delegates that food aid should go to those who need it most. Many delegates spoke in favour of a concentration on the least developed countries and the MSA countries. The new target of \$ 45 million for emergency aid was also supported by many delegations.

Among other points that were taken up during the debate, I noted a proposal for forward planning through multi-year commitments which were advocated by some delegates. Some proposals for new policies were also put forward. One delegate thought that with the improved food situation the WFP should help in building up stocks, in other words, food security. Another proposal was that the CFA should intensify its efforts for a development policy for food aid, multilateral and bilateral.

A number of delegations expressed their satisfaction that a very large part of the World Food Programme's purchases were made in developing countries, but I think also one delegate thought that this could even be increased. One delegate, if there were not more, pointed to the fact that food aid should also be directed so as to assist in the self-sufficiency of a country, and another delegate suggested that the Food for Work Programme should be adjusted so that one should be able to sell the food and pay the workers in cash.

I think as the conclusion of our debate we can very safely say that it has amounted to overwhelming support for the World Food Programme.

I have, distinguished delegates, attempted to sum up our debate completely. A full and complete report on our debate will of course, as usual, be done by the Drafting Committee.

15. Relations and Consultations with International Organizations

15. Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales

15. Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales

15.3 Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations including International Trade Unions

15.3. Relations avec les organisations intergouvernementales et les organisations internationales non gouvernementales, y compris les syndicats internationaux

15.3 Relaciones con organizaciones intergubernamentales y organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales, incluidas asociaciones sindicales internacionales

D. J. WALTON (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): My task in introducing this paper is a very light one because it is a simple, straightforward, factual paper of the type which is submitted to every Conference, describing the cooperation which has been under way during the biennium between FAO and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

I would recall also that certain specific aspects of this collaboration did already come up in connexion with the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development during early debates in this Commission.

The paper before you, C 77/18, includes, in accordance with the request by the 18th Session of the Conference, a specific section on Relations with International Trade Union Organizations. No specific action, no specific decisions, are required by the Conference on this paper. I would add that Appendix A and Supplement 1, which deal with the establishment of formal relations with non-governmental organizations, were examined and noted yesterday by Commission III, so these particular parts of the document do not need to be examined or commented on by Commission II.

We shall, of course, be glad to answer any questions that may be put to us regarding the content of the document and collaboration with non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations in general.

L. MALFETTANI (Observateur pour l'Alliance coopérative internationale): Ce n'est pas la première fois que j'ai l'honneur de m'adresser à la Conférence de la FAO au nom de l'Alliance coopérative internationale, et de souligner les rapports de collaboration permanente qui se manifestent aussi par l'intervention des représentants de la FAO soit aux réunions du Comité central de l'ACI, soit aux réunions de son Comité agricole que j'ai eu l'honneur de présider pendant de nombreuses années.

L'ACI se sent engagée pour soutenir et solliciter toutes les résolutions prises par les gouvernements membres de la FAO tendant à favoriser la promotion et le maintien des coopératives, surtout dans les pays en voie de développement dans lesquels, en dehors des initiatives de l'Organisation, l'aide du gouvernement a pour résultat essentiel de mettre en oeuvre une politique efficace de développement coopératif. Une telle politique semble indispensable si l'on veut aboutir à l'accroissement de la production et à l'augmentation du revenu des petits producteurs; par cette voie seulement et par leur participation responsable et organisée, nous l'avons appris par l'expérience, on pourra atteindre un niveau alimentaire suffisant des populations intéressées. En même temps, nous sommes bien conscients que dans certains pays les organisations coopératives doivent adapter leurs propres projets aux conditions locales avec toute l'élasticité nécessaire.

Pour ces raisons, nous devons souhaiter la bienvenue aux études et aux initiatives de la FAO - comme les manuels déjà publiés et ceux annoncés - qui constituent une très bonne orientation pour tous ceux qui, dans les diverses régions, s'appliquent, par la méthode coopérative, à l'organisation des services de l'agriculture et à l'accroissement de la production agricole, deux éléments indispensables pour obtenir de meilleures conditions de vie et de travail et un progrès social effectif des populations.

Cet engagement, dans lequel l'Alliance coopérative internationale se situe en première ligne, soit par l'action de ses sociétés adhérentes dans le monde entier, soit par ses bureaux installés en Asie et en Afrique, sera soutenu et renforcé ultérieurement. Dans tous ses sièges, et surtout auprès de la FAO, l'ACI a toujours insisté pour que les instruments opérationnels en faveur de la coopération puissent être sans cesse améliorés; or, comme il apparaît dans les documents officiels, nous ne trouvons pas toujours des réponses satisfaisantes. Le Programme du Directeur général pour les années 1978/79 nous pose, par exemple, quelques sujets de perplexité. En effet, au cours des années passées, un programme spécial et distinct pour les coopératives et les organisations d'agriculteurs, appelé "sub-programme", semblait clair. Or, présentement, pour les années 1978/79, en ce qui concerne les coopératives et lesdites organisations, ce programme se présente sous le titre "Rural development". Une telle transposition ne peut pas être considérée comme erronée, mais bien évidemment on évite d'identifier ainsi le secteur coopératif avec un programme ad hoc, et les activités coopératives apparaissent fragmentairement mêlées à d'autres problèmes et à d'autres institutions. Notre demande tend au retour à la précédente formulation pour éviter toute confusion et qualifier les engagements.

Une autre observation concerne l'organigramme porté à la page 262, sous le titre "Development, organisation and institution service". Si l'on prend le soin d'analyser l'argument, on pourra en conclure que vis-à-vis de la situation précédente, se vérifiera la diminution d'une unité professionnelle affectée à s'occuper spécifiquement de la coopération.

Je suis sûr que l'Alliance participera avec sa propre délégation à la Conférence mondiale pour la Réforme agraire et pour le développement rural et contribuera avec toutes ses possibilités à la réalisation des buts que se propose cette importante manifestation.

Une référence particulière aux buts et aux thèmes de cette Conférence est fait dans les documents et les conclusions de la Conférence mondiale qui s'est tenue à Rome du 22 au 26 mai 1972, convoquée par l'ACI avec l'assistance de la FAO, avec l'ILO, l'IFAP, le COPAC, sous le titre "Le rôle des coopératives agricoles dans le développement économique et social".

Cette Conférence, tenue sur la base de la résolution No. 1491 du Conseil économique et social à l'occasion de la seconde décennie de développement des Nations Unies, ouverte par le Directeur de la FAO, a vu la participation de 400 délégués et de 112 institutions et organisations du monde entier.

Mis à part le premier thème, d'autres sujets principaux ont été analysés à fond. A savoir, l'efficacité opérationnelle des coopératives agricoles, la mobilisation des ressources humaines pour le développement rural et ce, moyennant la coopération et, autres thèmes de la même importance les coopératives et l'environnement, la collaboration avec les gouvernements et les institutions nationales et internationales.

Nous sommes convaincus que les conclusions et recommandations exprimées dans ladite Conférence prouveront leur utilité à l'occasion de la prochaine Conférence mondiale pour la Réforme agraire et le développement rural.

N. DI MEOLA (Observateur pour la Confédération mondiale du travail): J'exprime la satisfaction de voir qu'il y a une sensibilité accrue à l'égard des problèmes des travailleurs et des syndicats internationaux. C'est là un élément très positif parce que nous croyons qu'au sein de la FAO notre Organisation peut jouer un rôle essentiel avec les autres partenaires. Nous avons pu noter cette sensibilité dans l'intervention de M. Santa Cruz et d'autres personnalités.

En ce qui concerne la Conférence mondiale de l'agriculture, j'ai déjà indiqué mon impression et la position de mon Organisation à cet égard, à savoir que les travailleurs ruraux ne doivent pas être considérés comme des objets scientifiques mais comme des protagonistes devant participer aux propositions et à l'élaboration de la Conférence. C'est là un point très positif et je me réjouis que dans ce contexte ait été adoptée la proposition présentée par plusieurs Etats, Italie, Venezuela, et Cuba.

Je veux synthétiser notre position à cet égard. Nous souhaitons que nos organisations soient écoutées et participent à l'élaboration de la Conférence et à son déroulement lui-même. A cet égard, nous sommes également satisfaits que dans le plan de la FAO, présenté par le Directeur général, figure aussi le problème de décentralisation régionale ce qui est susceptible de favoriser notre participation.

J.M. SIHOMBING (Indonesie): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, in this agenda item my delegation would like to make comments very briefly, especially on paragraph 28 in document C 77/18 regarding cooperation between the FAO with ICA. As my delegation mentioned yesterday in TCDC about the importance of cooperatives of the farmers; in this opportunity we would like again to urge the FAO would have great understanding to strengthen the relationship with ICA as well as in the FAO Organization Mr. Chairman, we do realize that there are many important fields that our organization is concerned with, but as you know we believe that the cooperatives could be a relevant tool among the small farmers to solve their problems. On the other hand, Mr. Chairman, we also urge the LCA to strengthen their capability of giving such assistance to the movement in all countries, as well as on management efficiency, as well as technical know-how.

Père A. TRICARICO (Observateur pour la Conférence internationale des Charités catholiques) Je voudrais parler au nom des ONG suivantes: Caritas Internationalis, Association rurale catholique internationale, Union mondiale des organisations féminines catholiques et Fédération internationale des hommes catholiques, toutes ces organisations opérant dans plus d'une centaine de pays sur tous les continents.

Non seulement la plupart de nos organisations possèdent un vaste réseau de membres dispersés dans les pays, mais elles agissent encore, de par leur nature même, comme agents directs du développement agricole et social, selon une grande variété d'initiatives culturelles, productives, auxquelles la population participe avec toute la richesse de ses traditions et coutumes particulières.

Nous voudrions vous prier de faire connaître la voix de toutes ces communautés de base que nous considérons représentées par les délégués gouvernementaux. Nous appuyons pleinement les priorités d'intervention retenues par la FAO comme répondant globalement à la situation réelle des pays, surtout de ceux en voie de développement, étant donné qu'elles font droit aux besoins les plus réels.

Nous soutenons tout particulièrement l'action de la FAO avec laquelle nous collaborons concernant les points suivants: tout d'abord la formation de vulgarisateurs agricoles. A ce propos nous nous permettons de signaler à cette Assemblée deux écueils que nous devons avoir soin d'éviter: la formation d'agents représentant une classe à part dans la population et par suite la rupture de la solidarité avec le peuple, qui constitue la richesse de nombreuses populations dispersée dans les villages des pays en voie de développement. C'est pourquoi il nous paraît nécessaire de poursuivre parallèlement une formation permanente de toute la population, surtout en ce qui concerne les modalités de conservation des produits et le centre de la prévoyance dans la distribution de leurs propres ressources. Il faut faire un effort constant pour que toute initiative de développement revête un caractère social. Dans ce processus de formation sociale permanent, il faut à notre avis accorder une place toute particulière à la formation de la femme qui constitue, dans de nombreux pays, l'agent principal et immédiat de subsistance de la famille. La femme devrait être toujours présente dans les diverses phases des projets de développement agricole, études, élaboration et mise en oeuvre.

Nous partageons pleinement le souci de la FAO de décider et d'élaborer les programmes sur le terrain. Nous voudrions souligner le fait que cette volonté ne peut se limiter à une simple décentralisation bureaucratique de la FAO aux niveaux régional et national. Il faut rechercher la pleine conformité aux besoins, à la culture et à la mentalité de la population. Il est donc nécessaire d'assurer sa participation active à l'élaboration des projets qui la concerne afin d'éviter toute erreur néfaste. En ce sens, bon nombre de nos organisations pensent pouvoir offrir leur expérience vécue dans la réalité même, et contribuer efficacement à créer une habitude de participation de la population. Pour réaliser ces objectifs concrets que sont la formation de la population et sa participation, nous voudrions soumettre encore à Messieurs les délégués ici présents deux requêtes supplémentaires:

- la préparation et la diffusion de textes élémentaires simples, destinés à la formation professionnelle des paysans, pêcheurs, et petits artisans;
- l'utilisation et la divulgations des moyens et techniques de production adaptés aux possibilités de la population et aux ressources humaines présentes sur place, qui respectent une progression logique et utilisent le plus possible la main d'oeuvre disponible.

Nos ONG sont pleinement d'accord avec l'importance à donner à la petite propriété paysanne dont la FAO a fait l'une de ses priorités. Cependant, pour que ce plan soit efficace, nous pensons qu'il faut en même temps donner à la population l'habitude de la coopération pour qu'elle ne se laisse pas écraser par les pressions du commerce international, encourager la production de produits vraiment nécessaires à la subsistance des familles, décourager la publicité pour les choses inutiles et décourager aussi l'installation d'industries sans rapport avec les besoins de la population, afin d'accroître la consommation des produits vraiment nécessaires au mieux-être de la population et au développement agricole.

Un autre point que les ONG considèrent comme très important c'est celui des pertes d'aliments et l'utilisation rationnelle des eaux. Sur ce problème, nos organisations peuvent apporter une contribution en deux directions surtout, par un effort d'animation et de sensibilisation de la population à l'importance de ces deux facteurs, et par un engagement concret dans la formulation et la réalisation des petits projets tels qu'entrepôts, silos, canaux, puits, etc. à la portée des moyens financiers d'une famille ou d'un groupe de familles.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne la lutte contre la malnutrition, nos ONG pensent qu'il faut non seulement compléter le lait en poudre avec la vitamine A, mais aussi et surtout qu'il faut éduquer le goût de la population en lui apprenant à apprécier et à utiliser des aliments indispensables, même s'ils ne sont pas traditionnels, à une croissance physique et psychique harmonieuse. Pour atteindre ces objectifs, il faut miser avant tout sur les jeunes et les enfants.

M. A. K. EL MOKHTAR (Mauritanie) (interprétation de l'arabe): La coopération est sans doute la meilleure voie pour le développement rural, parce que les principaux intéressés sont les agriculteurs, ceux qui exécutent le travail à tous les niveaux et à tous les échelons.

C'est pourquoi si nous voulons réellement réaliser le développement rural intégré, nous devons accorder la première priorité aux agriculteurs et à leurs coopératives. Ces coopératives doivent être encouragées dans tous les domaines: financier, technique, mécanique, etc.

Nous avons entrepris une expérience en ce sens en Mauritanie dans le premier gouvernorat et nous avons créé des coopératives aux divers échelons du village, de la sous-région et du gouvernorat. Nous avons également créé des coopératives de consommation pour éviter l'exploitation des agriculteurs par les commerçants car au moment de l'acquisition l'agriculteur perd souvent de grosses sommes en raison de la commercialisation de son produit.

C'est pourquoi nous devons créer des coopératives de production et des coopératives de consommation qui doivent jouir des grandes priorités dans tous les domaines de l'activité.

Mme M. DEHARENG (Observateur pour la Conférence internationale des syndicats libres): Mon organisation internationale des syndicats libres considère, elle aussi, comme un apport positif le fait que le Secrétariat de la FAO ait tait un rapport à la Conférence sur les relations existant entre la FAO et les Syndicats.

Nous espérons que ce rapport, et ceux qui seront faits à l'avenir, contribueront à faire mieux comprendre le rôle que nos organisations affiliées peuvent jouer et jouent dans le développement rural.

Nous espérons que cette compréhension conduira à une atmosphère plus propice à leurs activités, c'est-à-dire à une participation plus effective des masses rurales au développement lui-même et aux avantages qui en découlent.

Je voudrais faire quelques brefs commentaires sur l'un des sujets qui a été discuté lors de la cinquième consultation Syndicats/FAO, mentionné au paragraphe 40 du document qui est devant nous, c'est-à-dire les possibilités offerts par le Programme de coopération technique.

Au cours de ces discussions, il est apparu que le programme de coopération technique ne présente pas beaucoup d'intérêt, en tout cas à court ou à moyen terme, pour les membres de nos organisations rurales des pays en voie de développement, car les projets recevables sont uniquement ceux qui sont présentés par les gouvernements.

Nous comprenons bien qu'il n'est pas question d'entrer en compétition avec les gouvernements pour les ressources relativement modestes du programme. Cependant, nous pouvons mobiliser des ressources nos négligeables, financières et surtout humaines, pour développer des projets élaborés par les paysans et les travailleurs ruraux eux-mêmes, et qui de ce fait ont des chances de succès certaines, les participants des bénéficiaires étant fortement motivés.

Je pourrai vous en citer quelques exemples: un village coopératif avec un centre de formation pour travailleurs sans terre, la formation professionnelle des jeunes filles rurales, l'électrification d'un village, la construction de maisons rurales, unions de crédit marketing de produits agricoles, stockage et marketing d'épices, programmes de formation pour femmes africaines cultivant le cacao et d'autres produits.

Pour certains de ces projets, nous avons pu obtenir la coopération technique de l'Organisation internationale du travail, la coopération financière du Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population, une certaine coopération de l'UNESCO. Cependant, certains de ces projets auraient eu besoin ou auront besoin d'une coopération technique dans le domaine agricole ou halieutique.

La FAO, toutefois, en dehors de certains projets qui peuvent être plus ou moins adoptés, pour lesquels une coopération peut être obtenue à travers le programme de la Campagne mondiale contre la faim, contrairement aux autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, n'a pas de mécanisme qui lui permette ce genre de coopération directe avec nos Organisations.

Ne serait-il pas possible d'établir un système semblable à celui qui fonctionne au sein de l'UNESCO, par lequel des projets peuvent être soumis par les organisations syndicales internationales ou celles des pays intéressés, et dans lesquels le gouvernement du pays où le projet est mis en oeuvre n'intervient que pour donner son accord final? De cette manière, une coopération concrète pourrait s'établir entre la FAO et les organisations des travailleurs ruraux qui bénéficieraient à ces travailleurs eux-mêmes de manière directe et certaine.

C'est la question que je pose, Monsieur le Président, pour une réflexion future faite par le Secrétariat de la FAO, mais aussi par les gouvernements membres de la FAO.

D.J. WALTON (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): It only remains for me to express the gratitude of the Secretariat to the non-governmental Organizations who have spoken in the course of this brief discussion, and who have expressed their interest in and support for the objectives and programmes of FAO. Some of these statements contain proposals; some of them contain questions; some of them raised problems. We have taken note of these, and we shall of course be giving them very close attention.

I do not wish to comment on specific points, except one, which was raised in the form of a question by the Representative of the International Cooperative Alliance. I believe that the question he raised has in fact already come up in this Commission in the discussion on the Programme of Work and Budget, in a perhaps slightly different but parallel form, and we shall give him the same answer as was given to the Commission at that time.

15.2 Other Questions Arising from the United Nations and Other Specialized Agencies

15.2 Autres questions découlant des débats des Nations Unies et des institutions spécialisées

15.2 Otras cuestiones dimanantes de las Naciones Unidas y otros organismos especializados

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished Delegates, I think that concludes our debate of item 15.3. We should then go on to item, 15.2 -Other questions arising from the United Nations and other Specialized Agencies. Here we have a problem, because the senior officials from FAO who should be here during our debate on this question- especially UNDP -are not here just now and I think it is essential that they be present.

There is a proposal that we could start to consider the Joint Inspection Unit -document C 77/17 and C 77/LIM/37 Rev.1 - the first resolution in that document. If all delegates agree, I think we should utilize the time to start on this item because, as I said, we have difficulty with time this afternoon. Are there any objections? - No.

D.J. WALTON (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): As you have pointed out, Mr. Chairman, there are three separate parts to the documentation for this item. C 77/17 includes a Note by the Director-General, which is Part I, and in that Note the Director-General summarizes the action taken by the FAO Council at its 71st Session. The appendix to that document contains the actual Statute of the Joint Inspection Unit as approved by the General Assembly - The Statute which is, in a formal sense, before the Conference for adoption. The document LIM/37 Rev.1 contains a draft resolution sponsored by the delegation of India which would have the effect of bringing about the adoption of the Statute by the Conference. The Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, the CCLM and Council have all examined with great thoroughness the new Statute of the JIU and the question of its acceptance by FAO. The Director-General is fully in agreement with the recommendation of the Council as submitted in the report of its 31st Session as recorded in paragraph 7 of document C 77/17 that the Conference accept the Statute of the JIU with an interpretative declaration with respect to Article 1 of the Statute

The second sentence in paragraph 2 of this Article states that, and I quote, "the Unit shall be a subsidiary organ of the legislative bodies of the Organization." The Council- accepted the advice of CCLM that our situation does not make it possible for us to consider JIU as a subsidiary organ of the governing bodies of the FAO. However, as you will know, the Council is convinced that the interpretative declaration which it proposes as a means of getting around this little difficulty will in no way affect FAO's relation with JIU or our participation in its work.

I may add that the 5th Committee of the General Assembly was informed last month that some participating organization would have difficulties with this particular Article. No objections were raised about the suggestion by the Secretary-General that these organizations accept the Statute, and at the same time note any reservations which they might have.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): Mr. Chairman concerning the Statute of the Joint Inspection Unit I would like to thank the Secretariat in assisting my delegation in overcoming the difficulties we had earlier with the proposals suggested to the 71st Session of the Council. Our suggestion not to make any reservation but to make an interpretative declaration in connexion with the approval of the Joint Inspection Unit Statute as approved, be accepted and my delegation supports the Draft Resolution sponsored by the delegation of India.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other speakers? That seems not to be the case and I regard our debate on this item as concluded. The Resolution is adopted.

The meeting rose at 11.50 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.50 horas

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/II/PV/16

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

### SIXTEENTH MEETING

SEIZIEME SÉANCE

16ª SESION

(25 November 1977)

The Sixteenth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

J.H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La seizième séance est ouverte à 15 heures sous la présidence de

J.H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 16ª sesión a las 15.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION  
(continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION  
(suite)

PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN  
(continuación)

15. Relations and Consultations with International Organizations (continued)

15. Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales (suite)

15. Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales (continuación)

15.2 Other Questions Arising from the United Nations and Other Specialized Agencies (continued)

15.2 Autres questions découlant des débats des Nations Unies et de"s institutions spécialisées  
(suite)

15.2 Otras cuestiones dimanantes de las Naciones Unidas y otros organismos especializados (  
continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We will now take up item 15.2, other questions arising from the United Nations and Other Specialized Agencies. There are several papers on this. They are, first of all, C 77/25, Other Questions Arising from the United Nations and Other Specialized Agencies; C 77/LIM/37-Rev.1, Resolution on the World Meteorological Organization, and then there is document C 77/INF/15, UNDP Relations, as well as document C 77/LIM/32 Draft Resolution, Reimbursement of UNDP Overhead Costs. You can, if you like, address yourselves to all these matters together.

I would then ask the Assistant Director-General, Mr. Yriart, to introduce this item.

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): Mr. Chairman, I would like to call to your attention that naturally the Report of the 72nd Session of the Council being a later document, this corresponds to the Council Session immediately preceding the Conference. It updates somewhat the information on document C 77/INF/15 and I would like then to call the attention of the distinguished delegates to paragraphs 28–31 of the Report of the Council, the 72nd Session of the Council. I think, Mr. Chairman, that these brief paragraphs really summarize and focus on what the Programme and Finance Committees, and then the Council itself have thought to be at this stage the most important developments, or pending issues in the relations between our Organization and the UNDP. It is from that point of view Mr. Chairman, that I have seen the Draft Resolution circulated as C 77/LIM/32 which takes up the problem focused on by the Council also at paragraph 30, and reflects, I see, the views of the Council, as expressed in paragraph 30 of its report.

With regard to delivery of the UNDP-assisted programme, Mr. Chairman, I would say that the figure we supplied to the Council of \$85 million as total delivery for this year is approximately right. We may reach it, but just reach it. On the other hand over the last 4 to 5 days we notice a little bit of an upswing in delivery, and in terms of both fielding of experts, purchase of equipment, etc. But substantially the situation is very little changed from what is reported by the Council itself.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Mr. Yriart for his introduction and for the new facts, or the additional facts he has presented to us. In fact, my delegation has already stated under another agenda item a number of issues of importance on the relationship between FAO and UNDP, and my Government is not really convinced of the present good cooperation between the Secretariat of FAO and UNDP, and we feel this cooperation is of extreme importance. Also, when FAO is receiving more other extra-budgetary resources it might even be important for activities to be entrusted to FAO in the future by bilateral donors. I would, therefore, urge as well the Director-General of the FAO and the Administrator of UNDP and their collaborators to cooperate in an active and positive way in the interests of development in the recipient countries and on the basis of the famous consensus, and on the resolutions adopted last year and this year by UNDP's Governing Council on new dimensions and on the role and activities of UNDP.

I would like to turn now to the Draft Resolution contained in document C/77/LIM/32 and formally submitted by the delegation of the Philippines. The Governing Council of the UNDP decided to establish a working group on overhead costs and invited the Administrator of UNDP and the heads, I repeat, the heads of the executing agencies or their representatives, to participate actively in the work of the group. In the meantime the present arrangements of reimbursements at 14 percent of project expenditure



will continue for 1978/79. In our feeling, Mr. Chairman, adoption of the Draft Resolution as it now stands means (a) prejudging the results and activities of the working group, (b) giving a value judgement before the results of the working group appear by saying that 14 percent reflects and I quote, "partnership of an equitable burden-sharing between UNDP and the Agencies" (c) that an incorrect statement is made in the sense that a governing council of UNDP did not request, as is implied in operative paragraph 3, the views of the FAO Conference but the view of the Director-General of the FAO, and he is certainly free to do so, (d) to give instructions through this Resolution to our own delegations to UNDP Governing Council sessions. To make it very clear, Mr. Chairman, it is not of importance here and now whether my Government does agree, or does not agree with the present arrangements of reimbursements here. It is only important that the FAO Conference will not prejudge the results in order that we are binding our own delegations, and our own governments hands in the working groups, because we instruct them if we adopt this Resolution. In our delegation's view this Draft Resolution is an excellent example of preventing coordination within national governments, and if this Draft Resolution will be put to the vote my delegation will vote against this Resolution, and will consider adoption as an indication of a negative attitude from FAO to UNDP.

C.J. VALPES (Philippines): Actually all this attention was a bit of a surprise to us particularly the opinion for rejecting the Resolution appearing in C 77/LIM/32 taking the adoption reimbursement of UNDP overhead costs. X would like to invite attention, Mr. Chairman, to the very prayer of the Resolution, the resolutory part summing up all the basis of the Resolution, and I read. The proposed Resolution, Mr. Chairman, merely requests the Director-General to bring the present Resolution to the attention of the working group. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, the Philippine delegation is of the opinion that we are not negating, much less pre-empting or prejudging the work of the working group. We recognize it, it is in the Resolution and, as a matter of fact, we are just putting into words what already appears in the Council Report, Mr. Chairman. We are not saying that 14 percent should be, or should not be, but based on the records now it would appear that we have to at least maintain 14 percent for the purposes of stability and budgetary regularity. The overhead costs have gone beyond that and, as a matter of fact, the figures show that there is an excess of \$8 million over what has been spent in the servicing of these amounts, and I would probably say that we had some informal conferences with those that have made observations on this Resolution and, Mr. Chairman, I would like to invite attention that if we are here as FAO it would be difficult, of course, and we understand, but at the same time we also see the UNDP in some other role and for this if the country position is to object to the Resolution, Mr. Chairman, then probably to avoid acrimony let those that are in favour just go on record, rather than waste the time of this Conference in a lengthy debate that might deteriorate into donor and donee countries. Probably those that are in favour should just submit it in writing, and those that are against it should submit it in writing, and this be left to the Secretariat to collate, because all we are doing is putting into this Resolution what has already been decided. We are not pre-empting, we are not prejudging and we are not negating the existence of the working group. We just want to have our Director-General say that O.K., you can go to the working group; you have the backing of your people, of the member countries in the Conference of FAO. That, in short, is what this Resolution asks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

S.S. MAHDI (India): The issues I am going to speak about now relate to document C 77/25, and I know that my intervention will not be in continuity of what has just been said, but perhaps this is the necessary consequence of lumping together so many subjects and so many documents in one debate. We would have much preferred if we had the debate on UNDP separately, with the other important debate on inter-agency matters separately.

With these preliminary observations, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express the appreciation of our delegation of the document C 77/25 dealing with relations and consultations with international organizations. We feel that this is a definite improvement on the documents which have been presented in earlier years, and this response to the request which has been made from this floor, especially from my delegation in previous years, that the programme running bodies should get a little more information on important happenings in the UN system, so that we could continue to feel that we are a part of the system and we are not working in isolation. Mr. Chairman, a number of topics have been discussed in this report and, therefore, my attempt will not be to touch on every point. I will confine my comments to six or seven items which are mentioned here, and I can assure you that these comments will be very brief.

With regard to the development objectives of the UN system, starting from paragraph 4, we support the collaboration of FAO with the United Nations and other agencies, in this current exercise. We feel this is useful to relate agriculture to other sectors, and in any case agriculture being a major sector

it should be taken into account in any system launched by the UN organizations. We would, however, like to know a little more from the Secretariat about the results of the working group which is mentioned in the report, and which met in October 1977.

On the next item, which deals with rural development, we note with satisfaction the expiry of ILO's term as the lead agency for intelligence exercise on rural development; FAO has finally decided to take its due place as the lead agency for the coming years. This is particularly important, because of the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. However, we cannot but express our concern that the progress in terms of concrete achievement through this group has been very slow, and we hope that the Intelligence Exercise will assume a more down-to-earth approach and steer clear as much as possible of academic refinements.

As for the coordination of Regular Programme activities in the area of rural development, which is sought to be achieved through this Intelligence Group, we agree with FAO's general approach in paragraph 10 of the document. Such harmonization will yield better results if it is done in clearly defined areas rather than on an across-the-board basis.

We hope that the report which is intended to be made to ECOSOC in December 1978 will be made available for the information of FAO Governing Bodies as well.

With regard to the institutional arrangements relating to nutrition, we again note with satisfaction that the review of the arrangements mandated by the resolutions of the World Food Conference has, after long negotiations, been carried out, and we hope that the new arrangements will prove better than previous ones and will lead to more tangible action in the United Nations system, including FAO.

With reference to paragraph 13 of the document, which deals with the informal tripartite meeting, we would like to particularly underline invitations to the representative institutions active in nutrition from developing countries. They should be invited to the meetings and their experience could be drawn upon.

With regard to paragraph 16 of the same document, dealing with the work programme of the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition, while agreeing with the items included in the previous sessions of the Committee, we would like to know more as to how these evaluations, methodologies, and harmonization of approaches had led to better forecasts and action-oriented programmes, and in particular, how they have assisted the countries in their nutrition-related activities.

We find there is a very brief report on the Paris conference, and we commend the discreetly active role which FAO plays in the deliberations of this conference. In this connexion, we would like to request the Secretariat to provide the latest information if possible on the results of the discussion in the 22nd Session of the General Assembly.

As regards the last portion of paragraph 20 of this document concerning the establishment of an FAO Seed Industry Development Programme of at least \$20 million, we hope to come back to the subject at the appropriate time when we consider the Resolution in this regard.

Again on another subject - and I am sorry that the various subjects are so disparate, because we cannot help it: these are different subjects, and on each of them many delegates would wish to comment; with regard to the United Nations Water Conference, we recommend the active and substantive participation of FAO in the deliberations of the Conference. This is fitting, in our view, because after all agriculture is a major user of water. We would wish that at a future session of the Council, an analysis of the recommendations of the Water Conference insofar as they have a bearing on the work of this Organization, should be presented. We will of course have an opportunity to return to this subject in future sessions of the Council. We however take note that this is a general conference on subjects like water. Unless the need to mobilize additional resources is particularly emphasized, the results will not be as useful as many developing countries would like them to be.

We find a very brief, concise and useful report in this document on FAO's relations with UNIDO. We are satisfied with this more active relationship in fields of common or complementary interests, and we hope that this collaboration will continue at the working, and especially the field, level; and that developments in this regard will be kept under continuous monitoring by the Director-General.

There are at least half a dozen items which are described in the report. It is difficult to comment on each of them, but I think for the purposes of the report we must do so. Therefore, though not commenting on all the other items, I would like to comment on a few more and then come to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology. Here I would like to draw your attention to paragraph 67, and I would also like to reiterate that the preparatory period for the Conference and the Conference itself should be aimed at development of the scientific and technological capacity of developing countries.

On decolonization we would like to take note of the action indicated in paragraphs 72 to 77, and in this connexion we are very happy to note that paragraph 74 has been overtaken by events and the Council for Namibia is already a full member of this Organization.

On the question of Apartheid, we know that FAO, in a very limited way - because its mandate is very different - has tried to play at least some role.

Again, in paragraph 77, we note that FAO is providing some assistance to liberation movements, and we will watch with interest the results of FAO's assistance in this regard.

Coming to another document which deals with UNDP and about which we have just heard two interventions: the position of our delegation is that stability is essential for the planning of FAO work, and any move which contributes to that stabilization is most welcomed by our delegation.

A.Z.M.O. KHAN (Bangladesh): I shall also confine myself to only two aspects of the report C 77/25, but before that I would like to make a brief remark on the question of the overhead, which has come up earlier.

The Council Report says that it had to incur in 1974/75 a sum of \$8.2 million over the regular budget for supporting the food programme, and that if the whole thing were to be supported it might go up to something about \$48.8 million. Without prejudging, preempting or negating any of their work that the Working Group would do to minimize the expenditure, I would say that if it goes beyond 14 percent, perhaps the Programme of Work and Budget which we have taken up is all totally thrown out of the window -and if you want to throw it totally out of the window, then this exercise has been an exercise in futility. I hope the members would not consider their work so far as futile. That is all I would like to say from our Government point of view.

We would like to have stability and stability can only be achieved if the present level at least is not lowered, remembering the inflation that we have at the moment.

The second point is the report of Rural Development. I am quite intrigued by this report, because it really does not tell me much of anything.

Firstly, there is a comment that the Agencies have accepted what is called or termed "the poverty-oriented rural development approach". Is it true that all Agencies have taken up a common approach? -That was one of the recommendations, as far as I can remember, since I was involved in writing the report myself.

Secondly, there is another mechanization that each Agency will screen its projects in terms of poverty-orientation. Has this been done? If it has not been done, and if the common approach has not been taken up, how can they plan together? We can only do that if there is one single objective.

Thirdly, in paragraph 9, which is very interesting, some progress has been made in carrying out the recommendation to help national governments in building up a rural development programme, and that the missions tried to develop policies and programmes on an inter-sectorial basis. We say that "poverty-orientation" does not mean "developed policies and programmes on an inter-sectorial basis", but a policy and programme which will move the majority of the rural poor into the main stream of development. It is not the integration of various sectors - it is the integration of those who are by-passed into the economy. A similar contradiction can be found when one looks at the paper on Medium-term Objectives of FAO which has been presented to the Conference. That paper refers only to technology and production programmes and has no reference to how the rural poor can be integrated into the production programme which one is talking about.

It was very gratifying that FAO is taking the lead in holding the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development - but again, if one looks at the medium-term objectives paper, the contradiction comes out. There, the question of agrarian reform would appear to be a very minor question in rural development, whereas I feel that that possibly in many countries is a major constraint to integrate the rural poor into development.

Finally, as far as the question of common monitoring criteria and an information repository system is concerned, we are glad that some progress has been made. We would like more details of it, because we would like to know whether the same criteria are being used. I say this because, when the various missions come to my country and hold discussions with me, each of them still have a different criterion for screening or appraising projects, and we are at a loss to know whether the task force as set up has a common monitoring or a common appraisal criterion as far as possible in terms of agriculture.

As far as I know, again, in agricultural projects no criteria have been developed. What we have done is just transfer the criteria developed for the industrial projects by Dr. Sen, and little is being transferred and adapted for the purpose of monitoring rural development projects. I do not believe this should be right.

On relations with UNIDO, again I think this is a most gratifying report because I think, in late 1975 or early 1976, when I wrote to UNIDO about rural development and industrial relations, the answer was that UNIDO had nothing to do with it because industry for rural development means small and rural industries only. It is gratifying that FAO is collaborating with them now, because only then will they understand that it is not a question of small industries - it is question of industry supporting the countryside, or industry supporting agriculture. It is a question of the basic policy of industrialization, of where to locate industries, rather than cottage or small industries - which are really terms for short-changing the rural areas.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): As the delegate of India said, we have on our plate an accumulation of work - a Swedish smorgasbord. There is much there, and it is difficult to decide what to tackle first; what you can digest and what you cannot digest.

I would say that the document reporting "Relations and Consultations with International Agencies" is very well put together, is well written, is very useful and it's the kind of document you can use at home to answer questions and I think it is one of those documents we should continue.

There is one special part on which I would like to have a little more detail, if not this time I think it would perhaps make more sense in the November Session of the 1978 Council, and that deals with paragraph 46 on page 9 of the English copy relating to UNEP. It says "FAO is prepared to cooperate with UNEP in the implementation of the Plan of Action", etc. I think what we would like to have is more of a report on the actual kind of cooperation. Maybe it should not be done in this report but I am using this paragraph as a vehicle for asking for more information on the nature of the cooperation between the UNEP and FAO, the sharing of projects and various activities, and we would be very grateful if the Director-General could provide us with a short report at the next Session of the Council indicating the nature of the cooperation between the two agencies. In respect to the paper on the UNDP, we are also very pleased to have the additional statistical material, we are also glad to note the tone of optimism coming in and an increase in the flow of resources into FAO from UNEP, and also the flow of delivery projects out of FAO in completion of activities and fulfilling of commitments: being made.

We would like to come now to the question raised by several other delegations and that is the Resolution. If you have a resolution you are supposed to discuss it. The delegate of the Philippines said he hoped there would not be much of a discussion because he could not take up too much time, and I fully agree with him. If he withdraws the resolution there would be no need for discussion. But if he does not there is going to be some need for discussion.

Mr. Chairman, I went back to the material again provided by the Director-General and I looked at the document which provided us with the information on the resolution, the document C 77/INF/15 on UNDP Relations. I looked at Appendix A and that is the Resolution establishing this Working Group we are talking about now, and I read this to see if there was any need for the kind of Resolution which is in effect telling another Agency how they should suck their eggs in a sense, and I looked at paragraph (a), and it said - that is the third paragraph, subparagraph (a), "Decided to establish an intergovernmental Working Group on Overhead Costs, open to participation by all members of the Council as well as the observers, at no additional cost to the "

FAO budget of the UNDP; Invited the Administrator of UNDP and the heads of the Executing Agencies or their representatives to participate actively" - and I emphasize "actively" - "actively in the work of the group ".

In paragraph (b) again there is a reiteration which says, "Invited the United Nations Board of Auditors, the ACABQ, and the Joint Inspection Unit, the Administrator and Executing Agencies to submit through the Administrator of UNDP to the President of the Governing Council for submission to the Working Group an expression of their views on the question of overhead including inter alia a clearer definition of the term "overheads" and the cost elements involved as a starting basis for the work of the group ".

I then got worried about the instability concept, and I think there is very much justification. There is nothing more worrying than trying to work for an organization when you are not sure of knowing what funds you are going to have from year to year, and in the UNDP financed activities there is a need for continuity.

So I looked at the next page under (f) at page A2 of the document C 77/INF/15 and it reads, - because one must try to understand the motivation behind the resolution before we express our views on this subject, - and it says, “Decided that, in the meantime, the present arrangements for reimbursement at 14 percent of project expenditures, together with the existing flexibility arrangements for the smaller agencies will continue for the year 1978/79 and, if after this period no final decision is taken on the basis of recommendations of the Working Group, the present percentage shall be reviewed; further decided that cases of particular hardship due primarily to currency exchange fluctuation and heavy programme reduction shall be dealt with on an ad hoc basis.” I thought this was a pretty fair expression of trying to cover up against insecurity but obviously the mover of the Resolution, the delegation of Philippines was not convinced, so at this point we felt we had to express the views of our delegation. As you know Canada is a member of the UNDP Governing Council and has participated actively in the arrangements for the establishment of an Inter-Governmental Working Group to study the question of agency costs reimbursement methods and levels. We consider that the FAO, as the largest executing agency for UNDP financed projects, has a vital interest in the work of this group, and has in particular an important obligation to participate constructively in the work of the group to ensure that a solution to all interested parties is reached to the maximum possible extent.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, my delegation cannot accept the resolutions presented in C 77/LIM/32 and will have to vote against it should it be put to the vote. By recommending the adoption of a 14 percent reimbursement rate for the next three biennia, which is six years, the resolution pre-judges the FAO's position on both the methods and level of overhead cost reimbursement. By requesting the Director-General to base the FAO's position on this Draft Resolution, my delegation would be asking the Director-General to close his mind to new approaches to this question which could ultimately prove more beneficial for the FAO in particular and the United Nations development system in general. At the same time, such a request to the Director-General would not be consistent with the position my Government will be taking in the working group, that is to say that all participants, while protecting their legitimate interests, should take an open and constructive approach to the entire subject of agency cost reimbursement.

Mr. Chairman, there has been a relationship with the FAO and UNDP going back to about 1951, before it was called UNDP, and the UNDP has in effect been the main source of extra-budgetary resources. I believe that the Departments of Fisheries and Forestry have more resources through the UNDP than they have from the direct budgetary assessment. I think a resolution of this nature puts the situation in the wrong perspective. It is saying “We don't really trust you guys in UNDP, and therefore our Governing Council is going to tell you how we want to operate.”

My Government is on the Governing Board of UNDP. We have taken a certain decision and require an open approach. We cannot be consistent as a government and say here you cannot take an open approach in the FAO and therefore we are being asked to become a split personality. I think schizophrenia is a bad thing, whether as an agency or an individual, and therefore we would be very grateful Mr. Chairman if the delegation of the Philippines could withdraw this resolution rather than force this exercise to a vote, because it does tend to separate the members in this Conference and there is no need for it.

Mr. Chairman if members want in the record as a resolution, as a report of the Conference, that some delegations, many delegations or a few delegations express the following view, and other delegates have a different view, we have no problems with that because that is a fair procedure, but under this resolution, Mr. Chairman we have no choice and we will have to vote against the resolution as it stands.

D.M. ULNES (Norway): I am going to refer to document C 77/INF/15 dealing with UNDP. On this agenda item I would like to say a few words of a principle nature as well as to comment upon the Draft Resolution which has been tabled on the reimbursement of overhead costs. My delegation have noted with great appreciation that the Director-General on several occasions has expressed that there is a close and good relationship between FAO and UNDP as recently echoed by the UNDP representative in his statement to the Plenary last week.

Now turning to the role and activities of UNDP in its relationship with the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, as my government sees it one should note that in the decision on the role of activities of UNDP which were based during the 24th Session of the Governing Council of the programme last summer, one of the paragraphs appeals to the government to bear in mind the need for coherence for the United Nations development system in their participation in the Specialized Agencies, including also their governing bodies. My government attaches great importance to this aspect of coherence as the policies of various bodies of the system in the last instance must be determined by the members of their governing bodies.

For our part we try to adopt as coherent a stand as possible. We firmly believe that this is a prerequisite for supplying all parts of the system with coherent policy directives.

Let me also in this forum repeat, in a few words, our view in principle on the basis of the United Nations development system. We see the UNDP as the central and the principal body for the financing of a multilateral technical assistance within the United Nations system as well as for coordinating the delivery of assistance. Furthermore the consensus decision of 1970 should be the guiding principle as far as the overall of planning and implementation of assistance is concerned. In this picture we would also stress the role of the specialized agencies. They all have important parts to play each in their particular field. The attainment of partnership within the system is a common used term for an ideal cooperation among all these various links. We should remember that they are all essential for the final objective, the rendering of optimal technical assistance to the needy countries of the world. In this regard, it is the view of my Government that we have noted with great satisfaction that the Director-General, in his introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget, in paragraph 45, states that he has done all he can do, and will continue to do all he can to ensure that UNDP/FAO relationships are particularly close in the field.

The debate on the role and activities of the UNDP, which was initiated at the 24th Session of the Governing Council, has, of course, great significance for the entire United Nations system. Its importance stems first and foremost from the fact that it is a recognition of the comprehensive, unified approach to development that has been gathering force in recent years, involving a drive for major reconstruction of the world economy. Thus, sectorial objectives and policies, to a larger extent than before, must be judged in the light of global concern and strategies.

Because of this complex international setting, the necessity of constantly improved coordination between the participants in the United Nations system is obvious, in order to make the operational activities as effective as possible.

In the UNDP debate on the Programme's role and activities, my Government underlined the importance of paragraph 9 in the Consensus, which reads:

"In the process of country programming, efforts should be made at all levels to coordinate all sources of assistance in the United Nations system with a view to achieving integration of the assistance at country level."

No doubt coordination of technical cooperation is most crucial at the country level.

In our view, it should encompass all sources of technical assistance within the United Nations system, and as far as possible other sources of technical assistance outside the United Nations system.

In the coordinating process, the role of the UNDP resident representative is crucial, and we would like to see the provision of paragraph 63 of the Consensus being implemented to the extent possible. We would especially emphasize the role of the resident representative as the central coordinating authority on behalf of all the United Nations organs for their programmes of technical cooperation at the country level.

On the matter of resources, my Government stated in the UNDP session that we would support all efforts with a view to minimizing the uncertainty connected with voluntary contributions, and with the proliferation of funds. As examples of such efforts, we pointed to the need for a more rational understanding, a multi-year planning system, regulations concerning cost-sharing arrangements, and possible undertaking by Member Governments to reverse the relative shift away from UNDP funding on multilateral technical assistance.

Norway is strongly of the opinion that UNDP should continue to be the primary channel within the United Nations system for the financing of technical assistance. On the other hand, it is perhaps unrealistic to expect drastic changes in the present system, which is characterized by limited resources and by other funding channels besides the UNDP. For this reason, we have supported the efforts to improve the substance of the UNDP programmes.

Now, turning to the question of overhead cost reimbursement, as raised separately in document C 77/INF/15, indeed, I agree that it is an important subject. My Government wholeheartedly supported the decision at the 24th UNDP Session of setting up an interstate working group to study the entire subject without prejudice to the final solution. We still think this is the only appropriate approach at this time. We would therefore strongly advise FAO to cooperate fully in the proceedings of this working group.

It is in this light that my delegation fully shares the opinion expressed by the Netherlands and Canada, and would like to state, for our part, as well, that we cannot agree with the proposed Draft Resolution as it appears in C 77/LIM/32. We would find it particularly regrettable if the Conference were to adopt a resolution which recommends that the present arrangements are to be maintained for at least the next three biennia, and in this way would give the impression that FAO oversees and even seeks to prejudge the work that this working group was established to look at.

We are of the opinion that an adoption of this kind will have serious consequences on the efforts being made to increase greater cohesion and coordination of the United Nations system.

In conclusion, on this particular point, I must say that if the Resolution is taken to a vote, my delegation would have to vote against it.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): You ordered me to confine myself only to UNDP, in the earlier statement this afternoon. Since other delegations have endeavoured to combine the two -indeed separate-subjects, I would like to thank you for giving me the floor again before I go to the Drafting Committee,

However, one more remark on UNDP in connection with an aspect raised by the distinguished delegate of the Philippines. He said, if I understood him well, that it is a simple input from FAO to the Working Group. In our opinion this could be if no prejudging statements are made like the fact that the present statement reflects partnership and an equitable burden sharing. This is particularly one of the subjects to be discussed in the working group.

Speaking now on coordination with the UN system means that I shall miss the unusually interesting introductory statement of Mr. Walton.

I think that the Netherlands attitude towards coordination within the United Nations system is well known and on many subjects we have, during discussion here at the Conference, and especially at the First Session of the Council, made our ideas public. Now, we have received a good account on many substantive activities of importance for FAO before us in document C 77/25.

My delegation welcomes strongly FAO's activities to contribute to a new development strategy, especially through the project "Agriculture: Towards 2000". It is my government's hope that the Working Group of the Committee for Development Planning and the Inter-Agency Task Force can and will do useful work. On rural development, my delegation has spoken already in connection with the forthcoming World Conference.

With regard to the United Nations Water Conference, I would like to recall that my delegation has always favoured the establishment of an Inter-Agency Water Board under ACC. It welcomes the statement that FAO participates fully in the preparation for the Special Session of the Committee on Natural Resources, which, by the way, we hope will be changed into a subject-oriented session of the Economic and Social Council. My delegation would like to be informed on the present situation with regard to the follow-up within FAO of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, and especially on the resolution annexed as Appendix A to Document C 77/25.

Like other delegations I shall not go into the details of all subjects dealt with in the document. This does not mean that we do not consider the other questions important, on the contrary. For example, the consequences of the Desertification Conference and the improving relations between FAO and UNIDO are considered by my delegation as essential. We hope that real coordination on matters of substance between the different organizations will be improving, which is certainly necessary, either in the present structure or after the restructured system.

My delegation welcomes the present collaboration with WMO and is in full agreement with the draft resolution submitted to us in C 77/LIM/37-Rev.1, proposed by the delegation of Saudi Arabia.

R.W.M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): My instructions are to stress the coherence of the UN system to the maximum. Since this follows so closely the eloquent argument just developed by the delegate from Norway, I see no point in developing the details of it.

Our position is that the fundamental principle is the coherence of the UN system, and we would like just to stress that that is our position, and we shall reserve our support of the resolution.

H.A. ISMET HAKIM (Indonesia): My delegation would also like to give its views concerning this important point, that is agency overhead costs.

I think we have discussed this matter during the 71st Session of the Council, and also during the 72nd Session of the Council, before the Conference started. But anyhow I would like to give a brief review of the situation on which we are being informed by the Secretariat.

We note here that the 14 percent effective sharing cost is applicable up to the end of 1977, but then the Governing Council, in its resolution which we have before us, is extending this until 1978 and 1979.

We also noted that the decision by the UNDP Governing Council in 1975 was the result of many years of consideration, and negotiations on the basis of cost measurement studies, especially adapted to the needs of FAO, and FAO has before it considerable time and effort.

We have been informed, and are convinced that this reimbursement system is needed in assuring stability in FAO planning for the most effective use of all its resources.

On the total FAO field programme support, as we have been informed in the Secretariat document on UNDP relations, the total cost in 1974/75 is \$48.8 million.

And we also say here that the subsidy from the regular programme to the field programme amounts to 8.2 million and that a subsidy of the same amount will most likely occur in 1976-77. I would like to draw your attention to the Report UNDP Relationships in paragraph 2, in which the Administrator reported to the Governing Council in June 1977 about the four methods of cutting overhead costs, but which specifically mentioned the two main alternatives, that is, one either retaining the present system or including the full overhead cost provision in the regular budgets of the agencies so we have these two main alternatives before us.

Now, let us look at what happened if the second was agreed upon. That means that the full overhead cost provision will be from the regular budgets of the agencies. This means if we take the same amount, 48.8 million will be taken from our Programme of Work and Budget of the 211 million if we agree on that. I hope we agree on that. It means already that 25 percent of the Regular Programme budget will be used for the agency overhead cost. We are fighting here that the budgets are used solely for the implementation of the Programme that we have all agreed to. We do not want the budgets that we agreed to be used for other proposals than we have already established. This is a very big implication. I think this is the reasoning behind why the Philippines proposed this Draft Resolution.

Now, concerning the prejudging of the issues and so on that was mentioned by the Netherlands and others, I would like to stress again here, that we, as the Conference, are the supreme body of this Organization, so it is within our right if we also give our views and if we can give guidance to the executive heads of the Organization. We understand that the UNDP Resolution invites the heads of the executive agencies or their representatives to actively participate in the Working Group. Now, we as Member Countries here and as the Conference as a supreme body have the right to give guidance to its executive head on what to do. You remember when we were discussing the relationships agreement with UNDP and the World Food Council that the FAO Council and the Conference also give guidance to its executive heads on what matter we are dealing with, when we are going to discuss the relationships with the other agencies, so this is also the same case. If we are going to discuss this matter with UNDP. Why not? Why worry as if we are giving instructions to our same delegation. If we have the same delegation and if the same delegation comes from the same country, they should have the same instructions. In this view, we think that it is not prejudging the issues before us, because as the Philippines has already mentioned, this Resolution merely requests the Director-General to bring the present Resolution to the attention of the Working Group of the FAO, of the Organization concerning this matter. So it does mean that the Working Group should adopt this Resolution or this position. It is only to bring to their attention what is the view of the Member Countries in the FAO Conference.

At the end, we would like also to draw the attention of those delegates that this is a Draft Resolution, and we are going to have a dialogue here in the Commission. It does not mean that we all agree or reject the Resolution. I think in the spirit of cooperation and understanding we should have a dialogue among us here so that we can come to a consensus, so I fully regret that many delegates from the beginning have said that they reject this Resolution. I say it is not a spirit of cooperation, of working together among all Member Countries, so in this spirit, we invite the other delegations and who later may have spoken again to consider their decision.



DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I have been informed of the debate which has taken place on this important issue and I consider it my duty to be with you this afternoon, in order to participate fully in this discussion.

I sincerely hope, as the distinguished delegate of Indonesia has stated, that the spirit of conciliation for which I appealed in my address to the Conference will continue to prevail. I have spent many hours in my office meeting Contact Groups, in order to settle very difficult problems regarding the transfer of \$10 million from the Suspense Account to the new fund for the Prevention of Post Harvest Food Losses. Through this dialogue, and in a spirit of conciliation, we have found solutions acceptable to all parties. Nobody rejected anything a priori and the aim of our discussions was to reach a compromise. The same applies to the transfer of \$5 million from the Suspense Account to a new budgetary reserve account. Heated exchanges, however, would not help us to do so, and I should regret any confrontation.

What I need is the advice of the Conference on this matter. I would be surprised to hear that it is not willing to grant it to me. This is a meeting of our supreme body on an important issue, and I need its advice.

Some delegates do not agree to a reimbursement rate of 14 percent; does this mean that they would like to see our budget increased by \$40 million? From where would such funds come? I repeat that I need the instructions of the Conference, no matter whether in the form of a resolution or in any other. I shall follow them when called upon to defend the point of view of this Organization.

The matter is very important. No other specialized agency would be as severely affected as FAO; this subject has already been discussed on so many occasions and my colleagues and I have participated in so many meetings! Even Secretary-General Waldheim himself said to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly that the figure of 14 percent should be retained, at least for two further biennia. I think the nearest to us is the UN, with 15 percent, followed by others, Unesco, etc., some of them with very minimal shares of 4 percent and less. This is why we have to take this matter very seriously. It is not prejudging the issue at all to tell the Director-General that he has to defend this point of view, and no one ought to be shocked if we, as a separate entity, draw the attention of the UNDP Working Group to our position.

Many delegates will very well remember that, in July 1976, the FAO Council was confronted with a resolution of the UNDP Governing Council, transmitted by cable, which almost amounted to applying pressure on the Council not to support the Technical Cooperation Programme. Although this was not well received by some members of our Council, I must acknowledge that it was the prerogative of the UNDP Governing Council to send their recommendation to our governing body, even when it was in the process of discussing that very subject.

I do not mean to say that everyone should approve the proposed resolution, or report section, but I must stress the importance of the matter. I do not believe, Mr. Chairman, that, even if the question is not going to be settled by consensus, there is a single delegate who would wish FAO's Programme of Work and Budget to be put in jeopardy by the decisions of an external body. We have a very small voice in that working group. Without clear-cut instructions from this Conference, it would be very difficult for us to defend our case before this Group. The ACABQ has acknowledged that this is not, in fact, a technical matter but a political issue, since one can always argue that it should be 14, or 13, or some other percentage. I appreciate the fact that delegates may also defend this Organization in other fora, since, as the distinguished delegate of Canada said, they should speak with the same voice. However, it would not amount to prejudging the issue to instruct me to defend a particular position. I shall need your instructions. If I go to the Working Group without them, I shall be weak; if I have them, I shall be strong. I shall be able to say what my Governing Body is asking me to say.

You may find it necessary, also, in the event of a difficult discussion, to ask the Contact Group, which has successfully solved other problems, to come and review the matter with the Secretariat. I shall make myself available and, with my colleagues, shall be ready to search for a formula acceptable to all. I cannot believe, however, that anyone will ever suggest that we should slash our budget by 10 or 15 million dollars, if not more!

There is a need for us to help by going through the text with representatives of the two groups who are in favour or against the resolution. We, in the Secretariat, are ready to do so, in that spirit of conciliation and cooperation so rightly advocated by the distinguished delegate of Indonesia.

T. GLASER (Suisse) (interprétation de l'allemand): Je voudrais dire quelques mots sur la résolution concernant le remboursement des frais généraux par le PNUD.

Mon avis rejoint celui qui a été présenté par le délégué des Pays-Bas ainsi que par d'autres orateurs qui m'ont précédé. Mon gouvernement s'expliquera sur ce point au PNUD et tiendra compte dans sa déclaration des intérêts de la FAO.

Pour ce qui est de la résolution, je trouve que cette façon de procéder n'est pas très heureuse. Le Directeur général de la FAO se voit prié de prendre une part active au groupe de travail du Conseil d'administration du PNUD. Je pense que les intérêts de la FAO seraient mieux représentés d'une autre manière, car une telle résolution aurait pour résultat de limiter sa liberté d'action. On obtiendrait le résultat contraire de celui que nous voulons. Pour cette raison, je pense que cette résolution n'est pas nécessaire.

Le Directeur général doit, à notre sens, avoir pleine liberté d'action pour ce qui est de sa participation au groupe de travail, de façon à pouvoir défendre au mieux les intérêts de la FAO.

Je ne suis pas d'accord avec le Directeur général lorsqu'il dit que sa position est faible au sein de ce groupe de travail. Au contraire, en ce qui me concerne, je fais confiance à sa capacité bien connue de négociateur.

Quant à la possibilité que le groupe de contact s'occupe de cette question, cela me semble une bonne idée.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Perhaps I should start my intervention by saying that in Brazil we are very happy with the kind of cooperation that along the years has developed among the different units of the UN system. So I must say that sometimes when I hear some of the discussions I feel a certain confusion in the sense that fortunately we have not witnessed, thus far at least, any problem beyond the normal questions which are perfectly understandable, which arise in the normal process of cooperation amongst agencies which operate in the field normally have to find accommodation here and there from time to time when projects are complementary, for instance, or when they are jointly operating in the support of a single project.

I would now comment on the question of the 14 percent. As many speakers before me have mentioned this is a very old story, as old as the discussions go on overhead costs. And, in fact, as old as UNDP. There are, however, a few facts which are important to recall here. The first is what is the actual situation? Is this 14 percent an exaggeration? Is it a reasonable assessment, under or above reality? We feel that at present it is clear that the 14 percent, at least as far as FAO is concerned, and I stress that, as far as FAO is concerned, the 14 percent is under the actual costs. I must say I am very grateful to the delegation of the Philippines for putting before us a very comprehensive text which spells a number of contexts which, I think, have been misunderstood. To some extent the text suggested to us by the Philippines, for instance, points out very clearly the kind of subsidization FAO has been obliged to provide in order to sustain the field programmes at the present level. That is already a clear indication, if there is something wrong with the 14 percent as far as FAO is concerned, and I underline that, that probably the 14 percent is not enough, that is one observation.

The second observation, Sir, and I think it is reasonable to try to look a little into the future, what is going to happen in the future? By the analysis we made the other day from the field programmes and the comments of delegates here on what they expect from FAO, it is quite clear on one point there are different trends, but one point is clear, that increasingly it will be requested from FAO to deliver a more complex programme. That means more sophisticated technological transfer. That means, finally, increased costs of overhead. How much more complex is the kind of technology you are trying to transfer; obviously the overhead costs become more important. So not only do we have now a situation in which

regular programmes subsidize field programmes, including UNDP, therefore, but also the fact that the trends might be just in the direction of greater costs. For instance there was quite a discussion a couple of years ago on what kind of overhead should be paid WIPO, World Intellectual Property Organization, a prototype of the highly sophisticated transfer of technology. There was agreement that definitely the 14 percent WIPO could not live with, simply because the kind of assistance they were giving required more overhead. There was no way out of that. Those are realities. There are other realities also we must take into account, and again the text presented to us by the Philippines delegation is very clear. It points out a very interesting development, that is the fact that out of extra-budgetary expenditure incurred by FAO, UNDP has now proportionally a smaller share. That means that what we are, in fact, speaking about is also not only the support of the UNDP delivered programme but of programmes of a different nature parallel to UNDP, and entrusted in the hands of FAO. Therefore, in fact, if we insist on keeping down the level of overheads, what we will be doing in reality is charging against the regular programme paid by all of us costs which, in fact, by the philosophy of the donors, should be paid by them voluntarily. It is, that in actual fact, from the smallest contribution to the budget to the highest contribution to the budget, all of us will be financing that kind of programme. I would say, Sir, that is not quite compatible with the philosophy of voluntary contributions which donor countries, the major donor countries so much insist upon. I make this point because it has been a kind of attack on the 14 percent without any reason and I have tried at least on our side to give arguments why the 14 percent is there. It is not now, the question is then the following: We have a working group of UNDP Governing Council to meet, and should we instruct the Executive Head of the Organization to give a clear point of view to the Organization, yes or no. The point of view on which I insist must reflect the peculiarities of FAO, peculiarities in terms of the volume of the assistance of UNDP channelled through FAO. The volume of extra-budgetary resources, programmes financed by extra-budgetary resources in FAO: peculiarities of the FAO programme in the substance and its trends in the future? Should we be shy or not in telling the Executive Director what he should do. Should we take into account the specific condition of FAO. Now my delegation once said that I could only say that we fully support - in fact we are grateful for the Philippines delegation for presenting us with a clear text - I would not at the same time be against a suggestion by the Director-General we move to a dialogue we are here discussing, as I have tried to bring out the arguments. Unfortunately I have not heard the arguments why the 14 percent are not adequate, but we are prepared to follow the suggestion of the Executive Director to try to find a common and an agreeable solution to all members of the Organization. At the same time, Mr. Chairman, if we accept that we also want to make it quite clear we cannot allude some basic facts, and we will be doing a disservice to this Organization if at this stage we will be budgeting its regular budget. We have already difficulty to have approved a certain level of the budget, and it was with quite a considerable effort we finally reached agreement on the regular budget. As the delegate of Bangladesh indicated if we put in question the 14 percent what will be the result; how will the programme in the next biennium be implemented? What will be the effect on it? These are very serious considerations. I must say my delegation, while approving the budget level, and considering it adequate in spite of its constraints, it did so in the belief that the system of 14 percent will be kept, therefore, if there is any prospect of change, then, Mr. Chairman, we have to re-think a number of other things. Therefore, I very much hope it will be possible to have agreement on this in terms of a clear direction provided to the Executive Head of the Organization when dealing with this matter with the UNDP and its working group.

C. WILL (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): Before I come to the main point, that is to say the Resolution on the reimbursement of overhead costs, I would like to give my full support to what was said in particular by my colleague from Norway with regard to the coherence of the UN system, the consensus and the special role of UNDP in multilateral technical assistance.

With regard to the a.m. Resolution my delegation also is one of those, which believe that the procedure which is being used here, is a somewhat unfortunate one. My delegation cannot agree to such a Resolution. We will reject it, and I would like to explain to you why. What we are concerned with here, Mr. Director-General, is not the question of whether 14, 15 or 13 percent overhead costs are going to be reimbursed. This is a question which is going to be solved by a body which had been authorized to do so - with your help, Mr. Director-General, and the support of delegations which share your point of view. It is the concern of the German delegation that governments should speak with one single voice in the meetings of the different specialized agencies and the text of this Resolution certainly does not invite them to do so.

In June 1977 my delegation to the Governing Council of UNDP was in agreement with practically all other delegations represented here in desiring the setting up of a special working group to deal with the reimbursement of overhead costs. Document C 77/LIM/15, paragraph 7, describes precisely what the task of this working group will be. According to that all members of UNDP and all observers will have an opportunity of participating in the work of this group. The executing agencies, however, and this includes FAO, have even been invited to participate actively in the work of the working group and by this the Director-General of FAO has the opportunity of explaining the opinions of FAO and members of the FAO Conference and Council. Herewith has the Director-General the opportunity to have these views included in the June report of the working group. We, as well as other delegations, are not of the opinion that the Conference need to adopt a resolution on this matter. We believe, on the other hand, that the report of the Conference is the proper place for an explanation of the reasons which many delegations have for maintaining the 14 percent level. The report, however, should also indicate that other delegations were not ready to prejudge the decisions to be taken by the authorized working group. You see, Mr. Director-General and Mr. Chairman, we do not just reject a resolution, we propose a procedure which we believe is in agreement with the spirit of compromise, just stressed by a distinguished colleague. I do not think I need to add anything. Other delegations, those of the Netherlands, Norway, Canada and Switzerland, have already dealt with this subject, but I can assure you that my instructions do not allow me to support a resolution on this matter. If there should be a vote, we will have to vote against it. I do not believe that a contact group to deal with this problem would be an advisable solution. This would lead us to the risk of keeping us busy for days. The opinions seem to be fairly firm on the matter.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I apologize for taking the floor again, Mr. Chairman. This is a very important matter. I would like to draw the attention of the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany to the fact that FAO is not really a member of this Working Group. This Group is Inter-Governmental and, therefore, FAO cannot be a member. It is a working group of the UNDP and UNDP cannot make decisions for FAO. We are a sovereign Organization and this Conference is its governing body, while we are referring to a different Inter-Governmental Working Group. We are not members of that group; FAO and other agencies will just be invited to participate. We will sit in on the meeting, be given the floor at certain times, but will be asked to retire when certain matters are discussed.

I cannot proceed to this meeting without instructions. I endorse the proposed resolution and commend it to you. Whatever the decision of this Conference, I shall, of course, accept it. Reference may be made to ten years, or to the next biennium, or to two biennia. But we must keep in mind that this is an important matter which concerns the future of our Organization. When I go to the Governing Council, I must be in position to say "these are my instructions" and I would then be able to defend them. But, should this Conference not face up to its responsibilities and leave me without instructions, I would have nothing to go on!

I can see that delegations from some developed countries have very explicit instructions in this regards. However, delegations from many developing countries, for whom the UNDP programme is intended, may not perhaps be quite so up to date on the implications of the rate of overhead costs reimbursement. As a result, this debate may be rather one-sided and the views expressed so far may not really represent those of the majority of Commission II.

In summary, I must repeat that I cannot go to the Inter-Governmental Working Group without instructions from this Conference, which should decide whether it wants a resolution or not. If necessary, we could hold a meeting of the Contact Group in my office and try to come to an agreement on some instructions as to the stand I should take.

CHAIRMAN: Since the Director-General spoke directly to the last intervention by the delegate of Germany, I think it is correct of me to give the delegate of Germany the floor again to reply.

C. WILL (Germany, Rep. Fed. of) (interpretation from German): I welcome the fact that you have given the floor to me again, because there is one point I would like to make in reply. According to the text which I have before me which the Director-General is not only just attending the meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group which means he is only able to speak with special permission. This context states that the executing agencies were invited to participate actively in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group. They shall express their views on the question of overheads. You see, FAO is also invited to participate actively in that work.

The second point to which I would like to return is that we had not been speaking for or against a change in the level of overhead costs reimbursement. I repeat in the Governing Council of UNDP the Federal Republic of Germany was in favour of setting up that Working Group which, with the help of the Director-General and his Organization - and our help in the Governing Council as well as in the Working Group itself - would decide on the maintenance of, or a change in the reimbursement of overhead costs. I believe that this is very important to stress. The third point is that, in our view, the Director-General does not really need instructions from the Conference but arguments of his Organization, to explain his case in a way that could make us support him.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): First of all, I should like to recall, and remind this august body, that the Council has already agreed to this proposition and I would like to read the pertinent passage which appears in paragraph 30 of CL 72/REP: "Expressing concern over the potential impact on the substance of FAO's Regular Programme of any reduction in overhead cost reimbursements, the Council thus felt that the present formula of reimbursements being calculated at a rate of 14 percent on delivery should be maintained, also as a tangible reflection of partnership in an equitable burden sharing between UNDP and the Agencies".

Therefore, this decision has been made, and the 14 percent recommendation will be maintained by the Council. The Council has agreed to this. Many of the delegates who are now speaking against this Resolution were there, and they agreed to this Resolution, because it is a Council decision - and I am a little taken aback by the change of heart that we have noticed at this juncture.

The second point is that this body does not prejudge the result of the Working Party. As the distinguished Ambassador of the Philippines stated earlier, we are just stating that the present cost that is being shared by FAO is above 14 percent, and if we do not believe the figures, then probably it is high time that we re-vamp the system of FAO. That would be a very serious matter; but I do not see anybody questioning the figures that have been given here. All that we are giving here is stating facts. We know that FAO is spending more than 14 percent for the delivery of the Field Programmes. So we are just saying to the Director-General now that he can go to the Working Party and tell them "If costs are 14 percent - please don't let it go down - as the Resolution itself says, maintain at least that 14 percent". If the Working Party says "you can have 14 and a half percent or 15 percent", so much the better. That is what this Resolution means: it is to enable the Director-General to tell them "This is costing us this much - please don't reduce it".

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): Je partage entièrement le point de vue développé par notre collègue du Brésil. Nous, pays en développement, bénéficiaires des programmes de financement du PNUD et de l'assistance efficace de la FAO ou autres institutions, nous ne constatons pas dans nos pays une absence de cohésion ou de cohérence entre les politiques des institutions spécialisées, car de toute évidence, comme l'a indiqué le Directeur général dans de nombreuses déclarations tant à l'ECOSOC qu'au Conseil même, la décision finale appartient aux gouvernements intéressés. Nous ne comprenons donc pas que chaque fois qu'on traite d'un problème du PNUD, on veuille mettre la FAO sur la sellette et qu'on dise que cette Organisation cherche à créer une cassure entre les institutions spécialisées. C'est un procès que l'on intente en vue d'essayer d'étouffer les nouvelles propositions tendant à l'amélioration de la coopération entre les institutions.

Nous ne sommes pas pour un système de coopération dans lequel une institution serait le cavalier et les autres les chevaux. Nous voulons une coopération loyale, mais si primus inter pares que le PNUD devrait être, il faudrait qu'on donne aux autres institutions spécialisées également leurs responsabilités et leurs droits face aux gouvernements des pays membres.

Au sujet de ce problème de 14 pour cent, c'est presque la troisième fois que j'ai à parler de cette question. Non seulement j'en ai eu l'occasion en tant que membre du comité du Programme, mais également au Conseil d'administration, et aujourd'hui devant la Commission II. Or nous avons toujours entendu les mêmes arguments de la part de ceux qui ne sont pas pour ces 14 pour cent. Mais nous n'avons pas entendu proposer un autre chiffre, ni donner d'informations ou des arguments plausibles appuyant leurs propositions. Ils sont seulement toujours contre. Il faut attendre, attendre...

Nous sommes maintenant saisis d'une résolution qui tend au maintien de ces 14 pour cent, ceci appuyé par les explications fort pertinentes du délégué du Brésil et également par les arguments contenus dans le document 77/INF 15.

Il y a deux ans, nous étions déjà confrontés à ce même problème, et voilà pourquoi nous sommes vraiment peînés d'entendre dire que nous sommes contre cette résolution.

Nous appuyons la proposition du Directeur général tendant à la création d'un groupe de contact qui devrait se pencher sur cette question. Or, la Conférence générale est presque à sa fin; je ne sais pas si le groupe de contact aura suffisamment le temps de se pencher sur cette question. Il faut toutefois tenir compte que ces 14 pour cent représentent un minimum.

Si nous considérons le financement du PNUD dans l'aide et que nous fassions la comparaison entre 1966 et aujourd'hui, nous voyons une différence notable dans cette contribution. Nous nous demandons s'il faut que nous payions des frais pour d'autres et pour financer une sorte de propagande qui n'a pas sa place ici.

Nous pensons qu'il faudrait donner au Directeur général les moyens de présenter au PNUD des propositions qui n'affaiblissent pas la position de l'Organisation, mais qui au contraire maintiennent la FAO dans une position qui lui permette de faire face aux responsabilités et obligations qui sont les siennes.

Tout en n'acceptant pas avec beaucoup de conviction la proposition du Directeur général quant au groupe de contacts nous nous y rallions, et nous espérons que le groupe de contact, d'ici lundi ou mardi au plus tard, pourra nous présenter un texte. Mais nous ne voulons pas d'un texte qui ne soit pas une résolution. Nous voulons qu'une résolution soit votée par la Dix-neuvième session de la Conférence, parce qu'une résolution votée dans ce cadre est beaucoup plus pertinente.

Mme S. VERVALCKE (Belgique): On a évoqué suffisamment les tenants et aboutissants de ce problème des overheads que nous voyons malheureusement revenir dans presque tous les ordres du jour des réunions du PNUD. Nous suivons cette question de très près et la FAO sait que, dans l'enceinte du PNUD, nous ne sommes certainement pas parmi les intervenants qui prennent des positions qui ne sont pas extrêmement favorables aux besoins des organisations spécialisées.

Mais nous pensons qu'il y a ici deux problèmes qu'il ne faut pas mélanger. Il y a un problème à long terme et un problème à terme intermédiaire.

Le problème à long terme c'est d'arriver à trouver à un certain moment la réponse, à la fois au contenu, à la définition de ce que nous appelons frais généraux. Et nous avons d'ailleurs insisté pour que le groupe intergouvernemental inscrive cette question à son programme, que l'on sache d'abord exactement de quoi on parle, car nous constatons que plus les années passent, plus on parle de ces problèmes et moins on sait de quoi on parle.

Cette première définition étant donnée, nous savons aussi qu'il importe, si faire se peut, d'arriver à définir exactement quelle est la proportion des frais généraux (gardons cette expression pour le moment), quel est leur montant et comment ils doivent se répartir.

C'est parce que les groupes de travail qu'on a essayé de constituer ne sont pas arrivés à un résultat, qu'on en est finalement venu à proposer la création de ce groupe de travail intergouvernemental. Nous estimons qu'au sein de ce groupe de travail intergouvernemental nombreux sont les pays qui se sont prononcés dans le même sens au Conseil du PNUD, c'est-à-dire tous les pays intéressés, et cela sur un pied d'égalité et non pas avec une prépondérance du PNUD. Les représentants des agences et le PNUD doivent pouvoir renseigner au maximum et donner leur avis à tout moment dans le groupe; il faut que la décision qui y sera prise puisse l'être vraiment en toute connaissance de cause.

Ce travail ne se fera pas en quelques semaines; le Groupe doit être conscient qu'il est urgent pour lui de prendre une décision car on doit à tout prix sortir de cette impasse. En attendant, - et c'est ainsi que nous avons interprété le projet de résolution - le Directeur général de la FAO se trouve dans la nécessité de connaître à moyen terme la situation, quel sera dans les mois qui viennent ne disons pas dans les siècles qui viennent, mais à court terme - le montant sur lequel on pourra compter pour poursuivre l'exécution des projets. Nous comprenons très bien qu'il souhaite connaître l'avis du Conseil sur la recommandation que celui-ci peut lui donner pour la défense des mesures transitoires, à prendre hélas périodiquement, tant que la situation n'est pas éclaircie.

Nous ne sommes pas convaincus que la résolution soit nécessaire ni même souhaitable. Nous préférierions qu'il n'y ait pas de résolution mais qu'il soit clairement dit au Conseil ce que nous souhaitons et ce que nous pensons possible de défendre. Il faut tenir compte qu'en prenant cette décision, les pays que nous représentons, s'ils sont conséquents avec eux-mêmes, sont évidemment amenés à prendre la même position dans les autres enceintes, y compris dans celle du PNUD.

Cela dit, quant à la nécessité que nous estimons douteuse d'une résolution, mais quant à la nécessité certaine d'une prise de position, il est en effet équitable que la FAO puisse compter pendant une période, sur laquelle nous allons revenir, sur un montant au moins égal à celui accepté jusqu'à présent. Nous comprenons la position prise sur les 14 pour cent, mais il ne faudrait pas à aucun moment qu'une résolution, si résolution il y a, puisse faire d'une façon ou d'une autre présager ce qui sera décidé finalement. Nous ignorons quel sera le montant. Si nous étions certains aujourd'hui que ce taux de 14 pour cent est le bon, il est évident que nous pourrions parler d'une répartition équitable fixée à 14 pour cent, mais il serait absolument anticipé de donner un jugement de valeur sur ce point. D'autre part, il ne serait pas souhaitable qu'une mesure transitoire, d'une durée minimum de six ans, soit recommandée, car elle aurait comme effet de faire encore traîner les choses en donnant raison à quelque groupe que ce soit sans arriver à une solution rapide; il faut qu'une solution intervienne dans de bons délais. Nous comptons sur un laps de temps qui peut être d'une année, de deux années au maximum, car dans deux ans nous devrions avoir les premiers résultats des travaux de ce Groupe intergouvernemental, de manière que, pour le prochain biennium, il y ait une position permettant à la FAO de continuer à travailler.

Au sein du Groupe de contact, si l'on tient compte de la situation actuelle, et non pas de la discussion sur le fond du problème, sur le montant de la contribution finale, il doit y avoir moyen de trouver une solution.

Ms. C. INGMAN (Finland): The Finnish delegation also wishes to make clear its position on this very important issue of overhead reimbursements. The level and method of reimbursement, as mentioned by several other delegates, has been a subject of concern and discussion between United Nations Agencies for a long time. Finland therefore welcomed and supported the decision by the UNDP Governing Council in June 1977 to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group on Overhead Costs. This group is not only open to all Governing Council Members and Observers, but also to the heads of Executing Agencies who are invited to participate actively in the group's work.

Since the Working Group has not yet started its work, Finland feels that accepting a Resolution as presented in the Draft Resolution would, as several delegations have already pointed out, badly prejudice the work and result of the Working Group. To us the Draft Resolution, therefore, does seem both untimely and unnecessary. Finland would rather see FAO cooperate actively with UNDP and other specialized agencies in the Working Group which, to our mind, is the appropriate forum to find a solution for this question, and where the voice of FAO certainly will be heard.

Mr. Chairman, the present rate of reimbursement has in fact been agreed upon for 1978/79, and will therefore be revalued. My delegation feels that an FAO Conference Resolution fixing the present rate of overheads would go against this agreement.

The suggestion that the 14 percent reimbursement rate be maintained for at least the next three biennia, which is six years, is not therefore acceptable to us.

There is also another aspect which gives concern to the Finnish delegation, namely that of the coherence of the United Nations Development System. It is quite evident that the United Nations agencies must be able to work together in a spirit of partnership and cooperation. For this purpose causes of friction between them, such as the question of overhead reimbursement, must be effectively removed. We feel, Mr. Chairman, that an FAO Conference Resolution along the lines of the Draft Resolution presented to us would lead to regrettable consequences for inter-agency cooperation.

In conclusion the Finnish delegation would indeed find it very difficult to accept the Draft Resolution as it now stands.

J. RUTKOWSKI (Poland): Mr. Chairman, I would like very shortly to state our position regarding the proposed text of resolution regarding the reimbursement of the UNDP overhead costs. While we understand the philosophy behind the resolution and the needs of the Organization and we do not see any difficulty to go along with it, on the other hand the wording of the document is such that it gives rise to some misunderstanding and we find it difficult to accept it.

In our opinion this text prejudices the results of the deliberations of the special Group which is supposed to study the problem. Secondly it expresses concern about something yet unknown, and then it calls for stabilization for a period of six years which is very difficult to accept. On the other hand, many countries represented here are at the same time members of the UNDP Governing Council, so it would look probably as if we are giving instructions, or appearing to do so, to some extent to ourselves. But I have the impression that the differences of opinion expressed in this gathering here are concerned rather with semantics and the style of the document than the substance.

Therefore, I would suggest - and I simply support the idea expressed here - that this matter should be dealt with by the contact group and that after some rewording we could accept the resolution.

M. L. LAPEBY (Gabon): En ce qui concerne le Groupe de travail, si ma connaissance de la langue française est bonne, il s'agit d'un Groupe de travail intergouvernemental. Evidemment, il est question de la participation active des administrations, chefs de secrétariat, administrateurs du PNUD. Je voudrais que vous puissiez me répondre, Monsieur le Président, sur la nuance que vous faites entre les différentes représentations, les représentants de gouvernements à ce Groupe de travail et l'administration, quelle que soit l'organisation. Quels sont leurs deux rôles et quel est le plus important?

Je reviens sur le contenu de la décision du Conseil d'administration. Le Groupe de travail a été prié par le Conseil d'administration de faire rapport en juin 1979. Monsieur le Président, à quelle époque estimez-vous que la FAO doit élaborer son projet de budget pour 1979? Est-ce que la FAO doit attendre le rapport, qui ne sera pas une décision, ou doit-elle pouvoir disposer d'éléments valables sur lesquels l'Organisation peut compter pour élaborer son budget de travail? C'est un problème. La réponse que voudrait le Directeur général - et je me mets à sa place - est la suivante: dites-moi ce qu'il faut faire de façon que dès 1979 j'incorpore, à titre prévisible, parce que la décision ne sera pas prise, les 14 pour cent dans les opérations et dans le programme. Voilà le problème. Si on peut me répondre qu'en 1979 une décision sera prise, quand pensez-vous que le Directeur général pourra élaborer son budget en fonction de cette décision?

Le représentant du Brésil a dit tout à l'heure que les 14 pour cent étaient un taux très faible. Le budget du PNUD a été augmenté pour la période qui va suivre, de 14 pour cent. J'ai dit au cours d'un Conseil que c'était vraiment talentueux de sa part, alors qu'en reprenant les chiffres des dernières années, nous trouvons un budget en 1975 de 410 millions de dollars, en 1976 de 370 millions de dollars, en 1977 de 347 millions. Les chiffres vont en diminuant. Ajoutez les 14 pour cent et le PNUD ne peut plus répondre aux besoins des pays en développement. C'est une certitude, je dirai plus, c'est une évidence.

Devons-nous tabler sur des éléments non encore définis ou devons-nous prendre certaines dispositions et certaines précautions pour que le budget qui nous sera présenté en 1979 soit un budget tenant compte d'éléments fiables?

C'est la première fois que je vois dans une Conférence s'opposer systématiquement à une résolution sans l'avoir discutée. Je regrette cette prise de position et je regrette même que certains délégués aient été jusqu'à dire que ce serait créer deux clans au sein de cette Conférence. C'est un langage que je n'ai jamais entendu jusqu'ici. Or, il y a quatre ans que je siége au Conseil: depuis 1962 j'assiste aux travaux de la FAO. Quand un délégué qui assiste au Conseil, qui connaît les décisions ou les résolutions que le Conseil propose à la Conférence, les met en cause, je peux douter de sa sincérité et je doute même de ses intentions.



E. F. MADSEN (Denmark): As may be recalled from our intervention during the deliberations on item 11, Review of Field Programmes, the Danish delegation spoke about the relationship between UNDP and FAO. We would like to refer to our remarks at that time.

Furthermore, we briefly touched on the question of overhead costs and that is what I shall confine myself to in this intervention. It was then- as it still is- our view that since it has been decided to establish an open-ended working group on overhead costs, no international body should deal with the question of overheads in a way that might prejudice the findings of that working group.

We are, indeed, highly surprised by the initiatives behind the draft resolution on reimbursement of UNDP overhead costs. We are surprised because this draft resolution does not respect at all nor take into consideration, and I would rather say it goes against what governments, many of whom are also present in this Commission, have already previously unanimously agreed upon, after, I would add, often lengthy and time-consuming deliberations.

Let me just refer to the resolutions adopted by the UNDP Governing Council at its 24th Session in June this year, later endorsed by ECOSOC's 63rd Session, and also let me refer to decisions taken at the FAO Council meeting in June this year.

Therefore, it would be difficult for my delegation to vote for the text of the draft resolutions as it now stands, because that would be to go against our opinions expressed in other international bodies. It has been decided unanimously, as I have mentioned, to establish a working group and we must not prejudice its work. We must give it time to begin its job. Consequently, like many other previous speakers, the Danish delegation would prefer that no resolution concerning this matter should be adopted at all.

We were happy to hear - if I understood the Philippine delegate correctly in his first intervention -that he would be willing to consider withdrawing the draft resolution. Thus, we hope that it should not be necessary to call for a new meeting of the special contact group, of which my delegation is not a member.

Let me try briefly to explain to the authors of the draft resolution what should be done by FAO with respect to overhead costs, or what the role of FAO is, as we see it. Firstly, according to the decision previously referred to by the UNDP Governing Council, the heads of the executing agencies are invited to participate actively in the work of the working group. We therefore sincerely hope that it is the intention of FAO to respond positively to this invitation and thus show a real intention to cooperate closely with the other international organizations in matters of common interest.

Secondly, the resolution invites the executing agencies to submit an expression of their views on the question of overheads, including a clear definition of overheads and the cost elements involved. This is, of course, an invitation that the Secretariat of FAO must be interested in following up. Only by providing the working group with all relevant aspects of the questions as they are seen by the FAO Secretariat will it be possible for the group to reach a conclusion with which FAO can agree.

Third, and lastly, the UNDP resolution requests the administrator of UNDP and the executive heads of the agencies to render all necessary assistance to the working group in its task. This is what is expected to be done from the side of FAO; nothing more, nothing less.

In concluding, may I just say that my delegation have deliberately - like other speakers before me-avoided speaking on the percentage rates of overhead costs because we find that this is not relevant to this discussion of principle.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor. I regret that I must leave shortly to meet another contact group and should like to make some important remarks before my departure.

While FAO will be participating very actively in the Inter-Governmental Working Group, we shall take no part in decision-making. We shall be present at the meetings, express our views, and perhaps confirm them in writing before our departure. FAO is not a member of the Inter-Governmental Working Group, which is made up of government representatives - perhaps some of them are present here - who will reach decisions on an issue which is of very great interest to us, I would inform the Conference, therefore, that, whatever is said to the contrary, "active participation" means only that we provide

information and answer questions, but not that we participate in reaching decisions. Our point of view may not be taken into consideration when a vote is taken on any issue ! No matter how strong he is, the head of any agency just has to put his case and leave before the members decide.

The preparation of the budget for the 1980-81 biennium must start in November 1978; after completion of the sessions of all regional conferences. As you know, there will be five regional conferences next year, the last of which will take place in Portugal in October, and I have to take their views into account. Soon afterwards, preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget will be initiated. A decision should be reached on the level of the budget at the beginning of January 1979 and the documents should be ready for printing, at the end of the same month, for despatch in March to Members of the Programme and Finance Committee, who will discuss it in April. At that time, however, I shall still have no indication whatsoever of the decisions of the Inter-Governmental Group, since its report is not expected before June 1979, too late to be taken into account in the preparation of FAO's budget for 1980-81.

It is essential, therefore, to know in advance, whether the \$ 25 million which governments would have to pay should be added or not, since I am obviously not prepared to cut FAO's programme to accommodate such an amount. I could, of course, propose this to your Conference, but it is for it to decide whether it can really envisage having to reconsider our Programme of Work and Budget to accommodate, at the last moment, an increase of 25 or 30 million for meeting UNDP Agency costs.

I need, at the very least, to have concrete assurances for the biennium 1980-81, because of the time it takes to prepare our programme and budget. For the time being, we know which overheads we will get for one biennium, but this is not sufficient for reasons of timing. The proposed resolution mentions three biennia; as I have just explained, at least two biennia are indispensable for planning our budget.

If I suggested having a meeting of the Contact Group as soon as possible, it was because this would give us more time to consider the matter. I have made this proposal and it is up to the Conference to accept it or not. If it decides to accept it, we could meet even tomorrow Saturday, and try to reach a consensus. I realize that delegates hold very different views on this issue, but the most basic point is whether a resolution is needed or not. If this could be settled here, it would make things easier, as I would then have instructions as a basis for discussion and negotiation. Even without instructions, I would, of course, still attend the meeting of the working group and request 14 percent for the two biennia, as I have to protect our Organization. You have elected me to defend FAO and not to accept decisions, made by outside bodies, which could harm this Organization.

I hope that this will not turn out to be a controversial issue, would it be only because, in any case, we cannot make a final decision on it here. Even if the Inter-Governmental Working Group formulates definite recommendations, I am sure that we would still have an opportunity to discuss this matter again in our Conference. The General Assembly, also, is unlikely to keep quiet on this issue; Secretary-General Waldheim may express his views again; This problem does not involve only one agency. It is a very complicated and far-reaching issue and I would not be surprised if the Working Group were unable to reach a decision; we shall see next June.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I have to leave you because I have another contact group waiting for me in my office. I shall be looking forward to your decision and, whatever it is, I can assure you that I shall accept it and try to comply with it. But I would like to believe that this august assembly is as anxious as I am to preserve the integrity of our Programme of Work and Budget and to defend the interests of this Organization, taking into consideration the views of other agencies, who are our partners and with whom we are trying our best to cooperate.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Director-General. I am sure we all appreciate the frankness of the Director-General.

Y. LIKE (Ethiopia): I wish the Director-General was here when I speak, because I have some remarks about his statement. First of all, I would like to say that I did not intend to speak on this Resolution initially because I thought that it would pass unanimously. For one thing, the UNDP Council has already approved of the 14 percent, and what the Resolution says really is to strengthen this statement and indicate what the governing body of the FAO feels about it, but hearing statements by such countries as the Netherlands and Canada who have throughout the Session been really sympathetic and in favour of the cause of the developing countries go against the Resolution, then I decided I had better stay behind and listen to what others have to say, so finally I decided I should say something, because it is very near to the cause of not only the developing countries but to the cause of all nations concerned in FAO as it primarily relates to the need to increase food production and to catch up, not only to increase but to catch up all our past failures, but before that, I would just like to comment on the Director-General's statement that we do not know what overhead costs are. I hope he did not mean that in the literal sense, because we do know very well what overhead costs are.

As most of you who work with developing countries are aware, even when we get capital investments, primarily because of lack of overhead costs our projects have failed and they are failing even now, so we do know very much what overhead costs are, but I know what he meant is that we do not have the necessary influence to debate as much as we would like to in such a Conference as this, and really that more information has to bring us up to date and stand by the side of our colleagues here, and so to that extent I think I would understand his position, being in a difficult position as the Director-General and not having voting power in the Working Group. I think he has the right to ask for our mandate and be forceful, at that.

Let me go back to the main issue. I would like to talk on four major issues. One is the question of being inconsistent, which was particularly hit hard by Canada and others, maybe. The other is the strength of the Director-General in the Working Group. The third item will be the need for and importance of a Resolution like this. The fourth item would be whether in fact our discussion here would prejudge the decision of the Working Group, and finally whether or not I support this Resolution, and how.

Regarding the inconsistency, I think having the background of this Resolution and the statements of the UNDP Governing Council, as indicated in C 77/LIM/32 and so on, some of the members of FAO are also members of the Governing Council who, as Canada said, did support the view of the 14 percent reimbursement to FAO, and I do not really see the inconsistency there, if he supports here the same view that we did in that Council. Even if we say it is inconsistent, after all, time has changed. At the time he, or anybody else for that matter, supported the view, it is sometime back, and as time changes, conditions change, and therefore we are bound to change along with conditions and heartily support our views, whether it is different from our previous condition or not, so I do not believe it is really inconsistent. In fact it is only strengthening the initial view of 14 percent, and this would continue for the next two or three biennia rather than just one, as probably indicated in the Council's statement. Now, the other point, is a mandate to the Director-General really necessary on this issue? To me, yes. It indicates exactly how the FAO members feel about the need for continued assistance or financial provision by UNDP, and in light of our past discussion that food production in developing countries has been 1 percent as opposed to 4 or 5 percent target which was mandated by this august body sometime back and the UN itself, the entire body, not only the FAO but the UN system, were targeted for increased production of 4 to 5 percent per annum, and this did not take place. We must ask ourselves why it did not and how should we make up for this and so on and so forth.

If we are to positively answer on this, we really need capital investment and all that should be done in order to increase the skills, the manpower skills for the production of this. All this requires financing. We just cannot expect to improve the technological know-how in developing countries by knowing the situation and not doing much about it.

So I think the Director-General necessarily and very much needs the support of this august body, including those members and even more so of those members who participated in the UNDP Governing Council. We believe it is not only the Director-General who presents the case of FAO or this august body but it is also the members of the Governing Council who are members of this body. They have to say more than even the Director-General, who is only a body who defends his case. He does

not have voting power or even his statements would probably merely get sympathy of the members of the Governing Body, but the members of FAO who are also members of the UNDP Governing Council have really a lot to say on whether or not this 14 percent and high can pass and for how long.

The fourth item, is the Resolution necessary? Well, yes. We know that even during this biennium we have passed a Resolution that presumably does not have a budgetary implication. An example is the continuation of European projects, yes. Why did we pass? Because we thought this is going to impress on the FAO that such a programme that has already started within the European Community should continue in spite of even the low budgetary allocation to the European group, relatively low, so I think there is no need for me to go on justifying the need for a Resolution. Anything that has a budgetary implication needs a strong Resolution, not a weak one.

The next one is, do we really prejudge the Governing Council's decision? To me, no. What we are discussing here is what do we do in the next four years and how do we do and achieve our objective in the next four years, and to that effect, the Governing Council has passed some 14 percent reimbursement for FAO's field work, and it comes to anybody's mind supposing we do not get 14 percent, what happens? Well, then we must cut back on our work, and yet we know that our work has not been sufficient enough. This is obvious, not only to the FAO members, but also even outside FAO members, so I think it is proper that we discuss this issue here and should not be taken whatsoever as prejudging the decision of the Governing Council, and I think it is up to us to get the sympathy of the Governing Council regarding our view on this.

The last one is, well, do I support the Resolution? Certainly I do, I think it should be a unanimous support rather than creating unnecessary cleavage and confrontation. We have been working in a harmonious situation so far, and I think there is a need to continue that harmony that has been there during the Session, and I hope it would prevail. If some delegates feel the Resolution is too strong, well, I think, as the Director-General suggested, this is not the first Resolution that needed revision or a Contact Group or otherwise. There has been quite a lot before and there is no reason why this cannot be subject to a similar approach, but what I would like to appeal is, like some of our distinguished delegates who asked the Philippine delegate to withdraw its resolution, on the contrary I would like to ask some of our distinguished delegates to withdraw their statements and go along with the resolution, if they do not seem to go along with the existing set-up of the Resolution. I think, as the Director-General said, let a contact group be established to bring it in line with the interests of all concerned, but let us not break apart on this maybe minor issue where we know all of us heartily support the need for increasing food production, and there is no way to do this unless we have the necessary finance at the right time and at the right place.

K. CHOUERI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Ma délégation voudrait faire certains commentaires pour expliciter sa position au sujet de cette question. Les données dont nous disposons sont les suivantes:

Premièrement, l'accord en ce qui concerne le remboursement des frais généraux touche à sa fin au cours de cette année;

Deuxièmement, le Conseil, au cours des deux dernières sessions, a demandé le maintien de ce taux de 14 pour cent;

Troisièmement, le Conseil d'administration du PNUD va mettre en application de cet accord pour les deux années à venir (1978-79) ensuite les institutions spécialisées ont demandé d'augmenter ce taux car en fait ce taux de 14 pourcent est insuffisant.

Quatrièmement, certains ont déjà indiqué leur préoccupation en ce qui concerne le volume des frais généraux bien qu'en ce sens un accord ait été passé entre le Directeur général de la FAO et l'administrateur du PNUD, accord qui détermine le rôle de chacune des deux institutions, qui est en fait un rôle complémentaire.

Telles sont les données dont nous disposons. Sur cette base, après avoir pris note des causes qui ont poussé à l'élaboration de ce projet de résolution, notre délégation voudrait demander que la FAO soit l'agent d'exécution principal des programmes du PNUD. La Conférence générale au cours des sessions précédentes avait déjà mis l'accent sur la nécessité du remboursement des frais généraux par la FAO pour appuyer les projets extérieurs, et le taux qui a été admis était le taux de 14 pour cent.

Aussi, le maintien de ce taux de 14 pour cent permettra-t-il une certaine stabilité qui nous permettra de planifier au mieux les ressources dont nous disposons. Le maintien du statu quo au cours des trois prochains biennia est à discuter, et de toute façon cela ne va pas à l'encontre des intérêts de la FAO.

Cela ne va pas non plus à l'encontre des intérêts du PNUD, ni à l'encontre des intérêts du groupe de travail du Conseil d'administration du PNUD. Aussi regrettons-nous la façon dont cette résolution a été accueillie par certaines délégations. Le projet de résolution dont nous sommes saisis n'est pas la manifestation d'une attitude négative de la FAO vis-à-vis du PNUD. C'est pour cela que nous sommes convaincus que la solution existe et qu'elle doit être abordée dans un esprit de coopération et de cohérence. Et si nous adoptons une résolution, cela permettra au Directeur général d'avoir une plus ample marge d'action, aussi sommes-nous d'accord pour la création d'un groupe de contact qui reverrait ce projet de résolution pour rallier l'opinion de tous.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, we are here as representatives of our country in the Conference of FAO. It is, therefore, not logical that we should discuss here in this forum with another hat on than the one we are here to discuss. We know any reduction in reimbursement of overhead costs would have a negative effect on the FAO budget which has been prepared according to the programme which we have unanimously voted. What we request is to give our support to the Director-General, to give him much more power when he deals with this matter with the Governing Council. The countries which rejected this resolution have not provided us with an alternative solution. We, therefore, Mr. Chairman, propose either that we accept the Resolution before us, or that we request the contact group to find an adequate solution.

S.S. MAHDI (India): In our view, this debate should not be seen as a confrontation between FAO and UNDP. This will be a very drawn slant that some people might give, because for the developing countries both UNDP and FAO are important. Neither, in our view, should this debate be seen as a confrontation between the developed and the developing countries. So if you could get rid of these two attitudes perhaps we could think about this issue in a more logical and cool and practical manner. The simple argument is that the executing agencies, including FAO, cannot perpetually live in a state of instability and uncertainty. This Conference and the Council have on many occasions requested the Secretariat to give a projection of the extra-budgetary expenditure of FAO policy, and this time from this very floor most of the countries, both developed and developing have appreciated the effort that has been made in the current Programme of Work and Budget. In this regard now it is time to reason, without any assurance for a short term or medium term, the assurance of the source, should it be fair on our part to demand from the FAO Secretariat to make such projections in the Programme of Work and Budget, or to plan ahead. This uncertainty is causing lots of waste and lots of - it is sort of a spanner in the wheel of what FAO wants to do, so I should appeal that this question should not be seen as a question of overlapping jurisdictions or conflicting jurisdictions between the two governing bodies. There are many countries which are members of the FAO governing body, as well as of the UNDP Governing Council, so I again appeal that we should look into the logic of this situation, and not the extraneous considerations which lead to confrontation. In view of this, and I am very much prepared to respect and to pay due regard to the views that have been expressed by other speakers, I think it is a very reasonable suggestion that those who feel strongly this way or that way on both sides, they should get together and try to hammer out some compromise on this, and with this brief intervention I strongly support the proposal that there should be a small contact group. You can make it an open contact group if you wish, and we should arrive at some compromise. The basic issue here is that this matter has been raised in the Conference. The Conference also is a sovereign body, this matter is of current importance to the Conference and to the FAO Secretariat. It has very deep implications for the Programme of Work and Budget that we approved, or will be having in future, and therefore, the Conference cannot help but express itself on this matter, and this is the expression of the views of the Conference that is going to be brought to the attention of UNDP. Of course, the Conference is not giving any order, any instruction or any mandate, but the Conference should have the flexibility or at least the capacity to express itself on this matter, and this is the expression of views which we are asking and which is going to be brought to the attention of the UNDP Governing Council. It is for the UNDP Governing Council to reject this view, but I think we should not be prevented from expressing the view.

J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): Like my Indian colleague, I will be very brief because I think many of the arguments on both sides of the question have been well laid out and in detail. My delegation understands fully the concerns expressed by the Director-General and a number of other delegations. We also agree that instability regarding future funds available to FAO can hamper accurate budget planning and programme activities. However, since the Director-General has been invited to participate in the deliberations of the inter-governmental working group, and the draft resolution instructs him to take a fixed position which may, or may not be well-documented, we do not believe the draft resolution is particularly useful or helpful. I would like to associate myself and my delegation with the general views already expressed by the Netherlands, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, and a number of other governments. We expect the inter-governmental working group to study fully and objectively the question of agency cost reimbursement. We do not believe, therefore, that this issue, since it has now been addressed by the inter-governmental working group, should be prejudged in any facet or aspect. I would also agree with the intervention made by a number of delegates, and particularly by the Director-General, that in the interests of time, and since the issue has been so well ventilated on all sides, that perhaps the best way to resolve this is through the formation of a small contact group which can discuss the issue perhaps with some more objectivity than is possible to many of us, because we are not completely briefed on funding, the financial aspect of it, the problems facing the Director-General, etc.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the United States, who was the last speaker on my list. Distinguished delegates we have had a rather heated debate, different from the debates we have had in the last few days. I am certain of one thing, and that is that we all have the interests of FAO in mind, and not only the interests of FAO but of the whole UN system, and I think it was very well put by the delegate of India who said we should not regard this as a confrontation between FAO and UNDP, or between donor countries and developed countries. We seem, however, to disagree on what is really in the interests of FAO and the UN system as a whole. A draft resolution has been proposed by the delegation of the Philippines. Some delegates have spoken for, some delegates have spoken against. Those who spoke in favour underline the necessity of the 14 percent overhead costs which they thought was necessary to ensure the stability, and that it would have serious consequences for FAO's budget if this was changed. Those who spoke against the draft resolution stressed the issue was not a question of whether or not to maintain the 14 percent overhead costs, but rather the question of prejudging an issue which was referred to the inter-governmental working group established by the UNDP Governing Council, and approved by ECOSOC and they cannot, therefore, accept the draft resolution and declare their intention to vote against it. Those who were for the resolution again did not agree that the effect of the resolution would be to prejudice the issue.

Distinguished delegates, you have heard the Director-General who has proposed that the matter should be discussed by a small informal drafting group under his leadership. Those who have addressed themselves to the questions of the contact group, I must say there is a large majority, or seems to be a large majority in favour of such a drafting group. I would, therefore, suggest that we accept the Director-General's proposal and establish such a drafting group and I would like that interested delegations should contact me after we have adjourned our meeting, to discuss the position of this drafting group. The drafting group, I understand, could then if you all agree, meet tomorrow. Are there any objections? Can I take it you all agree to the establishment of such a drafting group? It seems to be the case. Then I think we have come to the end of this meeting and, as I say, I would expect delegates who are interested in participating or discussing the position of the group to come to the rostrum after I have adjourned the meeting.

D.J. WALTON (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): In the course of the discussion of agency overhead the other aspect of this agenda item has inevitably been somewhat eclipsed, but during the early stages of the meeting a number of specific questions were put to the Secretariat, and perhaps you would wish me to reply very briefly at this late stage.

The Representative of India asked three specific questions. First, he enquired what were the results of the task force on long-term development objectives. The task force has held only its first meeting, and for obvious reasons it is not yet possible to report spectacular or even specific results. The task force has merely set in train a programme of design. It will start by examining the situation currently and in the recent past before continuing into the future. A number of development objectives have been set in recent years in different fora. There is an international development strategy approved by the General Assembly, long-term targets have been set by the World Food Conference, the ILO, World and Climate Conference, the UNIDO General Conference in Lima, as well as by other bodies. All these targets will be overseen and examined, in order to lay the basis for improved target setting by governmental bodies in future.

At the same time, a Technical Working Group of the task force will examine in some detail the work under way at Secretariat level for long-term projections and modelling. A number of Organizations are engaged, in this field, including FAO through Agriculture Towards 2000, the commodity projects, and other work. All this work is being examined with a view to bringing the efforts of all the different Organizations' into line with each other. The second question from the Representative of India related to the work programme set under way again by the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition, and he asked whether his work programme had actually resulted in more effective service by the United Nations system to governments.

This is not yet the case, because the items listed in our document are merely items on which work has to be done before results can be achieved. So, on a future occasion, I am sure I shall be able, to give him a very positive answer on this point - but that moment has yet to come. The work of *the* ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition is only starting.

His third question related to action by the General Assembly regarding the follow-up of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation.

The General Assembly has not yet taken action on this subject, although I understand that a Draft Resolution has been tabled by one delegation. It is the subject of discussion between groups, but at the moment it is not yet clear what specific decisions will emerge from the General Assembly.

The representative of Bangladesh had a number of very specific questions relating to rural development. At this late stage, I do not think I would wish to give a very long or exhaustive answer to his questions, but I would say in very general terms that FAO is at the moment responsible only for the agricultural aspects of rural development. When it takes over, at the beginning of next year, an additional role as lead agency in the United Nations system in this field, it will be possible for us in Our lead agency role to give a synoptic view of the role of the United Nations system, but for the moment we are limiting ourselves to agriculture, to one sector. The idea of poverty-oriented approach, which originated, I may say, from the work done by the Representative of Bangladesh himself, wearing another hat a number of years ago as a consultant, has been widely adopted in the United Nations system, but not I would say universally. Clearly, rural development as a subject is becoming poverty-oriented in its approach, but it is not clear, nor is it indeed, I would say, desirable that all agencies of the United Nations system be directed towards poverty-oriented rural development. A number of agencies have much wider mandates dealing with many other aspects of development, with the regulation of all kinds of technical matters in the economic and social spheres.

So far as FAO's own activities are concerned, we have drawn up an inventory of those activities directed towards rural development, and other agencies are doing the same. The missions sent to individual countries, as reported in our document, were of an explanatory nature only, and are intended to lead to positive action, as stated in the document on an inter-sectoral basis, and not merely, as seemed to be implied by the question of the Bangladesh Representative, in the development of institutions to incorporate the rural poor in the decision-making process. Institutions for this purpose are an important - indeed essential - element of rural development as we understand it, but they are by no means the only element and the concept goes considerably further.

The last specific question addressed to the Secretariat was from the Representative of the Netherlands, who asked what was being done inside the FAO regarding follow-up on the Water Conference.

On the internal plane, the work of the Organization is of course being carried out under the Programme of Work and Budget. I will not go into any details, but I would like to draw attention to three specific activities which are in line with Resolution 3 of the Water Conference on the use of water in agriculture.

These relate to the assessment and planning first, with particular emphasis on investment opportunities and the formulation of strategies for water resources development. The second is water development management, and the third is the conservation and reclamation of natural resources.

The general thrust of these activities and indeed the general thrust of FAO's work in relation to the Water Conference, is to concentrate efforts and resources on those key areas of water management and related agronomic activities which are most responsive to efforts to combine economy of water use with enhanced production of food.

I have answered all the specific questions put to the Secretariat, but may I perhaps remind you that there is another Draft Resolution which is formally before the Conference for adoption under this item, proposed by Saudi Arabia in consultation with the World Meteorological Organization, and which has been circulated by the Resolutions Committee to the Conference.

THE CHAIRMAN: With regard to the Draft Resolution just referred to, I take it that since no delegation has spoken against it this Resolution has been approved.

This concludes, distinguished delegates, our debate on item 15/2. I think we can rely on the Assistant Director to report on Monday morning about the Contact Group.

P.W. DUNKEL (International Labour Organization): Mr. Chairman, since the discussion this afternoon dealt almost exclusively with the issue of reimbursement on UNDP Overhead Costs I considered it inappropriate to contribute a verbal statement on inter-agency relations in general. Therefore, this written statement is being submitted.

During the deliberations of Commission II distinguished delegates have, on numerous occasions, referred to the ILO in relation to rural development activities which concern items in the Programme of Work of FAO. This is an indication of ILO's active involvement in the rural development process within the framework of the UN System. Therefore, in this general intervention I should like to provide the following summary information on my Organization's concern with rural development, and its relationship to the work of FAO. Last year we reported to your Council on the World Employment Conference which was held in Geneva as the central event of the ILO's World Employment Programme. The FAO participated actively in the preparation of the Conference as well as in the formulation of the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action. Based on this Declaration follow-up action is now in full swing to help developing countries to combat unemployment and underemployment within the national political, economic and social context. Strategies have been developed for the satisfaction of the basic needs of the population in urban and rural areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, diseases, etc I am very pleased to report that the FAO, together with other UN Agencies, plays an active role in these follow-up measures to the World Employment Conference.

Another world conference was the subject of detailed discussions in Commission II, namely that of FAO on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be held in Rome in July 1979.

Having already participated in the inter-agency consultations organized by FAO in February and October, we have noted with great satisfaction the specific arrangements that have since been made by FAO and which have been outlined by the Director-General's newly appointed Special Adviser, Mr. Santa Cruz. I have further noted the support which the Member Countries have undertaken to give to this Conference. The ILO is particularly interested in collaborating actively with FAO in the various stages of the Conference, particularly in fields of its main competence, such as: (a) the organization of rural workers, including cooperatives, for the provision of common services of various kinds and for participation at all levels in the formulation and implementation of rural development programmes, including political negotiations on broad policy and resource decisions; (b) work-oriented education and training in occupational skills, including a variety of specific management skills; (c) the organization of labour-intensive rural work programmes; (d) adjustment of the status, education and employment of rural women and their conditions of work, in ways that will enable them to perform properly their functions in society, without discrimination as compared with men; (e) the promotion of appropriate rural technologies with the aim of minimizing conflicts between economic efficiency and social equity goals for the benefit of the poverty groups; and (f) the improvement of conditions of work and life particularly of the landless and near-landless, including the introduction of social security and occupational safety and health measures.

These items which the ILO Governing Body, at its session last February, had decided should be given priority in ILO's rural development programme, should, within the frame of the FAO World Conference, be seen in relation to agrarian reform measures and should focus on the poorer parts of the rural population.

The concrete form the ILO input into the forthcoming FAO World Conference will take, will need to be determined once the agenda of the Conference is known. We will be in close contact with the Secretariat of the Conference. However, it appears, as was mentioned in the debate, that the FAO World Conference could benefit by drawing on the results of the World Employment Conference and the basic needs strategy. Further, it should be mentioned that in respect to popular participation, reference has frequently been made to the ILO Convention No. 441 and Recommendation No. 149 concerning rural workers' organizations and their role in social and economic development, the adoption of which has been supported by FAO. It is hoped that more countries will soon adopt Convention No. 441 and Recommendation No. 149 as a means to carry out agrarian reform measures more successfully.

Paragraphs 7 to 11 in document C 77/25 deal with rural development, and in particular with the interagency planning exercise for rural development as recommended by ECOSOC and for which an inter-agency Task Force was established. The Task Force formulated a number of recommendations for an anti-poverty



rural development approach based on an assessment of the rural development activities of all agencies carried out in 1975/76. The ILO which followed the World Bank in being the present lead agency of the Task Force has begun implementation of these recommendations by coordinating the relevant work of the UN Agencies. The work of the Task Force is of a long-term nature so that spectacular results cannot be expected immediately.

We agree with the distinguished delegate from Bangladesh that bringing the rural poor into the mainstream of development should be the principal aim of all the activities being carried out by the Task Force. The support from most agencies and particularly from FAO and UNDP, is very encouraging. We hope that under FAO's leadership as from January 1978, the Task Force will make further and perhaps quicker progress and will also provide a valuable input to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

There are other examples of active cooperation between FAO and ILO in the field of rural development, such as, for instance, the work in the field of agricultural education and training coordinated through the FAO/Unesco/ILO Inter-Secretariat Working Group, and that in the field of cooperatives, etc., where the two agencies have been working successfully for years. ILO has also close working relations in fields of common concern with WFP, WFC, IFAD and CGFPI.

On the other hand however, there might be cases where, as the recent discussions in Commission II have shown, compared with purely technical issues, the social aspects and poverty-oriented issues seem to have been neglected to a certain extent. We may recall, for instance, the medium-term objectives of FAO or the priority items in agricultural development under TCDC, to which various delegates have drawn the attention of the audience.

To conclude, I would like to refer to a recent letter from the Deputy Director-General of the ILO, Mr. Jain, to Mr. Saouma, which has been already mentioned in the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget - in which, commenting on the FAO's programme and budget, for the next biennium, it is said:

"The immensity of the task and the paucity of the resources available to the UN system make it imperative that we should together engage in a concerted development strategy focused on the needs of the poorest among the rural populations. We are therefore encouraged by your intention to pursue a common poverty-oriented rural development approach. The forthcoming FAO World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, in the preparation of which the ILO intends to participate fully, the follow-up work to implement the recommendations of the ILO's World Employment Conference aimed at satisfying the basic needs of the rural poor, and the ACC Task Force on Rural Development should provide opportunities to develop such an approach together, and to test the effectiveness of our actions". <sup>1/</sup>

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas

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<sup>1/</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/II/PV/17

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

SEVENTEENTH MEETING

DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE

17ª SESION

(28 November 1977)

The Seventeenth Meeting was opened at 10.10 hours

J.H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dix-septième séance est ouverte à 10 h 10, sous la présidence de

J.H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 17ª sesión a las 10.10 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION  
(continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION  
(suite)

PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION  
(continuación)

15. Relations and Consultations with International Organizations (continued)

15. Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales (suite)

15. Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales (continuación)

15.2 Other Questions Arising from the United Nations and Other Specialized Agencies (continued)

15.2 Autres questions découlant des débats des Nations Unies et des institutions spécialisées  
(suite)

15.2 Otras cuestiones dimanantes de las Naciones Unidas y otros organismos especializados  
(continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Before taking up item 15.1, I would like to inform you that the result of the work done by the Contact Group and the Director-General on item 15.2 on Questions Arising from United Nations and Other Specialized Agencies with regard to the 14 percent overhead costs has led to an agreement, and I understood that the text of this agreement will be included in the Draft Report, so it will come to you in due course with the Draft Report - perhaps tomorrow. As a result of this agreement, the delegate of the Philippines has withdrawn the Draft Resolution. I take it that we are all happy with this result, so that in fact - if there are no comments - concludes our debate on item 15.2.

We therefore start on item 15.1.

15.1 Relations with the World Food Council (WFC), the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment (CGFPI) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

15.1 Relations avec le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation (CMA), le Groupe consultatif de la production alimentaire et de l'investissement (GCPAI) et le Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA)

15.1 Relaciones con el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación (CMA), el Grupo Consultivo sobre Producción Alimentaria e Inversiones Agrícolas (CGPAIA), y el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA)

J.D. WALTON (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): My introductory remarks will be limited to some updating of the paper dealing with the World Food Council.

In that paper, we reported that the Manila Communiqué adopted by the World Food Council was under consideration by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Since the document was drafted, the General Assembly's Second Committee has completed its consideration of this item and has adopted a resolution. This resolution will at a later stage go forward to the General Assembly Plenary for adoption. Until that has happened, it is not a formal resolution of the General Assembly, but approval by Plenary can be taken for granted.

In this resolution, there are a number of operative paragraphs, and I would like to summarize just three which are relevant to the present debate.

In one operative paragraph, the General Assembly adopts the Manila Communiqué - the word used is "adopts". In a subsequent paragraph, the Assembly calls upon all Governments, and Specialized Agencies with competence in this field to implement the programme of action fully and as a matter of urgency. In the third place, the Assembly, in a later operative paragraph, urges all Governments and United Nations Organizations and Bodies - particularly FAO - to give full support and encouragement to the World Food Council.

Document C 77/24-Rev.1 gives the Director-General's preliminary reactions to the Manila Communiqué, the text of which is appended to it. The Manila Communiqué is itself broken down into a number of specific subject areas which are shown in the sub-headings.

Under different items of its agenda, the FAO Conference has in fact substantially dealt with almost all questions that appear in the Manila Communiqué. The report of the FAO Conference will of course be the mandate to the Director-General in his subsequent discussions with the Secretariat of the World Food Council regarding the implementation of the Manila Conference, and ultimately the preparation of

the World Food Council. It would, however, be helpful to the Secretariat to have any supplementary guidance that the Conference may wish to give the Director-General in his discussions with the World Food Council Secretariat on this matter.

Ms. A. BERQUIST (Sweden): Since its establishment my Government has been a member of the World Food Council. We have actively participated in the work of the Council at ministerial sessions as well as in preparatory meetings, and also as a member of the Special Working Group on Rules of Procedure for the Council.

We strongly support the mandate given to the World Food Council by the General Assembly to serve as a coordinating mechanism for the successful coordination and follow-up of policies concerning all aspects of world food problems.

Initially, the World Food Council had some difficulties in finding its proper role within the United Nations system. With the successful outcome of the Third Ministerial Session in Manila, my Government now believes that the World Food Council will live up to the expectations placed on it by its founders. My Government strongly supports the 22-point action programme contained in the Manila Communiqué and urges governments and international organizations to implement it.

We also want to pay tribute to the World Food Council, its Executive Director, Dr. Hannah, its former president, Dr. Marei, and its present president, Dr. Tanco, for their devoted efforts to the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD. IFAD will shortly be ready to stand on its own feet as a full member of the UN family. We are very much looking forward to IFAD starting its operations, and hope for a close and fruitful cooperation between the Fund and FAO, as well as with other cooperating partners, UNDP, and the World Bank, just to mention a few.

Through active and fruitful cooperation all the organizations and organs in the UN system dealing with food and agricultural questions can together with the Member Governments contribute to a fulfillment of the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted by the World Food Conference some years ago, and to ensuring a better life for all mankind.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): Discussing the relations with IFAD, the World Food Council and the Consultative group on Food Production and Investments in developing countries means, in fact, discussing the institutional arrangements of the World Food Council and FAO role in that. IFAD was supposed to be the most important result of that conference, although it did not receive a warm welcome in all quarters of the world immediately. After 3 whole years of discussions, partly caused by the fact that the majority did not agree to a regular and normal front but only wanted a specialized agency, it is about to start its operations now, and my Government is keenly interested in its activities.

FAO has been, and rightly, so, very eager to cooperate with IFAD, and my delegation hopes the cooperation will prove to be a very fruitful one in which IFAD will make use of the enormous technical abilities and knowhow of FAO. Mr. Chairman, the World Food Council will be an organ of the United Nations established within the framework of FAO. The great majority of delegations at the World Food Conference wanted to establish this Council, including those that are now saying that the WFC is, or might be, a danger for FAO. But, Mr. Chairman, it does exist and it does function, and it might function very effectively and, let us be frank, it cannot really be a danger to FAO since its Secretariat is too small, the World Food Council has to work through FAO. My delegation has, therefore, always felt a little sad that the phrase "accepted in the World Food Council and in the General Assembly within the framework of FAO" has not been given sufficient substance. In this sense my delegation is disappointed in the relationship between FAO and the World Food Council to a certain extent, and in the leadership of Mr. Tanco and earlier Mr. Marei, and of the Executive Director Mr. Hannah; the World Food Council has started this year to be of substantive importance. Its existence is only justified when it has substantive importance, and when the political leaders are coming to its meetings. It is my Government's sincere hope that the World Food Council will be as effective as possible. The Netherlands is not yet a member of the World Food Council, but it has accepted the results in the Manila declaration and, in effect, we have just heard it from Mr. Walton. Almost all of us have done so by accepting the Resolution in a General Assembly of the United Nations. In those circumstances it is, in our feeling, Mr. Chairman, also in FAO's interest to cooperate closely with the Council.

The Consultative Group for Food Production and Investments: the decision to establish the CGFPI was taken at a very high political level. The three sponsoring agencies, FAO, UNDP and the World Bank, will carry out an evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the group in generating interest from possible new donors, and in serving as a platform for investments in food production. It is our hope that the evaluation makes a decision possible on the future of CGFPI at the same decision making level as the decision on its establishment was taken. My delegation is certainly interested to hear the official views of those delegations for whose countries food plans were formulated.

Summing up, Mr. Chairman, it is our feeling that the records on the institutional arrangements agreed upon by the world Food Conference are not always as favourable as we would have liked to see them after three years, and I hope that FAO will cooperate with all three of them very actively.

J. RUTKOWSKI (Poland): Poland is a member of the World Food Council and therefore we would like to state our position in relation to the document C 77/24-Rev.1 and C 77/LIM/25. We agree with the conclusions contained in the above-mentioned documents that a strict limitation of the competence and scope of activities of FAO and WFC is neither possible nor desirable at the present time. The World Food Council is a high level political body which has to formulate general recommendations and influence government policies. FAO has on the other hand, additional responsibilities, more practical and connected with the development of agriculture in the world as a whole and especially in developing countries.

In this situation more over-lapping activities of both organizations is unavoidable and could hardly be prevented, but we think it should not be something which hinders a positive cooperation between organizations.

The arrangements between FAO and WFC concerning documentation for the World Food Council meetings are, in our opinion, very reasonable and deserve support. Those arrangements can prevent preparation of similar reports and statistics by the two organizations at the same time. The Draft Supplementary arrangements between the UN and FAO regarding cooperation with the World Food Council does not raise any objections on our part. We especially welcome the provisions of Article VII which make it possible to supply WFC with necessary reports and information without waiting for the acceptance of the FAO Council. We think this is a very practicable solution.

The programme of FAO's activities connected with the Manila Communiqué and contained in the document C 77/24-Rev.1 are very practical and should well serve the common purpose of the two organizations.

The topics listed in this document indicate that the programme of work of FAO corresponds to the view of the World Food Council, and their implementation rests mainly in the hands of our Organization.

We are convinced that both Organizations can work harmoniously towards the achievement of our common aim which is the improvement in the world food situation and the assurance of the freedom from hunger for all people.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): Mr. Chairman, my delegation can associate itself with the views expressed by the delegations of Sweden and the Netherlands, and also in respect of the work of the World Food Council and the other agencies related to the World Food Council. We think that having created these agencies it is very important that there should be a close working relationship, but we would like to stress especially not the kind we have in the exchange of letters once in a while or when you meet for lunch, but a very close working relationship with the opportunity of many within this Organization because the WFC and FAO are sharing the building, and the World Food Council are above all here, and FAO will be almost; round the corner - bearing in mind Roman traffic, - and I think this could be a very good example of the way agencies will be working together at the Secretariat level following the wishes of governments. It may also help to undermine the criticism which I have heard in the last ten days of this Conference with the bureaucrats and headquarters, so I am hoping the bureaucrats and headquarters, including my good friend Mr. Yriart who I call a "gentle bureaucrat" will ensure that the bureaucrats work together and do not behave like bureaucrats.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (interpretation from German): At the present time I would like to relate myself to two items, first of all the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment, CGFPI, and secondly the World Food Council. First of all I would like to say something in

respect of CGFPI. Here and now I would like to make a few comments especially in respect of paragraph 4 and paragraph 5 of the document we have before us, C 77/22, and I would like to say something also about the tasks of CGFPI and its sponsoring agencies. According to paragraph 15 of Resolution XXII of the World Food Conference, CGFPI should serve not only in order to mobilize additional external means for food production in developing countries. After the creation of IFAD and the considerable increase of external means in past years, we consider the work of CGFPI to be above all as follows: firstly, coordination of the activities of the various multilateral and bilateral donors should be improved. Secondly, CGFPI should make sure that the existing means should be used in the best possible way.

Now, we consider that what is important is that in particular the sponsoring agencies and the bilateral donors should better coordinate and harmonize in CGFPI the planning and implementation of projects. Then we shall be able to see where, and to what extent additional external means are required in order to promote further projects.

The presentation of concrete and appropriate projects is a condition for increasing external means. We actually have the impression that the three cosponsors - the World Bank, UNDP and FAO - as far as their cooperation with CGFPI is concerned, have so far been rather reticent.

We would like to know from the Director-General to what extent FAO will support in future the work of CGFPI, and to what extent it will also make full use of this group.

This leads me to my second point; I refer, to the World Food Council, and the relationship between that organ and the FAO. My country, as you know, is a member of the World Food Council. It has participated actively in the deliberations which led to the elaboration of the Manila communiqué. We are therefore happy to see the positive reception enjoyed by the communiqué so far in the General Assembly of the United Nations. We do not really have anything to add to this.

However, we would like to draw the Secretariat's attention to a slight error which we feel has occurred in document C 77/24-Rev.1. In paragraph 10 of page 6 of the English version of this document, instead of: "A Food Aid Convention be negotiated as an element of a new International Grains Arrangement", this paragraph should read: "A Food Aid Convention be negotiated in connexion with a new International Grains Arrangement". The remainder of the paragraph would stay as it is.

I have before me the version of the Manila communiqué which was put to the General Assembly of the United Nations. This is document Supp. 19 (A/32/19) and in this text, the wording is what I have just given to you in respect of paragraph 10.

My last comment on this subject is this: the Council has dealt with the draft of an International Agreement between FAO and the World Food Council. As we can see from paragraph 120 of the Report of the 72nd Session of the Council, it was decided that this draft should be submitted to the Conference, and that the World Food Council, at its fourth session, should consider this draft for the supplementary arrangement between the World Food Council and FAO before it is actually signed. We entirely agree with this procedure.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation notes with appreciation the summary given by Dr. Walton on the present status of the Manila communiqué on the favourable reaction which it has elicited from the Member Nations and its implication as far as the International Agencies are concerned.

We strongly endorse - as we have done on other occasions - the mandate of the World Food Council and the importance of the Manila communiqué and endorse the acceptance by all International Agencies of that communiqué. We do so, in the hope that this will contribute, in a concerted effort, to the attack on the problems of food and malnutrition.

We believe that all the developing countries have a lot to benefit from close cooperation between the World Food Council and all the International Agencies, and in particular FAO, in their battle for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition.

M. TRKULYA (Yugoslavia): I would wish to indicate first of all that my country gives its full support to the World Food Council. We have also, from the beginning, been a member of the Council and we participated very actively indeed in all the Council's deliberations. We also, as was indicated by Sweden, took part in the Working Parties of the Council.

We are very glad at the success of the Third Session of the World Food Council and we are pleased to hear from Dr. Walton today that the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted a text which strongly urged support for the Manila communiqué and the activities of the Council in general.

Lastly, I would like to say that we are also glad to note that the Director-General wants to establish and foster further relations between FAO and the World Food Council.

D.M. ULNES (Norway): I had hoped that I would have had more time to prepare myself, but as there seem to be no other speakers, I must certainly take this opportunity to say a few words. I can be very brief, as I echo the views which have been expressed already, particularly by Sweden.

Since its inception, my country has seen the World Food Council as a new and important coordinating link within the UN system relating to the food issue, and it is in this light that we have given and will continue to give the Council our active support, although we are not yet a member of the Council.

Having got off to a very tight start indeed, the future role of the WFC seems to be heading in the right direction after the Manila meeting.

We would like to use this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Hannah, who has not spared himself to get the Council to where it stands now. It is important to have great leaders like Dr. Hannah, but I would like to stress that it is equally important that Member Governments give the Council the continued support it will need to keep on the right track and grow into what it was created to become.

We fully support the Manila communiqué and believe that under the present leadership of President Tanco, we see a good future for the Council. We, like other delegations, would conclude by saying that it is equally important that a good and harmonious relationship between the Secretariats of FAO and the Council should be continued, deepened and strengthened.

CHAIRMAN: As there are no more speakers, this will be a very brief summary indeed, because so few delegates have spoken.

With regard to the World Food Council, several delegations spoke about the third meeting of the Council in Manila which they regarded as very successful, and they supported the Manila communiqué.

One delegate was disappointed with the relationship between FAO and the World Food Council, and hoped it would be improved, which he felt was also in the interests of FAO.

With regard to the Consultative Group, some delegates referred to the evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the Group and expressed continued support for the CGFPI. One delegate thought it was important to hear the views of these countries for whom food plans had been or were being drawn up.

With regard to IFAD, I think all delegates looked forward to IFAD coming into operation very shortly.

This concludes Item 15.1, and it concludes the work of this Commission, except for discussion of our draft report.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would like to make a little amendment to the Chairman's summary, instead of in the first sentence saying: "several delegations", we could put "the Commission". That would be a better reflection of what happened here, because everybody spoke in the same language, nobody disagreed, and we suppose it is the feeling of the Commission that this should be so.

CHAIRMAN: The Chairman agrees with the correction to his summing up.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (interpretation from German): On the whole we agree, of course, with the Chairman's summary. After all, this is a certain guideline for the Drafting Committee which will also base itself on what has been said by the various delegations, and no doubt the Drafting Committee will realise that we wanted to make sure that one would state clearly to what extent the sponsoring agencies are prepared to support CGFPI in its work.



In this connexion, we put a question to the Secretariat and to the Director-General and we had hoped that we would be able to get an answer here and now. If this is not possible now, then of course we agree, if we get such an answer on a purely bilateral basis.

CHAIRMAN: I do agree, of course, that the complete and full report on our debate will be drawn up by the Drafting Group.

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General Development Department): Mr. Chairman, as you are aware from the document in front of you, C 77/22, there is an evaluation of the CGFPI in progress, rather advanced, I would say, and it is hoped that next week there will be a meeting of the evaluation team representing the three co-sponsors. We hope before the end of the year their report will be presented to the heads of agencies, and eventually the Chairman of the CGFPI will circulate the report to the membership requesting their comments.

At the present time I am afraid we can go no further than this except await eagerly the results of the evaluation and subsequent stages.

CHAIRMAN: Any other comments? In fact, I think we have come to the conclusion of our debate in this Commission except for discussing our Draft Report, which we will do tomorrow.

The meeting rose at 10.50 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.50 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/II/PV/18

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

### EIGHTEENTH MEETING DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE 18ª SESION

(29 November 1977)

The Eighteenth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

J.H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dix-huitième seance est ouverte à 10 heures, sous la présidence de

J.H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 18ª sesión a las 10.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished Delegates, we have now come to the last work for our Commission - the adoption of our Report. I shall now give the floor to the Chairman of the Drafting Group, Mr. D'Alraeida. As you know, the Drafting Group has been working during the whole weekend, while we - at least some of us - have been able to enjoy ourselves. They have been sitting until very late at night, but as you can see, they have produced a good result in a very short time. I give the floor to Mr. D'Almeida.

F. D'ALMEIDA (President du Comité de rédaction): Je tâcherai d'être bref puisque notre Commission a déjà pris beaucoup de temps. Le Groupe de rédaction de la Commission II s'est réuni pendant au moins 25 heures; comme l'a dit le Président de la Commission, nous avons dû sacrifier notre week-end pour accomplir notre tâche. Nous nous sommes penchés sur tous les points du rapport qui nous ont été soumis. Le Comité de rédaction a travaillé dans un esprit de parfaite conciliation et nous n'avons pas rencontré beaucoup de difficultés pour l'approbation du rapport. Nous avons étudié une douzaine de résolutions à l'exception de quatre d'entre elles que nous n'avons pas eu le temps d'examiner et que nous avons renvoyées à notre Commission de manière qu'elle les approuve. Il s'agit surtout des résolutions concernant les semences et le PCT, la nutrition et le corps international de volontaires. Je ne m'entendrai pas puisque vous êtes tous en possession du projet de rapport. Avant de terminer, je voudrais à nouveau adresser mes félicitations à tous les membres du Comité qui ont bien voulu consacrer à nos travaux leur samedi et leur dimanche et je les remercie de l'esprit qui a présidé à nos débats.

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PREMIERE PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE I

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Chairman of the Drafting Group, and the members of his Group, for the very good work they have done.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 18, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS

PARAGRAPHEs 1 à 18, Y COMPRIS LES RESOLUTIONS

PARRAFOS 1 a 18, INCLUIDAS LAS RESOLUCIONES

CHAIRMAN: We start on page 2 of REP/1, the Review of Arrangements for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural DEvelopment. Are there any comments on paragraph 1? I see none. Regarding paragraph 1, that is adopted. Paragraph 2, any comments on that? Paragraph 2 is adopted. Paragraph 3? No comments. Paragraph 3 is adopted.

Paragraph 4. No comments. Adopted. Paragraph 5. No comments. Adopted. Paragraph 6.

J,S, KHAN (Pakistan): Just a slight suggestion, and probably a query for the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. There is "the majority of the delegates" and "most delegations". I do not think these are controversial issues and this could be "the views of the Conference" rather than most of the delegates.

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): En relación al párrafo 6, en el texto en español, en la línea 5 en donde dice el texto: "para la preparación de la documentación de la Conferencia", intercalar una frase que diga lo siguiente: "de la Conferencia y de las Conferencias Regionales"; el resto del párrafo sigue igual.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates you have had two proposals. We will consider the first proposal by the delegate of Pakistan first, which is to replace the words "majority" and "most delegations" by "the Conference". Any objections? There seems to be no objections. It is so decided.

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): Tengo el texto en español; no se en inglés la línea que es. En español es la línea 5 y es donde dice: "para la preparación de la documentación de la Conferencia", agregar "y de las Conferencias Regionales".

CHAIRMAN: Is it clear to all delegates. At the end of the fourth line add "and regional conferences". Any objections? There seems to be none. So it is agreed.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): Respecto a esta enmienda que se acaba de aprobar, queda entendido que ella podrá tener efecto si realmente tenemos a tiempo los documentos de los países.

Pero en todo caso, aún cuando no estén pronto todos, la intención del Secretariado es que se presente a las Conferencias Regionales, además, un documento con la experiencia y con la información que hayan podido recoger las respectivas oficinas regionales.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Santa Cruz. You are agreed on the changes? Can I take it that paragraph 6 is adopted with these two changes? So it is agreed.

Paragraph 7, any comment? There seems to be none. Paragraph 7 is adopted. Paragraph 8. Paragraph 8 is adopted. Paragraph 9.

S.M. RICHARDS (Liberia): On paragraph 9 I think that the phrase "overall rural development" was the consensus of the Conference. Therefore I would say instead of the wording "several delegations", we substitute "the Conference suggested".

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, you heard his proposal. Any objections? There seems to be no objections. It is so decided. Paragraph 10? No comments. Paragraph 11?

Ms. A. BERQUIST (Sweden): Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to add a sentence to the last one along the following lines: - the regional consultations on integrated rural development have also produced valuable documentation for the World Conference.

CHAIRMAN: Has everyone got it? Are there any objections? No objections. Paragraph 11 is adopted with the additional sentence proposed by the delegate of Sweden. Paragraph 12. No comments. Adopted. Paragraph 13.

J.S. KHAN (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman I have a suggestion here. I presume this paragraph refers to the basic documentation for the Conference in addition to the background material, and the idea expressed here is a timely submission and I think there was an idea expressed, that you also mentioned in your

summing up, which my delegation raised and which was supported by some others, that the basic documentation should be kept limited and I would like to introduce that idea if the Commission agrees. My proposal is after "the Conference stressed that the" and before the words "documentation" is added the word "basic". It goes on "for the Conference", and that we should then add a few more words as follows: - "should be kept to the minimum and" and then the rest of the sentence would remain as it is.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Pakistan. You heard his proposal to insert the word "basic" in the first line between "the" and "documentation" and insert after the words "Conference should be" insert "kept to the minimum and". Any objections?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I have no difficulty with the proposal of the Pakistan delegate. However, we must fully realise that the basic documentation includes in fact the Country Review Papers. If we have Country Review Papers from 140 or more countries plus the next that has just been suggested, then things will be fairly easy. What the delegate of Pakistan meant, I think, was that the summary of the basic documentation should be fairly brief and that the Country Review Papers would be available on top of that summary.

CHAIRMAN: I see the delegate of Pakistan is nodding so we have given the summary correctly and I give the floor to Mr. Santa Cruz.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): Yo creo que no hay contradicción entre la posición del señor Delegado de Pakistán y la del Delegado de la República Federal de Alemania porque, en realidad, los documentos por países no van a ser documentos básicos de la Conferencia, van a ser documentos básicos para preparar la documentación básica y creo que lo dijimos durante la discusión. Es absolutamente imposible traducir en seis lenguas 140 informes de países y van a ser documentos que van a estar a la disposición de las delegaciones para informar, y ellos van a ser la base para el documento fundamental que va a preparar la Secretaría que va a presentar los aspectos principales de estos documentos y, sobre todo, organizar estos documentos por temas o por posiciones comunes, pero yo he entendido al señor Delegado de Pakistán en el sentido de que se refiere a los documentos básicos de la Conferencia que deben ser reducidos al mínimo. Esta fue la recomendación del Comité Asesor y esa recomendación encuentra toda nuestra simpatía porque creemos que ello permite una discusión mucho más concentrada y más clara en los aspectos principales de la Conferencia.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I just want to make sure that the advice and instructions given in paragraph 13 not only apply to the Secretariat but also to the Member Governments because they will be meaning, I am sure, the Committee on Agriculture, will be discussing this item. I think the real appeal should be not only to the Secretariat but the Member Governments not to come forward asking for additional papers, and if that is what the distinguished delegate of Pakistan has in mind I am happy to accept his modification.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I just wonder, in view of what Mr. Santa Cruz was saying, whether the delegate of Pakistan would be prepared to consider a slight modification of his working. It might read "The Conference stressed that the basic documentation should be limited to essentials and sent well in advance to Member Governments." It is a little more general but I think it takes Mr. Santa Cruz's point about the main features.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal of the delegate of the United Kingdom is that instead of inserting the sentence by Pakistan we should insert this: "should be limited to essentials and sent well in advance". Is that acceptable to the delegate of Pakistan? I see he is nodding. Is it acceptable to the rest of the delegates?

W. JURASZ (Poland): I would propose a slight change in paragraph 13, that we should replace "Member Governments" by "participating Governments" since there was a decision, as I understand it, to invite other governments and this wording would be proper.

CHAIRMAN: Delegates have heard the last proposal. Are there any objections to it?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I think it should refer to participants in general and not be necessarily limited, all those taking part would need the documents in advance, I would assume.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): If I understand the rules of the Organization, any document issued by the Organization has to be sent to all Member Governments, and it cannot be restricted just to participants. I do not think any great discussion on this item is necessary, I am sure the Director-General will send this to everybody involved. But let us not use the word "participating" because many governments may not participate in the Conference but they would want to be fully informed on what is happening.

Often we do not go to meetings, to keep down the number of meetings attended, but we ask for documentation. We should avoid getting involved in a play of words because there are legal rules to cover all the distribution.

CHAIRMAN: I think the delegate of Canada has a point. The delegate of Poland suggested this, does he agree?

W. JURASZ (Poland): Could I ask for clarification? Did the delegate of Canada ask to keep the wording "Member Governments"?

CHAIRMAN: Yes, that is the proposal. The reason for it is that it is quite normal that documentation is sent to all Member Governments, not only those participating, because those who do not participate may still want to be informed. I think that is quite a good point.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): Nosotros interpretamos la proposición del señor Delegado de Polonia como que la documentación debe ser enviada a los gobiernos invitados, participen o no. Yo entiendo que lo que él ha querido decir es que también llegue la documentación a aquellos países que no son miembros de Naciones Unidas ni de la FAO y son países que tienen derecho a asistir a la Conferencia. De manera que la fórmula podría ser "a los Gobiernos invitados".

CHAIRMAN: Delegates have heard the proposal by Mr. Santa Cruz. Could I venture another proposal, that we say that the documents "should be sent well in advance to Member Governments and other participants"? I think that would cover all possibilities. Is that acceptable to delegates? If so, I would ask the Secretariat to read paragraph 13 as amended.

Ms.K. KILLINGSWORTH (Assistant Secretary, Commission II): Paragraph 13 would then read: "The Conference stressed that the basic documentation for the Conference should be limited to essentials and should be sent well in advance to Member Governments and other participants."

CHAIRMAN: Can I take it that that is acceptable? Paragraph 13 (as amended) approved. Are there any comments on paragraph 14?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): Before I make a brief comment in respect of paragraph 14, I would like to thank the Chairman and all the members of the Drafting Committee, and congratulate them on the work they have done. I would like to do this on behalf of my delegation.

If, nevertheless here or there, we make certain proposals, it will always be in the spirit of constructive collaboration, and we very much hope that none of these proposals will lead to difficulties.

Having said that, I would like to make a comment in respect of paragraph 14. I have a question on the first line, where it states that: "the new dimensions of the World Conference...". I do not know, perhaps it is because English is not my mother tongue, but I have some difficulty here. I would prefer us to say "that the broader orientations of the World Conference", and so on. However, if others prefer the expression "new dimensions", we would not have much difficulty, I would merely make the suggestion.

CHAIRMAN: I understand that the delegate of Germany would like to replace "new dimensions" with "broader orientations". Is that acceptable? It seems so. Are there any other proposals to amend paragraph 14?

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines) I would propose adding at the end of paragraph 14 the following words: "and representatives of local government agencies." When the Philippine delegation made an intervention on this item, it proposed that this suggestion should be included and that they should be included either in the distribution or in this paragraph. The reason for this is that the people directly involved in working with the rural, small farmers, could also go to this Conference, because they are in direct contact with the problems, they are in day-to-day relationship with the farmers, they know the problems. It is not just those who are up there in the government agencies, sitting at desks, they do not realize the magnitude of the problems encountered in rural development and agrarian reform.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of the Philippines has proposed adding after the last words in paragraph 14, "and representatives of local government agencies." Are there any objections? There seem to be none, so can I take it that paragraph 14 is adopted with these two amendments?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): It just occurred to me that if one goes back to the German amendment of the first sentence, possibly instead of "broader orientations", I offer the words "in view of the wider implications of the World Conference". If that is what we are trying to get at, the level of representation, I think "wider implications" might - if this is read by Ministers - be more compelling than "broader orientations".

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Germany has heard the proposal by the delegate of the United Kingdom. Does he agree?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I have no difficulty with that, at all, from the discussion, we heard that there were new orientations. But we could accept "wider implications". I do not quite understand why the connexion has been made between this and the last proposal, but we do not really have any difficulty with it. Would, of course, prefer it if we were to stick to "broader orientations".



CHAIRMAN: I understand that the delegate of Germany can accept the proposal by the United Kingdom. Is it acceptable to other delegates? Paragraph 14 will then read: "The Conference was of the view that the wider implications of the World Conference called for high-level representation from participating countries." Then we shall add in the last line: "and representatives of local government agencies."

O. MBURU (Kenya): I was just wondering whether it is correct to add the last proposal by the delegation of the Philippines at the end. I think it would be more correct if it came after "organizations" so that it would read: "agricultural workers' organizations and representatives of local government agencies in national delegations." We would, of course, delete the word "and" between "farmers" and "agricultural workers".

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I would like to propose keeping this paragraph as it stands here, for the following reason. As regards the "new dimensions", if we go back to paragraph 3 in the second line we talk about "more profound dimension", so the word "dimensions" has been used several times. I do not know whether we should keep it in this paragraph, because it reflects the views of delegates which have been taken note of in paragraph 3, so we are not putting a new word in here, we are using the same words as have been used in other paragraphs.

On the proposal of the Philippine delegation, I do not see that there is any need to include this in our report, because it will be left for the Government to decide who will represent the Government, whether it is local governments or Headquarters. I do not think we should insist on putting this wording in such a paragraph. It should be left for each Government to decide on how it is going to form its delegation at this Conference. So I would propose keeping the paragraph as it stands in the report.

CHAIRMAN: We have to take these two proposals one by one; there are now three proposals: one is to keep the first sentence as it is, with "new dimensions"; the other is to replace it by "broader orientations"; the third is to replace it by "wider implications". I need some indication as to whether there is any support for the proposal by the delegate of Jordan to keep it as it is.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I agree completely with the delegate of Jordan that it is up to the governments to decide the kind of representation they should send to this kind of Conference.

CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to interrupt the delegate of the Philippines, but we must deal with these proposals one by one. I suggest we take the first part and finalize that first. My question was: do you agree with the delegate of Jordan on keeping "new dimensions" as it is, or should we replace it with "broader orientations" or "wider implications"? We shall come to the other proposal later, but we must deal with this one by one.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I have no comment on the first amendment.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): We can support the proposal by Jordan; leave the first sentence as it is. None of the additions or modifications change the meaning.

CHAIRMAN: Germany, can you accept the sentence as it is?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): At the outset I already said that we were just wondering whether it was right to use "new dimension" so often, for it might lose some of its meaning. We have no problem with it, we can agree to the paragraph remaining as it stands.

CHAIRMAN: Is that agreeable to the United Kingdom?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): Indeed, Sir, but may I draw the attention of the Commission to the fact that paragraph 3 refers to "a broader and more profound dimension" in the singular. I would be happy to accept the wording in paragraph 14 with the "s" removed.

CHAIRMAN: I think we can take it that the change now is to cross out one "s" and keep the rest as it is, and then we come to the last amendment.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I agree perfectly with Jordan that it is up to the Government to decide what kind of delegates they have to send to this kind of conference. But this sentence, as you will notice, Sir, does not give any obligation to the government to send or oblige them to send any kind of delegates, it just says, "It recognized the importance... and the desirability of including..." In other words, even if you include those words, nevertheless the governments are free to decide.

Now, the purpose of the amendment was to give real meaning to this Conference, we need people who are in contact daily with the problems encountered that are to be dealt with in this Conference.

CHAIRMAN: Jordan, can you accept the proposal of the Philippines?

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): For this Conference there will be two kinds of representatives. They are representatives of the governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, so if we talk about local government employees, are they non-governmental or governmental employees? If they are non-governmental, it is O.K., then we can invite them, but if they are governmental, there is no need for us to include this in our report. Maybe in the Philippines the local governments do not consider them as government employees, but in my country, all the local government employees belong to the government, they are not non-governmental.

CHAIRMAN: It is proposed by the delegate of the Philippines and no other delegation has argued against having this in. You said yourself it is up to the governments as to what they do. Do you mind very much if we include it? I see Jordan agrees.

We have then the proposal to insert after the word "organizations" in the last but second line the words "and representatives of local governments, agencies". Can I take it that this is acceptable?

Paragraph 14 is accepted with the amendments. Paragraph 15.

R.S. KAMARA (Sierra Leone): It is just a minor intervention, and all I wish to do is to offer you the word "pledged by", leaving the word "offered" in the second line. I think it would convey the sense more appropriately, that is, "Several delegations pledged support", because as it is now, it gives the impression that it is done and finished with, whilst the sense is a promissory one.

N. AL-SALEH (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): I have noticed that most of the delegations here have expressed their thanks to the members of the Drafting Committee. It is true that it is necessary to thank them, but no one thanked the members of the Resolutions Committee, although they did a very important task. I think we should think about thanking them from time to time as well.

As regards paragraph 15, I should like to refer to the last sentence which reads, "Several delegations offered support to the Secretariat and to countries to help them in the preparation for the Conference". It seems to me that the countries would like to know what type of support would be required and which delegations have offered this support.

CHAIRMAN: Have you got a concrete proposal, Saudi Arabia?

N.AL-SALEH (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think we should describe the type of support to be given to the Secretariat, and we should also spell out those delegations that offered such support.

CHAIRMAN: I would expect you to propose some concrete language to insert so that we could deal with it. If you think about that in the meantime, we can consider the proposal of Sierra Leone to replace the word "offered" by "pledged".

Are there any objections to that?

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would like to ask for clarification from the Secretariat. If this paragraph refers to the \$1.2 million that is requested by the Director-General as a budgetary increase just for the expenditure of this Conference, I understand that the word "supported" should remain because that is the proposal of our Director-General and it is not a pledge of any other money, so I would like to be enlightened on this before I give my comments.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): En realidad, durante el debate que se llevo a cabo aquí sobre este tema hubo varias delegaciones que expresaron que estaban en situación de prestar cualquier ayuda de tipo técnico o de otro género para la preparación de la Conferencia siempre que fuera solicitada o que fuera aceptada por el Secretariado. Después de eso, varias delegaciones se nos han acercado para decirnos que ponían a nuestra disposición la información que ellos habían recogido a través de programas bilaterales o a través de programas regionales, y que estaban a la disposición para poder proporcionar un género de ayuda que no se ha especificado. Y a mí me parece que tal vez nosotros no podríamos dar una lista de estas delegaciones pero, obviamente, y aquí quedó constancia de los "records" de ofrecimientos de una ayuda especial a países que tienen más experiencia que otros en esta materia, y yo creo que más información que ésta no podríamos dar nosotros por lo menos.

CHAIRMAN: Saudi Arabia, I understand the reply by Mr. Santa Cruz is to the effect that it would be very difficult to specify as you would like it to be, so I would suggest that we leave it like this because we understand that there has been expressed support for it in various ways, and this is really what we would like to have since a list with the names of the countries and the types of assistance they have offered would really go too far in this report, so would it be agreeable to you that we leave it as it is?

N. AL-SALEH (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): I have no objections, but I think that we should add "technical support to the Secretariat", so that the sentence would read "Several delegations offered technical support to the Secretariat..."

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): Well, I was thinking along similar lines and toying with a slight change in the words to read perhaps "in addition a number of delegations were ready to provide technical support", etc. I have been criticized for playing on words, but I just offer it as maybe a helpful one to Saudi Arabia.

CHAIRMAN: I understand that United Kingdom would like instead of the words "Several delegations offered support" to say "A number of delegations were ready to offer technical assistance to the Secretariat". Is that correct?

A.J. PECKMAN (United Kingdom): I think "ready to provide" rather than "offered". It is slightly stronger.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): La verdad es que reflejaría mejor la verdad de los hechos el que se hablara de apoyo o asistencia técnica y de otro tipo porque, por ejemplo, algunos países, no diré que han ofrecido de una manera formal y oficial pero han tenido conversaciones conmigo sobre la posibilidad de que ellos contribuyan a la organización de algunos seminarios que nosotros deseáramos que fueran organizados en los países en desarrollo con la participación de la Conferencia para esclarecer algunos de los aspectos y de los problemas que existen en las diversas regiones en desarrollo. De manera que la implicancia de las ofertas que se hicieron aquí van más allá de una asistencia simplemente técnica.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I would like to apologize to my distinguished colleague from the United Kingdom and support the views just expressed by Mr. Santa Cruz, because we are talking about support to the Secretariat and to the countries, so there might be financial support to the countries in order to include the participation of non-governmental organizations, their delegations, so why keep it? I mean just technical support; we give support and leave it to the country to decide whether it will be technical or financial, so I would like to keep it as it stands here in this paragraph without any change.

CHAIRMAN: I thought I understood Jordan. From the first you said that you can accept the addition more or less suggested by Mr. Santa Cruz to say "technical and other kinds of assistance". It is really to amend the United Kingdom proposal in that way. Is that correct?

I have seen the delegate of the United Kingdom has been nodding, so he also agrees with that. The second line of paragraph 15 will read: "A number of delegations were ready to provide technical and other kinds of assistance to the Secretariat" and so on. Is that acceptable to everyone?

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): Mr. Chairman, I think there is a difference between the words "Several" and "a number". When we speak about a number it means it is a few delegations. When we speak about several it means more than a few, so why not keep it as it stands here without a number of delegations. I was attending the discussion and there were so many delegations who had offered support to the Secretariat to the countries, so we leave it "several". It is better than saying "a number".

CHAIRMAN: So it should read, "Several delegations were ready to provide technical and other kinds of assistance to the Secretariat". I understand this is acceptable to the delegation of the United Kingdom. I almost forgot, the delegate of Yugoslavia had another proposal, but I regard this now as accepted. You have the floor, Sir.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia). "Most of the delegations", I might have perhaps failed to note any dissenting view expressed in debate on the increased budgetary resources to cover the widened scope of the Conference. If my memory is correct everybody who spoke on that issue was more or less in full agreement, so in that case if I am correct I would suggest we say simply, "the Conference supported" and so on.

CHAIRMAN: So the proposal is instead of saying "most delegations supported" to say, "the Conference supported". Any objections? The delegate of Germany. You have the floor.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I am sorry that I cannot be entirely in agreement with this proposal. It was my delegation which, amongst others, said in the course of the discussion that we hoped that part of the cost would be absorbed by the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, so we really would have some difficulty in accepting the proposal that has just been made.

G. WEILL (France): Le délégué de la République fédérale d'Allemagne a très exactement dit ce que nous-mêmes nous nous proposons de rappeler. Ma délégation a été du nombre de celles qui ont exprimé le souhait que les frais de cette Conférence puissent être pris sur le budget tel qu'il était, sans l'augmentation qui nous a été soumise; par conséquent, la rédaction actuelle nous semble satisfaisante, et nous préférons qu'on s'y tienne,

K. ALADEJANA (Nigeria): My delegation expressed the view that the budgetary level should be cut at the barest minimum. In other words, we did not support the increase.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): We think paragraph 15 is very clear and we see no reason why we should change the language. I could start asking who said what. It merely says, "Several delegations offered support." We can't spell it out for any delegation what they offered. Therefore, I would propose, along with the German and French delegations, to leave the text unchanged.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, I am trying to find out here the place where it was indicated where the Conference was going to be held, but I have a proposal to make, and I hope that the Conference and our friends would take this into serious consideration, because just now I received a telephone call from Manila authorizing the Philippines delegation to invite this Conference to Manila if this body would so desire. It is, therefore, the will of the Philippines Government to invite this Conference. It is understood, of course, the Philippine Government is willing to shoulder the expenses, the difference between the expenditures in holding the Conference if it is held in Manila from the amount of expenditure that would be spent if this Conference were held in Rome. This is my proposal, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the Philippines, distinguished delegates.

I would say to the delegate of Yugoslavia, your proposal was to say, "the Conference". Your delegation has said they do not agree. I do not think we then could say, "the Conference", I think it would be reasonable to leave in, "most of the delegations" as there are some who clearly do not wish to be in. Is that acceptable to you?

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): To help you solve that issue I would go along. May I mention only one thing, the increase in budget is a part of budgetary appropriations, and I would like to know, of course, first of all, whether those delegations who spoke in debate, or had some reservations, would have the same kind of reservation when we are actually going towards budgetary appropriations. That is my worry. If nobody has any reservation formally speaking, then it means "the Conference" here, but anyhow I am not going to insist. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Yugoslavia, and I understand we can then leave it as it is. "Most of the delegations supported" and so on.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): Yo quiero llamar la atención sobre la redacción de este párrafo 15, que dice en inglés: "Most of the delegations supported the increase in budgetary resources to allow for proper onference Preparation según ha entendido el delegado de Francia, él hizo presente que deseaba que el gasto de esta Conferencia no aumentara el Presupuesto General de la Organización.

A mi me parece que la redacción del párrafo 15 no tiene nada que ver con el límite general del Presupuesto. No es este párrafo el que está resolviendo sobre este punto; este punto se resolverá en otra instancia. De manera que la redacción podría quedar como está o incluso decir que: "La Conferencia estimó que había una necesidad de aumentar los recursos para que la Conferencia se desarrollara y se preparara en una forma apropiada". Pero este párrafo no modifica en nada el nivel general del Presupuesto.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): Just to say, Mr. Chairman, I agree with that statement, and I also think that the first sentence of paragraph 15 faithfully reflects the discussion which we had in this Commission. I think it should stand.

CHAIRMAN: So I can take it that is accepted also by the delegate of Yugoslavia. We have the sentence as it is, "Most of the delegations supported" and so on. Then that settles that matter.

Then we come to the proposal by the delegate of the Philippines. The Secretariat has put this into words and suggested the following, "The Conference noted with pleasure the offer by the Government of the Philippines to host the World Conference". Is that a correct interpretation of your proposal?

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, it is not just "noting", we want to know whether the Conference will agree to this invitation or not. If the Conference does, our understanding is that this invitation can be decided upon by the Conference and we are putting it now on the floor in order for the Conference to make a decision. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the Philippines. It might be a bit difficult for us to decide this here and now, but I will give the floor to Mr. Santa Cruz to comment on your proposal.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): No creo que me corresponda a mí comentar esta proposición. Este es un problema de las delegaciones y, naturalmente, si el Director General tiene alguna cosa que decir, él lo dirá oportunamente en la Conferencia. Por lo demás, se requiere estudiar las cuestiones financieras, es decir la diferencia de costo que hay entre la celebración de la Conferencia en Roma y la celebración de la Conferencia fuera de la Sede. En este caso, sería Manila.

Por lo demás, cada delegación juzgará cuál es la conveniencia para su país y para la Organización en general y para el éxito de la Conferencia. El que se efectuó este torneo en una parte u otra, dentro de la familia de las Naciones Unidas, tenemos soluciones en ambos sentidos, soluciones que han sido dictadas por consideraciones particulares de incidencia en cada una de las situaciones.

De manera que por mi parte no tengo ningún comentario que hacer y creo que corresponde al Director General; si él tiene alguna observación que él la formule.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Santa Cruz. Distinguished Delegates, and especially the Delegate of Philippines, I think you realize that this has come as something of a surprise to all delegations here, and it may be difficult to decide on the spur of the moment. I have two alternative suggestions: either we include a sentence such as the one I read out, that "the Conference noted with pleasure the offer of the Government of Philippines to host the World Conference" - that, I understand, we could decide now for insertion in our Report. Otherwise, we will have to leave paragraph 15 for the moment and give delegations time to consult their governments, and also give time for the Director-General to be informed of your proposal - I assume he does not know of it. So it is up to you to choose what you propose: would you propose that we take note of your offer?

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): It is entirely unacceptable to our delegation that the Conference just take note of it. I would therefore request the Chairman to give the Conference time to decide if it is required, and I would like to ask him when we will take up this matter again.

CHAIRMAN: My proposal was that we should just take note of it and do nothing more, and have that included in our report - if you agree. If you insist that we go further, then we would have to leave paragraph 15 for the moment and take it up this afternoon, after delegations have had time to consult each other, and also for the Secretariat to be in touch with the Director-General.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I entirely agree with your second proposal. One of the reasons why it is rather proper that it be held in a developing country is that we do not want an abstract discussion of a programme: if we can discuss it in a developing country where something is going on about agrarian reform and rural development, then we can come to grips with the problem, by seeing with our own eyes what the problems are and what probable or possible solutions can be found. I would therefore agree with your second proposal.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): Yo no sé si estaré interfiriendo en un asunto que no me corresponde, pero yo creo que el párrafo 15 tal como ha sido acordado antes de la proposición de Filipinas, puede ser aprobado, porque es un asunto separado el que ha presentado el delegado de Filipinas. Entonces podría quedar aprobado el informe con una proposición que queda pendiente, que es la del delegado de Filipinas.

CHAIRMAN: I must tell the delegate of the Philippines that we have a technical problem: if we do not proceed with our work here, we will have to hold up the report and also the Plenary. It is suggested by the Secretariat that we take the report as it is, and that you raise this matter in Plenary, otherwise we will not be able to proceed with our work. I also agree with Mr Santa Cruz, that we might approve paragraph 15 as it is because this does not necessarily have to be in paragraph 15 - we will in fact come to it when dealing with the Resolution, where the place of the Conference is indicated as Rome. I think that you can probably raise your reservations about this matter in Plenary - would that be agreeable to you?

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): This is a formal proposal, and I think that to make a reservation on an item regarding the place where this Conference is going to be held is rather weak. We therefore propose that the Conference take action that either pro or con - on this. If you tell us that it will be all right to do this in Plenary, we will abide by your decision; if you tell us that we can do it now, we will also abide by that.

CHAIRMAN: I think it would definitely be preferable that you do this in Plenary, so that we do not hold up the work here, because we must go through our report. So I take it that we can accept paragraph 15 as it is, and that you raise this matter in Plenary tomorrow instead. Is that correct?

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I can see that it creates difficulties for you to raise the question now. In that case we agree, but if there are no technical difficulties we would prefer to deal with it in this Commission now.

CHAIRMAN: It is difficult to do it now, as it would hold up our work. So I would be most grateful if you could raise it in Plenary tomorrow. Thank you for your cooperation.

So I can take it that paragraph 15 is accepted, with the amendment which you approved earlier: that we say in the second sentence, the second line: "Several delegates were ready to provide technical and other kinds of assistance to the secretariat... ' ' and no other changes.

S.M. RICHARDS (Liberia): Paragraph 16, if I understand it correctly, somewhat contradicts paragraph 8 of the Resolution on page 6, because you say here that you cannot decide on a date, but in the Resolution you have placed a date, if I understand the paragraph correctly.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Santa Cruz, would you care to explain the position?

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): Señor Presidente, a mí me parece que la cita de la fecha en el informe no tiene mucha importancia porque en la parte resolutive de la Resolución dice muy claro: "Decides that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will be held in Rome for eight working days, beginning at 12 July 1979" "Lo que está en discusión es el sitio, pero no la fecha; la fecha se ha fijado para el 12 de julio de 1979.

S.M. RICHARDS (Liberia): If we are to read paragraph 16 as it stands, as I understand it, it says that the date is not set for the World Conference. How is it that we have a Resolution with a date, in that case?

CHAIRMAN: I think the delegate for Canada has something to say on this.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I think there is a misunderstanding. Paragraph 16 states that "... an alternative date... was not possible". It has now been fixed, so that is merely telling us in the Report that it was not possible to have an alternative date. There is no inconsistency - the Resolution is correct. The paragraph merely explains that that date was the only date chosen.

R.S. KAMARA (Sierra Leone): I would just like to confirm what the Delegate of Canada has said. Paragraph 16 may be superfluous, but it is not in any way contradictory. It only means that people wanted to suggest another date, but this was not possible, I believe.

CHAIRMAN: Does the delegate of Liberia understand the position now? Can we leave it as it stands? Thank you, Paragraph 16 is accepted.

Paragraphs 1 to 16, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 16, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés.

Los párrafos 1 a 16, así enmendados, son aprobados

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I refer to the paragraph which starts on page 5. The English in the document states "Bearing in mind the necessity..." I suggest that that word "necessity" at the bottom of page 5 be deleted, and the words "the decision already taken" be inserted, so that it reads: "Bearing in mind the decision already taken..." As I understand it, the Council of FAO has already decided that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development should be a subject matter for the Regional Conferences. As far as the European Regional Conference is concerned, we have already taken this as one of our subject matters, and I think that this goes back to a Council decision which has already been taken but perhaps the Secretariat could confirm this?

CHAIRMAN: I think perhaps we should take paragraph 17, paragraph by paragraph. I think we should start with the first two lines on page 5 "Taking into account" and so on, and then we take it paragraph by paragraph in the Resolution, and I think you should take it up when it comes to that.

So we start with the first two lines on top of page 5, "Taking into account" and so on. Are there any objections to that? There seem to be no objections.

We then take the first paragraph "Noting with satisfaction" Any comments?

Next paragraph the second paragraph "Bearing in mind" and so on. No comments.



The third paragraph "Aware also". No comments.

The fourth, "Conscious of the necessity" and so on. No comments.

The next "Recognizing the need for the Conference" and so on. No comments.

Then "Recalling in this connexion". No comments.

And then we come to the paragraph which I think the delegate of Germany referred to. Could you please repeat what you had to say on this paragraph.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): Yes, willingly, Mr. Chairman. We think that the word "necessity" should be replaced by "decision already taken", and the reason why we are proposing this is that we feel that the Council of FAO has already taken a firm decision, and that the subject of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development is already contained in the Agenda of the Regional Conferences. As I said earlier, this is certainly the case for the European Regional Conference.

CHAIRMAN: It has been proposed to replace the word "necessity" by "decision already taken", so that it would read, "Bearing in mind the decision already taken that the FAO Regional Conference" and so on. Any objections to this amendment? There seems to be none.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I do not know whether the Council can decide; the Council merely recommends to the government or people engaged in the preparation of this Item of the agenda of the Regional Conference to include, so why not say "bearing in mind that the FAO" without saying, "bearing in mind the necessity or the decision of the Council, because I do not think the Council can take a decision with regard to the agenda or the items.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Germany is nodding so the proposal is to delete the word "necessity" and leave the proposal as it is. Is that in agreement with everyone?

J. RUTKOWSKI (Poland): With this last amendment, I can go with it. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Poland. Adopted. We come then to the next paragraph. I understand the delegate of Nigeria wants to speak.

K. ALADEJANA (Nigeria): There is a minor point. I speak grammar which is perhaps not English. The word "agendas" in the second line of that paragraph I think should read "agenda", and not "agendas".

CHAIRMAN: I am not an expert in English grammar. Can I ask someone who is to tell us whether it should be "agenda" in the singular or in the plural.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I am not an expert in grammar Mr. Chairman, but I do see an advantage in contraction, therefore I suggest we agree with Nigeria and delete the "s".

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the United Kingdom for his advice. We will delete the "s".

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, I would like to propose the deletion of the words "in Rome" pending the decision of the Conference on the matter. That is all Mr. Charman.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I would rather prefer to keep this sentence as it stands and if the delegate of the Philippines would raise this question in the Plenary, and then we will change it from Rome to Manila, but we have been discussing this for a week now and we have decided this should be held in Rome. We are of course recommending something to the Plenary, and the Philippines delegation can bring it to the attention of the of the distinguished delegates at that time, so we should leave it as it stands here.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would agree with the delegate of Jordan if all the Conference agree that it should be held in Rome, but that is precisely what we would like to find out and the floor has post poned the question, so it is just as proper that we delete the words "in Rome" because there is no decision up to now. It there was a decision then there is no use in the Chairman proposing that the question be taken up in Plenary, and I am sure there are delegations that have not yet decided that it should be held in Rome in view of the offer made by the Philippines.

CHAIRMAN: Delegate of the Philippines, I wonder if we can solve the problem in the following way: that we leave the text as it is and you take it up in Plenary and you take a reservation to this paragraph. Could we do it in that way?

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I have some difficulty in this, Mr. Chairman because it will indicate that this Commission has decided, but since you did not want to open the question here I think there was no decision.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I think the Commission cannot decide. We just recommend to the Conference a Resolution to be decided upon in the Plenary, and we have recommended to the Plenary that this Conference be held in Rome. If the distinguished delegate from the Philippines would raise it in the Plenary then the Plenary would change it from Rome to Manila, but I do not think that we should discuss it now, otherwise we are going to spend hours deciding whether it should be held in Rome or Manila or other places.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Jordan. What we agreed on a few minutes ago was that we should try to proceed with the work of this Commission without delay, and I think the best way to deal with it is to leave it as it is and you take a reservation and we raise the matter in Plenary, or we may, as the delegate for Jordan has suggested, take it up here and this would delay our work.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): Since you did not like us to discuss this matter here I do not think that this Commission did make this decision, so if we did not make this decision we cannot approve its recommendation.

R.S. KAMARA (Sierra Leone): The understanding of my delegation is that we are reviewing the work we have done in the past and we are trying in take stock of what we have said with a view to adopting the Report. What the delegate of the Philippines is presenting is something completely outside what we discussed. In any case some of us are not leaders of our delegation. We have no mandate and it is only the Plenary that can decide on whatever is going to bind governments, so I would like, for the sake of progress, to appeal to the delegate of the Philippines that we cannot discuss something anew, we are only taking stock of what the Report says, so he should be urged and I ask him to be magnanimous and bring this point at the Plenary because it is always at the Plenary that governments invite or issue invitations for any conference to be hosted by them.

This is not the place and I am asking him to be magnanimous.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): To be fair I think we might add a footnote here since the point was raised officially; to make a footnote explaining in the course of our debate the Philippine' delegation made... so on and so- on, and the Commission did not go into the substance of the proposed change of place, and then to inform the Plenary that the point was raised here and that the Philippines delegation agreed to this idea.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Yugoslavia for his proposal and I think that it was a very helpful one. Would the delegate of the Philippines agree to that?

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): If that means that this Commission decided to hold it in Rome I cannot agree with it, because you said that we should not talk about it here.

CHAIRMAN: Delegate of the Philippines, as it was stated earlier, it is the Plenary that decides; we recommend. I think the objection would be served as suggested by the delegate of Yugoslavia to have a footnote like this, where you draw the attention of the Plenary to this matter.

J. RUTKOWSKI (Poland): I think we are all delighted to note the hospitality of the Philippines Government. Our only concern is the costs involved. But if we say in our document that we, as a Commission, recommend Rome, we probably, to some extent, prejudge the decision of the Plenary, because then they will accept Rome. Could we try to find another compromise? I do not know if this is a suitable one: we should write that the Conference will be held in Rome or Manila, according to the decision of the Plenary, and the opinions of delegations on the practicability of such a solution.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): Perhaps we can remove this difficulty by supplementing the proposal made by the delegate of Yugoslavia. We could make a footnote, as he has suggested, and put the two words "in Rome" in, in brackets. In this way the Plenary will know that no final decision has been taken. If we have the footnote as well, then there should be no difficulty whatever, the Plenary will know that they will have to make the decision.

CHAIRMAN: I think the two proposals of Yugoslavia and Germany together should take care of the problem of the delegate of the Philippines. Can he accept them?

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would rather support the proposal by the delegate of Poland, for the simple reason that it is ambivalent and it does not preclude the judgment of the Plenary. I suppose that it would be acceptable to the Commission ?

CHAIRMAN: The problem, as I understand it, is that this question of Manila as the site has not been discussed during our debate, as was pointed out by the delegate of Sierra Leone. This is the real difficulty. If we put "in Rome" in brackets and have a footnote to the effect that you have taken this matter up, this should really take care of your problem.

I shall read the proposal by the Secretariat for the footnote; "In the course of the debate, the Government of the Philippines offered to host the World Conference. The Commission suggested that the place of the Conference be decided in the Plenary ". That would make the position absolutely clear to everyone, I think, and I would appeal to the delegate of the Philippines to accept this solution, so that we can proceed with our work and your position will be taken care of.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would just like to ask if this means that no decision is taken here.

CHAIRMAN: When we put "in Rome" in brackets, this will be absolutely clear, I think. May I take it you accept that? I understand that the delegate of the Philippines does accept it. Do the delegations of Canada, Thailand and Pakistan want to speak, or can I take it that everyone agrees with this? I see they do and I thank delegates for their cooperation. I shall just read what we have decided on, which is to have the following wording to the paragraph at the top of page 6: "Decides that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will be held (in Rome) for eight working days..." , then there will be an asterisk and a footnote which says the following: "In the course of the debate, the Government of the Philippines offered to host the World Conference. The Commission suggested that the place of the Conference be decided in the Plenary ". Then it will go on: 'for eight working days, beginning at 12 July 1979.' I take it that that is acceptable?

R. FAHMY (United Arab Emirates) (interpretation from Arabic): The paragraph now under discussion says "the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will be held in Rome ", but in the course of our discussions we said, "the World Conference on Rural Development and Agrarian Reform ". However, perhaps this difference does not apply in the English text. We must agree on whether we are going to call it "Agrarian Reform and Rural Development" or "Rural Development and Agrarian Reform ".

CHAIRMAN: The English text as I have it says, "the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development".

J. S.KHAN (Pakistan): I do not wish to delay the Commission, I just thought that for greater clarity in the footnote, rather than saying "in the course of the debate ", we should say "during the adoption of the Report ", I think it will be clearer.

CHAIRMAN: I think the delegate of Pakistan is quite right, the Secretariat has taken note of that. So this paragraph is adopted, with the changes that we have agreed upon.

The following paragraph starts with: "Approves the proposal of the Director-General.... ". Are there any comments on that?

L. CHEN-HUAN (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The 9th paragraph of the Draft Resolution on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development deals with the question of whom to invite, and reads as follows: 'Approves the proposal of the Director-General to invite all States that are members of FAO or of the United Nations, of its Specialized Agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency to participate in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development '. We would like to point out that so far there are still a few Specialized Agencies such as the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund which have refused to implement Resolution 2758 of the 26th Session of the UN General Assembly so that the Chiang clique continues to usurp the legitimate seat of the People's Republic of China, therein.

It is a well known fact that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China. The Chiang clique entrenched in Taiwan has long been spurned by the Chinese people and has absolutely no right to participate in any international conference or meeting. We wish, therefore, to draw the serious attention of FAO to this position of ours in implementing the present Resolution.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other comments on this paragraph? If not, I take it that this paragraph is adopted.

The following paragraph starts with the words: "Invites the United Nations ... ". Are there any comments on this paragraph? There seem to be none, so it is adopted.

The following paragraph starts with the words: "Asks Member Nations to forward                      and so on.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I have a proposal for an amendment. We consider that this would adapt the paragraph rather better to paragraph 6 of the Report which we have already adopted. I suggest that in the second line which starts with "by April 1978, so that the Secretariat..." et cetera, there should be a change. It would read as follows: "so that they can be used as a basis for the discussions at the Regional Conferences" full stop. I think this would correspond to what we have already said in paragraph 6 where we say that the Secretariat will take the Review Papers as a background. I think this goes without saying.

CHAIRMAN: So your proposal is to delete the words in the second line, "the Secretariat may use them as background papers in preparing" and replace them by the words, "so that they can be used as a basis for the discussions at the Regional Conferences".

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): Yes. It would read as follows: "so that they can be used as a basis for the discussions at the Regional Conferences." Then we put a full stop. We believe that the detail saying that the Secretariat may use them as background papers has already been expressed previously and there is no need to repeat this in the operative part of the Resolution.

CHAIRMAN: Is that acceptable to everyone?

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): Mi delegación desearía pedir a la delegación de la FAO que nos aclarara un poco su propuesta. Según este párrafo nos plantea, los documentos de base elaborados por cada gobierno los utilizará la Secretaría para resumirlos o para extraer de ellos todas aquellas experiencias que se hayan obtenido en los gobiernos, en las regiones; y sobre esa base va a presentar un documento a las Conferencias Regionales, o sea, lo que se discutirá será el documento que nos lleve la Secretaría sobre la base de los documentos elaborados en los países y no se van a discutir los documentos elaborados en los países individualmente. Yo le rogaría, en este sentido, que la Secretaría nos diera una aclaración y si este punto es correcto, entonces el párrafo queda igual como está.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): Yo había pedido la palabra precisamente para hacer presente lo que acaba de decir el señor delegado de Cuba. El documento básico de la Conferencia tiene que ser documento de la Secretaría. Naturalmente que esos documentos básicos, como lo repetí ya para la Conferencia misma, también deben ser preparados por las Conferencias Regionales por la Secretaría serán la base de los documentos que se prepararán para la discusión en las Conferencias Regionales. Pero yo creo que se aparta de los hábitos corrientes por una parte y por la otra crea serias dificultades de tipo material, al llevar a las Conferencias Regionales los informes de los países. Hay que recordar que en las regiones no todos los gobiernos o los representantes hablan la misma lengua. Así que de momento si se declaran documentos básicos, hay que proceder a la traducción de acuerdo con el reglamento, y al mismo tiempo crea problemas a la Conferencia por el gran volumen de documentos. En Africa habría que tener 46 6 48 documentos.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): When we adopted paragraph 12 or 13, I do not remember, Mr. Santa Cruz said that the country reports would be available, in other words, the countries concerned would have the country reports available. This is what I understood him to say. My delegation really wants nothing more than to keep in line with what we proposed earlier, which was that the country reports be made available to the countries for discussion at the regional conferences.

Now, if this is so and if there are no difficulties, then we need not modify the paragraph of the Resolution we have before us. In that case, it could remain as printed.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante Especial del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): Yo mantengo lo que dije en la ocasión a que se refirió el delegado de la República Federal de Alemania. Los documentos que hayan llegado estarán a disposición pero no como documentos básicos que tengan que cumplir ciertos requisitos especiales, es decir, que dentro de la redacción actual estarán a disposición de las Conferencias Regionales los documentos de países que hayan llegado en su respectiva lengua.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): The statement of Mr. Santa Cruz is less satisfactory to my delegation. We understand this to mean that the country reports will not be available in all the languages of the Organization but they will be available in the language in which they were drafted and presented to the Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN: I understand that Germany now accepts the text as it was without any amendments. This paragraph is also adopted.

The next paragraph starts with the words "Requests the Director-General".

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): Es una simple aclaración con relación al párrafo que ya hemos aprobado. ¿Se va a mantener la fecha de abril o la que ya hemos aprobado para marzo? A mi me da la impresión de que si hemos aprobado la fecha de marzo en el texto inicial debemos variarlo aquí, sustituyendo abril por marzo.

H. SANTA CRUZ (Representante del Director General, Conferencia Mundial sobre la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural): Nuestra fecha inicial era febrero, después se extendió hacia marzo, y entiendo que esta proposición de la resolución tiende a dar todavía un plazo mayor; para muchos de los representantes parece una fecha más realista, porque hemos tenido varias observaciones en el sentido de que difícilmente podrán estar listos los papeles antes de abril, pero con el cambio, también, de fecha de la Comisión Preparatoria tal como está aquí, yo creo quedar plazo hasta abril no va a crear problemas.

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): El único objetivo nuestro era que la fecha en que tuviera lugar la reunión estuviera en concordancia con lo que ya habíamos visto en el informe. De manera que, nuestra delegación, no tiene inconveniente en que sea en abril. Es a final del párrafo 7.

CHAIRMAN: It says in paragraph 7 "for the preparation of such papers until the end of March 1978", and "by April 1978" would mean the same thing, so I think it does correspond and we can leave it as it is.

I take it that the paragraph that starts with "Requests the Director-General" is acceptable to every one as it now stands, and we take the last paragraph "Further recommends".

S.M. RICHARDS (Liberia): I was just wondering if we should not add the amendment made by the Philippines to paragraph 14. The second point: for consistency we have in paragraph 14 "agricultural workers", so I was just wondering if they also should not be included.

N. AL-SALEH (Saudi-Arabia)(interpretation from Arabic): I was going to make the same observation, because we had agreed in the Resolutions Committee to add that expression "rural workers".

CHAIRMAN: So the proposal is then to use the same wording in the resolution that we have in paragraph 14 in the last line of the resolution, where it says "representatives of farmers' and rural workers' organizations", to replace that by "representatives of farmers' and agricultural workers' organizations and representatives of local government agencies".

Is that acceptable to everyone?

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): In the Drafting Committee, we were quite aware of the suggestion made by the Resolutions Committee. However, it again suggested to delete the words "rural agricultural workers" and there were quite a number of reasons why at that stage it was preferable to use the term "rural workers". One of them is that it is quite clearly defined in the convention mentioned in the 6th paragraph, the ILO convention number 141, what rural workers' organizations are. If you put it simply as "rural agricultural workers" you are saying that a number of organizations might not be involved and it was thought that it should not be the case, so we prefer to stick to the formulation here "farmers' and rural workers' organizations".

I have no objection to the addition to the sentence of "and representatives of local government agencies", although my delegation's feeling is that governments will make the best government representation anyway to a delegation to a world conference. The particular point here is that they invite the non-governmental representatives to be present in their own delegations but I have no problem, we have accepted that in the report, but I would like to request Saudi Arabia not to insist on the formulation "rural agricultural workers", or only "agricultural workers".

CHAIRMAN: I understand that the Netherlands suggests that we keep in the word "rural" but that he has no objection to adding what was suggested by the Philippines, "representatives of local government agencies".

Would it be acceptable to Liberia and Saudi Arabia to retain the words "rural workers" but to add what was suggested by the Philippines in paragraph 14?

N. AL-SALEH (Saudi-Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): I did not request deletion of the word "rural". What I said was that the Resolutions Committee requested adding the words "rural agricultural workers" because there are rural workers who are not necessarily agricultural workers so I think it would be important to add "rural agricultural workers", so that it would read as follows: "representatives of farmers' and rural agricultural workers' organizations", and I believe that this is not in contradiction with the statement made by the Netherlands.

S.M. RICHARDS (Liberia): Are we adding the word "agricultural"?

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): In the Drafting Committee we were quite aware of the reasons why they put in "agricultural" but after quite a long discussion there we thought it was preferable not to do it because of the fact that you are limiting it and there are a number of other organizations not in agriculture that could be important for the purposes of this Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. It is not only the agricultural side that is involved.

Also, we discussed earlier the new dimensions and the scope of the Conference. In our opinion we should not limit it too much to only agriculture, and that was the consensus after long discussion in the Drafting Committee, to leave it as it is and to use the phrase as officially defined by the International Labour Organization.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the Netherlands. If I understand the delegations of Liberia, and Saudi Arabia, you really intend the same as the delegate of Netherlands, that you should include other workers than just the agricultural workers, and the word "rural" would then allow for that, or have I misunderstood you? The delegate of Saudi Arabia.

N. AL-SALEH (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): No, there was a very clear-cut agreement on this matter, the rural areas. In the rural areas we see many workers, agricultural workers and industrial workers, or workers in other fields as well, so we felt it would be better to clarify this so that we could say farmers and rural agricultural workers. I believe that here it is necessary to spell out very clearly what we wish.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): It just occurs to me, Mr. Chairman, a slight adaptation of wording might help us here. It had occurred to me when we were discussing paragraph 14. Could we possibly refer to the inclusion in the national delegations of representative bodies, for example from the farmers and agricultural workers and other rural organizations. If one says, "for example" one is not excluding anyone, but the point is they are representative bodies.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the United Kingdom. So you would say "inclusion in the national delegations of representative bodies, for example from farmers and rural workers organizations" as it stands now? Delegate of the United Kingdom has the floor.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I think we have to drop the word "from ". "For example farmers and agricultural workers and other rural organizations".

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the United Kingdom, Is this agreeable? The delegate of Saudi Arabia has the floor.

N. AL-SALEH (Saudi Arabia)(interpretation from Arabic): May I suggest you add the word "related" and "other rural workers".

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Saudi Arabia. I will ask the Secretariat to read the proposal as it now is, so we are all clear what we are all talking about.

K.C. WRIGHT (Secretary, Commission II): This paragraph now would read as follows: "Further recommends governments participating in the World Conference to be represented at the highest possible level and to consider the inclusion in their national delegations of representative bodies, for example, from farmers and rural workers and related organizations".

CHAIRMAN: I think it was a proposal the word "from" should be deleted, otherwise the proposal is as read out. Is that acceptable to everyone? I think every one is nodding. It is accepted.

I can then take paragraph 17 with the Resolution, as we have amended it, is acceptable to everyone? The delegate of Cuba has the floor.

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): Referente al párrafo introductorio de la Resolución, que dice que en las Conferencias Regionales debe incluirse un tema sobre la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria, nos gustaría que la Secretaria nos explicara si es necesario que se incluya en la parte resolutive de esta Resolución, o si se tiene entendido de hecho que para las Conferencias Regionales de la FAO que van a celebrarse en 1978 ya se ha aprobado que vaya un tema sobre estas Conferencias para la Conferencia Mundial, porque si no fuese así, yo haría una propuesta de un nuevo párrafo que recogiera lo que se dice en la parte introductoria.

J.F. YRIART (Subdirector General, Departamento de Desarrollo): El Director General, conforme a la Resolución del Consejo, incluirá en los temarios provisionales de cada agenda regional el tema de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, pero son las Conferencias quienes adoptan sus propias agendas.

CHAIRMAN: Is that clear to the delegate of Cuba? I take it then that paragraph 17 is adopted with the Resolution as amended.



Paragraph 17, including Resolution as amended, adopted

Le Paragraphe I compris la résolution ainsi amendée “, est adopté

El párrafo 17, incluida la Resolución así enmendada, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: We then come to paragraph 18. We take that in the same way as we dealt with paragraph 17. I take it there are no objections to the first line and the title of the Resolution? We come then to the first preamble of paragraph starting with “recalling Resolution 3520” etc. Are there any objections to that one? It appears not to be the case.

The second starts with the word “Convinced that”. Any comments?

The third starts with the word “Recognizing the important role” etc. Any comments?

The fourth “Convinced that in order to be effective” and so on. Any comments?

The next “Requests the Director-General” etc. Any comments? The delegate of Mexico has the floor.

Sra. G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México): En la versión en castellano de este párrafo hay cuatro renglones de más con relación a las versiones en francés e inglés. Me permito sugerir que los intérpretes traduzcan las versiones francesa e inglesa para que las demás personas de habla española tomen nota de cómo debe quedar la Resolución.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Madam. I am going to read it out and you can listen to the interpreters. The text is as follows: “Requests the Director-General to include in the major themes for discussion by the Conference the growing role of women in all aspects of rural development including policies and means required to ensure their full participation on an equitable basis in policy making, planning and implementation of agrarian reform and rural development”. Is this acceptable?

Sra. G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México): Si, señor Presidente, así queda bien la recomendación en español. Sobran cuatro páginas.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. So the paragraph that starts with “Requests the Director-General” is accepted. And the last paragraph that reads “Requests that the Director-General” etc., Is that acceptable? The delegate of Jordan has the floor:

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): In the third line of this paragraph the word, “all” if it could be replaced by the word “the” because all rural activities, it means that many things which are not related to agriculture, so I don't know whether it is within the FAO scope to deal with all these matters. Besides that there might be some financial implication as far as this request is concerned. I don't know whether FAO has enough funds to cover all these studies, and whether they can do it in time. Besides, I do not see that there is any need to say “all”, so if we can say “the” instead of “all” I leave it there.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Jordan. You heard the proposal. Any objection to replacing the word “all” by the word “the”? There seems to be no objection.

Can I take it then that paragraph 18, including the Resolution with the amendment we have just heard is acceptable to everyone? That seems to be the case.

Paragraph 18, including Resolution as amended, adopted

Le paragraphe 18, y compris la résolution ainsi amendée, est adopté

El párrafo 18, incluida la Resolución así enmendada, es aprobado.

Draft Report of Commission II - Part 1, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la Commission II, première partie, ainsi amendée est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II - Parte 1, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 2

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - DEUXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 2

PARAGRAPHS 1 and 2

PARAGRAPHERS 1 et 2

PARRAFOS 1 y 2

CHAIRMAN: We start then on REP/2 with the Programme of Work and Budget introduction, paragraph 1. Are there any comments? The delegate of the United Kingdom has the floor.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): Only a small point, Mr. Chairman, that perhaps at the end of the next to last line it is worth adding "Decentralization of FAO and the use of national institutions ". It perhaps makes it a little clearer.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the United Kingdom. I take it this is acceptable to everyone? Paragraph 1 is adopted.

Paragraph 2. Any comments? I have a proposal to replace the word "action" by "activities ". This is in the sixth line of that paragraph. Any objections to that? Paragraph 2, then I take it adopted with the replacement of the word "activities" instead of "action" in the sixth line?

Paragraphs 1 and 2, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 3 to 13

PARAGRAPHERS 3 à 13

PARRAFOS 3 a 13

CHAIRMAN: We come to overall policy issues, paragraph 3. Any comments? The delegate of the United Kingdom has the floor.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I wondered, Mr. Chairman, whether the first sentence might be very slightly reworded, because we have the words "fully reflected" at the end of paragraph 2, and repeated again in the second line of paragraph 3, and then we have "fully responded" in the third line. Could I just offer a modification that the first sentence of paragraph 3 might read: "The Conference endorsed the main lines of the new orientation of FAO, reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget, as approved by the Council at its Sixty-Ninth Session." And the third line would then read "It agreed that the Director-General's proposals had" instead of "fully responded " "met the requirements of Resolution 16/75 ", I don't know but it is just a form of words perhaps a little clearer. I don't know.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): One problem I must point out about that proposal is that chronologically it is incorrect. The Sixty-Ninth Session was commissioned by the Resolution to deal with the Director-General's proposal and it did so in June 1976. We are now talking about a subsequent matter, the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79, so I think that proposal would, in effect, change history, which it is undesirable to try to do.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): The last thing I would attempt to do, Mr. Chairman, is to change history. I would withdraw the first amendment and stand on the second.

CHAIRMAN: So your proposal is then, delegate of the United Kingdom? Could you repeat it?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): The second proposal, Sir, refers to the second sentence. I am really looking at the words "fully responded ". I am not quite sure what that means, and my suggestion, if it is correct, is that instead of "fully responded" we should say "had met the requirements of Resolution 16/75 ".

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): I am not trying to intervene in the substance of the Delegate for the United Kingdom's view on the Programme of Work and Budget, but this is not referring to that matter, but to the views of the Sixty-Ninth Session of the Council, on the Director General's response to Resolution 16/75, and the Council said that the Director-General had fully responded to that Resolution in his proposals to the Sixty-Ninth Session. If Mr. Peckham, the delegate for the United Kingdom, has criticisms of the Council, that is for him to say; but I would like to stress to him that we are not here discussing his view, whatever it may be, of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79,- we are still dealing with history. If the wording gives him problems in that regard, I would say "had agreed with the conclusions of the Sixty-Ninth Session of the Council that... "

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I have no problem with the history or its interpretation - I simply wanted to understand what it means, and I am grateful for the clarification.

CHAIRMAN: Does that mean that we can leave it as it is? So I take it that paragraph 3, as it stands, without any amendment, is acceptable.

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): Es un problema de lingüística que tenemos en nuestro informe en español, y es al final del párrafo 3 donde dice: "en la prioridad máxima: debelar el hambre ". En español no se usa la palabra "debelar ", sino que sería "eliminar ". En ese caso se diría: "eliminar el hambre y la malnutrición ", porque es una palabra, como digo, que no se usa en español.

CHAIRMAN: Could I suggest that you give proposals for a correction of the translation to the Secretariat who, I am sure, will take care of this? Thank you. So I take it that paragraph 3 as it now stands is acceptable?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I would like to suggest that in the seventh line the word "the" should be replaced by "a" - "objectives of a new international economic order ", instead of "... the new international economic order\ ". This matter was dealt with in Commission I yesterday, and, in agreement with earlier decisions taken in FAO, it was agreed that throughout all the documents "the" should be replaced by "a ", so that we should now say "a new international economic order ".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections?

J. RUTKOWSKI (Poland): I have a very small doubt - in the third line it says "... the associated needs for investment, training, credit, processing, marketing, seeds..." I do not think we have constraints on seeds, but probably a need for better, or improved, seeds.

CHAIRMAN: Have you a concrete proposal?

J. RUTKOWSKI (Poland): I suggest we add the word "improved" before "seeds;

CHAIRMAN: We have two proposals. The first, in the third line, is from the Delegate for Poland, to insert between the words "marketing" and "seeds" the word "improved ". May I take it that that is acceptable? Yes. The other proposal is that in the third line from the bottom, the word "the" be replaced by the word "a ".

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): Yo rogaría al distinguido delegado de la República Federal de Alemania que nos hiciera una aclaración a su propuesta, porque para mi delegación está muy claro cuando se dice "del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional" en lo que se refiere a la Resolución 3201 y 3202 que establece la declaración del plan de acción para el establecimiento de un nuevo orden económico internacional. El texto que se refiere a esto está muy claro en la forma en que está redactado, pero si el distinguido delegado de la República Federal de Alemania se refiere a otro nuevo orden económico internacional quisiéramos que nos lo aclarara.

CHAIRMAN: I give the floor to the delegate of Germany. I understood the question of the delegate of Cuba was that you try to define the nature of your proposed amendment.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I am perfectly willing to say why we were led to suggest that "the" be replaced by "a ". This is a matter which was brought up on several occasions in the Conference, and discussed at length, and it was decided to use "a" unanimously - I said that this happened yesterday in Commission I, but we have also seen in earlier documents that the reference is to "a new international economic order ". My delegation therefore feels that within FAO, as well as in other fora, we should stick to what had been decided in the past.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): If we are going to delete "the" and replace it with "a ", then there is no need for a capital letter to be used - "a new international economic order ". So I believe that I must support the views of the Delegate of Cuba - we should leave it as it is. Everyone in the world is talking about "the new international economic order" and I think it is known to everyone.

SANG WOO PARK (Korea, Rep. of): I wonder if we are talking about "the new international economic order "? What we are thinking of - many of us - is any new international economic order. The term "the objectives" is referring to "a" new international economic order, and I think it would therefore be better to leave it as it stands.

I have one further suggestion. In the second line from the bottom of paragraph 4, it says "with particular regard for the most seriously affected and least developed countries ". Is that correct? - should it be "with particular regard to" instead of "for the "?

J. RUTKOWSKI (Poland): Many of us who do not speak very good English have difficulty in understanding the difference between "the" and "a" - could we perhaps ask for the usual presentation, from the delegate of the United Kingdom?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I find it extremely difficult to answer this - but I think that, if you use the definite article, you must know precisely what it is - the thing in question has to be defined. Therefore, I am not familiar with the progress made yet in establishing "the" new international economic order, but I rather think that strictly the German suggestion is the correct one. I think, in the strictest sense, it should be the indefinite article, but I hesitate to make-further comment than that.

While I have the floor, I would like to say that it did seem to me that the last few words might more happily read instead of "with particular regard for " "particularly in the most seriously affected and least developed countries ".

F.SHEFRIN (Canada): I have no problem with "the objectives of the new international economic order", but I would like to see a footnote to say which resolution is referred to - U.N. resolution, etc. - and then we would have no confusion about "whose" economic order. So I suggest that we retain "the", and insert a footnote "U.N. Resolution No..." - and then we will know which "order" we are talking about.

CHAIRMAN: I think that is a good proposal. Could we do it that way? Would that satisfy the delegates of Cuba and Germany? So, we have an asterisk and a footnote, and we insert the reference to the resolutions in question.

Then we come to the proposal by the delegate of the United Kingdom, which I understand is in the second line of paragraph 4, to delete "with particular regard for the most seriously affected and least developed countries", and insert "particularly in the most seriously affected and least developed countries". This is purely a drafting change - is that acceptable?

May I take it then that paragraph 4 is accepted with the three amendments which we have had:

Firstly, in the third line, to insert the word "improved" before "seeds".

Secondly, to have the text of the third line from the bottom - "the new international economic order" and then have an asterisk and a reference to the particular resolutions.

Thirdly, to say after the word "agriculture", in the second last line, "particularly in the most seriously affected and least developed countries".

Paragraph 4 (as amended) approved.

Are there any comments on paragraph 5? There seem to be none. Paragraph 5 approved.

G.WEILL (France): Les paragraphes 6 et 7 sont étroitement liés l'un à l'autre, et je voudrais parler au sujet de ces deux paragraphes. Ils ont trait au processus de décentralisation et, après que la Conférence a donné son approbation au paragraphe 6, le paragraphe 7 indique: "Ce résultat est dû à la réduction proposée du personnel au Siège, à des accroissements dans les bureaux régionaux, aux plans concernant les Représentants de la FAO..." Dans ce paragraphe assez complexe, nous trouvons un certain nombre d'indications sur les orientations qui ont été données. A la fin de ce paragraphe, j'aimerais voir figurer un amendement que je me suis efforcé de mettre par écrit pour en communiquer le texte au Secrétariat et qui serait le suivant:

"Un certain nombre de délégations se sont cependant prononcées contre le renforcement simultané des bureaux régionaux et de la représentation dans les pays. Elles ont à cet égard rappelé qu'en se ralliant aux propositions que le Directeur général lui a soumises à sa soixante-neuvième session, en juillet 1976, au sujet de la décentralisation, le Conseil a convenu (mais je n'ai que la version anglaise du rapport): "It felt that while their expansion was not necessary... (il s'agit des bureaux régionaux) their functions could..." - dans un stade ultérieur.

Voici encore une citation, le Conseil "agreed that the most effective way of implementing decentralization was to upgrade the quality and strength of FAO representation at the country level rather than to expand regional offices".

Voilà le texte de l'amendement que je suggère d'insérer à la fin du paragraphe 7 dans sa rédaction actuelle, avec les deux citations extraites du rapport du Conseil qui s'est prononcé, en juillet 1976, sur les propositions du Directeur général en matière de décentralisation.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of France. Would you please hand the text to the Secretariat. I would ask the Secretariat to read it again so that I am absolutely certain that delegates have understood what it is all about.

Mile. K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secrétaire adjointe de la Commission II): Voici l'amendement que le délégué de la France suggère d'insérer à la fin du paragraphe 7: "Un certain nombre de délégations se sont cependant prononcées contre le renforcement simultané des bureaux régionaux et de la représentation dans les pays. Elles ont à cet égard rappelé qu'en se ralliant aux propositions que le Directeur général a soumises à la 62e session, en juillet 1976, au sujet de la décentralisation, le Conseil a convenu ..." (suit une citation en anglais): "It felt that while their expansion at present was not necessary their functions could be given..."

Et un autre passage: "The Council agreed that the most effective way of implementing decentralization was to upgrade the quality and strength of FAO representation at the Country level rather than to expand regional offices."

G. WEILL (France): Je prie le Secrétariat de m'excuser de la peine que je lui ai donnée, mais je pense qu'il suffit dans l'amendement très long dont j'ai remis le texte, de ne retenir que la deuxième citation en anglais. Cela évite d'alourdir le texte.

Mile. K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secrétaire adjointe de la Commission II): Insérer à la fin du paragraphe 7 l'amendement suivant: "Un certain nombre de délégations se sont cependant prononcées contre le renforcement simultané des bureaux régionaux et de la représentation dans les pays. Elles ont à cet égard rappelé qu'en se ralliant aux propositions que le Directeur général a soumises à la 69e session, en juillet 1976, au sujet de la décentralisation, le Conseil a convenu..." [continue en anglais]. "Agreed that the most effective way of implementing the centralization was to upgrade the quality and strength of FAO representation at the country level rather than to expand regional offices."

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates you heard the proposed amendment, the addition to paragraph 7. We are really at paragraph 6 and I should, I think, ask whether the delegates, before going to this amendment, if they have any further comments to paragraph 6 or whether I can regard that as accepted.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I did have a little difficulty in understanding paragraph 6, which is, of course, linked with paragraph 7. I do not quite know what is meant by "the now evolving process of decentralization". I can perhaps understand the sense of it but is it more than progressive decentralization? At least that is what I hope it is. Then I am totally lost with the percentage figures at the end. If I have understood it correctly the objective is that progressive decentralization under the Regular Programme would have the effect of increasing the proportion of expenditure in the region and the countries, and then I have problems like our French colleague on para 7. *I do* not want to anticipate that but my suggestion was a reduction of the length of para 7.

CHAIRMAN: If I understand you correctly you would like to substitute for the words "now evolving process" in the first line, the word "progressive".

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): The distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom suggested that his word was the same in substance but I think it is not, because the evolving process covers, among other things, the situation in the United Nations where they are discussing but have not yet decided what to do about regional and economic commissions which would affect the form of FAO's decentralization. The solution is evolving so I think this is conveyed by the present wording.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I would happily accept the words if they are necessary, "now evolving process of decentralization", but am I clear that the objective is to increase the expenditure in the regions and countries.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): This paragraph expresses the view of the Conference which welcomes the fact that it is increasing in regions and countries. Personally I do not see what is unclear about that statement.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I am afraid I shall need the Chairman's discretion to go on to the first line of paragraph 7. As I read it, this first line of paragraph 7 says that some increase - whether in the past or in the future - had been achieved by a proposed reduction. Quite frankly, I cannot understand how you can achieve something if it is only proposed.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): This would be achieved if the proposals in the Programme of Work and Budget to reduce the staff at Headquarters, etc., etc. were accepted. But is that really necessary?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): That is fine, I think we are coming out of the wood. I think it really means this would be achieved by a reduction of staff, etc.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): The point is that the Director-General is putting forward his proposed Programme of Work and Budget. This is what we are talking about. Would it do if we say that this would be achieved by the proposed reduction?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): Admirable, thank you.

CHAIRMAN: So do I understand, then, that there are no amendments proposed to paragraph 6? We leave paragraph 6 as it is and start paragraph 7 by saying: "This would be achieved by the proposed reduction...."? Is that acceptable to other delegates? That seems to be the case, so it is now a question of the proposal by France. Delegates have heard the amendment. Is it acceptable?

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I have no problem in accepting the amendment, but I would like to change the words "a number" to "a few delegates" "A number" could mean a hundred, so I think we had better say "a few delegates", although these few are very important.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of France seems to agree with that amendment. Can I take it that everyone else accepts the addition to paragraph 7?

G. WEILL (France): Hors séance, j'ai si souvent dit au délégué de la Jordanie que j'appréciais ses interventions que je ne crois pas pouvoir accepter son invitation.

Par contre, je voudrais faire remarquer que je ne sais pas si le nombre dont il est question est petit ou s'il représente un nombre plus important de membres, mais il correspond à une position du Conseil. Par conséquent, en juillet 1976, 43 délégations au Conseil ont pris la position que je rappelle dans mon amendement. Il y a donc une certaine cohérence de positions à respecter par nos délégations et pour ce qui concerne la délégation française, c'est ce qu'elle a tenu à faire en proposant cet amendement.

CHAIRMAN: Do I understand that the delegate of France would like to have "a number of delegations"? If so, can the delegate of Jordan accept that we leave it as it is? If so, paragraphs 6 and 7 are both adopted with the proposed amendments.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I had a point on the third sentence in paragraph 7. I hesitate to put this forward, in view of the mutually supportive role between my colleague, the Assistant Director-General and myself, but I wondered whether this meant more than that the Conference welcomed the move in this direction - referring back to the previous sentence with a view to securing maximum operational efficiency and economy. It would not beg quite so many questions, but I greatly hesitate to put forward an amendment at this late hour.

CHAIRMAN: Would the delegate of the United Kingdom like to propose an amendment?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I was suggesting that the third sentence might be reworded, and we are talking here about decentralization, "it welcomed the move in this direction, with a view to securing the maximum efficiency and economy." Quite shortly and directly.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): I must point out, once again, that this changes the substance. What this sentence says is that each level of the structure should be mutually supportive with the objective. Decentralization can be pure and simple decentralization, creating many FAOs which are not mutually supportive. If the delegate of the United Kingdom is in favour of that, that is what he should propose. But I do not think the French delegate is in favour of it, since he quoted the last Council decision on the subject.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): If I continued the debate, I would weary the meeting. I have pointed out what I think to be the weakness, but, on the other hand, if we like mutual support, we had better retain it.

CHAIRMAN: So we leave paragraph 7 as it is, apart from the addition proposed by France. Does every one agree to that? It is so decided. Paragraph 7 (as amended) approved.

Paragraphs 3 to 13 not concluded

Les paragraphes 3 à 13 restent en suspens

Los párrafos 3 a 13 quedan pendientes

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La -séance est levée à 13 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/II/PV/19

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Nineteenth Session

Dix-neuvième session

19º período de sesiones

### NINETEENTH MEETING DIX-NEUVIEME SÉANCE 19ª SESION

(29 November 1977)

The Nineteenth Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours J.H. Dahl, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dix-neuvième séance est ouverte à 14 h 55, sous la présidence de J.H. Dahl, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 19ª sesión a las 14.55 horas, bajo la presidencia de J.H. Dahl, Presidente de la Comisión II

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 2 (continued) (C 77/II/REP/2)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - DEUXIEME PARTIE (suite) (C 77/II/REP/2)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 2 (continuación) (C 77/II/REP/2)

PARAGRAPHS 3 to 13 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 3 à 13 (suite)

PARRAFOS 3 a 13 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We start with document C 77/II/REP/2. We are on paragraph 8, and I believe the delegate of Pakistan asks for the floor.

J.S. KHAN (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, we will resume where we left off before lunch break, and this was on paragraph 8 where, as we said, we have a suggestion to make. It is really a substantive suggestion in keeping with your advice, and not one of drafting. Let me also first say we find this section of the draft a particularly good one on the Programme of Work and Budget. I think the Drafting Committee has done a skillful job, but there is, I think, a point under the overall policy issue we are now discussing which apparently has been overlooked, and I think it received considerable, if not unanimous, support during our discussion. That, Mr. Chairman, was the proposal in the Programme of Work and Budget to increase the use of consultants and national institutions in the implementation of the Regular Programme. We think that this does not feature strong enough in the current draft. In fact, in this paragraph in the tail-end, in the last sentence, there is the first real reference to it. Earlier references to national institutions were in a different context regarding decentralization, and things like that. So, we would like to mention something about this, the need to use consultants and national institutions, particularly those in developing countries, and I recollect also this is a point supported not only by us but by the Programme Committee, and even the 18th Session of the FAO Conference drew attention to this, and there was also a suggestion that the use of this policy of using national institutions should also be reviewed in FAO perhaps by the Governing Bodies and the Programme Committee.

I would like to add something then to this. It could be another sentence or two at the end of paragraph 8, although my own preference would be for a new paragraph possibly after the existing paragraph 8, and if you permit me, Sir, I will read out my proposed amendment slowly on this subject. The proposal is as follows, and I quote: "Strong support was expressed for the greater use proposed of consultants and national institutions; and it was stressed that the maximum use be made of the consultancy services and the national institutions available in developing countries. It was further suggested that FAO's policy on the use of national institutions be reviewed in depth by the Programme Committee during the forthcoming biennium."

I propose that these two sentences be added under the policy issues portion of the report, preferably as a new paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: Is this acceptable to the delegates? Would you like it read again from the Secretariat?

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): We have no problem whatsoever, except that this is mentioned also, I believe, in the world food problems and TCDC sections of the draft report, so that we now have it in several different places. There is nothing wrong with repeating it, but to repeat it three times may be too much. I have no problem with the content - as a member of the Drafting Committee I have already

agreed to all the different sections.

CHAIRMAN: Can I take it that that is acceptable to the Commission?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I have no problems with what has been proposed either, but I too have the impression that the idea does appear in several other places in the report, especially in the Programme of Work and Budget, where we say that staff should be cut down and more use made of consultants and national institutions. Perhaps the Secretariat could help us here, and tell us whether or not this idea is to be found in other parts of the Report, and where. As I have said at the beginning, we have no problems with the substance of the amendment, but we would like to avoid repeating the same idea several times.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): J'indique, en vue d'aider le Secrétariat, que vous trouvez exactement les mêmes dispositions aux alinéas 3 et 4 de la troisième section du rapport.

CHAIRMAN: I believe there is also a reference to this in REP/4, and in TCDC. Would the delegate of Pakistan agree that we have a cross reference, instead of his suggested context?

“ I do realize that there are references in the Review of Field Programmes, but here we are talking about implementation of the regular programme and the point was made in this connexion. It was an important point and it was fully supported by all concerned.

D. VUKICIC (Yugoslavia): I agree with the delegate of Pakistan that this is the right place for such a proposed text. Because this is the policy that has to be followed and there is a certain task - even for the Programme Committee - to review the development of use of national institutions and consultants, I would like to support the proposal of the delegate of Pakistan to have a separate paragraph on this item at this very place.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal of the delegate of Pakistan has been supported by Yugoslavia and no one has objected to it. I therefore take it that it is acceptable to the Commission that we include this paragraph suggested by the delegate of Pakistan. It is so decided.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): In regard to the last sentence, I am very tempted to suggest that it might be reworded. The Conference hopes that the level of UNDP-funded activities would soon be restored. So what happens to restoration to the previous levels? Undetermined?

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this proposal which is to replace the words “that FAO's “with “the level of”? It is so decided.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I do not know whether this is right: in the third line of paragraph 13 there is a passage which does not seem to be in line with what was said yesterday and today in Commission I. I think we talked about an Account for the Prevention of Food Losses, and not about a Fund. To be in line with what Commission I said yesterday, we would need to change “Fund” to “Account”.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal is that we delete the words “the proposed Fund”. and replace them with the words “the Special Account”.

Paragraphs 3 to 13, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 13, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 á 13, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 14 to 19 approved

Les paragraphes 14 à 19 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 a 19 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 20 TO 67, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

LES PARAGRAPHES 20 A 67, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

LOS PARRAFOS 20 A 67, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I have quite a small point. In the fourth line there is a reference to the amended statutes of the Commission on Fertilizers. I do not know whether there is some particular legal significance, I think that what the Commission agreed was revised terms of reference, and that it would be nearer the correct wording to delete "with amended statutes" and insert "with revised terms of reference".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this proposal that we replace the words "amended statutes" with "revised terms of reference"? There seem to be none; that is accepted.

J.S. KHAN (Pakistan): I would suggest a slight amendment to paragraph 21(c) to cover perhaps all points of view. This point has been made by several delegations, including my own. The present wording is slightly restrictive, and we would propose "the necessity for the and then the words " rehabilitation and improvement of" and then I suggest we delete the words " small-scale irrigation particularly to improve existing " and insert " irrigation schemes ". The remainder remains as it is. I think that is what is proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget, and that would cover all points of view, small-large- and medium- scale.

CHAIRMAN: So the wording would then be: "The necessity for the rehabilitation and improvement of existing irrigation schemes. " Are there any objections? Accepted. So paragraph 21, with this amendment, is adopted. Paragraph 22 - any comments? Adopted. Paragraph 23 - any comments? Adopted. Paragraph 24 - any comments? Adopted.

We come now to the resolution on page 7, and we will take it paragraph by paragraph.

Are there any comments on the first paragraph commencing " Recalling Resolution XII., " - no comments - adopted.

The next paragraph, "Noting also... " - adopted.

"Appreciating the previous efforts... " - adopted.

"Welcoming the agreements.. " - adopted.

"Considering that the addition... " - adopted.

On page 4 I think we should take the paragraphs as they stand. I see that there is a proposal for an amendment in the first one, and also a proposal by the Resolutions Committee to re-arrange the order of the paragraph, but we will take them in the order in which they stand, and we start with number 1, as it stands, "Requests Member Nations... "

D, VUKICIC (Yugoslavia): First in this I could say on behalf of the co-sponsors of this resolution, that we should accept the rearrangement of paragraphs on the resolution.

Second, concerning the proposal of the Resolutions Committee for changing the text in paragraph 1, I think there should not be any problem to replace the last words " which would lead to financing of projects " which could be financed and so on, so that is also acceptable for the proposal of the Resolutions Committee, and going through this paragraph I would propose another paragraph which has developed in the meantime.

CHAIRMAN: Can I take it that the first paragraph is acceptable to the Commission with the amendments suggested by the Resolutions Committee, and accepted by Yugoslavia on behalf of the sponsors of the Resolution? That seems to be the case. Any comments?

K. ITANO (Japan): On this paragraph in our understanding the amount is 20 million dollars, which will be acceded to by both the contribution to the FAO Programme and also to the bilateral programme, so I would like to suggest that we delete “ the amount of at least 20 million dollars ”,

CHAIRMAN: Do I understand from the delegate of Japan that he wants to delete the words “in an amount of at least US\$20 million ”. Was that the proposal?

D. VUKICIC (Yugoslavia): Unfortunately I could not go along with the proposal of the distinguished delegate of Japan because first, 20 million dollars for explanation does not cover both bilateral and multilateral or this amount which has to go through the FAO Programme in this field, because already bilateral assistance is much higher than 20 million dollars on a yearly basis. This amount of 20 million dollars was agreed on two occasions up to now by the Government of Japan; once it was in a Paris conference on International Economic Cooperation, and the second time in Manila at the third session in the World Food Conference where, after long consultations and talking and so on, the delegation of Japan also agreed to this text which is used here in this paragraph.

The problem of bilateral assistance which is not mentioned in the operative paragraph here will be dealt with in an additional paragraph which I will propose when we get through these paragraphs which are already in the text,

J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): My colleague from Yugoslavia has shared with me his new proposed paragraph which stresses the importance of bilateral aid for reaching the overall programmes we are all interested in, and since a good deal of United States aid is channelled on a bilateral basis we are very happy he has chosen to include this paragraph. Having said that I also would say we certainly can support paragraph No. 2.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other observations? Delegate of Japan, can you accept the paragraph as it is?

K. ITANO (Japan): Yes.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Japan. The operative paragraph No. 2 is accepted as it stands. We come to operative paragraph No. 3; any comments on that? There appears to be none. It is accepted. Paragraph No. 4, any comments? That is also accepted.

Then we come to the proposal of the delegation of Yugoslavia.

D. VUKICIC (Yugoslavia): First of all, as I said, we could not accept the arrangement of paragraphs, but the new paragraph, as we accepted that the existing paragraph 1 should come after paragraph 3, so

the paragraph which I would like to propose will be operative paragraph 1, and it should read, (the text has been agreed with most of the co-sponsors and with the delegations which have problems of including through necessity of increase and also bilateral aid in this field) and the text reads "Request the donor countries to enlarge essentially their bilateral and multilateral assistance toward the seed improvement in the developing countries and to cooperate closely with the Seed Improvement and Development Programme of FAO in this field ". If necessary I will read it again before I deliver a copy to the Secretariat. I hear the Secretariat has it now. This will be paragraph 1, and the existing resolution will be paragraph 2. Paragraph 3 will be the existing paragraph 3, and the present paragraph 1 from the resolution will be paragraph 4, and the present 4 will be 5. That I think will be the logical arrangement of the paragraphs by the Resolutions Committee.

CHAIRMAN: It is clear to everyone what the proposal is?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I would just like to ask the Yugoslav delegation whether the sixth or seventh word is "essential.. or "substantial". As I read this "Requests the donor countries to enlarge " I would have thought "substantially their bilateral and multilateral assistance ".

CHAIRMAN: I think your proposal is acceptable to the delegate of Yugoslavia, so we can take it that the proposal proposed by the delegate of Yugoslavia, as amended by the delegate of the United Kingdom, is acceptable.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of): I Could it please be read out?

CHAIRMAN: Certainly. The first paragraph would then read, "Request donor countries to enlarge substantially their bilateral and multilateral assistance to the Seed improvement in the developing countries, and to cooperate closely with the Seed Improvement and Development Programme of the FAO in this field. " That would be the first paragraph. Any comments on this first paragraph?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of): Just one thing, whether "the " in connexion with donor countries is really necessary. Would it not be better just to say, "request donor countries " and drop "the "? We don't like to see new donor countries to be excluded if they wish to support the Programme, so I suggest that we delete the article "the ", if this is all right with Yugoslavia and the others who have made the suggestion.

CHAIRMAN: I see the delegate of Yugoslavia is nodding and it is acceptable so I take it that the first paragraph is accepted with this change. The second paragraph will then be the second as it stands.

The third will also be No. 3 in the present context and the fourth will be the previous first paragraph starting with "Requests Member Nations", and the fourth paragraph in the present text will become No. 5. Is that acceptable? That seems to be the case. It is accepted and the resolution is adopted with those changes.

We then come on to page 9, paragraph 25. Any comments on 25? No comments. It is adopted. Paragraph 26, any comments? It is adopted. Paragraph 27? No comments. It is adopted. Paragraph 28? No comments. It is adopted. Paragraph 29. No comments? It is adopted. Paragraph 30, page 10, no

: comments? It is adopted. Paragraph 31. Adopted. Paragraph 32. Adopted. Paragraph 33. Adopted. Paragraph 34. Adopted. Paragraph 35, page 11. Adopted. Paragraph 36. It is adopted. Paragraph 37.

' It is adopted. Paragraph 38. It is adopted. Paragraph 39?

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): Excúseme señor Presidente, la velocidad con la que usted va en los párrafos, pero es referente al punto 38 al que nos referimos y es en relación al último párrafo en donde comienza: "Se reconoció que incluso con esas adiciones, etc. ". A nosotros nos da la impresión que el párrafo no está claro, o sea que la idea que se expresó en los debates es que la cifra que se había citado para la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria que aun era insuficiente en comparación con otras cifras autorizadas en otras reuniones internacionales al mismo nivel y no creemos que el párrafo recoja exactamente esa idea.

CHAIRMAN: Has the delegate of Cuba any concrete proposal to make.

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): No creo necesario hacer una propuesta en concreto; yo creo que la Secretaría puede revisar esto y ajustarlo a lo que realmente fue expresado en este caso.

CHAIRMAN: The Secretary will look into it.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I think the second sentence of paragraph 39 would be more direct if we replaced the word given all feasible assistance by FAO " by one word, that is to say, "regional agricultural credit associations should be encouraged to become self-reliant in the shortest possible time ".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this proposal by the United Kingdom? That seems to be acceptable.

L.R. TORRAS (Cuba): Excúseme otra vez, señor Presidente, pero nos referimos al párrafo 44. Es en relación a la primera parte donde hace referencia a que "la Conferencia tomó nota de que las actividades en materia de población no se consideraban como un programa independiente ". Mi pregunta es cuáles son estas actividades en materia de población que realiza la FAO, porque no vemos el vínculo con lo que este párrafo está planteando.

CHAIRMAN: Could you be a bit more precise and tell us what your particular problem is on this paragraph?

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): Hace referencia a "actividades que está llevando la FAO en materia de población ". No recordamos en este sentido lo que se ha debatido sobre este tema, pero lo que no tenemos claro es como la FAO está llevando a cabo esas actividades. ¿Quiere decir que se consideran en el programa de la FAO para hacerlas con el Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Población o son actividades propias que la FAO lleva a cabo en materia de población?

CHAIRMAN: I see that the text is, "The Conference noted ", so it is obviously something that has been said from FAO, either in the document or as stated by one of the officials.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): I was specifically asked a question to which this is the reply which I gave in the proceedings of the Commission. It is a long established activity, we are not handing out contraceptives, we are carrying out activities under our own Constitution which are, however, linked to population activities in the broadest sense. There is no controversy about this, as far as I know, anyway.

CHAIRMAN: Does the reply satisfy the delegate of Cuba? It does, so I take it that paragraph 44 is acceptable as it stands.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): We are making such good progress that I am tempted to make a suggestion on paragraph 45. It might read: " The increased emphasis on the role of women in all aspects of rural development was particularly welcomed and merited the special attention fo FAO ".

CHAIRMAN: Do you mean that this will be all and we should delete the rest?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): We are running the two sentences together.

CHAIRMAN: Is this acceptable to delegates? There seem to be no comments so it is accepted.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I would like to deal with paragraphs 49 and 50. It is only a matter of transferring a sentence from paragraph 50 to paragraph 49, it is not a case of changing the text. The way paragraph 50 reads, the two sentences are not related to each other, and I think there may be a typing error in the drafting of the Report.

I suggest that the last two sentences of paragraph 50 should be moved to paragraph 49 so that paragraph 50 would consist of just the first sentence. Is my suggestion clear?

CHAIRMAN: I think so. We take the sentences from " This had been considered... " to the end of paragraph 50 and put them at the end of paragraph 49. Is that acceptable to other delegations? There seem to be no objections so I take it that paragraphs 49 and 50 are accepted with this amendment.

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): There is a very small point in paragraph 51; in the penultimate line after " comprehensive information systems" there should be a comma.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think anyone will have any problems over a comma. Is the comma accepted? If so, paragraph 51 is adopted.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): It seems that the basic message of the second sentence in paragraph 53, or the basic stress, is on long-term projects. Of course, the meaning is that " Agriculture Towards 2000 " is a long-term project. As far as I am aware, the situation is that this programme should be finished in the next biennium. Perhaps Mr. West could reply to my worry, since I do not think this is really a long-term project.

E. M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): There is a very good Italian word, " speriamo ". To be more serious, perhaps the wording is defective in that it seems to create a contrast between two different things. I think one word here is perhaps redundant, " such " in the last line. Would that meet the views of the delegate of Yugoslavia?

CHAIRMAN: If we delete the word " such " would that solve your problem? I see it will, so the word is deleted.



Y. I. MEDANI (Sudan) (interpretation from Arabic): On paragraph 57, in order to be more specific I think we should introduce the word “ annual ” here: “It was however observed that present world annual production... ”, etc. This could be so both for aquaculture and marine fisheries. That is one point.

My second point is that I think that in order to have a better result we should make a slight change and add after “ compared to 60 million tons from marine fisheries ”, “taking into account that most marine resources are not exploited as they should be ”. As a result, the last sentence will be more readily understood.

CHAIRMAN: I understand the amendment of the delegate of Sudan to be to insert the word “annual ” after the word “present ” and before the words “world production ”, so that the sentence reads:

“It was however observed that present annual world production... ”. Then we add to the first. sentence, after the word “fisheries ”, “taking into account that most marine resources are not fully exploited, ” Is that proposal acceptable to other delegations?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Le délégué du Soudan a fait état des eaux internes. Je voudrais savoir à quel endroit de ce paragraphe il faut mettre ces eaux internes, puisqu'il a fait une nuance entre la pisci culture *et* les eaux internes.

Y. I. MEDANI (Sudan) (interpretation from Arabic): I think that what Gabon said is quite correct. Indeed, I did speak of production of 10 million tons, which includes fishing in inland waterways and aquaculture. If I am wrong I hope the Secretariat will correct me, but I think the 10 million tons come from those two sources.

CHAIRMAN: Can we then take it that paragraph 57 is now adopted with these two amendments? That seems to be the case.

Paragraph 58, any comments on paragraph 58? No comments? It is adopted. Page 16, paragraph 59; any comments on paragraph 59? It is adopted. Paragraph 60; any comments on paragraph 60? It is adopted. Paragraph 61; any comment on paragraph 61? It is adopted. Paragraph 62; any comments?

S.H. AL-SHAKIR (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): As far as paragraph 62 is concerned, I would like to make the following comment. I think that COFI has agreed to the setting up of the Near East Fishery Commission and I think there is no need to reexamine this matter at COFI, because the subject has already been agreed to. That is why I would suggest the following amendment. In the second line of the French text, at least: “was being considered by concerned regional fishery bodies ” should be deleted. The second line would read “Commission has been agreed by COFI ”, and then we would delete the remainder of the paragraph.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): Unfortunately, I have no one on Fisheries to advise me as to the situation, but I do not think there is any problem about the amendment. It seems to be a fact that this proposal has been agreed by COFI at its last session. If however there are other things to be done, if they have to consider amendment statutes or something like that or take any subsequent action, they will do it at their next session, so I do not think the amendment changes anything further that has to be done. I do not see any harm in it from that point of view.

CHAIRMAN: Can I take it then that the amendment is acceptable to the other delegations? The proposed amendment by Iraq is to delete everything that comes after COFI in the second line and you set a full stop there.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec l'amendement proposé, mais je dois souligner que le COFI n'est pas un organe qui prend des décisions définitives. Cet agrément doit être entériné, et je voudrais bien savoir s'il peut être entériné ou non, et comment.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): Well, the Conference is just noting here, it has nothing in front of it which it could endorse or veto. I imagine that there would have to be cancellation of existing regulations and approval of new regulations under the statutes by setting up various bodies. If and when these are prepared, these draft amendments, they will go to the Council and/or Conference as dictated by the rules and regulations. I do not think there is any need to spell that out here, because nothing will be effective unless the regulations are observed. This does not prejudice anything one way or another.

CHAIRMAN: Can I take it that paragraph 62 with the amendment suggested by Iraq is acceptable? That seems to be the case. It is so adopted. Paragraph 63; any comments on 63? No comments; it is adopted. Paragraph 64; any comments on paragraph 64? No comments?

D. BABA (Tchad): Nous aimerions conserver seulement les mots: "la Conférence approuve les propositions relatives aux forêts. " On supprimerait les mots: "de façon générale " et les mots "et la concentration des activités en un plus petit nombre de " sous-programmes ", car le programme 65 illustre bien ce que nous désirons.

CHAIRMAN: Is it acceptable to other delegations? Any other observations on paragraph 64?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Etant donné qu'il s'agit de propositions concernant les forêts et que l'accent est mis en particulier sur les forêts tropicales, comme ce n'est pas la première fois que la Conférence mettrait l'accent sur la foresterie tropicale, je pense qu'on pourrait essayer de fusionner les paragraphes 64 et 65.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal is to combine paragraphs 64 and 65 with the amendment suggested by Chad. Any objection to that particular proposal? There seem to be no objections to that.

We then go on to paragraph 65 which will then become part of paragraph 64.

H. MAURIA (Finland): On the first line of paragraph 65, at the very end of it is mentioned "small-scale industries ". I think when forest industries are mentioned here for the first time, we should insert the word "forests ", so it would be "small-scale forest industries ".

CHAIRMAN: Any other comments on the previous paragraph 65? No comments, so that paragraph 64 will then consist of the first part of the previous paragraph 64, "The Conference generally approved the proposals for forestry ", full stop, and then go on, "The Conference endorsed the emphasis being placed on " etc., with the word "forest " added at the end of the first line on page 17. It is accepted?

O. MBURU (Kenya): When you read that, Mr. Chairman, I think you read the word "generally ", whereas I thought we had deleted it as a result of the amendment by Chad.

CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, I did read the word " generally ". Do I understand that the word "generally " is to come out? Chad,, was that your proposal? Yes, we delete the word "generally ", so it reads, "The Conference approved the proposals for forestry, " and it goes on "The Conference endorsed the emphasis being placed on ".

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): If we are speaking about forestry and paper, perhaps we might make a suggestion, which would help saving paper; we can just say, “It endorsed” instead of “The Conference endorsed ”.

CHAIRMAN: Paragraphs 64 and 65 are accepted with these amendments.

We go on to the next paragraph which will then become 65. Any comments on the new 65? No comments? It is accepted.

We go on to paragraph 67 which will become 66. Any comments? No comments? It is accepted.

We go on to paragraph 68 which will become 67. No comments? It is accepted.

Paragraphs 20 to 67, including Resolution, as amended, adopted

Les paragraphes 20 à 67, y compris la résolution, ainsi amendés, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 20 a 67, incluida la Resolución, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 68 TO 82

PARAGRAPHES 68 A 82

PARRAFOS 68 A 82

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 69; any comments on 69? It is accepted.

Paragraph 70; any comments on 70?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): Again I have a suggestion that we take the two sentences together. It would read “The Conference recognized” - I think we had better underline “recognized ” - “the crucial role of FAO's investment activities in helping countries obtain more funds for agricultural and rural development ” - and this is where the amendment would take place - “and in light of the imminent establishment of IFAD recommended this particular aspect of the Programme of Work and Budget should continue to receive high priority ”.

CHAIRMAN: Could you please read it again so that everybody can get it.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I will read it slowly. The first two lines would remain the same with the underlining of the word “recognized”, “the crucial role of FAO's investment activities in helping countries obtain more funds for agricultural and rural development and in the light of the imminent establishment of IFAD, recommended” - underlined - “this particular aspect of the Programme of Work and Budget should continue to receive high priority ”.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the United Kingdom. Is that proposal clear to everyone, and is it acceptable? The delegate of Brazil, you have the floor.

M.A. GOMES PEREIRA (Brazil): I have nothing against the proposal by our friend from the United Kingdom, but I think as he makes his scholastic amendments, we could continue to adopt it “unanimously supported ”, if he changed his amendment, changed to “unanimously supported ”.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Brazil. Could we have the words “unanimously supported ” instead of the word “recommended” that you suggested? Yes, it is acceptable, I see, to the delegate of the United Kingdom. I take it that paragraph 70 is accepted with this amendment? Is it so adopted.

We turn to page 18, paragraph 71. Any comments on paragraph 71? No comments. That is adopted. Paragraph 72. Any comments on paragraph 72? No comments. It is adopted. Paragraph 73. Any comments? It is adopted. Paragraph 74. Any comments on paragraph 74? It is adopted. Paragraph 75? No comments. It is adopted. Paragraph 76? No comments. It is adopted. Paragraph 77?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German): I would suggest that at the end of this sentence we add three or four further words. These might be, "also in future" or "also for the future". This is a question of drafting, a question of English which is not my mother tongue. The reason why I am proposing this is because there is already an activity going on in that area for quite a time and what the Director-General intends to do is to propose how this might be continued in future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Germany. The proposal is to add the words "also for the future" after the word "industry", the last word in paragraph 77. Is this acceptable?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): C'est à peu près ce que j'avais l'intention de dire, mais au lieu de "également", je voudrais qu'on dise "notamment pour l'avenir".

CHAIRMAN: Is this agreeable to the delegate of Germany? It seems" to be the case. Is it acceptable to other delegates? That would also seem to be the case. It is so adopted. Paragraph 78. Any comments on paragraph 78? No comments. It is adopted. Paragraph 79. Any comments on paragraph 79? No comments. It is adopted. Paragraph 80. Any comments?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): On nous dit: "de nombreuses delegations ont souligné l'importance d'une coordination étroite avec les représentants résidents du PNUD..." Ce problème a déjà été évoqué à plusieurs reprises et toutes les délégations ont reconnu l'importance d'une coordination étroite. Je ne pense pas qu'il s'agisse seulement de "nombreuses délégations". Nous reconnaissons le fait et nous ne l'avons jamais mis en cause. Par conséquent, la question de la coordination avec les représentants résidents n'est pas un problème qui intéresse quelques ou de nombreuses délégations, c'est un problème reconnu par tous.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Gabon. Do you propose to replace the word "many" by "all" or what is your exact proposal? That is your proposal. So it is proposed then to replace the word "many" by "all". Any objections? No objections. So decided. Paragraph 79 is accepted with the amendment proposed by the delegate of Gabon. Paragraph 80. Any comments on paragraph 80? No comments. So decided. It is so adopted. Paragraph 81?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): This was a point which gave us a certain amount of difficulty when we were discussing the matter, and I would like to suggest perhaps a slight clarification of the first sentence, and rewording of the second. In the first place I would like to suggest, "Concern was expressed at the speed with which FAO Country Representatives were appointed". It would then go on to read, "Some delegates doubted whether the number of appointments provided for in the budget could be achieved within the time available".

CHAIRMAN: Your proposal is that we change the first sentence and it should read, "Concern was expressed at the speed with which FAO Country Representatives were appointed". This is the first change. The second change is that we delete the second sentence and replace it by your sentence saying, "Some delegates doubted whether the number of representatives provided for in the budget could be achieved within the time available".

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): I wish to point out, Mr. Chairman, the first sentence was intended to refer to two classes of concern. One that the offices were being established too quickly, and the other they were being established too slowly. The amendments proposed deal only with one class of opinion. Secondly, Mr. Chairman, I believe that the amendments now proposed would express concern about the number of appointments, but this seems to be totally inconsistent with what the rest of the paragraph says. In particular, the first sentence at the top of page 20 in the English text. So you are rather at a loss to make sense of the paragraph if that amendment is adopted.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): With respect, Mr. Chairman, I do not think there is any inconsistency whatever. The first two sentences I thought represented one side of the argument in this Commission. I am not suggesting any amendment whatever to the arguments on the other side, but I think that if the text is to reflect what was said, then I think my amendments do, in fact, record the situation as I understood it, but perhaps other delegates can comment on that.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): Mr. Chairman, indeed in a Drafting Committee we took it that the first sentence was meant to cover both sides, as Mr. West point out. The second sentence, as I see it, different kinds of comments were made in this respect that one read out. The suggestion read out now by the delegate of the United Kingdom was one thing; my delegation had a different opinion, a little bit different on it, and it was, indeed, felt more to what was in the text as it is now, which means that I prefer for my delegation the text as it now stands, which is clear enough to us, because it can cover the different kinds of remarks that were made on the number of representatives to be appointed would be less than it was expected to be. So I have some preference for the present text as it stands.

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): Mi delegación igualmente comparte los criterios que nos ha expresado el señor West en el sentido dado a estas dos oraciones. Están bien logradas, pero nosotros invertiríamos los términos en los verbos; y es que en la primera oración en vez de “rapidez” diga “entamente”; y en la segunda oración, en vez de “lentamente” diga “rapidez”.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Cuba. The delegate of the United Kingdom, could you accept the text as it is proposed with the word “speed” instead of “tempo”?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): No, Mr. Chairman, I do not think it reflects at all the discussion we had in Commission. I was not alone in this statement. If, in fact, the other members of the Commission now wish to adopt a different form of words, well and good, that is for the Commission to decide, but it is not satisfactory from my point of view. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Any other comments on this?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je me rallierai volontiers à ce que vient de dire le délégué de Cuba. Il s'agit de savoir si le problème qui nous préoccupe dans la troisième phrase, en ce qui concerne le retrait des conseillers agricoles du PNUD, n'est précisément pas mis en cause parce que ce rythme n'est pas satisfait; le PNUD va trop vite tandis que la FAO n'a pas la rapidité suffisante pour effectuer les remplacements. C'est là où il faut voir la relation entre le retrait des Conseillers principaux et la mise en place du Bureau de la FAO. Il y a là une notion d'équilibre qu'il faudrait maintenir; le PNUD va peut-être trop vite et la FAO trop lentement. A mon avis, il y aurait lieu de modifier la rédaction du paragraphe.

G. WEILL (France): Notre collègue du Royaume-Uni a certainement raison en disant qu'il n'a pas été le seul à avoir fait des observations sur le rythme, sur la rapidité; le terme pour nous n'a pas une importance déterminante et, en ce sens, il est bien exact que, telle qu'il nous l'a lue, la deuxième phrase disant que certains délégués ont douté que le nombre de représentants puisse être trouvé et mis en place dans les délais prévus, il est bien exact, dis-je, que cette idée a été avancée, par ma délégation notamment. Quoi qu'il en soit, je dois dire, en remerciant le Comité de rédaction des efforts qu'il a faits pour refléter les opinions en présence, que tel qu'il est libellé actuellement le paragraphe 81 est parfaitement acceptable pour ma délégation.

CHAIRMAN: I don't know quite what to do about this because as far as I can see the United Kingdom delegate insists on having this change. On the other hand it is not supported by any other delegation.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I simply wanted the text to reflect the balance of discussion and I think the first sentence as I reworded it can still be read both ways. I think there is no problem about that. Would it help the Commission if the second and third sentences were run together? It might start "While some delegates doubted whether the number of representatives provided for in the budget could be achieved, it was however noted that UNDP was withdrawing etc. ". You have both sides of it. W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany Fed. Rep. of): (interpretation from German): I think that this would reflect the actual discussion that occurred and that after all is the aim of the exercise. That is one thing. The other thing is to say it quite frankly that we are a little surprised that there seems to be no coordination between FAO and UNDP in this field. We had always thought that this was well coordinated and that there were no difficulties. What's indicated here in this paragraph surprises me but I shall not belabour the point. What the United Kingdom delegate just said would I think reflect quite faithfully the discussions that occurred.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): I think that those delegates who spoke against the proposed suggestions in the Programme of Work and Budget had two different things in mind. One has been expressed by the United Kingdom delegate and he said it, as he is pointing out now, as it is said in the draft report. So if we take up this proposal, either by combining the two sentences or by not doing so, then I think it is necessary to have it as a separate text.

We felt - not because of the fact - the number of appointées could not be reached - but for different reasons which I am not going to repeat - that they should not be reached and at this stage in the debate what comes in later paragraphs was pointed out, that maybe it was a necessity because the UNDP is withdrawing SAA/CRs. But they are two different things and maybe we have combined the two ideas.

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): Solamente quisiera ayudar a clarificar el debate. El señor West aquí nos planteaba que lo que se trataba en el párrafo 81 era lo relativo a si la FAO podía o no acelerar sus nombramientos en los países o si podía compartir a los plazos del retiro de las representaciones en el PNUD.

Y yo creo que las propuestas que nos hacen las delegaciones de Francia y Gran Bretaña sí se podían referir cuando se comente el párrafo 82; en el párrafo 83 si se habla de lo que ellos están planteando. Mi propuesta es dejar este planteamiento para el párrafo 82 y que el párrafo 81 sea adoptado en la forma actual con la enmienda a los verbos a que me referí en mi intervención anterior.

F. D'ALMEIDA (Président du Comité de rédaction): Nous avons essayé d'être le plus objectifs possible au niveau du Comité de rédaction et de refléter vraiment les idées émises au sein de la Commission. Il

ne nous a pas paru qu'il y avait un doute dans le fait que la FAO devrait installer des représentants. Il nous a semblé qu'elle se trouvait devant un fait accompli en ce sens que bien souvent le PNUD laissait vacants les postes de représentants agricoles. La FAO ne pouvait donc pas suivre ce rythme, et nous avons nous-mêmes dit qu'il fallait, pour que les représentants de la FAO soient nommés, qu'ils soient de haute qualité et de bonne valeur. Or, quand on cherche des personnes de haute qualité et de bonne valeur il n'est pas toujours aisé de suivre le rythme. C'est la raison pour laquelle, à mon avis, le paragraphe que nous avons rédigé reflète réellement l'esprit qui a prévalu au sein de la Commission et que nous avons essayé de reprendre dans ce texte.

CHAIRMAN: I think it is a big difficult to reconcile all the ideas, but I wonder if we could get round it by the following: leave the first sentence as it is without amendment and leave the second sentence as it is and then have a new sentence which could read "One delegate or two delegates as the case may be doubted whether the number of representatives provided for in the budget could be achieved at all within the time available". Then I think all delegates would have had their views reflected. Would that be acceptable to the others, especially the United Kingdom delegate?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I would be very content to have that wording but I gathered there were other delegates. I am quite content to be in isolation if you like, but I thought that was a view expressed by at least three others just recently.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director General, Office of Programme and Budget): I think some of the trouble here is being created by the combination of points in this paragraph. For example the third sentence "It was however noted that UNDP was withdrawing SAA/CRs faster..." is an argument which belongs to a different paragraph and in fact it could be deleted. What I have in mind is that the two sentences at the end of paragraph 81 really belong to paragraph 82. Paragraph 82 says quite firmly that the Conference hoped that action on the 36 requests still outstanding would be expedited. That is one issue. They are taking into account in so doing that experience has shown that it took up to a year from the request to the establishment of an office, before the actual government appointment. So I would suggest that part is made part of paragraph 82 and 81 can express a view according to the views of those who differ. They are mixed. Some think we are going too fast and some think we are going too slow and some think we shouldn't be doing it at all. I am not sure which. It is really up to the United Kingdom delegate and the Netherlands delegate to produce a common text and submit it in a few moments, then we can tidy up that paragraph. My main point of difference with the United Kingdom delegate was not about whether he said something or not - he did, although according to our records there were only about two delegates in all who made this point - it is that he was confusing the appointment with the establishment of offices. However if the United Kingdom and the Netherlands could agree to a common sentence it could replace more or less what we have in paragraph 81 at the moment, and the last two sentences of paragraph 81 could be combined with paragraph 82.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec M. West. Dans cette troisième phrase, je souhaiterais que l'on essaie d'inclure ce que vient de dire M. Grabisch, car la notion de coordination a toujours été évoquée au cours de nos discussions, et c'est vraiment une surprise de voir que le PNUD fait cavalier seul, si je puis dire, pour retirer les Conseillers agricoles principaux alors qu'au départ, lorsque nous avons commencé à étudier ce problème, nous pensions que le PNUD laisserait ses Conseillers techniques principaux et que la FAO commencerait d'abord par remplacer ceux qui manquaient, ce qui était l'essentiel. Mais il se trouve que le PNUD retire actuellement ses conseillers, ce qui m'inquiète car la FAO ne pourra pas à la fois mettre en place les représentants qu'on lui demande et remplacer les conseillers qui étaient pris en charge par le PNUD. C'est pour moi une préoccupation et ce manque de coordination m'apparaît très important.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): One of the reasons I suggested tidying up this paragraph is that it gives rise to the wrong interpretation which has just been shown to be in the mind of the distinguished delegate of Gabon. The problem is not a shocking lack of consultation with the UNDP, it is that having reached an agreement with UNDP about setting up offices, we then run into trouble because it takes about a year to clear the whole thing with the government concerned. Very often it is the recipient government, not the UNDP, which holds up the matter. That is one of the reasons that I think it would be advantageous to all to tidy up these two paragraphs.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I should be very happy to follow up the constructive suggestion of Mr. West and put my head together with the delegate of the Netherlands but I would assure him there is no risk of confusion in the mind of the United Kingdom as to the two concepts of appointments and representatives.

CHAIRMAN: So I suppose we get an agreed text for paragraph 81 and you agree that we take the last two sentences from the present paragraph 81 and combine it with paragraph 82 - that would be the sentence from "It was however " and onwards. We will then come back to 81/2 in a moment.

K. ALADEJANA (Nigeria): My delegation would just like to make a small observation so that, while redrafting paragraph 82, it could be taken into account. Some delegates mentioned the need for balance in terms of regional representation in the appointment of FAO Country Representatives, and to reflect the views of these delegates my delegation would like to propose a rather small amendment in the second line of paragraph 82. If we said, in the second line of paragraph 82, "as far as consistent with the need to maintain a high and balanced level of representation " I believe it would take care of delegates' views without creating any difficulty.

Paragraphs 68 to 82, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 68 à 82, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 68 a 82, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 81 not concluded

Le paragraphe 81 est en suspens

El párrafo 81 queda pendiente

PARAGRAPHS 83 TO 88, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

LES PARAGRAPHES 83 A 88, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

LOS PARRAFOS 83 A 88, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

R.S. KAMARA (Sierra Leone): Referring to the second sentence of paragraph 83, I do not like the way this sentence reads. Instead of: The Conference noted with satisfaction the substantial achievements reflected... " , I would prefer to say "the substantial achievements obtained as reflected in the approval... "

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to this amendment? It is so adopted.

R.S. KAMARA (Sierra Leone): In the second line of paragraph 84 I would prefer that we deleted "unbureaucratic " so that it reads "had provided support in a quick and effective manner ". I think that is enough. We have been talking about the unwinding of the unbureaucratic set-up all through our discussions, and I do not think we should overload our report with this.

J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): Some language has crept into paragraph 84 which we should really have cleared up. The next to last sentence says: "The Conference also noted with satisfaction that TCP projects had concentrated proportionately on the LDC and MSA countries. " This is somewhat redundant, since obviously MSA countries are, by definition, LDC countries.



Another point I have to raise is the following: if we can say “concentrated proportionately”, why cannot we give some percentages on how many TCP projects went to MSA countries, etc.?

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): I was just about to look in the Programme of Work and Budget to see if the percentages were there, but they will have changed since the budget was printed, so we would have to make a new calculation. I hope that point will not be pressed, unless the United States delegation has the figures themselves.

On the second point, I am not sure that all MSA countries are LDC countries. I rather think not.

CHAIRMAN: You are entirely right.

J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): Could I have a clarification of that last point, that all MSAs are not LDCs? I see a few of my colleagues shaking their heads as if to say I have blundered into a thicket, so I would appreciate clarification, just for educational purposes.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Les pays “les moins avancés” ne sont pas forcément “les plus gravement touchés”, parce que le terme “plus gravement touchés” devrait se rapporter à quelque chose de précis. Or, les pays “les moins avancés”, c'est quelque chose de global. Voilà la différence que je voudrais faire.

CHAIRMAN: Can we leave the sentence as it is without any percentages, Which I understand would create some problems? Yes. It is so decided.

So we have one proposal left, and that is to delete the word “unbureaucratic”. Can you accept paragraph 84 with the deletion of that word?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je ne sais pas s'il est vraiment avantageux de supprimer ce membre de phrase, car lorsque le PCT a été étudié, lorsque le Conseil a approuvé les propositions du Directeur général, il y avait cette notion des entraves qui a été soulignée et qui permettait au programme d'intervenir rapidement. Nous savons tous que la Maison a certaines lourdeurs administratives. Ces lourdeurs administratives n'interviennent pas dans le cadre du programme du PCT. Il est donc bon de maintenir ce membre de phrase.

CHAIRMAN: Can the delegate of Sierra Leone, who proposed the deletion of the word, accept that it remain in?

R.S. KAMARA (Sierra Leone): All I wanted to express was that we should not be too obsessed with this bureaucratic mentality, since some of us are also bureaucrats in our own countries; but I would agree.

CHAIRMAN: So can I take it that paragraph 84 is acceptable as it stands without any corrections?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Au paragraphe 87, il est dit que l'on attend des résultats, en ce qui concerne l'évaluation indépendante du PCT. Je pense que le mot est trop fort. Nous n'attendons pas de résultats, mais nous avons demandé, au niveau du Conseil, d'avoir un rapport circonstancié qui nous permette de juger l'efficacité du PCT. Mais ce ne sont pas forcément des résultats. Les résultats, on ne peut pas les évaluer.

CHAIRMAN: Could we then say “and looked forward to the report” instead of “the results”? Is that acceptable to delegates?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (interpretation from German): I have no objection to the proposal, but of course on the assumption that the results of the independent evaluation would be contained in the report. That, after all, is the purpose of the evaluation. I do not think this changes anything at all.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): J'apprécie beaucoup la proposition mentionnant les "rapports" plutôt que les "résultats". Je voudrais quand même essayer d'éclaircir ce que je disais. L'évaluation indépendante du PCT ne peut être soumise au niveau du Conseil que sous la forme de rapport, mais non pas sous la forme de résultats, parce que le PCT a souvent un caractère catalyseur. Le PCT est le starter de l'opération, et l'on ne peut pas évaluer les résultats d'une opération de plusieurs millions de francs CFA par exemple, pour un projet qui avait besoin de ce starter. C'est pour cela que j'insiste pour ne pas employer le mot "résultats". Les résultats ne peuvent être connus qu'au bout de quatre ou cinq ans.

CHAIRMAN: So we replace the word "results" with "report". I understand that is also acceptable to the delegate of Germany, so paragraph 87 is adopted with this amendment.

G. WEILL (France): J'ai quelques amendements à vous soumettre à propos du projet de résolution.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe: "Invite le Directeur général à faire tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour renforcer le Programme....", je propose que l'on mette "...l'efficacité du Programme..."

Ensuite, en utilisant à peu près tous les termes de la rédaction actuelle, je propose que le reste du texte se lise de la façon suivante: "... pour renforcer l'efficacité du Programme de coopération technique, afin de permettre à l'Organisation d'intervenir le plus facilement et le plus rapidement possibles dans ce domaine de compétence technique....", je voudrais que l'on ajoute, pour tenir compte de tous les critères qui ont été mentionnés dans les paragraphes précédents " intervenir, de façon ponctuelle". Cela reflète l'idée d'opérations de faible ampleur, rapidement exécutées, pour répondre à un besoin urgent.

Par conséquent, je dirais: "dans son domaine de compétence technique, de façon ponctuelle", et le reste de la phrase telle qu'elle est présentement rédigée: "pour répondre à leurs besoins les plus pressants en matière de développement". Le texte se lirait de la façon suivante: "Invite le Directeur général à faire tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour renforcer l'efficacité du Programme de coopération technique, afin de permettre à l'Organisation d'intervenir le plus facilement et le plus rapidement possibles dans son domaine de compétence technique, de façon ponctuelle, pour répondre aux besoins les plus pressants des Etats Membres en matière de développement".

C'est essentiellement une redistribution du texte actuel.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on the proposal you have just heard?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): J'ai du mal à accepter la proposition de la France.

D'abord, en ce qui concerne le fond, je ne pense pas que l'efficacité du Programme puisse permettre à l'Organisation d'intervenir plus facilement, et que l'efficacité puisse engendrer une intervention facile. Je ne le crois pas. Il y a donc là déjà un problème pour accepter cette formulation.

Par ailleurs, je crois que le problème qui nous préoccupe est de renforcer le Programme de coopération technique. C'est l'idée qu'il faut essayer de garder dans le texte. Cette idée existe dans le rapport depuis le paragraphe 83 jusqu'au paragraphe 88. Nous avons parlé de ce programme et de ce qu'il faut pour que ce programme aboutisse à un résultat.

Il y a des difficultés pour admettre que l'efficacité à elle seule, quels que soient les moyens que l'on puisse mettre, puisse permettre à l'Organisation d'intervenir rapidement et facilement. L'intervention facile et rapide n'est pas engendrée par l'efficacité. J'en doute.

Mais ce qui est important pour moi c'est le Programme de coopération technique et le renforcement de ce programme. Ce n'est que par ce programme que nous pouvons admettre que l'Organisation peut rapidement intervenir et de façon plus accessible aux Etats Membres, compte tenu de la compétence technique de cette Organisation.

Je crois que le libellé qui nous était présenté correspondait mieux à ce que nous voulions. C'est une objection de fond. Je regrette de m'opposer à M. Weill en ceci. Je crois que dans le fond l'efficacité citée n'engendre pas une intervention plus facile et plus rapide.

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): J'ai demandé depuis fort longtemps la parole, mais ma position n'étant pas très bonne dans cette salle, je n'ai pas été vu par le Secrétariat. Ce n'est pas un reproche. Mais mon collègue du Gabon m'a devancé et a développé la façon dont je voulais contre-attaquer l'offensive française. Nous avons présenté un texte au nom du groupe africain - et M. Weill le sait très bien puisque nous étions membres du Comité des résolutions - et ce texte nous l'avions soigneusement discuté et nous étions parvenus à un accord unanime pour que le texte soit présenté de cette façon à la Commission.

De toute façon, la proposition de M. Weill vide la résolution de son contenu, parce qu'en plus des commentaires faits par mon collègue du Gabon, je voudrais dire ce que nous entendons par le renforcement du Programme de coopération technique. Il faut savoir si nous voulons utiliser la compétence de la FAO de façon régulière, ou si nous voulons que de temps en temps la FAO apporte sa compétence technique.

Nous voulons pouvoir toujours compter que la FAO sera là.

Je regrette de devoir dire que nous ne pouvons pas accepter l'amendement de la délégation française. Il serait souhaitable que M. Weill retire son amendement pour que la résolution, ainsi que nous l'avions souhaité, puisse être adoptée sans amendement, c'est-à-dire à l'unanimité.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I would like to speak in support of the suggestion of my colleague from France. It seems to be that his thought is more in line with the position the Conference has taken in paragraph 88 in endorsing the Director-General's intention to consolidate the progress made.

In that sense, making every effort to strengthen the efficiency of the Programme seems to be quite appropriate. We could equally well say "strengthen the effectiveness of the Programme", and, for that matter, following the line of his amendment, we could use the word "respond", rather than "intervene", which might have a bad connotation. But in general I would find his suggestions in line with the position we have already approved in paragraph 88.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): May I say that the Director-General would see considerable difference between what is said in paragraph 88, which he himself has proposed, "to consolidate the progress", and introducing wording which seems to me to convey a very negative note to the effect that he has not been effective or efficient in conducting the TCP. The wording suggested seems to be a criticism, whereas consolidating progress seems to be an endorsement in one form or another.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je regrette que M. West ait pris la parole avant moi. Le paragraphe 90 parle de "renforcer l'action". Quand on parle d'action, je ne pense pas que cela veuille dire uniquement efficacité. L'efficacité du programme n'est pas mise en cause pour l'instant. Nous ne connaissons pas cette efficacité. Ce que nous voulons c'est ce que vise la deuxième partie de cette phrase "la modeste augmentation proposée". Que concerne cette "modeste augmentation"? Elle ne concerne pas l'efficacité. On ne peut pas augmenter l'efficacité par une modeste augmentation. La modeste augmentation concerne quelque chose de global qui est en quelque sorte le programme, et ne concerne pas l'efficacité du programme. Il y a une nuance entre l'efficacité du programme et le programme, et c'est sur ce point que je voudrais insister. Je ne crois pas qu'on puisse renforcer l'efficacité du programme alors que nous n'avons pas le rapport du Directeur général. Nous le demandons. Attendons d'avoir ce rapport pour juger de cette efficacité.

CHAIRMAN: I wonder if a compromise solution could be that we take the French proposal, but not with the words "strengthen the efficiency", but leave that as it is, "strengthen the Technical Cooperation Programme" and end with the rest of the amendment. Would that be acceptable to the delegate of France and the delegate of the United States who supported him?

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): Yes, though I would prefer the word “respond ” rather than “intervene ”, if my French colleague would approve.

CHAIRMAN: Would that be agreeable to the delegate of France? I understand that it would be acceptable to him. Is it acceptable to other delegates?

J.W.S. MALECENA (Tanzania): I think the French delegate proposed two amendments. The first amendment was to add the word “efficiency ” before “Technical Cooperation ”. The second amendment was to come somewhere in the second line, inserting “allow the Organization to intervene readily and in an ad hoc manner ”, and so on.

My delegation would certainly object to this amendment, because we do not want FAO to deal with our problems in an ad hoc manner. What do the words “ad hoc manner ” mean? Therefore, we would appeal for the text to remain as it is, because by adding the words “in an ad hoc manner ”, as far as we are concerned, this has no meaning. If anything, it definitely spoils the meaning, because our problems in the developing countries are not those which can be dealt with in an ad hoc manner.

CHAIRMAN: I understand that this may be a language problem, because I believe the text as read by the French was equivalent to the present English text, if I have understood the Secretariat correctly. Perhaps we could ask them to read the second part of the French amendment, with the other amendment proposed by the United States, so that delegates can see whether it is acceptable.

G. WEILL (France): Je suis heureux de pouvoir dissiper l'impression erronée retenue par le délégué de la Tanzanie. Comme vous l'avez dit vous-même, Monsieur le Président, c'est une question d'interprétation. Pour éviter à la secrétaire de la Commission de faire cette lecture en français, je vais redonner lecture de mon amendement:

“Afin de permettre à l'Organisation de répondre (c'est la proposition américaine) le plus facilement et le plus rapidement possibles dans son domaine de compétence technique, de façon ponctuelle, aux besoins les plus pressants des Etats membres en matière de développement...”

CHAIRMAN: The part that I understood Tanzania did not like about it was the “ad hoc manner ”.

J.S.W. MALECENA (Tanzania): Indeed, it is a question of language. Now, if in the French language it means one thing and in English it means “ad hoc manner ”, then I take it in English because that is the language I am using in this hall. Therefore, I would like to appeal that when it comes to the use of the words “to allow the Organization to intervene readily ”, it is already in the text, and what we were objecting to was particularly these words “ad hoc manner ”. Unless we get some other English word which would mean something better, certainly my delegation would object because we do not like it to be dealt with in “an ad hoc manner ”. The words “ad hoc ” mean something which is done without planning, something which somebody just jumps up and starts to do in an ad hoc manner, and therefore we would object to it.

G. WEILL (France): La formulation que j'ai cru devoir proposer “de façon ponctuelle ” tendait simple ment à reprendre ce qui figure à la deuxième ligne du paragraphe 85, à savoir: “...s'intéresser... à des problèmes de développement limités, mais urgents. ” Je ne verrais aucun inconvénient à ce qu'on reprenne une formulation qui rappellerait qu'il s'agit de répondre à des problèmes de développement limités mais urgents ou: et urgents.

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): Je pense que c'est une conception philosophique tout à fait opposée et nous ne parviendrons pas à un accord, car la conception de la France n'est pas la même que celle qu'a mon pays de la coopération technique. Je crois que la délégation française pense que le programme de coopération technique ou la compétence technique de la FAO n'est valable que pour un temps bien précis ou une intervention de façon ad hoc, alors que nous nous voulons que le programme de coopération technique soit renforcé et également que la compétence technique de la FAO soit accessible le plus facilement et le plus rapidement possibles. Ce n'est donc pas de façon ponctuelle. Nous ne sommes pas malades. Mais puisque la technique est une chose en évolution, la FAO étant l'organisation la plus compétente au jourd'hui, nous voulons qu'elle soit au service de tous les pays et que les pays puissent y avoir accès le plus rapidement possible, et cela par le canal du programme de coopération technique. Nous ne pouvons pas accepter qu'on dise "de façon ponctuelle".

Et la proposition française, une nouvelle fois, a modifié complètement ce que nous entendions proposer. Il s'agit d'une nouvelle philosophie. Nous pensons que le texte devrait demeurer tel qu'il est actuellement.

CHAIRMAN: Before giving the floor to Gabon, can I ask the delegate of France, do you insist on having the words "in an ad hoc manner", or could you delete that from the text? Would that create difficulties for you because it seems that this is really the difficult part of your proposal.

G. WEILL (France): Je ne suis pas un philosophe, et ce n'est pas le lieu pour moi d'échanger des conceptions philosophiques avec mon collègue et ami de la Guinée, mais tout de même, puisqu'il a parlé de philosophie, qu'il me soit permis de rappeler que ce programme de coopération technique a été conçu, a été admis, a été lancé comme un programme d'appoint pour des opérations, comme le dit le rapport au par. 85 "des problèmes de développement limités mais urgents".

Etant bien entendu que ce programme se rapporte à de telles opérations, et si la rédaction que je me suis permis de vous soumettre ne prête pas à équivoque en supprimant les mots "de façon ponctuelle", je suis tout disposé, compte tenu de l'heure tardive et pour ne pas allonger les débats, supprimer les mots "de façon ponctuelle". Mais je tiens à préciser que cette conception que je viens de rappeler n'est pas une invention de la délégation française, c'est la décision prise par le Conseil dans son ensemble, qui a fait l'objet de propositions soumises en ce sens par le Directeur général, ce n'est pas une innovation. C'est le rappel de ce qui est exactement le statut du programme de coopération technique au sein de cette organisation.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of France. I appreciate that several delegations want to take the floor, but I think that before we give them the floor we should try to see what we are now discussing.

After what the French delegate said, the proposal would then be "... the Director-General to make every effort to strengthen the Technical Cooperation Programme with a view to enabling the Organization to respond more readily in its field of competence to the most pressing development needs of member nations". Could that be acceptable to the other delegations?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): En matière de développement, il est évident qu'on peut donner à des termes un sens qui n'est pas le même suivant le degré de développement. Une opération ponctuelle ou "de façon ponctuelle" n'est pas toujours ce qui a été caractérisé dans l'esprit du PCT. Lorsqu'on parle de quelque chose de ponctuel en français, cela veut dire que cela s'applique à un point. Or les opérations du PCT concernant un projet, ne s'appliquent pas à un point, par conséquent, ce n'est pas ponctuel. Pour essayer d'illustrer ce que je dis, et M. Weill en conviendra certainement avec moi, je me référerai à une matière qu'il connaît très bien, la Phytopathologie. Lorsque nous parlons d'une opération phyto-sanitaire, ou d'un laboratoire, ce laboratoire est créé pour une spécialité mais ce n'est pas à ce seul niveau que ses effets sont ressentis. Par conséquent, l'expression "de façon ponctuelle" ne me satisfait pas.

CHAIRMAN: Excuse me for interrupting, delegate of Gabon, but the delegate of France has said he agrees to the deletion of those words so we have not that problem in mind.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): My delegation has no difficulty with this proposal but we are wondering whether there is a very simple solution to overcome the difficulty. We could say, for instance, "in accordance with the established criteria". I do not have the pertinent TCP paper in front of me, but when the Programme was adopted there were various criteria established, for example, that it should be short-time projects, and that the Director-General wanted to be able to respond speedily; perhaps it would be simplest if we could merely refer to these criteria which were laid down earlier.

J.W.S. MALECENA (Tanzania): First of all. I would like to say that as soon as you remove the words "ad hoc" from the French amendment then frankly the amendment is not necessary because those words "more readily and speedily" are already in the text.

Another point I would like to raise is this. We have to go back a little to the third paragraph which says the meeting of the Technical Cooperation Programme operation was started on 1 November 1976. It is true that this Programme might have been started in an ad hoc manner, but we see it as working well, and the intention of this Resolution is to see that this Programme is strengthened, and not only strengthened, but in another paragraph, paragraph 85, at the end there is this sentence: It was also hoped that projects in the 'miscellaneous' category could be more specifically defined in future". This means that really what we want to see is that something which was started last year is something that must be strengthened so that it can respond to the needs of developing countries readily.

Therefore if you remove from the French amendment the words "ad hoc", I do not see why the delegate of France should press for the amendment because the words already operative in paragraph 1 would be absolutely appropriate and would meet the need of those who framed this paragraph. Therefore instead of just accepting an amendment for the sake of it, I would appeal to the delegate of France to withdraw his amendment, because the words he wants to use are already in the paragraph and are stated much more clearly than if we add the other word to bring the interpretation.

G. WEILL (France): Le délégué de la France est navré de retarder ainsi la discussion. Si je suis sensible à l'argumentation du délégué de la Tanzanie, je pense que le délégué de la République fédérale d'Allemagne nous a fait une bonne suggestion. Alors, ne conviendrait-il pas de mettre à la place convenable:

"en accord avec les critères établis"? A ce moment-là bien entendu, je retirerais très volontiers mon amendement.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of France. I understand the latest French proposal then to be that he withdraws his amendment. We keep paragraph 1 as it is, but insert the words, proposed by the delegation of Germany, "which are in accordance with the established criteria" and we could insert it in the third line after the word "available". Would that be agreeable to all delegates?

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): Je ne vois pas du tout où l'on va mettre l'expression "en accord avec les critères". Je remercie cependant le délégué de la RFA pour sa proposition, mais je ne pense pas que le Secrétariat de la FAO ne respecte pas les textes. Nous savons que le PCT est fait selon certains critères. Je ne pense pas que les 190 projets approuvés étaient tous conformes aux critères; s'ils ne le sont pas, le Directeur général le fera savoir. Je voudrais simplement qu'on me dise où on les insère dans le texte.

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion is to put it in in the third line after the word "available". So it would read "Invites the Director-General to make every effort to strengthen the Technical Cooperation Programme with a view to making the technical competence of the Organization more readily and speedily available in accordance with the established criteria for the solution of the most pressing development needs of Member Nations". Is that acceptable? It seems to be the case. Paragraph 1 is adopted with this amendment.

M.A. HAIDAR (Libya) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, my delegation thinks that the paragraph which came in the Arabic text before me is complete in expressing the idea and is not in need of any further clarification. Therefore, I call for maintaining the text as it is without any amendments.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Libya, I appeal to you to accept the text with this amendment. We have been discussing this for half an hour at least, and since it does not disturb the text in any way I appeal to you to accept it. Delegate of Libya, can I take it that you accept it?

M.A. HAIDAR (Libya) (interpretation from Arabic): Actually, there is no need for further clarification in this text before us. It is actually complete.

M. TRKULYA (Yugoslavia): It is not my wish to complicate the situation here. I have no strong feeling about inclusion or delation of reference to the criteria, but if you are to accept it I think the better place is to place it somewhere just after "the Technical Cooperation Programme in accordance " and so on. I think it sounds better.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Yugoslavia. Would that be acceptable to the delegate of Libya?

M.A. HAIDAR (Libya) (interpretation from Arabic): I still insist that there is no need to include a reference to the criteria. I think there is no need for such a word, but as long as the other delegates think that it is necessary I have no objection.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Libya for his cooperation. Paragraph 1 is accepted with the proposed general amendments but after the words "Technical Cooperation Programme " in the second line. It is so adopted.

Operative paragraph 2. "Welcomes the Director-General's " etc. Any comments on that one? No comments. It is adopted.

Paragraphs 83 to 88, including Resolution, as amended, adopted

Les paragraphes 83 à 88, y compris la résolution, ainsi amendés, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 83 a 88, incluida la Resolución, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 89 to 95

PARAGRAPHERS 89 a 95

PARRAFOS 89 a 95

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 89. Any comments? No comments on paragraph 89. Paragraph 90. Any comments on paragraph 90? No comments. It is adopted. Paragraph 91, any comments on paragraph 91?

G. WEILL (France): J'aurais deux questions à poser sur le paragraphe 91. J'apprécie la façon dont le Secrétariat, en liaison avec le Comité de rédaction, a tenu compte de la discussion qui a eu lieu sur ce thème, mais je me demande s'il est tout à fait exact de dire que la Conférence prend note des instructions données par le Directeur général. En fait, nous n'avons pas eu connaissance de ses instructions, et les termes de "prend note " sont peut-être impropres. Je propose de dire: "a été informée des instructions données par le Directeur général " au lieu de "prend note ".

Sur un deuxième point j'aimerais une clarification. Le texte de ce paragraphe dit que la Conférence renouvelle la demande qu'elle avait adressée au Conseil lors de sa 14ème session. Or, il semblerait que la recommandation adressée à l'époque, tendant à ce que le Comité du Programme examine périodiquement

la politique et la pratique de l'Organisation en matière linguistique, il semblerait que cette partie, qui est entre guillemets, se rapporte plus particulièrement aux publications. Je voudrais que le Secrétariat nous confirme qu'il s'agit bien des réunions et en particulier de celles visées au paragraphe 90 précédent, c'est-à-dire des réunions appartenant à la catégorie 3. En effet, il est simplement dit que le Comité du Programme fera porter expressément son examen sur la classification des Conférences et sessions du point de vue de l'emploi des langues. Ce n'est pas là une rédaction très claire. Pour dissiper toute équivoque, peut-être pourrait-on mettre: "en faisant porter son examen en particulier sur les réunions de la catégorie 3 visée ci-dessus". Je laisserais volontiers au Secrétariat le soin de situer ce membre de phrase, mais je répète que la rédaction de ce paragraphe me paraît assez complexe.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of France. His first proposal was to replace the word "noted" with "was informed". Is that acceptable to all delegations?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): J'accepte la première proposition du délégué de la France, mais en ce qui concerne la deuxième, si vous me permettez d'intervenir maintenant, je pense qu'il ne faudrait pas viser une catégorie alors que l'examen devrait tendre vers un équilibre linguistique sans porter sur une seule catégorie.

CHAIRMAN: Could I ask perhaps the delegates of France and Gabon to try to agree on this and let us have a new text, if necessary. Could I ask the delegates of France and Gabon to agree among them selves on this point? We will have a new text if necessary. If not we will take it you agree with the present text as it stands. Would that be acceptable?

G. WEILL (France): Le délégué de la France capitule devant le délégué du Gabon.

CHAIRMAN: So the first amendment proposed by the delegate of France is accepted, and for the rest we leave paragraph 91 as is. Can I take it as adopted? It is adopted.

We go on to paragraph 92. Any comments on 92? No comments. It is adopted. Paragraph 93. Any comments? No comments on paragraph 93. It is adopted. Paragraph 94. Any comments? No comments. It is adopted. Paragraph 95. No comments? It is adopted.

Paragraphs 89 and 95, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 89 et 95, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 89 y 95, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 96 to 100

PARAGRAPHERS 96 à 100

PARRAFOS 96 a 100

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 96. No comments? It is adopted. Paragraph 97. No comments? It is adopted. Paragraph 98. Any comments on paragraph 98? We have a proposal with regard to (b) in the first line after the word "promoting" to insert the words "and/or provide appropriate training" etc. Is that acceptable? And is the rest of paragraph 98 acceptable? It seems to be the case. It is adopted. Paragraph 99. Any comments on paragraph 99? No comments. It is adopted. Paragraph 100. Any comments? No comments. It is adopted.

Paragraphs 96 to 100, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 96 à 100, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 96 a 100, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 100 and 102, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

LES PARAGRAPHERS 100 et 102, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

LOS PARRAFOS 100 y 102, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCIÓN



CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 101. Any comments? It is adopted. We come then to the text of the Resolution. Any comments on the first preamble paragraph? No comments. It is accepted. The second preamble paragraph "Taking into account"? It is accepted. The third, fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs? Approved.

The substantive paragraph of the draft resolution reads: "Requests the Director-General to continue... to develop FAO activities..." There is a proposal to insert in the first line, after the words "within the " the word "regional " before the word "provisions ". Are there any objections to that proposal?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Vous m'excuserez, mais je n'ai pas suivi. Je voudrais savoir où vous mettez le mot "régional " dans le paragraphe en question.

CHAIRMAN: The word "regional " comes in the first line after "within the " and before "provisions ". It is proposed by the delegation of Ethiopia. Is it acceptable?

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): Dans le texte français, nous n'avons qu'une seule fois le mot "limites ". Je pensais qu'il s'agissait des limites du Programme et budget. S'il faut ajouter des limites régionales, je ne comprends pas. Peut-être M. West pourrait-il nous expliquer ce qu'on entend par là.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): I can assure the delegate of Guinea that I am not the brain behind this amendment. It is the first I have heard of it and I really cannot explain it, because it does not have any meaning as far as I am concerned; it only introduce a misconception. Provisions of the budget are provisions of the budget. There is no need to talk about limits or otherwise. I really do not think it assists understanding at all.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other comments? Then it seems the proposal to insert the word "regional " is not acceptable and the last paragraph is accepted as it stands.

Paragraphs 101 and 102, including resolution, adopted

Les paragraphes 101 et 102, y compris la résolution, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 101 y 102, incluida la resolución, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 103 to 108

PARAGRAPHERS 103 à 108

PARRAFOS 103 a 108

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I think that if we are to send forward a report which, in effect, endorses an FAO budget for the next biennium just about double that of four years ago we would want to reflect more strongly the substantial reservations that a number of Member States, certainly including my own, have about the level. For this reason, I would like to suggest the strengthening of paragraph 107, which as I read it is the part of this report where these reservations are reflected.

Let me suggest an alternative wording for this paragraph: "Some delegations expressed strong concern with the continuing increases in the budgets of the organizations in the United Nations system, noting that the budget of the FAO for the coming biennium is about twice the level of the budget adopted four years ago. They also consider that, with the anticipated establishment of a \$5 million Special Reserve Account available both for currency fluctuation and inflationary trends beyond those provided for in the proposed budget, the increase from \$206,8 million to \$211.35 million was not justified. "

I have a suggestion on paragraph 108, but I will hold that until we reach that one.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je voudrais d'abord rappeler ici qu'au niveau de cette Commission, et bien avant cette Commission au niveau du Conseil, le Directeur général a donné des explications suffisantes en ce qui concerne l'augmentation du niveau du budget. Dire que cette augmentation du niveau du budget n'est pas justifiée serait ne pas reconnaître les arguments que le Directeur général avait donnés. Ou bien il fallait le dire au Directeur général et lui faire comprendre que ces arguments n'avaient pas de valeur, alors que, bien conçus et bien présentés, ces arguments étaient valables.

Le budget a été estimé lorsque le dollar était à 900 livres. Lorsqu'il nous a été présenté en novembre, le dollar représentait 877 livres. Automatiquement, il y a eu une répercussion dans l'augmentation du budget. Le dollar ne cesse de baisser.

Le paragraphe tel qu'il était conçu ne me convenait pas. Dans sa nouvelle rédaction, il me convient moins encore.

On parle d'augmentations exagérées. Toutes les déclarations qui ont été présentées en plénière ont mis l'accent sur le rôle primordial de l'agriculture et, partant, de la FAO. Si l'on dit que le budget de la FAO subit une augmentation exagérée, il faudrait peut-être demander à des économistes de revenir un peu en arrière. La FAO a toujours été en recul. C'est ce qui passe dans tous les pays agricoles du monde. Les produits agricoles sont mal considérés par rapport aux produits industriels. La FAO a été mal considérée, elle n'a pas eu le soutien qu'elle devait avoir. Son budget n'a pas augmenté comparativement à ses objectifs. Maintenant que nous avons une idée plus précise de ces objectifs, qui n'ont pas été atteints dans la décennie du développement, nous considérons que cette augmentation de budget est exagérée. Mais nous sommes les premiers fautifs pour ne pas avoir donné à la FAO les moyens nécessaires. Il faut quand même être conséquents. Lorsqu'on essaie de bloquer les prix pendant un certain temps, il y a finalement une explosion. Nous sommes obligés d'admettre cette explosion. Il en est ainsi dans tous les pays du monde et pour tous les produits agricoles. Je ne vois personne ici qui puisse dire que les prix des produits agricoles ont suivi les prix des produits agricoles.

Il faut quand même être logique. Je trouve que le terme "exagérées" est trop fort. Selon moi, ce paragraphe 107 aurait pu s'arrêter lorsqu'il dit que "certaines délégations ont déploré une augmentation continue des budgets des organisations faisant partie du système des Nations Unies". C'est un fait général. Mais la FAO est un cas particulier. Le drame du Sahel que nous avons vécu en 1972 revient avec la même acuité. Il n'est pas résolu et nous n'avons pas trouvé les moyens de le résoudre. L'homme devient de plus en plus incapable de copier ce que la nature lui a donné pour vaincre les phénomènes de la faim. Est-ce que cela doit se traduire par ce que je lis dans le paragraphe 107? Je me pose la question.

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): Il n'y a pas d'entente entre le représentant du Gabon et moi-même, bien que nous nous suivions pour prendre la parole, mais je partage entièrement l'idée qu'il vient de développer.

Je ne voudrais pas parler ici du fond de la proposition, mais de certains termes que l'on utilise dans le rapport. Jusqu'à présent, on avait trouvé des termes justes, pondérés, convenant à un rapport digne de cette Organisation. Ici, je ne veux pas m'en prendre au Comité de rédaction, mais je pense que l'on a dépassé certaines limites. Dans le rapport, on parle d'augmentations exagérées. Chaque pays est libre de faire des déclarations et dire ce qu'il souhaite et que cela soit mentionné dans le rapport. Mais je pense que certains termes ne doivent pas être mentionnés. Je suis choqué par certains termes du paragraphe 107.

On nous présente un autre libellé qui laisse entendre qu'il faudra changer également le paragraphe suivant. Il y a une disproportion entre les nouvelles propositions et ce que les autres membres de cette commission ont pu dire. Nous devrions dire qu'il y a eu un appui massif aux propositions du Directeur général concernant le budget.

Nous devrions arriver à établir un texte qui reflète les différents points de vue et qui soit assez modéré - bien que je ne sois pas modéré moi-même.

De toute manière, il m'est difficile d'accepter tous les termes qui sont contenus dans le paragraphe que j'ai sous les yeux.

J.W.S. MALECENA (Tanzania): I hope that I can save you the problem of again arguing on a paragraph which is very contentious. First of all I think what we are doing here is that we are approving a report of the Commission which, after it is approved, then it means that all the delegates agree with the contents of the report.

Now in paragraph 107 - and I must say at the outset that if it were put to the vote my delegation would certainly abstain or we would not support this paragraph, simply because this paragraph raises certain issues which various delegates concerned should have included in their statements in the Plenary because it expresses an opinion of a delegation - but our efforts here are to get a report which is acceptable to all of us.

There are the following ways with which we can deal with this. The first would be in paragraph 107 where at least would be all the countries which said this and agreed to paragraph 107, and then my delegation would have no objection, and they could make it as strong as they wish provided they mention it.

Secondly, we would have together with other delegations to state what the other majorities said in opposition to paragraph 107, and really I would have said, Mr. Chairman, that those countries which agree with this paragraph would simply state their names, and then we will know they are there and let the paragraph remain there, but knowing fully well that some of us are abstaining from this paragraph and therefore we will not be committed to the contents of this paragraph and we will go on with our work. Otherwise, if it is the intention of the amendment, that after the amendments which have been added by the delegate of the United States that you come and say we now agree to this paragraph, certainly my delegation does not agree and they will abstain from voting on it, and we do not see why we should waste a lot of time discussing on issues and the feelings of the particular delegations which are not supported by the majority. I am afraid the alternative would be to go back again and say what is what, which would be a waste of time.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Il est de l'avis de ma délégation que le rapport doit refléter les opinions exprimées au sein de la Commission. Cela veut dire des avis parfois divergents. C'est pourquoi le paragraphe 107 commence d'ailleurs par les mots "certaines délégations..".

Il est certain que la délégation des Etats-Unis a proposé un texte plus explicite que celui proposé par le Comité de rédaction. Mais elle n'est pas la seule à penser qu'une formulation plus précise de cet avis est souhaitable.

Pour ma part, je ne puis que me rallier à ce qui est proposé par la délégation des Etats-Unis.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I simply wish to clarify that although I made a reference to the subsequent paragraph I did not have any intention of changing the basic sense of that paragraph, and it seems to me that the final paragraph should meet the concerns that are expressed by some of those who have spoken before me, so I would appeal to them that in the interests of having a report which expresses the views of all of us that they permit those delegations who wish to express concern to do so in the language which they support.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When sitting in my office, listening to this debate, I was really surprised to hear the intervention of the distinguished delegate of the United States. The reason for my surprise was that we have been working in my office for several days with the 77 and the Geneva group in the so-called "Contact Group", in an attempt to solve all problems and avoid any confrontation.

The text now proposed for this paragraph is couched in very strong terms and I must admit that I fully agree with the distinguished delegate of Tanzania in thinking that it goes very far. First, I would challenge any delegation to confirm that the new proposed text reflects what has been said in this Commission. It has never in fact been stated that the budget of FAO for the forthcoming biennium was approximately twice the amount of that adopted four years ago.

Second, the United States delegation has always played an active part in the Drafting Committee, which has proposed the original text.

Why was it necessary to wait until almost the last day of the Conference to say the things which it is now proposed to include in this paragraph? While any delegation is, of course, free to say what it wishes, it is still not possible to include in the report points which have not been raised during the debate. I confess, therefore, that I find this new long paragraph very disturbing, in that it reopens basic problems.

The FAO budget does not have any special reserve fund, unlike Unesco, which has one of 7.5 million dollars. Is it possible to have a budget of \$200 million with nothing in reserve? I have requested the Council, which has agreed, and I have now asked the Conference to provide me with a reserve amounting to 2 1/2 percent of the budget. This point was discussed in my office with the Contact Group and agreement was reached that we should have a reserve of \$5 million derived from savings, without asking any country to pay an additional contribution. We cannot risk our programme of work being vulnerable to a situation whereby a delay in the payment of contributions by any country might result in FAO being unable to pay its staff. This has occurred in Unesco; so it could occur in FAO, too. We need this reserve precisely to meet such a situation and this is not connected with the budget level. This is a basic need which should be met on a permanent basis. But to combine the budget and the reserve and state that it was said in this Commission that our budget amounts to twice what it was four years ago is incorrect; we might just as well say that it is ten times what it was 25 years ago!

What disturbs me here is the attitude of some delegations, which were present at meetings of the Contact Group as well as the Drafting Committee, and which never expressed before the intention to have a confrontation on the level of the budget.

How much does the substantive budget increase amount to? 6.8 percent over two years, that is to say, 3.4 percent per year! If we had solved the problem of hunger and malnutrition, we might be justified in having no increase in our budget. But FAO's role is to provide food to poor people and to combat malnutrition; we cannot propose a budget increase of 1.5 or 2 percent just because some countries have decided that it should not exceed that amount!

What we have proposed is a budget which, for the first time, includes no increase in staff at Headquarters; in fact, there is even a decrease of one post in Rome! Two years ago, there were 550 new posts in the budget; during the next biennium all I have proposed are 40 new posts, all in the field. We have eliminated bureaucracy and proposed an effective and practical budget. The programme we propose is the best which money can buy!

What is the point, then, of talking about what is contained in other budgets of the United Nations system? What we are concerned with is FAO,

I would add that, if I were to fulfill all requests made in this Commission, I should need \$4 million more. Moreover, many requests for new activities were made or supported by those delegations which are now proposing to reduce the budget level: I have in mind nutrition and languages, for instance. To meet all requests made in this Commission, I would not need 211 million but 215!

Two years ago, your Conference approved unanimously a substantive increase of 26 percent and another 26 percent for costs increases, that is to say, 52 percent in total! Now, two years later, I have proposed a programme including a 17 percent cost increase and a programme increase of 6.8 percent only. This is twice less than what the Conference approved for the last biennium. Furthermore, I also stated in the Council that \$10 million, representing savings and miscellaneous income, would be returned to member countries, so that, in fact, what has to be paid is actually \$200 million only. I fully recognize that some member countries do not wish, for reasons of principle, that the budget of FAO should increase. While it is natural that they should like to express that wish, I regret that they considered it appropriate to do so in such a manner and at this late hour. Delegates have had every opportunity to intervene at the Resolutions Committee and the Drafting Committee. I would consider it unfortunate, therefore, that they should do so at this stage, and in such terms. The fact that FAO will have a reserve fund of \$5 million has no connection with the new level of the budget. The reserve fund is something FAO has lacked in the past and which has been agreed upon now. I can also assure you that the proposed programme will make the most effective use of the funds requested, since publications and meetings have been greatly reduced. Finally, we must keep in mind that I may have to spend \$4 million on new unbudgeted activities, which have very often been proposed by the same developed countries which now object to the budget level. Perhaps, during my concluding statement, I shall review in detail some of the new proposed activities which will not really lead to concrete action, such as food planning for instance.

I regret, Mr. Chairman, having had to intervene again, but I considered it my duty to do so. It is my responsibility to present the Programme of Work and Budget to member countries and to defend it, and I believe that what I have said is correct.

S.S. MAHDI (India): After the intervention of the Director-General, I shall be very brief. I know that the executive head of an organization which consists both of developed and developing countries, because he has a responsibility both to the developing and to the developed countries, could not raise in his intervention certain issues which our delegation feels free to raise.

Two questions have been mentioned in the new paragraph. One is inflation, and the other is currency fluctuations. I shall not dwell on this at length, but the simple question is who is responsible? Who has the global responsibility for these two phenomena: inflation and currency fluctuations?

I shall go to the extent of saying that because of the decisions of a group of countries which dominate the world economically, a number of small countries, poor countries like ours, also have to share a cost for which we are not responsible in a global and universal manner.

However, in spite of this, we are going along with the increased budget because we feel that among all the United Nations agencies, FAO is one of the most important, because it deals with the problems which are closest to the concerns of the developing countries.

I shall not dwell very much on the substance, because facts and figures have been given in a very convincing way by the Director-General himself, and by a number of delegations in the debates which took place here.

The point to which I would like to draw attention is that in the Drafting Committee this was a new paragraph which was added, after long discussions, and this paragraph was suggested by the delegation which is now moving the amendment. Therefore, this has the status of a negotiated text.

Because of what happened in the Drafting Committee, I do not think it is fair that this paragraph should be reopened and couched in the language which has now been presented.

In view of these two arguments on substance and on fact on this paragraph, which was suggested by a particular delegation in the Drafting Committee, I would appeal that the present text, which was not liked by many delegations in the Drafting Committee, should be retained, which would be a fair compromise.

Sra. DOÑA G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México): Había pedido la palabra inmediatamente después de que lo hizo el señor delegado de Guinea porque los dos fuimos compañeros de trabajo en el Comité de Redacción de esta Segunda Comisión, asimismo con el señor delegado de la India. Trabajamos activamente en la redacción de este párrafo, fueron muy largas las discusiones que tuvimos, y al final - sin exagerar dos o tres horas de trabajo en que estaban presentes miembros de otras delegaciones y además representantes de la delegación que ha propuesto la enmienda - llegamos a estos conceptos de redacción, considerando que todas aquellas objeciones que eran planteadas estaban comprendidas en un lenguaje de transacción y de adecuación. Lo mismo sucedió en la Comisión donde estuvimos analizando las resoluciones. En la Comisión de Resoluciones también se plantearon problemas semejantes y tampoco hubo una objeción tan excesiva como la que se ha planteado. Pero considerando las palabras que ha pronunciado el señor Director General que vienen a complementar de nuevo la información que antes ya se nos había dado, y tomando en cuenta todas las actividades que dentro de la misma Comisión II hemos estado analizando que va a ser necesario llevar a cabo el año entrante, el año 1978 y el 1979, me permito llamar la atención sobre lo exagerado de los términos y de la enmienda que se propone. Considero que el sólo hecho de llevar a cabo la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria con las Conferencias Regionales que ésta va a necesitar mas las conferencias regionales normales de la organización que se tendrán que llevar a cabo durante el curso del año 1978, es más, escuchamos esta mañana el ofrecimiento del señor delegado de Filipinas en el sentido de que sugiere y ha indicado que la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria se celebre en Manila, No veo cómo si nosotros que somos delegados y representantes de nuestros países ya estamos preocupados por todo el trabajo que va a significar para nosotros estos dos próximos años de labores y el esfuerzo que va a ser para nuestras propias representaciones poder cumplir con todo lo que se nos ha encargado como representantes de nuestros países; no veo cómo se pide a la Organización un buen cumplimiento, una buena realización de sus labores, un éxito rotundo en la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que para nosotros, los países en vías de desarrollo es de fundamental importancia; no veo cómo podremos llegar en el año 1979 a metas satisfactoria si tenemos una discusión por un aumento en un presupuesto que además de ser justificado, está compensado con los ahorros que se han efectuado dentro de la propia Organización.

Mi delegación hace un llamado de ponderación en esta situación. Creo que una confrontación a estas alturas, unas cuantas horas antes de que se clausure la Conferencia, haría necesario que tomemos varias delegaciones más y quizá nosotros mismos pidamos nuevamente la voz, porque son puntos que no

solamente hemos defendido en la Plenaria sino que los hemos defendido como representantes de nuestros países, representantes de regiones y representantes de grupos informales como es el Grupo de los 77. Lo hemos estado defendiendo en el curso de las dos semanas activas de trabajo y empezar en este momento a volver a plantear situaciones tan espinosas, nos está llevando a un peligro serio. Llamo la atención sobre esto y pido a los señores delegados que recapaciten y que como ya lo habíamos decidido y acordado en el seno del Grupo de Redacción de esta Comisión se acepte esta propuesta como una transacción a la que llegamos, vuelvo a decirlo, después de varias horas de meditación, de escuchar las opiniones de todos los miembros de la Comisión y de trabajo efectivo.

A.K. EL MOKHTAR (Mauritanie)(interprétation de l'arabe): Notre famille a fait son travail, or qui dit famille dit des liens fort solides; malheureusement des points fort préoccupants se posent. Il y a un proverbe arabe qui dit: si on connaissait la raison, toutes les surprises seraient dissipées. Nous devrions donc connaître les raisons de l'augmentation du budget. Or, nous les connaissons: on a déjà réduit les publications, on a réduit les postes; sans cela le budget aurait augmenté dans des proportions beaucoup plus importantes. Pourquoi donc maintenant employer des termes tels que déplorer, exagérer? Au nom de ma délégation, nous nous opposons à cet amendement; en effet, les délégations ont pour la plupart déjà accepté le budget dans son ensemble.

K. ITANO (Japan): As mentioned in our general remarks, my delegation is very much concerned with the upward trend of budgets in the United Nations agencies as a whole. At that time we expressed our opinion that the increased rate of the budget proposed for FAO for the next biennium should be kept as low as possible. In this context, we would like to support the proposal made by the delegate of the United States, because it will reflect the course of the discussion in our debate.

H. ABDALLA (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): First and foremost, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the Director-General for the excellent intervention he made and for the way in which he defended the Programme of Work and Budget which we have all debated in a constructive manner, which is aimed at satisfying the concerns of the developed and developing countries throughout the world. This subject, therefore, has been debated at great length by the Council, even before the Conference.

We set up a Contact Group, of which the delegate of the United States was a member, in an effort to arrive at a compromise, as the Director-General himself, along with some of my colleagues, in particular my colleague from India have said. We have therefore examined this question in the Contact Group and again in the Drafting Group.

Of course, we realize that the opinions of some countries need to be expressed because of their financial concern, but we are used to these countries tending to exaggerate their terms when referring to their conditions, as was said by the Director-General himself and my colleague from India.

There are factors of another kind, such as the hindrances, inflationary trends. These are crises beyond our control. We would therefore invite the delegate of the United States and delegates of the countries supporting the United States' delegation to review their position and maintain the text as presented, especially since this text has already been debated on several other occasions and at this very late hour in the Conference I think it would be very difficult to go through the question again.

For this reason, we would make a sincere appeal to the delegate of the United States, who has already given his opinion, which can be recorded here, but we would beg him to agree to maintain the text as presented at the outset.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): Over the years we have had the experience of going through the budget exercise, and the Director-General and I have borne arms together as delegates, and we have also been in a situation where he was a member of the staff. He knows as well as I do that, by their very nature, budgets are controversial subjects. It is very difficult to arrive at a budget with 100 percent agreement. But we also feel that, no matter what the discussion is, there is scope and room for some agreement by all parties concerned, not necessarily by one group or the other, and Canada is very appreciative of the cooperation from the Director-General and the member governments during the past few weeks in seeking a consensus.

I might say this is one of the reasons why some delegations like ours did not actively speak, because at that time there was very active contact between the Director-General and the Consensus Group and we felt it would not be correct at this point to enter into a debate while the Director-General and some of my colleagues were trying to find a way out in a very peaceful manner, so this is where we stand now. This Conference, because of the work of the Consensus Group and the Director-General, has until now certainly been able to avoid lengthy debates on the budget item, and as a result was able to concentrate on technical matters.

The Canadian delegation would also like to compliment the Director-General on the care that he has taken in presenting his budget to Member Governments. However, since the beginning of November a number of additions have raised the budget level from 206.8 million to 211 million. There have been some changes. Our delegation because of the sensitivity of the issue of the budget and being very much aware of the deep concern of the Director-General has been in constant touch with our capital just to make sure that the views expressed by our delegation reflect more than, as the Director-General said, the views of the Minister of Finance, and we have kept him fully informed on developments.

We have indicated on two occasions, both at the Council sessions in June and at the Council session in November, that the Canadian delegation could accept the 206.8 million figure, although the head of our delegation held the view that even the 206.8 million figure was somewhat high, and there was room for some savings.

In our own statement at the beginning of Commission II, we indicated briefly how the programme work could be accomplished with a lower budget without any cuts in the programme. We also noted the use of the full budgetary procedure which allows, if I understand correctly, the interpretation given for all future anticipated costs, inflationary or otherwise.

We recognize that the majority of the Conference does support the budget level for 1978-79 as proposed by the Director-General. After consideration of the Director-General's explanations and the views expressed by various delegations, the Canadian delegation has been instructed to state that we have difficulty in accepting the new total of \$211 million proposed for the budget. Our delegation also hopes that there could be a closer consensus, but at the moment the figure we are faced with is \$211 million, and so far, the consensus is still on the one side, not on the other side, because these are the figures which the majority of the delegations have supported, and I know this is the figure discussed with the Consensus Group. Thus, we have been only partially successful in the work of the Contact Group. It was a good thing to have this Group, because it allowed our Conference to concentrate on the key issues of the programme.

At this point in time, it would appear there is a need to have the different views adequately reported in the report, and therefore, in respect to the United States proposal, our delegation can support it, as read by Mr. Baker. There might be the odd word you wish to change in any discussions which can be held, because the views expressed by the United States closely reflect our own concerns, and I would hope perhaps there might be some wording, but I would make the appeal to all our colleagues that the views expressed by some of us in respect to the budget does not mean we are trying to interfere with the FAO programme of work, it does not mean that we are reducing our aid programmes; the Canadian government's programme will be unchanged; we will continue to provide the aid that we have done in the past; we will do our best to increase the total. So let us not get involved in this kind of discussion.

Our problem is that there are limited resources, and we want to maximize the use of the resources, and our experience has always been that every budget, no matter how thoroughly it is prepared, and every Director-General in the past has assured me there is no more water left in the stone called the budget, but there is always a little bit found later on and, therefore, the appeal here is a two-way appeal: just as much as the developing countries are appealing to us, we make the appeal to them to understand our position too.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: We are not discussing the substance here; we are adopting the report. As I have already stated, the amendment proposed by the United States includes elements which have never been raised in this Commission. How is it possible to do this at the time the report is being adopted? The verbatim records are here to be consulted and they include the statement of the United States delegation on the subject. Nowhere is it said that the budget level is twice what it was four years ago, nor was it said that the increase from \$208 million to \$211.35 million was "unjustified". If any delegation had made such statements, they would have been recorded. I would ask any delegation which is not in agreement with this to say so now. We are here to be frank with each other. Now that it is considering its report, this Commission should only reflect what was said during its discussions.

Your Drafting Committee has gone through the whole report and has approved paragraph 107. Why, therefore, should it be necessary to make changes at the last moment? X know this has little significance, since the resolution will be adopted by the majority and maybe the few delegations which are encountering difficulties now will also vote in favour; I hope they will, although perhaps some will abstain. I certainly do not expect the vote to go against the resolution, but I must say that I find it somewhat unfortunate that such a controversial matter should be raised, in rather strong terms, at this late stage.

I therefore appeal to the United States delegation to reconsider their proposal.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Director-General for his statement. I have a very long list of speakers. I wonder at this stage whether the delegate of the United States of America would like to take the floor to comment on some of the statements that have been directed at him. The United States, would you like to take the floor?

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I would like to say that I did not intend in making this suggestion to open a controversy here. My intention was to try to reflect here in this report the strength of the concern that my delegation and other delegations here have about budgetary growth. There were some new developments during the same time period in which the Drafting Committee was working which had an influence on the views of delegations, and I mention here also our agreement on a special reserve account, so I would not wish to insist that a prolonged debate occur on account of my proposals. It did appear to me that they reflected the strength of concern that I know a number of delegations have, and it did appear to me that it would only be appropriate, given the conclusions on paragraph 108, that these concerns might be expressed in a manner that a number of delegations here wished to support.

However, rather than prolong a debate here on this occasion, perhaps it will be equally possible for those delegations concerned, including my own, to express their reservations in another form.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I am put in a very embarrassing position, I am almost afraid to say it, because the Director-General is a very strong man, but I think I should correct it. I was told that in the French version, the statement I made came out exactly opposite to what I said in English. That is quite possible. The Canadians are always more gentle in French than they are in English.

What I had said was in respect to the \$211 million, our delegation has been instructed to state we have difficulty in accepting the new total proposed for the budget. In French I was told that the Canadian delegation said it can accept the \$211, but we are not a split personality; my instructions are that we have difficulty in accepting the \$211, so I wanted that correction made before there is any further discussion.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to ask the United States, do I understand his last statement to mean that he withdraws his proposed amendment, the paragraph that we are discussing, that he can accept the wording as it is?

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I can accept the language which is expressed in paragraph 107. That language is satisfactory. I wished on behalf of my delegation and others to strengthen it, but I will agree to the language as it is stated here on the understanding that we may wish to express views in another context.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the United States for his cooperation, so can I take it that paragraph 107 is acceptable? Can we adopt it?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (interpretation from German): The reflection of the opinions expressed during the discussion about this agenda item to be included in a paragraph of the report, namely paragraph 107, is in our view no confrontation. It is merely an attempt to balance the report, and I do not think that anybody can refuse that.

The Minister of my country stated in Plenary that the suggested increase of the budget rate for 1978-79 is the highest in the United Nations system. In the Council and during the discussion of the Programme of Work of Budget in Commission II we made concrete proposals to make possible savings. We hoped therefore that the Director-General would suggest a lower budget level. In our view, this would still have been possible. My delegation would have supported the proposal made by the delegate of the United States. It may be that perhaps the doubling of the budget compared with that of four years ago was not discussed in Commission II, but nevertheless it is a fact. The delegate of the United States is not going to insist on putting forward his proposal, but we would now like to make a proposal for a small addition



to the end of paragraph 107, In the view of my delegation, at the end of paragraph 107 we should add the following sentence: "They also made concrete proposals for possible cuttings ", I will repeat it very slowly: "They also made concrete proposals for possible cuttings ".

I think that this slight addition to paragraph 107 will not cause any difficulty because it does reflect the discussion that took place in the Commission.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): Mr. Chairman, having heard that my neighbour has just said "we " I would like to know who are "we "? After that I will continue on my point of order.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): Mr. Chairman, I regret that my neighbour on the left has found that. Sometimes we say "my country ", sometimes I say, "we ". I simply meant my delegation. I was not including anybody else, although similar proposals were made by other delegations.

A.T. WADDA: (Gambia): Starting with what my good friend started with, he would like to see the report well balanced. If by balancing the budget we have to quote exactly what each delegation states I am afraid we are not going to have a report, we are going to have a verbatim report instead. What has been reflected here was the consensus of the majority of the delegations, and the consensus on the minority side. This is the type of balancing that has gone through and, Mr. Chairman, my point of order is that the Chair should guide this meeting to restrict itself entirely on what was stated in this Commission, not what was stated in the Plenary; what was stated in order for us during the Conference. We are considering here a report which is supposed to reflect the statements that were made here during the course of the discussion. This is my point of order, and I appeal to the Chair to give guidance, especially since the United States have been very generous in withdrawing their statement. Thank you. I appeal for your guidance, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Gambia. I would appeal to the delegate of Germany to withdraw his proposal. I would, in fact, put to you that we have had a long discussion. In view of the fact that the United States, who proposed the amendment, have accepted paragraph 107 as it stands, and also in view of the fact that it was a compromise reached in the Drafting Group, I appeal to all the delegates without any other discussion to accept it so that we can go forward with our work. The delegate of France, can you accept it?

G. WEILL (France): Avant que notre collègue de la République fédérale d'Allemagne ne réponde à votre invitation, je voudrais dire que pour ma délégation le paragraphe 107 est acceptable. Je voudrais dire aussi qu'il nous semble que la proposition du délégué de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, au moins en ce qui nous concerne, reflète la réalité. Nous avons aussi formulé des propositions d'économie. Mais si néanmoins, répondant à votre appel, Monsieur le Président, le délégué de la République fédérale d'Allemagne retire son amendement, nous n'y voyons aucun inconvénient.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of France. I do appeal to the delegate of Germany in our own interests, all our interests, to withdraw your proposal.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): Paragraph 107 begins by saying, "Some delegations " and does not at all imply what was said by other delegations. Mr. Chairman, you have listened carefully to the discussions which took place on that subject and I am sure you have heard several delegations making specific proposals for reductions and savings. The little phrase that I suggested, "they also made concrete proposals for possible cuttings " would only reflect what we, and others said during the discussions. I do not understand, Mr. Chairman, why this fact cannot truly be reflected by the addition of the short amendment I have suggested.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Germany. I will tell you why I do appeal to you even once again to do it: first of all we have had a very lengthy discussion. We have a lot of work ahead of us which we have to complete tonight. I have a list of 12 speakers that will take the floor on this subject. I am quite sure there are other speakers raising their flags now to speak. We should try to get a compromise. We cannot always have something we have said reflected in the report. This paragraph 107 has been agreed by the Drafting Group and there were members of both sides present in that Drafting Group. I think we should take it as a compromise, and I think we should accept it, and I do appeal to you once more to withdraw your proposal. You have the floor.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): Today and all through the Conference we worked together in a spirit of constructive cooperation, and under your distinguished chairmanship we have been able to adopt a large part of the report. When adopting that report amendments were put forward although these reports had been agreed upon by the Drafting Committee. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee did not object because he felt that those amendments and comments were made in a constructive spirit, and it is in the same constructive spirit that we are now making this proposal, Sir. Before my delegation decides whether or not we withdraw this proposal, we would like to know if other delegations who made proposals for reductions or savings are prepared to give up the idea of their views being reflected in the report, or if they would prefer their points on savings being reflected in general in a little phrase at the end of the paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: I understand that the delegate of Germany will not withdraw his proposal. I will then have to ask the floor to express their opinion on this, unless we can get around it in a different way, by having your phrase, which we have not quite got in English, to be quite honest, if we could have perhaps that in a footnote, just to take care of your interest, if that would present a possibility? I ask the delegate of Germany first to give us his text in English and then to reply whether he would be prepared to have it in a footnote, and leave the text as it is.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): We are still on 107 and not on paragraph 108. I think we should not forget that. The small addition which my delegation was and is proposing, reads as follows, and I will read it very slowly so that there will be no misunderstanding: ["Some delegations " at the beginning of this paragraph.] "They also made concrete proposals for possible cuttings ", the "They " referring to [...]. That is all, Mr. Chairman. It is perhaps not very good English. English is not my mother tongue. Perhaps somebody from the English-speaking delegations could suggest better wording, but that is the very simple proposal I am making, Sir.

CHAIRMAN: We have got now the text which in English would read, "They also made concrete proposals for possible reductions ". Would it satisfy you to get this covered in a footnote? Would that satisfy you? I give the floor to the Director-General.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, one would need a crystal ball to answer that question! The French and German delegations have proposed to reduce the budget level, and perhaps also Switzerland. Even if there were 5 or 6 of these countries, they would still represent only a small minority of our 144 members. No doubt many others are in favour of the original text, so that, if this paragraph is reworded, as suggested, other paragraphs may then also have to be reworded, in order to maintain a proper balance.

CHAIRMAN: Delegate of Germany, to be quite clear before I have so many to give the floor to, I would like to be quite clear on one point: first of all would you be prepared to have this inserted in a foot note. You will not. I see. Then we have to give the floor to the speakers in the order that they have asked for the floor, and I am afraid you are in for a very long session. The delegate of Gambia is pressing for a point of order. Please do not speak on the substance.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): Mr. Chairman, if I heard the delegation of Germany quite clearly before your suggestion, he has appealed to others who have made the cutting to say and if others who have made similar statements did not voice any objection, if I understood he was prepared to accept the paragraph as it stands, as the delegation of France has already declared. We were at that stage, when you decided to ask Germany again whether they will accept the footnote and they returned back to the discussion of the substance again. The last statement before your invitation, the delegate of Germany was appealing to hear from others whether they will insist on having this included in paragraph 107, so I would like us to go back to where Germany has asked others, and we have heard France is prepared to accept this statement as it stands, and on the basis of that, Mr. Chairman, we appeal again to Germany, since they are the only ones so far, to accept this statement as it stands. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Gambia. The problem is we have a long list of countries that ask to speak, and it may take a long time to get round to get these replies, and I have a point of order. The delegate of Tanzania, you have the floor.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

J.W.S. MALECENA (Tanzania): I would like to raise a point of procedure. The point of procedure is really not only on a matter of substance, but on a matter of procedure, in the sense that here we have a paragraph which speaks about what some delegates said. We are now even being asked to accept an amendment which says, "they also made some concrete proposals. " Now, could we know what those concrete proposals are; that they must have suggested that cut(a), cut(b), cut(c), cut(d); this would be concrete proposals. I would like to say if the distinguished representative of Germany is not prepared to withdraw, then I would like to move one amendment immediately we will insert what Germany is saying and if we have the support of others, we agree, but immediately they are asked to let us add the following sentence, "the majority of the delegates oppose these views ". Just that one sentence. I will repeat it slowly so that you can take it down. We will accept the amendment by Germany but after it we should add a sentence which should read: "The majority of the delegates opposed these views."

Then after this sentence you will go to paragraph 108 which, of course, will reflect the consensus of the Conference. But now we want paragraph 107 to be a contentious paragraph, let us say what some delegates said and what the majority said, because really to accept the points of some delegations means, I am afraid, that we are not being democratic in the Organization. If he insists on his amendment, I also insist on my amendment being put after it.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): My delegation would like to thank the delegate of Tanzania. I think that he has shown a way how we could overcome our little difficulty. My delegation could accept his proposed amendment if my amendment is also accepted, on condition that the other delegations which also proposed reductions are not opposed to that addition.

CHAIRMAN: We have heard the proposal from Germany and from Tanzania. In order to formulate the proposal by Germany and, as the delegate of Gambia pointed out, we would need the intervention of the other countries that support the delegate of Germany in this amendment. I give them the floor to express themselves on this point.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): We are not going to get anywhere in the next three hours. Feelings are setting in and we are having problems now with definitions. I propose a five-minute break, a cooling-off period. Mr. Chairman, you take hold of the delegates of Germany and Tanzania and perhaps the Director-General will give each of you a strong drink. It is a serious proposal about the drink and the five-minute break, otherwise feelings are getting worse and worse. There is unfairness on both sides. There have been some pretty rough statements taken. There is not a consensus. I do not like the spirit that is here. I suggest a five-minute break and I am sure that the Director-General does not mind spending a little money on a free drink.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Canada for his proposal.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I support Canada's proposal for a five-minute break.

The meeting was suspended from 18.50 to 19.10 hours

La séance est suspendue de 18 h 50 à 19 h 10

Se suspende la sesión de las 18.50 horas a las 19.10 horas

CHAIRMAN: We will resume our meeting. I understand agreement has been reached on paragraph 107. The following two sentences will be inserted: "A few delegates also made suggestions for possible reductions in order to lower the budget level, " and "The majority however did not agree with these suggestions. " We add these two sentences at the end of the paragraph. I understand this is the agreement that has been reached so I take it there is no objection.

M. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je voudrais avant tout vous faire une remarque: avant que vous n'interrompiez la séance, j'avais demandé la parole depuis très longtemps. Or, certains délégués ont pu s'exprimer huit fois de suite sans que vous me donniez la parole. Je consentirai cependant à faire quelques modifications de terme et à admettre votre proposition à condition que l'on supprime la deuxième phrase du paragraphe 107, c'est-à-dire: "elles estiment que les augmentations de cout de la FAO sont exagérées.. " et j'appuie bien sur le terme "exagéré ". Si l'on enlève cette phrase, je consentirai à étudier avec plus d'attention les propositions que vous venez de faire.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the proposal by the delegate of Gabon.

J. A. BAKER (United States of America): With all respect, I would have to say that rather than make that change I would reintroduce my proposed language.

CHAIRMAN: Gabon, I think in view of the fact that this was the compromise reached among delegations from both sides, when you had the opportunity to participate if you liked, I would appeal to you to agree to paragraph 107 with the suggested additions, and that you withdraw your proposal in order that we get a final agreement on this paragraph.

M.L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je vous remercie de votre suggestion, Monsieur le Président, mais vous la faites bien tard. Lorsque M. Sheffrin a fait sa suggestion, il vous a demandé de retenir les propositions de l'Allemagne, des Etats-Unis, de vous-même et éventuellement du Directeur général. Je n'y étais pas associé. Par conséquent, vous me soumettez un consensus que je n'ai pas examiné attentivement; je ne peux donc pas retirer ce que j'ai dit.

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): I am afraid we are back to square one. If, with all your efforts, a compromise cannot be reached, then regrettably my delegation would like to propose that we proceed on a strictly procedural basis: that is, when adopting a report, if amendments are made, an amendment can be put to the vote and if the majority accept it we insert the amendment; if the majority reject it, then the amendment falls. This is the only way we can make progress because, if not, we will reopen the debate.

Therefore, I move that the amendments which have been put forward by the various delegations, the latest being that by Gabon, should be put to the vote, and if the majority accept them they will stand. That is the proposal of my delegation.

CHAIRMAN: Just for clarification, your proposal is that we vote not on the first proposal that was agreed upon by delegations but on the proposal put forward by the delegate of Gabon? Is that your proposal?

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): The delegate of Gabon's amendment is conditional. If we accept the other amendments, there was supposed to be a compromise. If the compromise is not accepted by all, we are back to square one. We will take the United States' amendment and vote upon it, then take Germany's amendment and vote on it, and then we will take Gabon's amendment and vote on it, if this is the procedure which delegations want. I do not think it is fair for any one delegation to keep this meeting going on indefinitely. We are here to adopt a report, not to renew substantive discussions on subjects which have been dealt with intensively earlier in this Conference.

CHAIRMAN: A proposal has been put forward by the delegate of Gambia that we take a vote, As far as I remember the rules, two delegations are allowed to speak in favour of taking a vote and two delegations are allowed to speak against taking a vote.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): Reluctantly, I make a suggestion, but I do not know if it is acceptable. Could we leave paragraph 107 now and go on to paragraph 108 and the resolution? Then we could come back to paragraph 107, and perhaps Gabon would be reconciled to the idea that the sentence that was arrived at as a sort of consensus was acceptable to Gabon.

CHAIRMAN: I think the question would have to be answered by the delegate of Gambia who asked for a vote. Can you accept such a procedure, delegate of Gambia?

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): Since I am sandwiched between Gabon and Germany and they have both indicated to me that they accept it, I will not be difficult. I will postpone my amendment, but if they fail to reach an agreement I will reintroduce it.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Gambia for his cooperation.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I can fully understand Gabon's point. I think why he suggested deleting the second sentence in the compromise proposal was because the sentence just says "opposed" and no reason is given as to why. I would suggest - I think probably the delegate of Gabon could agree -retaining the two sentences of paragraph 107 plus the compromise proposal if a little is added about the majority view. This says they are opposing but it does not say why, which is very unfair. I think the sentence is unbalanced. Your proposal of a consensus is not a real balance, and on this point I fully agree with Gabon. Perhaps we could just hint at the motivations of the majority by saying after the text proposed "and reiterated that the budget proposals represented a basic minimum to meet requirements". With such an addition, perhaps Gabon could accept the second sentence of paragraph 107, as I think that small addition would restore the balance.

CHAIRMAN: Is the proposal clear to the delegate of Gabon and can he accept it?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je n'aime pas les dialogues et je préfère que vous donniez la parole aux délégués qui l'ont demandée avant moi.

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): Comme mon collègue du Brésil, je pense qu'aujourd'hui nous sommes très défavorisés et je voudrais faire une proposition semblable à la sienne.

Depuis que je participe aux réunions de la FAO, je n'ai jamais entendu ni lu le terme "exagéré" que vraiment nous ne voulons pas voir figurer dans le texte. Je ne suis pas un modéré mais je n'ai jamais proposé que l'on utilise de tels termes dans un rapport de la FAO. Sur ce mot "exagéré" je rejoins complètement la position de mon collègue du Gabon, et la proposition du délégué du Brésil. Même au cours de notre discussion au sein de la Commission II nous n'avons jamais entendu cette expression. Je ne sais pas le sens qu'on lui donne en anglais mais en français c'est vraiment trop fort. "Exagéré" veut dire que vous avez dépassé les bornes. Or, je ne pense pas que le Directeur général ou les pays qui approuvent le budget aient dépassé les limites. Je demande donc que l'on change le mot "exagéré" et, si tel n'est pas le cas, vous devez faire voter et en ce qui nous concerne nous n'accepterons pas le verbe exagérer.

CHAIRMAN: I should like to give the floor to the delegate of France since it was the French word that really caused some difficulties. Can you help us delegate of France?

L. VELAY (France): A mon avis, il s'agit là d'une simple question de traduction. Le texte anglais dit "too high" et la traduction littérale française est donc "trop élevée" et non pas "exagérée".

CHAIRMAN: I should like to ask the delegate of Gabon whether he can accept the proposal of Brazil, or whether he would prefer to wait?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Même le terme "trop élevé" ne me convient pas. Je peux reprendre les budgets de la FAO, si l'on compare le programme de travail et qu'on l'accepte avec enthousiasme, ce qui a été le cas, aussi bien au Conseil qu'à la Conférence, et qu'on vienne au niveau du budget dire que les coûts sont trop élevés, je pose la question: trop élevés par rapport à quoi? qu'est-ce qui les rend élevés? Peut-on dire que ces coûts par rapport à la conjoncture actuelle sont trop élevés? Cela voudrait dire que ceux qui ont calculé ce budget n'ont pas la tête sur les épaules. C'est tout ce que je peux trouver comme explication. Je n'admets pas de telles expressions. En 1975, 600 postes nouveaux ont été créés, le budget a été en augmentation selon un pourcentage plus fort que celui de cette année pour le biennium, et l'inflation continue. Je pose la question: qu'estimez-vous trop élevé dans les coûts? C'est ce que je ne comprends pas.

B.E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Mi delegación se quiere referir a que la preocupación expresada por el delegado de Gabon era probablemente debida a un error de interpretación que había en los diferentes textos; pero me parece que la aclaración de Francia ya lo ha aclarado. No sé hasta qué punto nos ha favorecido el trago que no nos tomamos. Sin embargo, el párrafo 107 establece en forma clara dos cuestiones: por un lado, la opinión expresada por algunas delegaciones, y por otro lado la opinión expresada por otras delegaciones. Creo que la solución de transacción que se nos ha presentado quizás establecería un equilibrio y aceleraría el debate.

Además creo que la propuesta hecha por la delegación de Brasil, a criterio nuestro, completaría en una forma bastante adecuada lo que se expresa en este párrafo. Por lo tanto, mi delegación estaría de acuerdo que lo aprobáramos tal como figura, con la propuesta transacción más la enmienda que presentó la delegación de Brasil.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (interpretation from German): My delegation finds itself in a very pleasing situation, because it can agree with practically everything that has been said. First of all, I should like to thank the delegate of Gambia for being ready to withdraw his proposal. We could have accepted the proposal of Bangladesh to move on first to paragraph 8 108. We can accept the addition suggested by the delegate of Brazil, that is to say "and reiterated that the budget proposals represented in their views the minimum requirements." If this is the basis for a compromise, as I think the delegate of Nicaragua said, then I believe we could adopt this paragraph, and I should like to thank all those who have contributed to solving this little problem.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I have been sitting that back listening with rapt attention to the debate taking place, but I really was rather surprised at the very good suggestion, I thought, by Bangladesh, not was taken up. His suggestion was - but perhaps you do not want to bypass it - I thought the really important paragraph was 108. With your agreement I would suggest we proceed as fast as we can past paragraph 107 and get on to the more important matter.

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): I was going to raise a point of order, but the delegate of the United Kingdom has just expressed the view I wanted to put forward. I had an amendment here which has priority to all amendments, that is, voting, and with your gentle and persuasive manner, I withdrew it, but delegates are more or less abusing that gentleness of yours, we need firmness. I suggest we move to paragraph 108, I appeal to you to be firm on this decision, we are going backwards and forwards. Let us proceed to paragraph 108 or we table my amendment and we vote.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Gambia, I think he is quite right. We do then as the delegate of Bangladesh suggested, we leave paragraph 107 for the moment and go on to paragraph 108 and consider that paragraph.

Are there any comments on paragraph 108? We start with the first part at the bottom of page 26. We then go on to the solution which I suggest is now in document C 77/LIM/55.

L. VELAY (France): Je voudrais m'exprimer au nom des délégations dont il est fait mention au paragraphe 107. Je voudrais dire que nous ne souhaitons pas apporter d'amendement particulier au paragraphe 108, mais je dois également vous informer, M. le Président, ainsi que les membres de cette commission, que ces délégations se réservent la possibilité de ne pas approuver la résolution figurant à ce paragraphe et d'expliquer pour quelles raisons, à l'occasion du vote pour l'adoption de cette résolution.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je n'ai pas l'intention de proposer un amendement au paragraphe 108; loin de moi une telle idée! Il s'agit d'exprimer le point de vue de la Conférence et non pas celui du Directeur général. Toutefois, je voudrais faire remarquer à tous les délégués ici présents que le taux du dollar est aujourd'hui de 877 liras, et non pas de 879 comme indiqué au paragraphe 108. De ce fait, je devrai commencer l'année budgétaire 1978 avec un déficit de 300 000 dollars, si ce taux se maintient. Il se peut, bien sûr, qu'il descende ou qu'il monte, mais, pour le moment, nous n'obtiendrions que 877 liras par dollar et non pas 879.

Il m'a semblé indispensable d'attirer l'attention des délégations sur ce fait; surtout lorsqu'ils'agit de celles qui trouvent que l'augmentation de notre budget, due à l'inflation, a été calculée d'une façon qu'elles disent exagérée.

Le Comité financier, qui s'est penché sur la question pendant plusieurs jours, n'a pas été de cet avis; il a trouvé que les augmentations dues à l'inflation n'étaient pas du tout exagérées. De même, l'ACABQ, Comité des Nations Unies qui revoit le budget des Agences spécialisées, a partagé cette opinion et considéré que les estimations que nous avons faites en ce qui concerne les augmentations obligatoires dues à l'inflation étaient tout à fait justifiées.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Director-General. Are there any other observations with regard to paragraph 8 at the bottom of page 26?

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I will ask the Secretaries to remind you. My delegation would like to say we heard with much attention the observation made by the delegate of France. Any country or any group of countries is free to vote or not vote. I hope this possibility indicated right now, the possibility of not supporting, will not be exercised. I must say so. We have been working on a number of elements important to this Conference on the assumption that there will be no opposition to the Budget proposal. That was our working assumption and I think we, the Group of 77, and I speak in the name of the whole group, have the right to expect that that assumption is still valid. I hope that was an indication of a possibility that will not be concretized.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Le délégué du Brésil a dit ce que je voulais dire. Je crois que nous avons fait beaucoup de concessions. J'ai été, pour le paragraphe 107, le deuxième à prendre la parole. J'aurais pu, dès le départ, faire comme ceux qui sont partis sur certains textes qui ont été étudiés, en disant qu'il n'était même pas envisagé de vote, et dire: "je voterai contre et m'en tiendrai là".

S'il en avait été ainsi, j'aurais pu dès le départ, moi aussi faire cela, mais le groupe des 77, comme vient de le dire le Président de ce groupe, s'est tenu à une ligne de conduite pour éviter ce genre de problème et je voudrais ici reprendre ce qu'il a dit et exprimer aux délégations (que je ne connais pas encore puisqu'on dit "au nom des délégations") que j'espère qu'elles n'useront pas de ce droit car, comme l'avait dit M. Sheffrin lors de la dernière discussion: il ne faudrait pas se relancer la balle; et lui-même avait dit "finir cette Conférence avec deux blocs"; c'est lui qui avait lancé l'expression.

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): I would like to associate myself with what the delegate of Brazil just said. He is Chairman of the Group of 77 whom I have associated with in the Contact Group and I hope the other side of the Contact Group will still hold to the agreement or understanding that we have reached. The compromises that have been arrived at in the other Resolutions that we discussed were based entirely on a package deal. I think the spirit which led to that understanding was that the level should be maintained as it is, and I hope the other side will stick to the agreement that we arrived at, and at most what they should do would be to make a declaration after the voting rather than voting against this Budget.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): I do not feel like speaking about this subject any more after listening to this debate. I became rather sick and disgusted listening to all this argument about something of not so much importance to many of us, but anyhow I felt I would reserve my position until we go back to paragraph 107, for I do not have anything to say with regard to paragraph 108 and the Resolution itself.

L. VELAY (France): Je voudrais seulement faire une mise au point sur un point d'histoire: à aucun moment n'a été réalisé, au sein du Groupe de contacts, un accord sur le niveau du budget; au contraire, nous sommes convenus à un moment de ne pas faire un package deal avec ce problème, mais de nous concentrer sur les deux résolutions relatives à la création de deux fonds. Nous avons clairement dit - et le Directeur général le sait bien - que quelques pays auraient des difficultés à approuver le niveau du budget. Je crois qu'il était nécessaire que je rappelle les faits tels qu'ils se sont déroulés au Groupe de contacts.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): Bangladesh happened to be also a Member of the Contact Group which met a number of times, but the statement by my colleague the delegate of France is true but not the whole truth. It is true we did not take it as established, but we from our side thought if we were making concessions on the other two Resolutions, and on top of everything on the Resolution on the Special Fund, our brothers from the developed countries would come at least a few steps forward to meet with us, because we thought we were going much more than halfway. I would like to remind this Commission of the final form of the Resolution on the Special Fund.



You will see that the Group of 77 as a whole, and all the developing countries individually, have made a great concession there, even to the extent that the nomenclature which had existed for a long time was changed at the last moment. The Group of 77 had to become 78. I saw the plight of the Chairman, which was quite miserable, in trying to convince the Group to accept the idea that we were making a sort of concession. I could see that the Chairman of the Group of 77 could find only one straw which was that if we were making a concession there, we expected that our brothers from the developed countries would accept the budget level. This was our expectation, I would agree that it was not part of a package deal.

Among the countries who have been vocal this evening, I find some who are very good friends, particularly Mr. Grabisch, a very good friend of mine. The other day I remember calling him "Mr. Grabisch" and he said, "Since when did I become a Mister? ". I thought at first that Mr. Grabisch had become Miss Grabisch, until I had a second look. Some of the speakers are very good friends, some of them are almost relations. So I would appeal to my colleagues and friends that if we have come a long and difficult way - and for us in the Group of 77 it was a very difficult way - I must today congratulate in public the Chairman of the Group of 77 in this Commission. He undertook a most difficult task in convincing the 77 to accept such a diluted resolution and it was because of his specific ability and competence that he could persuade the 77 to accept that resolution.

In this situation I would again appeal to my brothers from the developed countries not to vote against this budget level. We feel that it has been a trust, although it was not part of a package, it was an understanding that we in the Group of 77 have been nursing when we made one concession after another on the other two resolutions. With this appeal, I shall conclude.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Our colleague from Bangladesh is too kind, I see that I probably made a mistake from what I see happening now, but I acted in good faith, I always do.

It is true that there was no package formally made, but it is also true that after exploring tentatively the three elements, we came to a point where, in order to get to the second and third parts of those elements - that means the food losses business and the special reserve - we needed to know what the reaction would be and the position of the developed countries on the budget level. The indication was put to us that there would be no opposition. The suggestion was made that perhaps there would be some abstentions, and I put the specific question of whether that would mean any difficulty in the operation of the Organization, if that was what would happen. The representative of the United Kingdom, Mr. Martin, was the person who replied to me and said no. So the maximum that was envisaged at that time at least, when I was working on the assumption that there might be some abstentions, was that maybe it would be possible to remove them at the time of the vote. We hoped it would not be more than that, but certainly not the position now. But perhaps I was completely mistaken, and in that case I must say that I was a bad negotiator.

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): I have just a point of clarification, on the intervention by the delegate of France. I did say there was an understanding and not an agreement. I was one of those who reported to my Group on the basis of the negotiation that was led by the delegate of Brazil. At no time did we reach an agreement, but we had an understanding and on the basis of that understanding we gave in to the concessions. I would like to clarify this to France, that we had an understanding, even though we did not reach agreement on this.

L. VELAY (France): Puisque nous en sommes à faire l'historique détaillé des réunions du groupe de contact, je voudrais tout d'abord assurer notre collègue du Brésil. J'ai dit que certaines délégations feraient demain des déclarations et ne seraient pas en mesure d'approuver le niveau du budget. Je n'ai pas dit qu'il y aurait des votes contre. A ma connaissance du moins, jusqu'à présent. Mais puisque j'ai la parole, je voudrais dire aussi que je remercie en mon nom et au nom de mes collègues du groupe de contact, les partenaires des 77 pour les concessions qu'ils ont faites et qui ont permis d'arriver, aussi bien au sujet du fonds sur les récoltes que du fonds de réserve à un compromis satisfaisant. Mais je rappellerai aussi qu'un certain nombre de pays développés, lorsque cette Conférence a commencé, n'étaient pas du tout convaincus de la nécessité de créer ces deux fonds et que si les 77 ont fait un certain nombre de concessions - dont je leur suis reconnaissant - les pays développés, eux aussi, ont fait des concessions parce qu'ils ont accepté non seulement le principe, mais la création des deux fonds en question.

Je crois par conséquent que la discussion au sein du groupe de contact a été loyale, confiante. Elle a abouti à des résultats dont nous sommes tous satisfaits, et je pense que cela n'empêchera pas que les pays qui ont reçu de leur gouvernement des instructions précises quant au niveau du budget expriment leur avis lorsque ce problème viendra au moment du vote en séance plénière.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): The delegate of France has taken care of most of what I would have liked to have said, but I am a little puzzled. I find myself with scales in front of me, the Chairman is here some delegates speak on one side, some on the other, it has become a question of faith, trust and goodwill, and I am a little lost on the whole exercise.

I think a consensus is not a one way street, the delegate of France said that consensus and conciliation were by all the delegates concerned. We came with a very strong set of instructions on three items: we were never given the impression that, with one hint or the other, we agree on each separate one, and we have shifted considerably on many of the items, I think it is rather unfortunate to imply a betrayal of faith by a certain group, because the group feels that, being under instructions, it has to take certain actions. Whether it is voting against or abstaining, it should be treated with respect, each delegation does what it thinks best.

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): Je ne vais pas faire référence à l'histoire des discussions, mais je voudrais faire une constatation à savoir que nous sommes ici dans une conférence où il y a des négociations. On vient avec des positions de départ mais je pense qu'à l'arrivée devraient être modifiées les positions qu'on avait au départ. Nous avons tous reçu des instructions, mais ces instructions peuvent être modifiées au cours de discussions, et des pays développés sont dans les meilleures conditions pour avoir la possibilité de faire modifier les instructions reçues vu le déroulement de la Conférence, les négociations qui se nouent, et ainsi de suite.

Dire qu'il y a eu trahison d'un côté, je trouve le mot un peu fort. Personne n'a dit ici que nous avons été trahis. Nous défendons des positions.

Je pense que la question n'est pas là. La question est que nous arrivons au bout de nombreuses difficultés, nous sommes presque à la fin de la Conférence et nous nous retrouverons demain avec de nombreuses déclarations. Il serait fort souhaitable qu'il n'y ait pas de nombreuses déclarations sur cette question du budget, car pratiquement nous avons tous approuvé le programme proposé, et il serait regrettable qu'il y ait une flambée de discours pour dire que nous n'acceptons pas ce budget. Alors que des orateurs de l'autre côté pourraient se lever et dire: nous l'approuvons.

Nous avons souhaité qu'on présente le budget, qu'on vote à l'unanimité et qu'on s'abstienne sans faire de déclarations. Mais si chacun doit monter à la tribune pour dire: mon gouvernement m'a dit de faire cette déclaration, je pense que la confrontation que nous voulons éviter ne le sera pas. Si l'on doit faire des déclarations, j'informe la Commission que ma délégation fera une déclaration en séance plénière.

J.C. VIONAUD (Argentina): Si tuviera que hacer una propuesta para insertar una oración en este párrafo que usted ha puesto en consideración, estoy seguro que debería decir que la mayoría de las delegaciones desean irse a su casa y eso sería aprobado por todos. Pero no lo voy a proponer sino simplemente decirle que usted ha puesto a consideración de la Asamblea el párrafo 108 que, si he entendido, el debate no ha sido observado, tampoco ha sido observada la Resolución que usted puso a consideración sino que hay una delegación que ha manifestado en el Plenario, y espero que manifieste, una declaración con el objeto de dejar sentada su posición pero tampoco ha dicho que votará en contra de esa Resolución. De manera que yo creo que lo que conviene hacer ahora es aprobar el párrafo 108, aprobar la Resolución, remitirla al Plenario y luego en el Plenario, señores, constarán en Acta todas las manifestaciones que las delegaciones deseen hacer; pero estoy seguro que si las delegaciones son coherentes con cuanto dicen de estar en favor de la cooperación internacional, nadie podrá estar en contra de que este nivel de presupuestos se apoye, porque precisamente este presupuesto tiende a pro mover la cooperación internacional. De manera que lo que concretamente le propongo es que usted decida ahora, sin dar más la palabra a nadie, que apruebe el párrafo 108 y la Resolución y lo pase directamente a la Plenario para mañana.

En cuanto al párrafo 107 que ha quedado sin resolver, quizá le pediríamos al delegado de Brazil que nos lea la propuesta de transacción mañana, y la analizaríamos, porque yo creo que es una transacción perfectamente aceptable para todos.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Argentina was the last speaker on the list, so I hope that we can now go forward on paragraph 108. Can we take it that paragraph 108 is acceptable? Yes. It is so approved. Can we then go on to consider the text of the resolution itself, in document C 77/LIM/55? It starts: "Having considered the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget and the conclusions of its Commissions... ". Are there any comments on this? If not, it is accepted.

The next bit is: "Approves the Programme of Work proposed by the Director-General for 1978-79 ". Are there any comments on that? If not, it is accepted.

The third paragraph says: "Resolves that for the financial period 1978-79 ". Then we take"1. Appropriations 1/ are voted for the following purposes: " Are there objections or comments on this? There seem to be no comments. Paragraph 2, "The appropriations (gross) voted in paragraph 1, " etc: are there any comments on this one? There seem to be none. It is accepted.

Paragraph 3 on page 3 of the document, "In establishing the actual amounts ", etc, are there any comments on that one? No comments? It is accepted.

Paragraph 4, "The contributions due from Member Nations ", any comments on that? It is accepted. Can I take it then that the text of the Resolution, paragraph 108, is acceptable? It is adopted.

Then we have paragraph 107. It was suggested by Argentina that we should wait for this one until tomorrow. I do not think we really have the time to do that. We have to complete our adoption of the report tonight. I am sure we would have liked to have some more time, but I am afraid we haven't, so I think we have to go back to 107 and consider the last proposal again.

I would like then to remind you that it was a proposal agreed upon by many delegations, that was to insert two sentences. I will read them again for those who have not got them. That was after the last word in 107 to add, "A few delegations also made suggestions for possible reductions in order to lower the budget level ", and the next sentence, "The majority however did not agree with these suggestions ", and also a further amendment by Brazil that we should add to this last sentence "and reiterated that the budget proposals constituted the minimum to meet the requirement ".

Can I take it that this is now acceptable to all delegations?

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je voudrais faire une observation. Je voudrais savoir si la FAO fait, on non partie des organisations du système des Nations Unies, car la première phrase du paragraphe 107 concerne toutes les organisations du système des Nations Unies et précisément, certaines délégations ont déploré l'augmentation continue des budgets. Est-il nécessaire de maintenir la deuxième phrase de ce paragraphe concernant la FAO en particulier?

CHAIRMAN: I do not think that there is any question that FAO belongs to the UN system, but there are several delegations that would like to have this sentence in, and I would appeal to you not to object to this, since we have still a long way to go, and this is the result of long hours of debate.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Il a été dit déjà dans le paragraphe 106 qu'il y a un taux général d'accroissement des coûts. La dernière phrase de ce paragraphe 106 est très importante, et dès lors qu'on accepte un programme et qu'on veut le protéger contre des coûts d'origine inflationniste et des situations de change non prévues au budget, il est à mon avis aberrant de raisonner en disant que les augmentations des coûts de la FAO sont exagérées. Par rapport à quoi? Est-ce que la conjoncture précise que ces augmentations ne sont pas réelles vis-à-vis du niveau actuel de ce qui se passe dans les autres organisations? Et je voudrais aussi rappeler que lorsqu'on fait des suggestions en matière de budget, il est préférable de préciser l'opération dont on ne veut pas et qu'on la supprime dans le budget et éventuellement qu'on dise: nous sommes contre telle opération, par conséquent la ligne budgétaire correspondante ne devrait pas exister, mais des suggestions verbales sans précision, sans chiffres, à mon avis, ne doivent pas amener à dire que le niveau du coût est trop élevé. Il y a une conjoncture internationale que chacun connaît, mais cette affirmation est trop gratuite.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, I would appeal to the distinguished delegate of Gabon not to insist on this point, which I accept. The important thing is the resolution.

If I asked for the floor, however, it was in fact to appeal to all delegations who have expressed the intention to abstain tomorrow. It is their right to abstain if they so wish, and we have already been informed, in the Contact Group, that a few of them would do so. But never at any of the meetings of that Group, which took place in my office on many occasions and for many hours, were we told that those member countries which intended to abstain would make a declaration to explain why they would do so. I respect, of course, their right to make a declaration, but, in that case, it will be my duty, as Director-General of FAO, responsible for the Programme of Work and Budget which he is submitting, also to express my views and to comment on that declaration.

I would like to remind you once more that the last Conference voted unanimously, without abstention, a budget which called for an increase of 52 percent and which contained a large number of new posts, meetings and publications. The present budget requests an increase of 24 percent only, less than half as much.

Inflation did not exist only in 1976 and 1977; it was there also in 1974 and 1975. In view of what was acceptable to governments and, in particular, to the main contributors in 1975 - I am afraid I have to use that expression, because those who criticize the budget level are, indeed, some of the main contributors - I am surprised that a lower rate of increase is unacceptable now, that it is creating so many difficulties and threatening to culminate in a formal declaration which could have serious consequences. We have been hearing for two days about a declaration which might be made tomorrow in the plenary on behalf of a few countries, and we shall await it with interest.

It is true, of course, that, at the beginning of this Conference, we anticipated a dialogue rather than a confrontation. In my opening statement, I appealed to all member countries to try to resolve problems through a constructive dialogue; this is why, for the first time at an FAO Conference, we established a Contact Group.

During the Council and the Conference, the Contact Group has dealt with two main issues. While both groups have made concessions, I think it would be fair to say that the Group of 77 has made more concessions than the Geneva Group. It was the French delegation which drafted the resolution, concerning the \$10 million transfer to the Special Food Losses Account, which was ultimately accepted as a draft document by the Group of 77. As I say, both parties have made concessions and compromises, but: am sure that the Group of 77 were very much surprised, if not shocked, to learn that the Geneva Group might make an important declaration at tomorrow's plenary.

I believe it would be a pity if this happened and hope it will not. As you know, I have always done my best to avoid any confrontation, whether political or non-political, and I believe it would be most unfortunate to have a confrontation on the last day, because of a strong declaration, or to have a series of statements by one group after the other, to which the Director-General would have to reply.

It is the right of some countries to abstain if they find difficulty in accepting the budget level, but I sincerely hope, however, that any declarations they may make on this occasion will not be controversial enough to result in a confrontation.

It would be of no help to the Director-General if member countries were to split into two groups. It would be most unfortunate if this Conference, which has brought together more than 95 Ministers of Agriculture - an unprecedented number - and at which full agreement was reached on all technical matters, on priorities, on new policies and on the new strategy of FAO, should end in this kind of confrontation.

My intention, in speaking at this late hour, was to appeal to the Group of important contributors mentioned by the French delegation and to ask them to respond to the appeal made by the distinguished delegate of Bangladesh and reconsider their position. I hope that we shall all be relaxed and in a better mood when we reassemble tomorrow and that this session of the Conference will conclude in an atmosphere of friendship and good will, without unnecessary formal declarations.

CHAIRMAN: The Director-General has appealed to the delegate of Gabon, as I did before. The delegate of Gambia has asked for the floor. Is it a point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

A.T. WADDA(Gambia): Yes. If I understood you, Mr. Chairman, you declared that paragraph 107 was adopted, and after the adoption the delegate of Gabon made a statement. I would appeal to you that we do not go back to paragraph 107, because it started with a general statement about the increased costs within the United Nations system and then singled out FAO as being too high. In other words, paragraph 107 implies, as Gabon is saying, that the budgetary costs within the United Nations system are rising and that of FAO is too high. This is what bothers my friend on the left.

But since we have reached a compromise and you, sir, have declared paragraph 107 adopted, and you have been very kind in letting the delegate of Gabon make his statement, I think his statement is noted and I hope we will not go back on paragraph 107. That is point of order.

CHAIRMAN: I hope we can leave it at that and regard paragraph 107 as adopted.

Paragraph 103 to 108, including Resolution, as amended, adopted

Les paragraphes 103 à 108, y compris la résolution, ainsi amendés, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 103 a 108, incluida la Resolución, así enmendados, son aprobados

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): Allow me to make just one remark, namely, that for the first time in the history of our Organization we find that there are a few countries that do not agree to the Budget proposed by the Secretariat. With our respect for the principle that every delegate has the full right to express freely and frankly his opinion about this Budget, whether by approving it or opposing it, or by abstaining from voting on it, yet we should always try not to allow a precedent to happen whereby those who would abstain from voting make official declarations in the Plenary, because that will not be in the best interests of the countries which the delegates represent or in the best interests of international understanding and of the United Nations.

I believe that the spirit which has prevailed in the discussions of the various Commissions has been a very positive spirit, a spirit we should maintain, and we deeply regret indeed that every now and then we may find ourselves compelled to go near what may be called a confrontation, whereby certain countries are allied to or against other countries. We firmly believe that cooperation should prevail between all countries, large and small, rich and poor, developed and developing, and that there will be no peace in the world unless there is sincere cooperation among all the nations of the world.

It is also regrettable that this confrontation turns around a handful of dollars that could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and this is going on at a time when billions of dollars are being spent on armaments or developing military objectives that do not achieve any humanitarian aim. It is indeed shameful that we should talk of this in such detail, for the whole subject can hardly go beyond a trifling matter from the material point of view, yet its effect will indeed be very harmful to relations between developed and developing countries in the long run.

It is therefore our sincere hope that this Organization will avoid a confrontation, because that would serve everybody's interests, particularly the interests of developing countries.

We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank all those colleagues of the Geneva Group who have shown excellent understanding in arriving at the other decisions we have taken and resolutions we have adopted. We sincerely hope that there will be no declarations or statements in connection with abstention from voting, and it is my sincere and earnest hope that what I have said may find receptive ears among all countries.

PARAGRAPH 81

PARAGRAPHE 81

PARRAFO 81

CHAIRMAN: Then we come back to a question that we were considering before, that is on page 19 of C 77/II/Rep.2, paragraph 81. You remember we left it to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands to agree on a text for paragraph 81, and they have agreed on the following: To have only the first two sentences in paragraph 81 and delete the words from "It was however noted " and the rest of the words "However ", and then have the rest of that sentence as it is and delete the last sentence which starts with "Steps were being taken " etc. Is this also acceptable to other delegates? It seems to be the case.

Paragraph 81, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 81, ainsi amende est approuve

El párrafo 81, así enmendado, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission II - Part 2, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission II - deuxième partie, ainsi amende, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II- Parte 2, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: I suggest that we now adjourn for 15 minutes. I do not think it can be more than that because we have to conclude the adoption of our Report tonight, but I think delegates deserve a 15 minute break, after which we shall go on until we have finished.

The meeting was suspended from 20.25 to 20.50 hours

La séance est suspendue de 20 h 25 20 h 50

Se suspende la sesión de las 20.25 horas a las 20.50 horas

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 3

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - TROISIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 3

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I think it is time we resumed our meeting. I should like to warn you straight away that we have to complete our report. We have interpreters until 10.00, maybe 10.30, so we have not got very much time. I hope that the rest of the report is fairly easy and will not cause us too many problems. I would suggest that we start with C 77/II/REP/3 going page by page until we run into some difficulties. The delegate of Gambia has the floor.

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): Mr. Chairman, I am going to be complimentary to the Drafting Committee and the Resolutions Committee for the work they have done and for the document that has been presented here. I think all the delegations present here must have read the document, or if not have been briefed by their overseers that have read the document. For that reason I am not disagreeing with you, but I would suggest that you put the document in its entirety for adoption, and ask for comments. Anybody who has a comment on any paragraph in the document can voice it out, and if there are no comments on any part of the document then we put the document as it stands for adoption.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): If I may so, Sir, I think that is an admirable suggestion, and I would also like to say that I think this section of the report is admirably drafted. It is very clear. I have one comment only, Mr. Chairman, which may surprise you, but it is in paragraph 9, line 4 of the English text. "The Conference felt however," I find a comma. The report is so good I should like the comma removed.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I have agreed to everything the delegate of Gambia has said. If he is willing to sacrifice his talking rights, so am I.

S.S. MAHDI (India): Mr. Chairman, I entirely agree with the previous speakers, but I also had one small comment and that is page 4. After the first sentence we start a new paragraph. That is all.

CHAIRMAN: Does the new paragraph start with "There was "? Are there any other comments to the document REP.3? The delegate of Cuba.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Señor Presidente, ¿tendrá la bondad de decirme dónde estamos?, porque con la velocidad que andamos nos hemos perdido.

CHAIRMAN: Delegate of Cuba, it was a proposal by the delegate of Gambia, which I understand is supported by many delegates, we should deal with the document REP.3 in its entirety, and that I should just ask for comments on the whole document, and this is what we are doing. You have the floor.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Muchas gracias. Nos referíamos a la última propuesta que hemos oído; ya sabíamos que se iba a tratar el documento en su conjunto, es la última propuesta que no sabemos a qué párrafo se refería.

CHAIRMAN: We were on page 4 and paragraph 7 on page 4. It is the sixth line. We make a new paragraph before "There was at the same time general concern" etc. Is that clear? The delegate of Kenya has the floor,

O, MBURU (Kenya): Mr. Chairman, my comment is that paragraph 31 - has everybody got paragraph 31 now - "Some delegations stressed the need for a discussion on forestry investment" and so forth. I wanted to add at the end of the sentence, "and requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper for such discussion".

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Kenya. Any other observation on document REP.3? No other observation.

Draft Report of Commission II - Part 3, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission II- troisième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II- Parte 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 4

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - QUATRIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 4

CHAIRMAN: We go to document REP.4, then in its entirety. Are there any observations? Any proposals on document REP.4?

S.S. MAHDI (India): Mr. Chairman, again a few momentous amendments. In paragraph 1, the last two lines, just a few adjustments of the text. "It was pointed out that a TCDC policy framework has" instead of "now" "already", and then it continues, "emerged to a considerable extent; therefore, concerted steps by all concerned, including FAO, will be needed". Now, between "will be", between "will" and "be", insertion of "now", "will now be needed". It is just a textural adjustment. In paragraph 6 on page 4 the merger of the last two sentences in the way I am suggesting will make the meaning clearer. The present sentence says "The Conference welcomes the Director General's resolve to pursue this policy and related measures." Then we can put a comma and merge this next sentence in the sentence and say: "Taking fully into account, inter alia, such recommendations as might emerge from the discussions at the Buenos Aires Conference" - then a full stop and the rest of the sentence deleted. I will read it out again for the sake of clarity. The readjusted sentence will read: "The Conference welcomes the Director-General's resolve to pursue this policy and related measures vigorously, taking fully into account, inter alia, such recommendations as might emerge from the discussions at the Buenos Aires Conference."

The rest is deleted.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other proposals for amendments?

Doña I. DI GIOVAN DE SUAREZ (Argentina): Señor Presidente, era para recordar a nuestra Comisión que dentro del tema de Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo hicimos un proyecto de resolución contenida en el documento C 77/LIM/55, que pensamos que podría ser tratado antes de pasar al segundo punto del REP/4 que se ha sometido a consideración.

CHAIRMAN: We have that in document REP/6 and we will deal with it later in that document.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I would like to make a very humble suggestion. Since this Resolution is connected with this part of the report in paragraph 10, page 4, we should just add a sentence: "The Conference adopted the following resolution" and then we adopt this resolution which is on pages 4 to 6 of REP/6. I think it would be simpler: we will have disposed of the subject.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of India for his proposal. If delegates agree, we can do it this way. It is then contained in document REP/6 and it is on pages 4 to 6, as he rightly stated. So can I take it then that we can include this in the consideration of REP/4? Where did you say you wanted the reference to it?

S.S. MAHDI (India): On page 4 of REP/4, after paragraph 10 we have paragraph 11 which says "the Conference adopted the following resolution" and then the resolutions. That is the logical place for it.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other observations on document REP/4?

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Lamentablemente no tengo el REP/6 a la mano, pero quiero hacer un punto para aclarar que el proyecto de resolución es una propuesta conjunta de Argentina, Rumania, India, Yugoslavia y que ser copatrocinada por Colombia, Uruguay, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador y Perú y quizá esto deba consignarse en el informe.

CHAIRMAN: Would it be all right to record it in the footnotes?

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Sí, señor Presidente, no tengo inconveniente.

S.S. MAHDI (India): There is no problem about the footnote. We can go along with that. I would like to thank the delegate of Argentina for his brief statement which cleared some misunderstanding which arose yesterday.



P. CELAN (Roumanie): Je voulais souligner que je suis d'accord avec ce que vient de dire le délégué de l'Argentine. Je suis également d'accord sur le fait qu'il serait préférable d'introduire le projet de résolution dans le document REP/4 après le Point 10, à la page 5 du texte français. Je voudrais également de mentionner, après le Point 10, que la délégation roumaine est prête à accueillir une réunion sur la coopération technique entre les pays en voie de développement, ceci en référence avec le projet de résolution dans lequel il est fait mention des mesures en vue de renforcer la coopération entre pays en voie de développement et aussi comme exemple d'organisation de réunions intergouvernementales.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other observations on document REP/4 including the resolution?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(interpretation from German): I have just two very small comments. The first one concerns the second paragraph of the resolution: "Taking into account General Assembly Resolutions" and so forth, on page 4 of REP/6. We would like to ask whether the sponsors of the Resolution would agree that instead of saying "Taking into account" we should say "Recalling" We think this would be better wording. I apologize but this delegation does not know exactly what is in the various resolutions' texts, so it might be better to say "Recalling General Assembly Resolutions".

The second point is under (c) of operative paragraph 4. It states that the "UN Conference on TCDC to Consult Member Nations..." The "C" should be lower case rather than a capital. It looks rather odd with a capital.

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): I would like some clarification here: Taking into account General Assembly Resolutions", so and so, "as well as the Declaration of Kuwait on TCDC". Why do we have to include Kuwait's Declaration? Here they say the Declaration of Kuwait as a country I understand that the Declaration means by Kuwait. Or is it a Kuwaiti declaration? This is something different.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I thank our old friend Mr. Grabisch for drawing the attention of the Commission to this "Consult". That was bothering me also and I am very happy if "Consult" is put in small case instead of with a capital. Here we agree, and I also agree with Germany about the other point "Taking into account". I think it is the usual phrase that we use and there will be some difficulty at this stage in substituting it with "Recalling."

On the point which has been raised by the delegate of Gambia, I think "Kuwait Declaration" looks much better than "the Declaration of Kuwait." So that proposal is all right to us.

CHAIRMAN: Do I understand that Germany is not pressing the first point? I understand that is the case. We had another proposal from the delegate of Ethiopia that in the third line of the first operative paragraph after "achievement" and before "collective self-reliance" we should have "individual and/or collective self-reliance." Is there any objection to this inclusion of those words? There seems to be no objection.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I have no objection to the concept which has been expressed but here we will be mixing two concepts in the paragraph because this deals with collective self-reliance of the developing countries, although individual self-reliance is equally or more important. We are not talking here about individual self-reliance so maybe nothing will be lost if we do not add that word.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of India but I wanted to raise it as the delegate of Ethiopia asked me to do. I take it that it is not acceptable so we will leave it as it is.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): During the consultations on this draft my delegation had a chance to indicate that it would prefer not to have enumerated paragraph 3, since we believe that it is after the Conference at Buenos Aires that we will be in a position to indicate to FAO which are the areas of priority. We feel that the enumeration of paragraph 3 is rather incomplete, but not quite. One could comment on many aspects of technology and scientific research. For instance, it speaks about the exchange of experience and results. For example, in the debate we have advanced more than that in regard to direct programming and cooperation in scientific research. Just to give an example, it speaks, in (a) of increase in production in terms of livestock, forestry and fisheries. Not only production, productivity is more important sometimes for developing countries in order to be able to compete with other levels of income. So there are many aspects. Normally I would simply have suggested that we take out the enumeration, which I insist is rather imperfect, with respect to the sponsors views. In order not to make such a radical amendment, I suggest that we put at the beginning: "Place particular emphasis, inter alia, on matters with particular reference to" so at least to indicate that we are not really competent that this list is fully comprehensive, that this was even discussed to justify this. This is the kind of thing we should like to hope for in Buenos Aires and we do not feel we have attained any kind of serious discussion or achieved any kind of cooperation. In order to be cooperative, we would make a small alteration.

CHAIRMAN: I take it it is acceptable? It is acceptable. Are there any other observations on REP/4 with the Resolution in REP/6?

SANG WOO PARK (Korea, Rep of): It is not concerned with the Resolution but it is related to REP /4. Since we have been talking about whether we should delete "s" or "st " I will comment on just one thing. At the top of page 2 we see "Technical Cooperation amongst developing countries..." In some documents we say "among " developing countries", so whether we put "st" after "among" or not is mv concern.

CHAIRMAN: So we delete "st" and say "Cooperation among developing countries ". Are there any other observations on REP/4?

J.C, VIGNAUD (Argentina): Quiero estar seguro de haber tomado buena nota de la observación que nos formulo el Delegado de Brasil. En su momento, si él nos hubiera aportado otras prioridades, podríamos haberlas incorporado en este párrafo 3; pero quiero estar seguro que lo unico es agregar "entre otras" y dejar, los incisos (a) a (f). ¿Es eso lo que se ha propuesto?

CHAIRMAN: This is the way I understood the proposal. Are there any other observations?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (Mexico): Unicamente para señalar que en la versión española en el párrafo 3 operativo, inciso (a), las tres ultimas palabras dicen "y mejorar la alimentación ". Creo que se debe decir "mejorar el nivel de nutrición".

CHAIRMAN: I am sure the Secretariat has made a note of this. Are there any other observations on the report?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): While you have been discussing the first ten paragraphs I have taken the liberty of reading the rest of this document which I had not previously done and I am happy to inform you that I find it entirely acceptable.

CHAIRMAN: I hope it is also acceptable to all other delegates. Can I take it that we agree with all the amendments including the Resolution on REP/6 TCDC.

Draft Report of Commission II - Part 4, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission II - quatrième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, Parte 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART,5

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - CINQUIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 5

CHAIRMAN: Now we go on to REP 5 which includes two Resolutions, the Resolution on the Acceptance of the Statute of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Resolution on Cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization. Can we take this document as a whole. Are there any comments or proposals for amendments to this document?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom). I have not myself read this document. Perhaps we could have two minutes to whistle through it.

CHAIRMAN: I think this is a good idea. Is the document REP 5 acceptable? Are there any observations on REP 5?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Nada más que una observación de redacción para la Secretaría. En lo que se refiere al párrafo 6, acerca del FIDA, en el segundo renglón, que preferiría una redacción en castellano que dijera: “que le permitiera iniciar sus operaciones”, en lugar de “entrar en ejecución.”

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): A la page 4 du texte français, “Relations avec le PNUD”, je ne sais pas s'il n'y a pas une contradiction entre ce qui est au paragraphe 7 et au paragraphe 8. Il est dit au paragraphe 7 “selon de nombreuses délégations, il convient de maintenir...” et ensuite au paragraphe 8, on dit “Plusieurs autres délégations ont estimé qu'il serait plus opportun”. A la suite du débat qui a eu lieu ici, cela n'était pas ainsi; il n'y a pas eu de nombreuses délégations qui ont mentionné cette question, il y a eu des délégations certes, mais je pense que la tendance était de plusieurs autres délégations, comme écrit au paragraphe 7; tandis que “d'autres delegations”, mais pas “plusieurs autres ont estimé”. Là, il y a contradiction, je pense que “plusieurs” est de trop au paragraphe 8. Et puis, à la fin de la première ligne du paragraphe 8, il est dit “qu'il serait inopportun pour la Conférence”, il convient d'ajouter: “de la FAO de faire

CHAIRMAN: It has been suggested by the Secretariat that the word in French should be “quelques” rather than “plusieurs”. Would that be acceptable? It is accepted. Are there any other observations on document REP 5?

Y. STAMBOULI (Algérie): Nous faisons un amendement au paragraphe 18 de la page 8 du texte français. Il nous semble qu'on a omis de faire allusion à une importante manifestation qui est la Conférence générale pour la désertification de Nairobi et, à cette occasion, on n'avait pas manqué de lier la mise en oeuvre du plan d'action de Mar del Plata aux conclusions mêmes de la Conférence de Nairobi. Pour avoir été présent à Nairobi, nous nous rappelons que la FAO était présente et il nous paraît surprenant que la FAO puisse envisager d'exercer une certaine activité en matière de mise en oeuvre de ce plan d'action de Mar del Plata sans tenir compte des importantes résolutions sur la désertification. Nous souhaitons qu'il s'agisse là seulement d'une omission.

CHAIRMAN: I think this could be solved by inserting a few words to that effect. The Secretariat will take care of that. Are there any other observations on REP 5?

R.L. TORRAS (Cuba): Una observación en el párrafo 8. Y es que al final del mismo no se termina la frase y rogaría a la Secretaría que nos leyera el párrafo completo, a partir de: "Tras examinar atentamente.."

CHAIRMAN: I will read it in English: "After thorough consideration of the matter the prevailing view of the Conference was that the Director-General must nevertheless be assured of the continued concern of the Conference and of its strong views that continued stability must be ensured as regards the Organization's resource and work planning in the short as well as in the longer term. " Is that all right? I understand this is in order. Are there any other observations on REP 5?

S.S. MAHDI (India): This is not under REP 5 but in this hall I find a caucus between Brazil and Cuba and my appeal is that they should enlarge the scope of this and share their biscuits.

CHAIRMAN: Can I take it there is agreement on REP 5 with the amendments we have heard? Are there any other observations?

Draft Report of Commission II - Part 5, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission II cinquième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, Parte 5, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 6

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - SIXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE "INFORME DE LA COMISION II " - PARTE 6

CHAIRMAN: In REP 6 there are two resolutions we still have to consider. The Resolution on nutrition on pages 2 and 3 and the Resolution on the International Food Corps on page 7.

D.M. ULNES (Norway): On the Resolution on nutrition I just want to point out to the Secretariat that there is a printing error in the last line of paragraph 2(b). It should be "... in FAO's activities in agricultural projects and programme planning ". I take it that the Resolutions Committee's suggestion for redrafting probably stems out of this misprint but anyhow my delegation would be prepared to accept the text of the Resolutions Committee.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other observations on the document REP 6?

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): Commenting on the International Food Corps Resolution...

CHAIRMAN: Since we have been taking the document as a whole we will continue with that.

A.T, WADDA (Gambia): My comment is not on the Resolution itself but on the suggestion made by the Resolutions Committee. As one of those who helped in bringing this Resolution to the Resolutions Committee I would like to see here that the Resolution presented was that of a compromise nature. To interfere with the text might cause a breach of faith among those who drafted the Resolution, especially when what they are suggesting is to add "and its possible role" I do not see how anybody could make a study of establishing the International Food Corps leaving out its role. If you make a study of establishing it, it should include what role it should play, so by adding its role they are adding nothing to the Resolution. I would suggest that the Resolution as was presented be accepted.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): We are invited to make comments on both resolutions at the same time. On the first, as Brazil is co-sponsor I do not have anything in particular to say, just one amendment. In line with my friend, may I suggest the deletion of a comma in paragraph 1, before "for the improvement". I want to make it very clear that the level of resource allocation in the regular budget is for the nutrition of the rural and urban poor. I want to make the reason for this very clear. I do not want to increase other expenditures on nutrition here when we know very well what they are and we fully support them. That is why I co-sponsored this Resolution that much more should be spent on nutrition directly related to the problems of the rural and urban poor. So that small comma should come out.

As to the second resolution, I must say I feel a little embarrassed. We are discussing the report of Commission II, and this is the first time we have had a chance to consider this resolution. It is a new idea; it is an idea which surely deserves to be considered, but it needs to be discussed first of all. In the context of the adoption of the report, we are seeing the text of the resolution for the first time. I must say that while my delegation was sincerely moved by the very important lecture given by Ambassador Young as the McDougall Lecture at the beginning of the Conference and while we feel that many of the points he raised were valid and cogent, we also feel that the idea of the international food corps is not quite clear, to say the least.

In analysing the state of food and agriculture, for instance, one of the elements that becomes quite clear is the problem of under-employment and unemployment. What developing countries need, therefore, is not unskilled workers. Of course, people with the will to work are always welcome, but in this particular case we very much doubt whether it is a real addition to the measures and instruments to promote development.

In the past, we have had experiences of a bilateral nature similar to that. The recent United Nations volunteer corps which is an institution of UNDP has tried to promote the idea of volunteer service, and we are not quite convinced that the idea here in terms of the food corps is such a positive one.

In his statement, Ambassador Young made a very strong criticism of bureaucracy. He said that bureaucracy is the death of development. Perhaps in having a rather nice formula to provoke one more study we are going again into bureaucracy. Let us pay homage to his lecture by not taking a bureaucratic step to cover up reality. Ambassador Young gave an extraordinary lecture and made some very important points. Let us not create a bureaucratic set-up in the Organization just because we have to do something. Can we be honest and, with due respect to his intellectual contribution in the lecture - which I must underline was indeed outstanding - take his point that bureaucracy is the death of development and not take a bureaucratic step instead of facing reality?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Consideramos que estamos en el momento de aprobar el informe de la Comisión II y nos encontramos ahora con una resolución que lleva por título "Cuerpo Internacional de Voluntarios para la Alimentación". Me pregunto dentro de qué contexto de los debates de la Comisión se encaja este tipo de resolución que se nos está presentando a nuestra consideración. Nosotros, ciertamente, escuchamos también con atención la disertación emotiva que hizo el conferenciante sobre McDougall, pero nosotros no consideramos que sea el momento oportuno para iniciar un debate sobre los elementos que contiene esta resolución; por eso opinamos que siendo algo que no fue considerado por la Comisión en su oportunidad estaríamos abriendo un debate sobre algo que no existió.

CHAIRMAN: I understand the resolution will be located under item 29, Any Other Business. That is really the answer to the question.

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): (Sur la première résolution concernant la nutrition, je n'ai pas de commentaires à faire et je lui apporte mon appui.

La deuxième résolution pose quelques problèmes à de nombreuses délégations. Je ne dirai pas que je n'ai pas pris cette résolution en considération car je l'ai déjà étudiée au sein du Comité des résolutions. La déclaration que je fais ici n'est pas contre la résolution qui nous est proposée ni contre l'idée émise par le distingué Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis, mais je voudrais exprimer une position politique de mon gouvernement que je suis obligé de préciser pour que les choses soient bien claires pour mes amis africains qui ont déposé cette résolution et pour tous les membres de la Commission. Nous ne sommes pas contre le volontariat mais notre gouvernement n'est pas favorable à l'arrivée dans notre pays de volontaires. Nous avons déjà exprimé notre position sur le problème des experts qui a été développé par notre Ministre lors de la Conférence générale, mais nous sommes opposés au volontariat tel qu'il est conçu actuellement et qui n'est pas conforme à notre politique de coopération internationale. Pour cette seule raison, ma délégation n'est pas en mesure de se prononcer sur cette résolution.

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): I will attempt to answer the question raised. It was unfortunate that the delegate of Brazil, as Chairman of the Group of 77, should make such an intervention. First, this resolution is in order. The sponsor of the resolution was Tanzania and it was brought to the African Group for endorsement before it was sent in. The resolution calls for a study. I do not think one should anticipate the study that is to be made by the Director-General; nor should we pre-judge what that study is going to be. This resolution does not call for comment on what Ambassador Young said in his lecture. The idea of an international food corps is not new; it does not originate from the lecture of Ambassador Young. What Ambassador Young did was to dramatize the idea before the Conference as a result of which certain countries felt, after consultation with the Secretariat, it would be necessary to have a study and the study should be carried out in consultation with other interested organizations; the Director-General would report to Council, and it would be there and then that the real analysis and discussion should take place. This is not the time to go into detail and discuss the question of the international food corps. This is an idea which many people have subscribed to all over the world. With regard to anything dealing with food production and the improvement of food production, FAO should make an examination, and that is what this resolution is calling for. On behalf of the original sponsor, who is not here, I would ask that the resolution be sent to Conference for adoption.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): En primer lugar, deseamos referirnos a la resolución sobre nutrición, la cual apoyamos, no tenemos inconveniente en apoyarla. Con respecto a la resolución que se nos presenta nominada "Cuerpo Internacional de Voluntarios para la Alimentación" nosotros deseamos expresar, en primer lugar, que estamos de acuerdo con lo expuesto por las delegaciones de México, Guinea y Brasil.

Esta idea no está clara, al menos para nosotros, y, como dijo nuestro Ministro en la Plenaria, la experiencia que existe sobre este tipo de cuerpos no es la mejor.

Nosotros vemos esta resolución por primera vez, y, sin entrar a profundizar en detalles, manifestamos que no estamos en condiciones de considerarla, no tenemos instrucciones y en este momento no podemos menos que rechazarla. Tal vez vendrá en el futuro una nueva oportunidad, cuando estén más claras las cosas respecto de este tipo de cuerpos de voluntarios y en esa ocasión, en un futuro posiblemente lejano, estaremos en condiciones de considerarla.

Esta es la posición de nuestra delegación que adelantamos con toda claridad para evitar continuar en un debate al respecto.

S.A. MADALLALI (Tanzania): We are the sponsors of this resolution and, as the delegate of Gambia has explained, the idea is to discuss all the implications of the international food corps; it is a fact which exists. All those countries which happen to have some doubts have mentioned that there are such international organizations, even from bilateral countries, subscribing to this idea and sending such corps, or volunteers, to operate in various countries. The idea here is to give FAO the opportunity

to study the implications of such organizations, and how best FAO can advise after having studied how such a system could be effective in improving production and nutritional standards, in particular of developing countries or of any other countries where such need arises. As my colleague from Gambia has said, this is to give FAO the opportunity to go into greater detail in studying the implications and how such a scheme could be worked out, and then present a report to the next session for discussion. The FAO study might come up with a negative report that such organizations are really valueless, or it might come up with a report that if they were organized in such-and-such a manner they would be of use to countries, and such cooperation could help improve the nutritional standards and the production of agricultural products in different countries.

What we want is that the idea should be studied. In fact, this might help delegates who wonder why such organizations which have been organized bilaterally have failed; it might help them in deciding on a new establishment. The idea is that the matter should be studied.

So it is just an idea to study. The Tanzanian delegation had no idea of opening up a discussion on this issue. Many of the countries mentioned already have this corps, they are not international but coming from other different countries with no limitations on this. We want a forum and FAO is very competent and not an international organization as in Geneva, like the International Corps, to enlighten us on the implications and how we could grow into implementing, if we so agree, on presenting this study to the Conference.

I thought these explanations would remove the doubt about these things, they exist today and will exist tomorrow in your country, and so many countries, developing countries, have subscribed to the idea of giving assistance through such corps.

So with this I think my fellow delegates from developing countries should not be very much amazed by the idea of study. We want more information. They are doubtful, they do not know what it implies and whether the corps are not properly built, we want more information. I do not know why we should take this floor and vehemently oppose an idea of study which should enlighten us in future for proper implementation or decision. Give us all the facets of such involvement in this type of voluntary work.

S.S. MAHDI (India): Much has been said on this Resolution. In the interests of brevity I would like to submit with due respect to the sponsors and the other speakers that this is a matter which has not been discussed even in a preliminary session. Therefore we do not find ourselves in a position to consider it even at this late stage. If it is at all decided to have some reference to this idea maybe the best place would be the paragraph dealing with the McDougall Lecture with a short descriptive paragraph which should take care of this matter at this stage. Perhaps at some future date those interested may like to elaborate on this and have a proper discussion before a study is commissioned, because you are commissioning a study which has many implications. So with these few brief remarks I submit that we do not consider this, and the substance could be incorporated, short of any operative part, in the Report.

J.A. BOYLE (United States of America): Like the previous speakers I will certainly try to make my remarks very brief. As Tanzania pointed out, it was the delegate of Tanzania who introduced this amendment and only after getting approval from the African Group. It might be constructive to recall the background on this.

Ambassador Young was invited to give the McDougall Lecture. He is a great believer in people and certainly his political career in the United States reflects that. His comments which made some of us wince about inflated bureaucracies also reflect another trait of Ambassador Young that this gets in the way of people to people interaction. When he gave his proposal and mentioned the Food Corps the proposal was favourably mentioned by several other countries. I happened to be there in the room at the time and New Zealand, Upper Volta and Tanzania spoke favourably of it, so it is something that did strike a responsive chord.

Earlier this evening we talked of technical cooperation among the developing countries. I think the delegate of Brazil made mention of unskilled workers. It was my understanding that Ambassador Young talked about skilled workers who would be volunteers, presumably young people, and he stressed that they would be young people who had talents that they would be willing to bring to bear to help their fellow men and in promoting agricultural development.

He also stressed these would be people from various countries, so it is not anticipated to be necessarily an exchange of people between the developed and developing countries. Not at all. It is intended to be in the spirit of what we talked about earlier this evening, technical cooperation among developing countries, as well as developed countries insofar as they have volunteers capable, and it would be up to the recipient to decide if they would like such volunteers.

Lastly, I echo what the delegate of Tanzania said, this does not commit anybody to anything. It does not prejudice the outcome of the study or talk of the extent or the magnitude of the study. It suggests the issues should be studied and a report made whether it is feasible, and if so how it should be worked out. It is consistent with many of the items we have been discussing over the last two or three weeks but I leave it to your discretion whether it should be a resolution or something else, but simply dismissing it seems incompatible with the spirit in which Ambassador Young made the suggestion.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I must first make it clear that obviously this is a text which I see right now and I cannot speak as Chairman of the Group of 77. I was taking notice and I can only just reflect my delegation's opinion. That is the first point.

The second point made by several speakers is about not having a chance to discuss it. I advance one point. It is not clear to me what is the relationship with U.N. Volunteers. It is an organization established over a number of years. If I had a chance in normal time, not at this moment of the Report, my first discussion would be to see to what extent U.N. Volunteers were an established organization not the UNDP but operating as a link with UNDP and to what extent U.N. Volunteers could give greater attention to food production. That is the kind of observation I would have made in normal timing if we had time, and unfortunately we have no time. I see this resolution which we must accept or not. It is not fair to us who have just seen this resolution. If I had to discuss it here I would make a point of asking the Director-General to explore it with the U.N. Volunteers Organization, to what extent Ambassador Young's suggestion could be utilized for food production and to increase agricultural production in all the countries. That is a valid point. So we are in a difficulty, it is possible either to accept or not, and obviously we find some difficulties of principle. May I say again on a text I just read now I could not reflect the position of the Group of 77. Everybody understands that, I hope.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): En tanto esta Resolución lo que propone es un estudio, a nosotros no nos plantea grandes dificultades aunque por cierto reconozco la validez del punto suscitado en cuanto a que no ha sido motivo de discusión quizá suficiente, porque algunas delegaciones citaron este tema en sus intervenciones, pero no ha sido motivo de discusión suficiente en el plenario. Sin embargo, quizá no convendría desechar totalmente la idea y me pregunto si no sería una transacción aceptable seguir la sugerencia del señor delegado de la India e incorporar un párrafo en el informe que más o menos podría decir: "teniendo en cuenta la sugerencia que se hizo en la disertación en memoria de MacDougall de que se cree un cuerpo internacional de voluntarios para la alimentación se pide al Director General que, en la medida de lo posible, y en consulta con otras organizaciones interesadas, estudie la conveniencia y eventual utilidad de que se cree el Cuerpo Internacional de Voluntarios para la Alimentación y estudie, asimismo, sus consecuencias, y presente una evaluación o los resultados de ese estudio a una próxima reunión del Consejo de la FAO." Algo así habrá que redactar; quizá esto se podría incorporar como un párrafo en el tema 29 de nuestro informe y así podríamos satisfacer quizá a nuestros colegas de Gambia, Zambia y a quienes no están de acuerdo con que esto sea una Resolución.

S.A. MADALLALI (Tanzania): Our main preoccupation as Tanzania is to get an insight into this idea of having a corps that will improve maybe in technology on food production and decrease in malnutrition. We know very often international volunteers - there have been countries offering volunteers to developing countries and vice-versa with an exchange of technology. So long as we give the chance to FAO, which my delegation considers the appropriate Organization to look into the affairs of increased food production and reducing malnutrition and hunger, so long as we can direct or give opportunity to FAO, competent Organization as it is, to have a study of this nature in relation to and concerting with other organizations involved on the international field, and have a paper giving us an insight of such programmes, whether this appears as a full resolution as it is now, we really would not mind, or if it appears as a page as suggested by the delegates from India and Argentina, my delegation will have no objection.



CHAIRMAN: Could I suggest, if it is agreeable to everyone, that the delegates of Tanzania and Argentina get in touch with the Secretariat and draft a text.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPONSE

DERECHO DE REPLICA

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): I am taking the floor as right of reply to what the delegate of Brazil has just said. At no time did I say that he was speaking on behalf of the Group of 77. I made it clear that it was unfortunate that he, as Chairman of the Group of 77, had made the statement he has made, especially when this Resolution was put and endorsed by the African Group.

It is unfortunate also to see that some people are obsessed with what Ambassador Young has said about bureaucrats. This is no place, and we are not discussing the McDougall lecture. I could go into detail on all the comments that Ambassador Young made, but we are discussing a Resolution which recalls resolutions which have been passed on technical cooperation among developing countries. This idea of an International Food Corps is not new, it is not Ambassador Young's idea. All he did was to dramatize it before our Conference, and the sponsors of the resolutions have used the idea in response to the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries.

I do not understand the way that the Chairman of the Group of 77 has reacted. Sometimes it is surprising to know when the Chairman of the Group of 77 is speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 or as the delegate of Brazil. My remark to him was directed to him as the delegate of Brazil. Nevertheless, I cannot forget that he is wearing the other hat as Chairman of the Group of 77.

CHAIRMAN: Before giving the floor to other speakers, may I ask speakers to address themselves to the question: is it acceptable, instead of having the resolution, to have a text inserted, as proposed under item 29, other business, to the effect suggested by the delegation of Argentina? Could the delegations of Argentina and Tanzania, in cooperation with the Secretariat, prepare such a text?.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (Mexico): No quiero entrar en una inútil confrontación, lo que sí quiero decir es que yo no sé qué tenga que ver aquí las menciones al delegado de Brasil en su calidad de Presidente del Grupo de los 77. El intentar poner aquí una bifurcación entre los objetivos que persigue el Grupo de los 77 en relación con una Resolución tardía, cuyo contenido no hemos tenido oportunidad de examinar no creo que tenga mucho sentido. No quiero referirme desde luego a los aspectos que encierra cada uno de los párrafos de esta Resolución; desde luego que de los dos extremos de su propuesta obviamente no estamos de acuerdo con un texto así, con una Resolución que se nos presenta en hora tan inoportuna. Ahora, en cuanto al segundo extremo de su propuesta, pues bien, si usted así lo desea, estamos de acuerdo en que se reúnan los delegados que están interesados y nos presenten un texto y ya tendremos oportunidad de referirnos a él.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): On a point of order, it is my impression that a decision has been made that two of the delegates will get together and work out a text acceptable to all parties. As I see no other items on the Agenda, I propose that we adjourn the meeting now. If other delegates wish to have funny discussions, I would prefer that they did it in the hall rather than here.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPONSE

DERECHO DE REPLICA

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): On a point of order, I think I have the right of reply in order to put on record that I had no information at all until I spoke about having this Resolution approved by the African Group.

When I made my statement, I had no knowledge at all about that. If I had had that knowledge, I would certainly have discussed it first with the African countries. I shall not say anything more about it.

CHAIRMAN: Several delegates have asked for the floor, but there is a proposal by the delegate of Canada, on a point of order, that we adjourn the meeting now and consider our position with regard to the International Food Corps. It has been suggested that the delegations of Argentina and Tanzania get together with the Secretariat and draft a text. This has been accepted by the delegate of Tanzania, the sponsor of the proposal, and I think we should leave it at that.

With all due respect, I think we should be happy that we have come to the end of our business. It is five past ten, you have done a lot of work. Can I take it that everyone agrees that this is the end of our debate, the end of the adoption of our Report? I take it that that is the case.

Draft Report of Commission II - Part 6, as amended, was adopted

Le Projet de rapport de la Commission II - sixième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, Parte 6, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: I would like to thank all of you very much for your cooperation, and especially for the speed with which you have adopted the last three parts of our Report. Thank you very much.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I would just like to thank the Chairman very much indeed for the way he has guided our work. I do not know if we shall have a further opportunity to thank him, so we wanted to have it done now.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

S.S. MAHDI (India): If delegates would bear with me, I would like to say one brief word, that I whole heartedly support what my friend Mr. Grabisch has said.

K. OLZVOY (Mongolia): Just for the record, I would like to second what has already been said by the delegates of Cuba, Mexico and many others on the Draft Resolution on the International Food Corps. It is very difficult to take any definite position on such an unclear subject. Moreover, we have no instruction to discuss it at this stage and that is -why I would like to appeal to the co-sponsors of this Resolution to withdraw it and any other suggestion on the inclusion of such a vague idea in the Report.

CHAIRMAN: I must tell the delegate of Mongolia that we have already settled this matter, it has been decided upon and I think we have now come to the end of our meeting.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): At a meeting of the June Session of the Council, when a choice was made or first nominations were put forward for the Chairman of the Commissions of the Conference, the main Group of 77 had the honour and privilege to second your nomination, Mr. Chairman.

I have very much confidence and trust in your nomination, and I am more than happy to say, in the name of our Group, that our trust and confidence were fully reflected in the actual results of the Conference.

You have directed our work with patience, wisdom and a clear sense of the interests of the developing countries, and the need to promote the development of food and agriculture production in nutrition. We are very much indebted to you, and I want to put that on record.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would just like to put on record our appreciation of the calm patience and wisdom with which, Mr. Chairman, you have guided the deliberations of this Commission. We should like to express our appreciation and thanks to you.

E. SAENZ (Colombia): No quisiera dejar pasar por alto, antes de retirarnos de esta reunión, el agradecimiento de nuestra delegación y en especial también del grupo latinoamericano a quien me honro de representar aquí, para agradecerle y reiterarle una vez más nuestra satisfacción por la forma en que ha llevado a cabo esta reunión, y felicitarle una vez más por la feliz terminación de ella.

Z. SZEDLACSKO (Hungary): I would have liked to have spoken about ten minutes earlier on this matter because I wanted to put our position concerning the International Food Corps, but the matter has been settled.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your conduct during this Commission.

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): Monsieur le Président, je suis le dernier, mais je voudrais quand même suivre la tradition et vous exprimer, au nom du groupe africain, notre profonde gratitude, et vous féliciter de la façon dont vous avez dirigé les travaux de la Commission II. Le délégué de l'Argentine en sourira, mais la Commission II est en général la Commission la plus difficile et vous l'avez très bien dirigée.

Je vous en remercie infiniment.

S.A. MADALLALI (Tanzania): We were just discussing what my colleague from Argentina said. In order not to prolong the discussion on the International Food Corps, perhaps the suggestion of the addition of a paragraph could be looked at under item 29. We suggest that the paragraph should read: "The need for long-term programmes of international cooperation..."

CHAIRMAN: Excuse me for interrupting, but could you give that to the Secretariat, and they will take care of it. I do not think there are any objections to the text, as far as I understand the feeling of delegates in this hall, so the delegate of Tanzania could submit his text to the Secretariat for inclusion in the Report.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, it is then up to me to thank you for your cooperation and patience. I think you have helped me very, very much in this task, and I would also like to thank the Secretariat, especially the two people sitting on the left of me, who have been very helpful and very patient, both with me and with you and with the Drafting Committee. I would also like to thank the interpreters who have helped us a great deal and been extremely patient, and also all the ladies who have been kind enough to run around with all our messages forward and backwards. In short, I thank you all for your cooperation.

We have come to the end of the business of Commission II. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 22.15 hours

La séance est levée à 22h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 22.15 horas