T

June 2013

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国粮食及农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session - Trente-huitième session - 38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DE LA CONFÉRENCE

Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DE LA CONFERENCIA

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session - Trente-huitième session - 38.º período de sesiones
Rome, 15-22 June 2013 **VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS** **OF THE CONFERENCE**
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013 **PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES** **DE LA CONFÉRENCE**
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013 **ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS** **DE LA CONFERENCIA**

Table of Contents – Table des matières – Índice

FIRST PLENARY SESSION
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(15 June 2013)

Page

1. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (C 2013/12; C 2013/LIM/9)
1. Élection du Président et des vice-présidents
1. Elección del Presidente y los Vicepresidentes 2

2. Appointment of the General Committee and Credentials Committee (C 2013/12; C 2013/LIM/9)
2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs
2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales 2

32. Any Other Matters
32. Autres questions
32. Asuntos varios 3

32.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture (C 2013/INF/11)
32.1 Conférence McDougall
32.1 Disertación en memoria de McDougall *3*

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(15 June 213)

Page

32. Any Other Matters
32. Autres questions
32. Asuntos varios 21

32.5 Presentation of Jacques Diouf Award (C 2013/INF/10)
32.5 Remise du prix Jacques Diouf
32.5 Entrega del Premio Jacques Diouf *21*

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session
(C 2013/1 Rev.1; C 2013/12; C 2013/LIM/9; C 2013/INF/1 Rev.1; C 2013/INF/4)
3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation de la session
3. Aprobación del programa y de las disposiciones organizativas del período de sesiones 26

4. Admission of Observers (C 2013/13 Rev.1; C 2013/13 Add.1)
4. Admission d'observateurs
4. Admisión de observadores 26

First Report of the General Committee (C 2013/LIM/11)
Premier rapport du Bureau de la Conférence
Primer informe del Comité General 26

Page

First Report of the Credentials Committee (C 2013/LIM/12; C 2013/LIM/22)
Premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs
Primer informe del Comité de Credenciales 27

5. Applications for Membership in the Organization (C 2013/10 Rev.2)
5. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation
5. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización 28

32. Any Other Matters
32. Autres questions
32. Asuntos varios 29

32.2 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards (C 2013/INF/7)
32.2 Remise des prix B.R. Sen
32.2 Entrega de los Premios B. R. Sen *29*

32.3 Presentation of A.H. Boerma Award (C 2013/INF/8)
32.3 Remise du prix A.H. Boerma
32.3 Entrega del Premio A. H. Boerma *32*

32.4 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award (C 2013/INF/9)
32.4 Remise du prix Édouard Saouma
32.4 Entrega del Premio Edouard Saouma *33*

32.6 Presentation of the Margarita Lizárraga Medal (C 2013/LIM/7)
32.6 Remise de la médaille Margarita Lizárraga
32.6 Entrega de la Medalla Margarita Lizárraga *34*

5. Applications for Membership in the Organization (continued)
5. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (suite)
5. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación) 36

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(17 June 2013)

Page

Director-General's Statement to the Conference
Déclaration du Directeur General a la Conférence
Declaración del Director General a la Conferencia 47

Statement of the Independent Chairperson of the Council to the Conference
Déclaration du Président indépendant du Conseil a la Conférence
Declaración del Presidente Independiente del Consejo a la Conferencia 54

Page

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura 57

Statements by Heads of Delegation
Déclarations des chefs de délégation
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación 58

Nicaragua, Thailand, Ireland, Algeria, Yemen, Italy, Tajikistan, Cape Verde, China. *58*

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(17 June 2013)

Page

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1) (continued)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación) 73

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación) 73

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Republic of Korea, Norway, South Africa, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Hungary, Cameroon, Philippines, France, Guinea, Jordan, Mali, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Maldives, Romania, Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan, Senegal, Indonesia, Unites States of America, Russian Federation, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Canada, European Union. *73*

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(18 June 2013)

Page

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1) (continued)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación) 109

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación) 109

Comoros, Japan, Ethiopia, Turkey, Jamaica, Malaysia, Finland, South Sudan, India, Sudan, Oman, United Republic of Tanzania, Luxembourg, Iraq, Zambia, Bulgaria, Ghana, Bahrain, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Sweden, Côte d'Ivoire, Ukraine, Haiti, Afghanistan, Viet Nam. *109*

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(18 June 2013)

Page

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1) (continued)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación) 147

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación) 147

Iceland, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Lebanon, Spain, Belarus, New Zealand, Poland, Argentina, Mauritania, Malta, Denmark, Seychelles, Portugal, Brazil, United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Mexico, Belgium, Morocco, Palestine (Observer). *147*

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(19 June 2013)

Page

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1) (continued)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación) 181

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación) 181

Niger, Austria, Kenya, Lithuania, Swaziland, Vanuatu, Chad, Tokelau (Associate Member), Central African Republic. *181*

Second Report of the General Committee (C 2013/LIM/13 Rev.1)
Deuxième rapport du Bureau de la Conférence
Segundo informe del Comité General 190

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1) (continued)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación) 191

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación) 191

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Nepal, Singapore, Namibia, Guatemala, Cuba, Egypt, Greece, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Dominican Republic, Holy See, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, International Atomic Energy Agency. *191*

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(19 June 2013)

Page

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1) (continued)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación) 213

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación) 213

Rwanda, Burundi, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Netherlands, Mozambique, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Bhutan. *213*

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(20 June 2013)

Page

27. Audited Accounts 2010-2011 (Draft Resolution) (C 2013/5 A; C 2013/5 B; C 2013/LIM/4)
27. Comptes vérifiés pour l'exercice 2010–2011 (projet de résolution)
27. Cuentas comprobadas de 2010-11 (proyecto de resolución) 229

28. Scale of Contributions 2014-2015 (Draft Resolution)
(C 2013/INF/12; C 2013/INF/12 Corr.1; C 2013/LIM/10 Rev.1)
28. Barème des contributions pour 2014–2015 (projet de résolution)
28. Escala de cuotas para 2014-15 (proyecto de resolución) 230

Third Report of the General Committee (C 2013/LIM/24)
Troisième rapport du Bureau de la Conférence
Tercero informe del Comité General 231

29. Payment by the European Union to Cover Administrative and other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization.(C 2013/LIM/14)
29. Paiement par l'Union européenne des dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut de Membre de l'Organisation
29. Pago de la Unión Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otro tipo derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización 231

Third Report of the Credentials Committee (C 2013/LIM/23)
Troisième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs
Tercero informe del Comité de Credenciales 231

30. Other Administrative and Financial Matters
30. Autres questions administratives et financières
30. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros 232

8. Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee (C 2013/6)
8. Nomination de représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel
8. Nombramiento de los representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal 232

Page

32. Any Other Matters
32. Autres questions
32. Asuntos varios 233

32.7 Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies
32.7 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO
32.7 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO *233*

32.8 In Memoriam
32.8 In Memoriam
32.8 In memoriam *235*

31. Date and Place of the 39th Session of the Conference
31. Date et lieu de la trente-neuvième session de la Conférence
31. Fecha y lugar del 39.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia 235

Annex I
Annexe I
Anexo I 237

Address by His Holiness Pope Francis
Allocution de Sa Sainteté le Pape François
Discurso de Su Santidad el Papa Francisco 237

Annex II
Annexe II
Anexo II 239

Address by His Holiness Pope Francis to Participants to the 38th Session of the FAO Conference, Sala Celementina, Vatican City, 20 June 2013 (Non official translation) 239

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(21 June 2013)

Page

23. Medium Term Plan 2014-2017 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015 (Draft Resolution on budget level) (C 2013/3; C 2013/LIM/8)
23. Plan à moyen terme 2014–2017 et Programme de travail et budget 2014–2015 (projet de résolution sur le montant du budget)
23. Plan a plazo medio para 2014-17 y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2014-15 (proyecto de resolución sobre la cuantía del presupuesto) 243

25. Amendments to the Basic Texts
25. Amendements des Textes fondamentaux
25. Enmiendas a los Textos Fundamentales 251

25.1 Proposed Amendments to Rules XXXVII and XL of the General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution) (C 2013/LIM/5)
25.1 Propositions d'amendements des Articles XXXVII et XL du Règlement général de l'Organisation (projet de résolution)
25.1 Propuestas de enmiendas a los artículos XXXVII y XL del Reglamento General de la Organización (proyecto de resolución) *251*

Page

25.2 Proposed Amendments to Rule XXIX.2, Rule XXX.2, Rule XXXI.2 and Rule XXXII.2 of the General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution) (C 2013/LIM/6)
25.2 Propositions d'amendement aux articles XXIX.2, XXX.2, XXXI.2 et XXXII.2 du Règlement général de l'Organisation (projet de résolution)
25.2 Propuestas de enmiendas a los artículos XXIX.2, XXX.2, XXXI.2 y XXXII.2 del Reglamento General de la Organización (proyecto de resolución) *255*

25.3 Proposed Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution) (C 2013/LIM/21)
25.3 Propositions d'amendement à l'Article XXXIII du Règlement général de l'Organisation (projet de résolution)
25.3 Propuestas de enmiendas al artículo XXXIII del Reglamento General de la Organización (proyecto de resolución) *257*

26. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters
26. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
26. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos 258

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
11ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
(21 June 2013)

7. Election of Council Members (C 2013/11)
7. Élection des membres du Conseil
7. Elección de miembros del Consejo 261

6. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (C 2013/9)
6. Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil
6. Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo 270

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
12ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
(22 June 2013)

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME 283

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COMMISSION I
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I 284
(C 2013/I/REP/10; C 2013/I/REP/11.1; C 2013/I/REP/11.2; C 2013/I/REP/11.3; C 2013/I/REP/11.4; C 2013/I/REP/11.5; C 2013/I/REP/11.6; C 2013/I/REP/12; C 2013/I/REP/13; C 2013/I/REP/14; C 2013/I/REP/15; C 2013/I/REP/16; C 2013/I/REP/17; C 2013/I/REP/18.1; C 2013/I/REP/18.2; C 2013/I/REP/18.3; C 2013/I/REP/18.4; C 2013/I/REP/18.5; C 2013/I/REP/18.6; C 2013/I/REP/18.7; C 2013/I/REP/19)

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COMMISSION II
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN II 285
(C 2013/II/REP/20; C 2013/II/REP/21; C 2013/II/REP/22; C 2013/II/REP/23; C 2013/II/REP/24)

Page

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF PLENARY
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA PLENARIA 285
(C 2013/REP/1; C 2013/REP/2; C 2013/REP/3; C 2013/REP/4; C 2013/REP/5; C 2013/REP/6; C 2013/REP/7; C 2013/REP/8; C 2013/REP/9; C 2013/REP/25; C 2013/REP/27; C 2013/REP/28; C 2013/REP/29; C 2013/REP/31; C 2013/REP/32; C 2013/REP/32.7; C 2013/REP/32.8)

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE
CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session
Trente-huitième session
38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013

FIRST PLENARY SESSION
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA

15 June 2013

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours
Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.55
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Presidente de la Conferencia

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honour to welcome you to FAO Headquarters and to declare open the Thirty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference.

It is a pleasure and a privilege for me to welcome you all for the first time as Director-General to the headquarters of your Organization, especially the delegates who are here for the first time.

The first item on the Agenda is the Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons.

At its 145th Session in December 2012 the Council proposed that His Excellency Mohammad Asif Rahimi, Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan preside over this Session of Conference. May I take it that the Conference agrees with this proposal and can confirm this by acclamation?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

May I now invite His Excellency Mohammad Asif Rahimi to come forward and take the Chair of this session of Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Director-General. Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is an honor for me and also my country to have been elected as Chairperson of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference.

I thank you and wish to express my deep gratitude for the trust you have placed in me. I also take this opportunity to thank the countries of the Near East Region for nominating me as their candidate, and also to Members of the FAO Council for agreeing to forward my candidature to this Body for my endorsement. This is the first time that Afghanistan is chairing the Conference of a Specialized Agency of the United Nations.

Distinguished Delegates, this Conference comes at a very critical time following the outcome of Rio+20, the Post-2015 Development Framework to be considered by the United Nations General Assembly in September of this year and the results of the Madrid High Level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition.

There is no doubt that food and nutrition security will remain the top global priority of Member Nations in the years ahead and will continue to underpin the Zero Hunger Challenge announced by the United Nations Secretary General.

Within FAO, the transformational change is in process and the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015, which you are requested to approve, is the principal instrument in responding to the challenge of global food and nutrition security and the eradication of rural poverty.

Honorable delegates, we have a demanding agenda in front of us. The issues for your consideration are important and we are expected to reach meaningful decisions that will enable this Organization to move forward in promoting and assisting sustainable agricultural worldwide and help cope with the challenges of climate change.

I am sure you will all agree that the most important item on our agenda is the Director-General's proposed Medium-Term Plan 2014-2017 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015 culminating in a budget resolution. You will also be reviewing the final progress report of the Immediate Plan of Action and the benefits achieved so far from this endeavor.

The Conference is required to appoint a new Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council and to elect 33 new Members for the Council. Therefore, the work ahead of us is demanding and the time available is limited. To complete our heavy agenda successfully and on time, I humbly request your

cooperation and understanding and helping me to conduct the work of this Conference harmoniously, efficiently and effectively.

I would be most grateful for your presence in this hall according to the timetable which you will soon approve to be brief and focused in your interventions and to seek consensus on issues requiring your collective decision. As your Chairperson, I shall do all I can to conduct the affairs of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference smartly, fairly and within the established rules of the Organization.

The door of my office, room A384, remains open to you for suggestions and you can approach me without hesitation, if you wish to do so. I thank you and let us now return to our business with the first item on the agenda.

1. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons
1. Élection du Président et des vice-présidents
1. Elección del Presidente y los Vicepresidentes
(C 2013/12; C 2013/LIM/9)

CHAIRPERSON

Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Conference after considering the report of the Council shall elect the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference. The Session of Council, held in April this year, proposed the three candidates for the three positions of Vice-Chairpersons of this session of the Conference.

Given that one of the nominees, Her Excellency Tehmina Janjua of Pakistan has had to return home for personal reasons, consultations are taking place within the relevant Regional Group to seek a replacement, which I hope to be able to announce shortly.

In the meantime, the following two nominees are now presented to the Conference for approval. Sorry for the last minute change. So now the two nominees are presented to the Conference for approval: His Excellency Minister Kouassi Adjoumani Kobenan, Minister of Livestock and Water Resources of Cote d'Ivoire and His Excellency Thomas Wriessnig from Germany. Can I take it that the Conference approves these two nominations? It is so decided.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

2. Appointment of the General Committee and Credentials Committee
2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs
2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales
(C 2013/12; C 2013/LIM/9)

CHAIRPERSON

We now proceed to Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda: Appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee. I will now read the nominations for the seven Member Nations proposed for election to the general committee as submitted by the Council. They are as follows: Costa Rica, New Zealand, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United States of America and Zimbabwe. Are there any objections? It is so decided.

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

CHAIRPERSON

I will now read the nine nominations for the Credentials Committee made by the Council: Algeria, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Honduras, Hungary, New Zealand and Oman. Do you wish to endorse this list? It is so decided.

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

32. Any Other Matters
32. Autres questions
32. Asuntos varios

32.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture
32.1 Conférence McDougall
32.1 Disertación en memoria de McDougall
(C 2013/INF/11)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on the Sub-item 32.1 under which the Conference will listen to the McDougall Memorial Lecture. This lecture is part of a series which began in 1959 to commemorate the late Frank L. McDougall, one of the founding fathers of our Organization. The lecture is delivered at each ordinary session of the Conference. The Director-General will now introduce this year's McDougall lecturer.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Your Excellency, Mohammad Asif Rahimi, Minister for Agriculture of Afghanistan, Chairperson of the Conference, Your Excellency Mr Luc Guyau, Independent Chairperson of the Council, Excellencies, Ministers from Member Nations, Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you all for being here for this 28th McDougall Memorial Lecture.

This annual lecture series is named for Frank Lidgett McDougall, an Australian economist whose writings on food production and distribution set in motion a series of events that, ultimately, led world leaders to found the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

This year's McDougall Lecture will be delivered by someone who has made a groundbreaking contribution to the way we understand and fight hunger and poverty.

Dr Amartya Sen, an Indian economist and philosopher and winner of the 1988 Nobel Prize for economics hardly needs an introduction.

In 1981, Dr Sen wrote the book, Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation.

Sen shifted attention away from the traditional focus on food production to access to food, recognizing that the main reason for hunger was not the lack of food anymore, but insufficient access to food.

Shifting from the traditional view of only a lack of production, Sen looked at inequalities in the mechanisms governing the distribution of food.

He developed what is known as the “entitlement approach” to analyze and address chronic hunger, looking at the ability of people to access food through the customary means available to society, such as production, trade, and state-sponsored entitlements.

He looked at hunger not through the lens of charity, but with a rights-based approach. After all, ensuring that everyone has enough food to live healthy lives is not a favor. The shift he proposed from production to access and from charity to a rights-based approach has transformed the way we fight hunger and poverty today.

Dr. Sen also helped to create the UN's Human Development Index, proposing that the basic idea that development should be to promote the richness of human life and not the richness of the economy.

The different lenses that Dr Sen offered to understand and respond to poverty and hunger have not always been welcome. I am happy that this is changing now. We have much to learn from Professor Sen in our efforts to end poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition around the world.

Professor Sen, I am honored to welcome you to FAO.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Director-General. Before handing the floor to Professor Sen, I am very glad to announce that Professor Sen has agreed to take questions after the lecture according to the time available. Hence, within the timeframe allotted for the lecture, I will pass the floor for a brief question and answer session after the lecture. I now have the pleasure of inviting Professor Amartya Sen to deliver his lecture.

Prof. Amartya SEN

I feel very privileged to have the honour and the opportunity of giving this McDougall Memorial Lecture here at the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. I am particularly grateful to the Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, for inviting me.

The number of hungry people in the world is difficult to estimate with any precision. There are, in fact, different ways of making this estimation, and even diverse ways of defining hunger and under-nutrition. What is, however, altogether clear is that no matter how we do our estimate of the incidence of hunger in the modern world, we shall end up with very large numbers, unless we choose to overlook the large basket of tell-tale information that are available on the subject, or pick some very idiosyncratic definition of hunger. It would be silly - and sad - to hold up our enquiry into the causation of hunger, waiting for an agreed exact estimate of the number of hungry people on earth. As Aristotle had noted, any subject has to look for the kind of "clarity as the subject-matter allows; for the same degree of precision is not to be expected in all discussions, any more than in all the products of handicraft."

We can get some idea of the magnitude of the problem if we begin with the estimate by the Hunger Project that there are 870 million people on earth who can definitely be called food deprived and hungry. Again, that specific number need not be taken to have any particular exactness, but it is hard not to be deeply concerned about what looks like a huge proportion of the population (quite a bit more than one person in ten on earth) living in conditions of hunger and undernourishment. It is also important to note that the same source estimates that 60 percent of the hungry people on earth are women, and that one in six children born in developing countries are clinically underweight at birth in worrying ways.

There is plenty to discuss about different aspects of hunger and its far-reaching and diverse consequences, but perhaps the first question to ask is: why is there so much hunger around the globe? The world today is enormously richer, in terms of averages and total incomes and wealth, than it used to be. Indeed, vast numbers of people on earth enjoy living standards today that our ancestors would have found difficult even to imagine. Why has this global opulence not solved the problems of hunger and undernourishment? That question demands an answer. And the answer must depend on what view - what theory - we have of the causation of hunger.

About 40 years ago I tried to use a concept that I called "food entitlement" to explain famines, and I believe I can claim with some plausibility that the notion proved to be of some use in explaining the antecedence and basis of observed famines. It seems natural to ask whether the same concept, involving the idea of entitlements generally and food entitlement in particular, helps in explaining the persistence of regular, widespread hunger (as opposed to periodic famines) in our relatively

prosperous world. On the basis of the earlier work it was clear that focusing on failures of people's entitlements helps to explain starvation in particular, but also hunger in general. This is an attempt to follow up that lead.

However, for the sake of full disclosure, especially in giving a lecture at the FAO, I should share with you the fact that when I was introduced in 1981 to the Director-General of the FAO shortly after the publication of my book Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation the Director-General told me that my book was absolutely the worst book on food and famine that he had ever read. I did find that assessment somewhat deflating. But I should also make clear that what I said in my book was quite critical of estimating the incidence of hunger and the likelihood of a famine on the basis only of data on food availability per head, which was the standard method at that time in use at the FAO. I guess I would have perhaps been also deflated if the FAO's judgement had been that what I was saying was music to their ears.

And I told myself, "look here, it is quite distinguished to have authored absolutely the worst book ever on a subject in which so much has been written." So I am particularly grateful to the present Director-General for giving me a second chance at the FAO.

Let me then begin by discussing briefly the idea of food entitlement and how it differs from food availability per head, and also how they interrelate, if they do. And also discuss how all this may help to explain the continued prevalence of large-scale hunger in the world, and no less importantly what remedial actions may follow from an appropriately reasoned diagnosis.

The basic idea of food entitlement is extremely simple and elementary. Since food and other commodities are not distributed freely to people, their consumption in general - and their ability to consume food in particular - must depend on the basket of goods and services they respectively have. In a market economy, the crucial variable is the amount of food a person can buy in the market, or directly own by having produced it in one's own plot of land (which is particularly relevant for an owner-cultivator of food crops).

The presence of food in the world, or in the country, or even in the locality, need not, in itself, make the problem of having food to eat any easier for a starving victim. What we can buy would depend on our income, and that in turn would depend on what we have to sell (that is, the services we can offer, the goods we produce, or the labour power that we can offer to sell and succeed in doing so, through wage employment). How much of food and other necessary commodities we can buy will depend on our respective employment status, the rates of wages and other remunerations, and the prices of food and other commodities we buy with our incomes. Hunger and starvation, as I have tried to argue in my 1981 book, result from some people not having enough food to eat - it is not a characteristic of their not being enough food to eat in the country or in the region.

So a crucial variable here is the "entitlement set" of alternative commodity bundles which we can buy (or otherwise own). From that entitlement set, the family can choose any of the alternative baskets that are within its means. The amounts of food in each basket determine what the family is able to eat, and that in turn determines whether the members of the family are forced to starve or not.

On what do our entitlements depend? In a market economy, it must depend *inter alia* on what resources we have, what our endowments are: our respective labour power, and land and other assets we own, which we can either use directly ourselves for production, or sell in the market. It must also depend on what opportunities the markets offer for our labour and for the goods and services that we can sell, and what the prices and availabilities are for the food and other commodities we hope to buy with the money we earn.

Whether we have enough food to eat, or are forced to go hungry, depends thus on our endowments and on the conditions of production and exchange, which together determine our entitlements. If we are not able to buy enough food to satisfy our hunger, then we have to go hungry.

Hunger and starvation are caused primarily by entitlement failure. This is not the only possible cause, since hunger and starvation can also arise for other reasons, for example from our deliberate decision

to fast for religious or political reasons. However, hunger and starvation typically arise from involuntary deprivation related to inadequacy of our entitlements.

That is a statement about the hunger of a family and the individuals in it. From there we can turn to broader categories, like a community, or to narrower ones, like persons in a family. To look at the community first. Entitlement failure can afflict a community, and indeed a large class of famines are typically initiated by severe loss of entitlements of one or more occupation groups, depriving them of the opportunity to command and consume food. They reflect group failures of entitlements.

A similar remark can be made about widespread undernourishment, which may be far short of a famine, but may reflect nevertheless group inadequacies of entitlements. It follows that seen in this perspective, the study of hunger-related phenomena, which vary from severe famines to persistent non-extreme undernourishment, calls for analyses of entitlement failures, and of entitlement inadequacies of families in afflicted communities.

We can also move from families to individuals. Not every member of the family earns an income – infants don't, very old people may not, and in many societies, women may do their work at home (sometimes very hard work too), but not be what used to be called "bread earners" – bringing in income from outside, in the market economy. The condition of individuals within the family would depend on rules governing the distribution of food within the family. Even though the market-based earners of the family may not be able to do their outside work and earn an income if they had to look after household work as well (including taking care of children and of the old and the sick), and even though household work is an essential ingredient of the process of earning an outside income, the social conventions in most countries of the world have tended to discriminate in favour of the so-called bread-earners and against those whose household work make that bread earning possible.

Entitlement analysis has to be, thus, extended to go beyond legal entitlements related to ownership, and to cover also such issues as the use of social norms and established conventions of sharing, which may determine who is accepted as having "entitlement" to what.

For example, the typical tendency in gender-biased societies to regard that women have less claim to attention within the family than men, or that girls are less entitled to good food - or good health care - than boys, shows the necessity of broadening the idea of entitlement from legal claims to socially accepted standards that could make some members of the family suffer more from deprivation than other members in the same family do. These social conventions and norms in sharing food and other commodities demand resistance and opposition, but in explaining hunger and starvation in the world as it exists today, we have to take note of the power of these established customs, which can be critically important for studying distributional problems between women and men, and to understand the likelihood of special deprivation of girls compared with boys.

How does food production relate to the concept of food entitlement? Food production does act as one of the important influences on food entitlement. Hunger and starvation may be substantially influenced by the lowness of food production. For example, a peasant family may have to starve because its output collapses through, say, a drought or a flood. In a different chain of causation, a family of wage earners may have to go hungry because food prices rise too much as a result of a crop failure. To consider another linkage, people employed in agricultural production may have to face hunger or starvation if they lose their jobs through a curtailment of production. Such an influence can originate in non-food agricultural production as well. And yet, food and agricultural production cannot but be an important influence on food entitlements of people, and this influence can work through several distinct channels.

This is needed to be stated as clearly as possible, particularly because food entitlement has sometimes been seen - quite wrongly - as being a phenomenon that is altogether independent of food and agricultural production. This could not possibly be the case. Why is it, then, that food entitlement has appeared to be an "alternative" line of analysis of hunger and starvation - very different from analyzing these calamities in terms of problems of food production? What was the debate about in considering the alternative claims of food output decline and food entitlement failure as the basic foundational concept for analyzing famines and hunger?

The answer is not far to seek. While food entitlement cannot be independent of food production, they are not by any means congruent - or even very similar - concepts. Food production is one influence on food entitlements, but there are other influences as well. Nor is food production necessarily the most important influence on entitlements. Indeed, a famine can occur, or new hunger can emerge, without there being any food output decline whatsoever. Thus, it is not only the case that the impact of food production on hunger and starvation works through its influence on the respective entitlements of the people involved (not independently of them), but sometimes a person's or a group's food entitlement may fall sharply without any significant decline - indeed even without any decline at all - in food production. Even though food output is one of the determinants of food entitlement, we cannot get an adequate understanding of famines and starvation on the basis of investigating food output alone.

In my first book on famines, Poverty and Famines, I presented several examples of famines that had occurred without any substantial fall in food output (such as the Bengal famine of 1943 or Ethiopian famines of 1973), and even of examples of famines that took place in years of peak food availability (such as the Bangladesh famine of 1974). The possibility of the occurrence of famines or starvation or general undernourishment even in the absence of food production problems is particularly important to emphasize, since public policies and popular discussion are often geared entirely to food production problems, and this can distort policy as well as confuse prevalent debates. The penalty of that confusion and misdirection can be very high in human lives and sufferings.

It is quite crucial to avoid the mistake, on the one hand, of taking hunger to be caused entirely by food production problems, and on the other hand, of assuming that food production has no influence on hunger at all. In 1981, when I was trying to bring the analysis of entitlement more into focus and attention, I was acutely aware - and did indeed talk about - the connection of hunger with food production. But at that time there was a very extensive neglect of the linkage of hunger with factors other than food production which influence food entitlement and through that influence hunger.

The tendency to concentrate on food output alone was a serious problem for clear-headed policy making in combating hunger, starvation and famines. For example, there was a need to show how hunger and starvation can arise from unemployment, or from the collapse of markets for specific commodities on the sale of which our outside earnings may depend, or from a sharp rise in food prices caused by an increase in the demand for food. There was need also to point out that the Malthusian indicator of food availability per head can be extremely misleading - and thus very dangerous - particularly because a high value of per-capita food availability can generate a false sense of security, which can lead to inaction by the state and consequently non-prevention of preventable starvation and famines. Indeed, there are many historical examples of policy failures arising from such a mistaken understanding of the causation of famines.

It is fair to say that these issues have been discussed a good deal in recent decades. They are certainly much better understood now than they were in 1981. In fact, we may well have reached the point now where the balance of emphasis can fruitfully shift a little. Of course, to say that hunger is caused by poverty is right, and to relate starvation to the lack of purchasing power and to the inadequacy of income is also right. But it is also important to recognise the possibly important role of food production and food availability as one of the relevant factors that influence food entitlement. It is also sometimes very important to make sure that food supply does not fall so far behind market demand that food prices rise dramatically, and thereby making it hard for many poorer people to buy food. Indeed, that is the way in which hunger is initiated in many cases.

So for a balanced picture, we have to make sure that we put food production in its place, which is not an all important place, but nor is it a place with no importance at all. Without making the mistake of identifying food entitlement with food availability or with food production, and without taking food production to be the only serious influence on food entitlement, we also have to make sure that the influence of food production as one of the major determinants of food entitlement is widely understood. The prevalence of one mistake is not a reason for making the opposite mistake. We have to avoid both.

How does this discussion relate to the problems of food and hunger in the contemporary world? I would argue that it is quite relevant to a fuller understanding the problems of hunger in the modern

world, and also for working out a suitably broad set of policy response to these adversities. Ultimately, the most important factor behind hunger is poverty. Significant influence is also exercised by conventions in use for the distribution of resources and opportunities - including food and health care - within the family. The main factors behind the continuation of world hunger include the huge continuation of poverty, despite the increasing prosperity of the modern world in terms of averages and totals. But poverty can be exacerbated by problems in the production side partly because food supply falling behind food demand tends to raise food prices, which can make many families much poorer, given their incomes. In addition, since many people earn their livelihood in producing food, or in being employed in activities that produce or process food, a failure on the production front can go hand in hand with strains on incomes and entitlements, including food entitlements.

Consider the problems of hunger in the world today in terms of the broad regions of the globe. While there is a lot of hunger still in Asia, the main problem for the region as a whole does not arise from - or primarily from - food production difficulties. Indeed food production per capita has continued to grow for Asia, and looking at the FAO statistics I see that even in 2011, per capita food output of Asia was as much as 15 percent higher than it was five years ago. If there is a good deal of hunger in Asia - and in fact India alone has the largest absolute number of hungry people on earth - the reasons must be sought elsewhere, that is not primarily in the production of food.

While per capita food production has not been growing fast in Europe and the Americas, the income levels there, with some exceptions in Latin America, are sufficiently large to make it possible for most people to afford buying food to avoid at least strong forms of hunger.

On the other hand, Africa is neither particularly rich, nor experiencing steadily rising per capita food availability, as Asia is. Per capita food production was only 4 percent higher in 2011 compared with the average of 2004-2006, and it was actually 2 percent lower in 2010. In analyzing the continuation of hunger in Africa, it would be difficult to resist the thought that stagnation of food production is a causally important factor. Hence it is right to attach importance to policy initiatives that raise food production in Africa rather more robustly than has been happening.

This would suggest that the recently initiated New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, led by Prime Minister David Cameron and others, has identified one of the causal concerns that need to be addressed. And this certainly is a cause for cheer. But if the cheer has to be confined to one or at most two cheers from a potential three, this is because there is a lot more that needs to be addressed in dealing with hunger even in Africa than local food production. There are, first of all, gigantic issues of distribution between families and within families, and expanding food production alone - through whatever means that could be marshalled for that single cause - may not take us very far in removing entrenched deprivation and destitution in Africa, which go hand in hand with hunger and under-nutrition.

Second, different ways of raising food production are not exactly similar in terms of their effects on the potentially hungry population of a country. If the focus is entirely on how to raise food production, independently of the income and employment correlates of the process, then the resulting impact on hunger, caused by entitlement deficiency, would not be as well addressed as it could have been with an economic approach that looks at entitlements generated even as it pursues the general goal of expanding agricultural and food production.

Third, Africa must also consider the advantages of a more diversified - and less vulnerable - pattern of output. For the long-run economic stability and security of Africa, economic diversification is quite crucial. And this does require breaking the taboo of treating rapid industrialization for Africa as a simple “no, no.” With increased individual incomes, people can buy food, even when that income comes from industries and the food comes from elsewhere. There are big issues of organization and skill formation involved in an industrialization programme, but there is absolutely no reason to believe that unlike all other people across the world, Africans somehow cannot industrialize successfully. To hold that view as a canon of faith comes close to, I fear, an odd kind of racism.

Fourth, the task of economic and social change to end hunger in Africa include the need to pay attention to the importance of overcoming military and civil strife, expanding democratic governance,

and also developing market institutions. The role of public policy must also cover the expansion of health care, family planning facilities, basic education (especially of women), and social security provisions. All these can contribute - directly and indirectly - to nutritional security, to good health care, and to a more successful overall economy, including a healthy agricultural sector.

There are, thus, critical questions that arise in assessing the reach and cogency of the approach taken by the New Alliance, and we definitely have to go beyond its relatively narrow approach to nutritional security in Africa.

What about South Asia, another region in which hunger is endemic, including in India, despite its high economic growth and rapidly rising per capita income of the nation? India was an instant success as soon as it achieved independence in eliminating famines that spanned the entire period of British imperial rule in India. Famines are easy to prevent by re-creating people's lost entitlements, for example through emergency employment projects. And democratic India, with its multi-party politics, open public discussion, and uncensored newspapers, took the necessary steps for killing potential famines before they surfaced. The last substantial famine in India occurred in 1943 - four years before independence. Food supply in India also took large steps forward through the green revolution.

And yet the creditable record in famine prevention has not been matched by a similar success in eliminating the pervasive presence of endemic hunger that blights the lives of hundreds of millions of people in this country. Not only are there persistent recurrences of severe hunger in particular regions, but there is also a gigantic prevalence of endemic hunger across much of India. Indeed, India does much worse in this respect than even Sub-Saharan Africa. Calculations of general undernourishment - what is sometimes called "protein-energy malnutrition" - is much higher in India than in sub-Saharan Africa. Nearly half of all Indian children are, it appears, chronically undernourished, and more than half of all adult women suffer from anemia.

What, then, should India do - indeed what can it do? It is particularly critical to pay attention to expanding regular employment opportunities (not just emergency employment), and to other ways through which the fruits of economic growth are shared widely among the population. India does have programmes of distributing subsidized food to a substantial section of the population, and that programme needs consolidation and expansion rather than curtailment, within the means that the government has for these purposes. India spends much more public money on subsidizing diesel for those who can afford to have diesel-using vehicles and other contraptions (a minority of the population), subsidizing cooking gas for those with modern equipment that use such gas, and providing subsidized and even free electricity to those who are connected than it does on food subsidy. It is worth noting in this context that one third of Indians have no power connections.

Also, undernourishment is not only a cause of ill health, it can also result from it. To prevent persistent under-nutrition attention has to be paid to health care, in general, and in particular to the prevention of endemic diseases that deter the absorption of nutrients. The underdevelopment of public health facilities in India, thus, contributes directly to the continued toll of widespread undernourishment in India. There are also more complex causal connections. Recent medical research has brought out the long-run effects of maternal undernourishment, which not only ruins the health of the mothers, but can also cause serious health problems for the children who are born with low birth weight, since they are more prone to children's diseases and - later on in life - also to adult diseases. Indeed, low birth weight substantially increases the incidence of cardiovascular diseases later in life.

There is also plenty of evidence to indicate that lack of basic education too contributes to undernourishment, partly because knowledge and communication are important, but also because the ability to secure jobs and incomes are influenced by the level of education. India's deficiency in public health facilities and public education hurts it in many ways, and the issue of continued hunger is a part of that handicap. Given India's democratic system, nothing is as important as clear-headed public discussions of the causes of deprivation and the possibility of successful public intervention. Even though India has a largely free media, and also a large and vibrant press (Indians read more newspapers every day than any other nation), the news and editorial coverage of issues of endemic hunger and its remedies has been oddly limited.

To conclude, the prevalence of widespread hunger in the world calls for critical analyses of the diverse causes that can reduce people's entitlement to food, and restrain their capability to remove and conquer hunger for all people – children, women and men. A much broader approach is needed than can be obtained from a narrow concentration on food production only. Even though the output of food is an important component of the collectivity of factors that influence people's nutritional security and the avoidance of hunger, there are many other factors that are also involved.

These different influences, which operate together, demand that we do not isolate just one of those factors, and simply concentrate on that. "Do one thing at a time" is never a particularly good advice when it comes to economic and social policy, and it is particularly misleading in tackling the massive challenge of the huge prevalence of hunger in the modern world. We have to do many different things together. Thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to thank Professor Amartya Sen for delivering the 28th McDougall Lecture and sounding the key note for this session of Conference, and also for being so convincing in arguing that hunger and starvation are caused principally by entitlement failure rather than food shortages *per se*.

You have encouraged FAO and its Members to analyze such entitlement failures rather than focus on food output alone and have, today and throughout your distinguished career, increased our understanding of the problem of hunger in the modern world, for which we are grateful, Professor Sen.

As you know, Frank McDougall came from Australia; hence I now call upon His Excellency David Ritchie, Ambassador of Australia to Italy, to take the floor.

Mr David RITCHIE (Australia)

It's an honor to be here to respond to Professor Sen's McDougall Lecture. Although, of course, daunting, particularly as a completely non-economist following a Noble Prize winner in economics to follow such a distinguished person.

He is indeed a Renaissance man. Not only has he provided his extraordinary valuable insights on the issue of hunger, but he has also given me some valuable tips on the use of lecterns so I'll hold onto my papers.

The McDougall Lecture is an important part of each FAO Conference. It provides a basis by which delegates can focus on the issues that require immediate and collective attention over the coming days. It is also important in honoring the legacy of Frank Lidgett McDougall and the role he played in founding the FAO.

I was pleased that Australia was able to present to Director-General Graziano da Silva yesterday a copy of a recently published book, which traces the work of three Australians who had a direct role in the formative years of the Food and Agriculture Organization, one of them was of course Frank McDougall.

Mr McDougall's journey to the FAO started on the irrigated fruit farms of South Australia and included a role in the Australian Imperial forces during the First World War. In many respects, his journey is the quintessential Australian story and one of which we take great pride. I should add that Frank McDougall is buried here in Rome in a non-Catholic cemetery, close to the Organization he did so much to found.

In his involvement in forming the FAO, he demonstrated a significant commitment to multilateralism, a commitment which lives on in Australia today.

Working together in forums such as the FAO enables us to share each other's experiences. It enables us to work together to address our collective concerns. As our world grows smaller and we become

ever more reliant on each other, Mr McDougall's commitment to working together is just as important today as it was when the FAO was founded in 1945.

The FAO's approach to dealing with global food security is not replicated elsewhere. The FAO is needed now more than ever and the McDougall Lecture provides a timely opportunity to reflect on the issues we, as FAO Members, face together.

Professor Sen's lifetime work has been pivotal in understanding the challenges we face in the fight against hunger. It has also enabled the development of practical approaches to addressing food shortages. His comments today have provided a stark reminder of the task ahead for the global community in meeting these challenges.

As Professor Sen has said, there remain a significant number of people the world over who are chronically food insecure, suffering from hunger and undernourishment. Before us lie the twin tasks of addressing these immediate concerns and the need to meet the long-term challenge of feeding an ever-growing global population.

And every time I walk into the FAO, I look at that plaque on the right hand side, as you enter the lobby downstairs, which sets out very, very clearly the principle purpose of the FAO, which is to reduce hunger in the world.

As Professor Sen says, responses to these challenges will be required across an array of policy platforms, from production to consumption. Meeting these challenges will undoubtedly require not only an increase in global food supplies, but also access to food, including adequate income to purchase food as well as infrastructure.

Increased availability will need to be reconciled with limitations on resources, rising non-food demands and with the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It will require a comprehensive and collaborative effort on the part of the global community.

Collaborative efforts should focus on providing technical and development assistance; reforming global markets and seizing the benefits of global trade to allow food to flow freely in and out of domestic and global markets; helping address the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation; helping in times of emergency; and strengthening social policy settings to help build resilient communities, that can respond effectively to food security challenges.

There is no single solution. There is no silver bullet. The causes of food and security are complex. They include poverty, poor infrastructure and a lack of social protection, such as access to a regular income, water and education. As responsible global citizens, we have an obligation to help alleviate the suffering caused by food insecurity. Development assistance for those most in need is an important element of addressing food security.

We must maintain our commitment to halving the proportion of people suffering from chronic hunger by 2015. While progress has been made toward this target, with the number of those undernourished declining by around 132 million over the past two decades, there is still a lot of work to do.

Development assistance to those who need it most can contribute to economic development and lift people out of poverty. It can help bring the number of undernourished down further. To have the greatest impact, it is vital that development assistance and broader policies are supportive of food security globally and of developing country efforts to eradicate hunger among their citizens.

In seeking to meet the significant challenges posed by ongoing food security concerns and the demands of a growing population, global responses must be based on practical approaches. It is in this light that initiatives such as the Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS) can provide a way to promote coordinated, measured responses to market uncertainty. It works to ensure that all are able to benefit from a stable global market.

Initiatives like AMIS help the development of common strategies to deal with market uncertainty and provide a level of transparency and predictability that aids efforts to address food security concerns.

I would like to finish by once again profoundly thanking Professor Sen for his foresight and for his illuminating perspective on the challenges we, as a global community, face in addressing the issues of food security. I look forward to the discussions in the coming days. And might I say, Professor Sen, I think Frank McDougall would have been proud. Thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. As I mentioned before, Professor Sen is willing to take some questions from delegations in the time available.

Please raise your country nameplate if you wish to ask Professor Sen a question regarding the lecture.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMANO (República Dominicana)

Gracias, Presidente, y gracias al Director General por la inspirada decisión de invitar al Profesor Sen a compartir con nosotros la disertación en honor a McDougall.

Continues in English

Professor Sen, I am an admirer of your lifelong work to help us all understand hunger, especially through your contributions to the understanding of famines and how to prevent them. Of course, here we are government representatives relying on FAO for policy advice, but we are also aware of your critical positions on the destructive nature of theoretical institutional buildings. You have called for looking for global solutions that go beyond national borders and indeed beyond human cultures and religions.

I recall from your recent work, but already a classic, *The Idea of Justice*, that you argue for ethics and philosophy to be ground based and to focus on concrete measures. So my question to you Sir is if you could share with us your views and advice on what we can do as individuals and how we could aggregate this individual behavior to combat hunger from that perspective?

And lastly Sir, please allow me to be one of the first to congratulate you on your upcoming 80th birthday.

Prof. Amartya SEN

Well first of all thank you very much for your very kind remarks and kind congratulations. I have to say my 80th birthday is in six months' time and I can't say I'm looking forward to that. Seventy suited me quite well, but I think the question you asked is absolutely central to each of us because most of us are not officials or functional leaders of government. My experience is that the extent of the problems of the world is very badly understood across the world and discussing them can make a major difference to what is happening.

Let me illustrate with India. I can't illustrate with the Dominican Republic, but some of them might be relevant there too. The fact that there is so much undernourishment, that India had so much anemia, that India has such a high level of child undernourishment - I think that because these have not been discussed much makes it very difficult to have political parties agitate for change, because they are not seen as problems.

When the Indian growth rate shifted a little, that becomes a big issue. From 8 percent to 6 percent, or maybe even to 5.5 percent, it becomes a major issue while it is really a very abstract consideration, including the fact you referred tokindly. It's not a condition of human life. There are all kinds of things that are totally extraordinary in India.

When on 31 July the power grid failed in the north and the east, all the newspapers reported that 600 million people were plunged into darkness and indeed they were in a state of darkness. Not they were right to do so because the power sector has to be better run in India, that is no question of this. But the really important question which, however, none of the papers discussed, is that 200 million of those

600 million never had any electric connection anyway. That's a different problem. The fact that the one problem, the power failure affected the lives of the middle class and the articulated people who can talk, who can write articles in newspapers and who can live in chateaus. I like watching them. They are wonderful. Around the clock you have something like 300 channels going on giving you live views. They are wonderful.

However, the real view differs within politics, but they don't differ much about the identification or the problems of India. So I think what we can do is to discuss them. I am a great believer that public discussion is halfway to solving any problem from which we suffer. So that will be the line with which I would take your very helpful question.

Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)

Thank you, Professor Sen, for a brilliant lecture. It was a privilege to hear it. We are very grateful to the Director-General for allowing the Professor a second chance to put his case to FAO, so thank you.

Professor Sen mentioned the expansion of the number of African countries participating in the new alliance process, which the United Kingdom and many others have supported. This was highlighted last weekend when the governments of the United Kingdom and Brazil co-hosted a high-level event on nutrition for growth.

Aside from the alliance component, it resulted in major commitments to address the social and economic impact of under-nutrition, that included a discussion among government leaders, civil society and the private sector on the fact that childhood stunting ultimately leads to stunted earnings' potential and stunted economies.

One of the commitments was to reduce childhood stunting by 20 million children by 2020 and clearly even that isn't enough. We were honored that the Director-General and other Heads of Agencies from Rome could participate, and the Director-General agreed to join a global high-level panel to try to improve nutrition sensitive agriculture underscoring again the growing profile of nutrition in this debate.

Given the growing realization of the urgency of tackling what is now known as hidden hunger in the form of malnutrition and promoting a cogent narrative on it, can Professor Sen say how he might continue evolving his model in order to help us elaborate a nutritious food entitlement.

Prof. Amartya SEN

Again, a very good question. By the way, one final clarification: when I was being somewhat critical in terms of looking at the newspaper seeing the coverage and the focus of the Alliance as planned, it was with the hope that I should be able to give a talk here with a broad link and the delegate from the United Kingdom simply indicated that we're on the way towards that.

Even when it comes to stunting, we have to see what you look for in stunting and food will be a factor. I think one of the things that people are worried about in the newspapers, just judging from the English papers those days, is that the ways of raising food depends on how you do it and some of them are much better in terms of local income and capability generation than others are, so there is a need for discrimination.

Now, one should not criticize any new initiative like at the beginning on ground flat. It can change of course, so my hope is that it will change in that direction. I think you asked a question about nutritious food. It's a very big issue. Of course, it comes in different levels really.

When you are dealing with situations where the basic calorie deficiency is large and in fact the protein calorie deficiency to which I referred is large, there is a tendency for people to concentrate on just that rather than on other kinds of nutrition like vegetables and so forth, and that is to some inescapable since money is short and so forth.

You are absolutely right that we keep our sight on not just dealing with calorie deficiency. For example, the Indian poverty lines which were drawn exactly on the basis of enough to buy food to meet the calorie requirement that certainly need to be looked at.

I would end up with the same place where I ended the lecture. We have to do many things together and the nutritional issue is a very important one in that. Indeed, it also has enormous health implications which, to the extent to which people suffer from it, have not been properly worked out yet.

Looking at the South Asian population, it has very high diabetes. There was a time when with my Noble Prize money I was fortunate in setting up two Trusts, one in India and one in Bangladesh, dealing with basic health and basic education and inequality between girls and boys. From time to time, we have been able to do testing on it, and it is amazing how many people were going around with diabetes without a clue that they have it, and just random testing brings that up. I think the issue of nutrition is totally central, and I am glad you put it there, but one doesn't have to slacken the need to deal with the calorie requirements as well, while doing it. So I think many things at the time, that is all I am going to say at this time.

M. Mohamed Ahmed AWALEH (Djibouti)

C'est un honneur et un privilège pour moi de poser une question au savant émérite, en l'occurrence le Professeur Amartya Sen, dont la renommée mondiale se passe de commentaires. Pour des raisons de contraintes de temps, je vais centrer mon interrogation sur le thème central.

Je vis dans un milieu à écosystème aride où vit un peuple pastoral. J'ai écouté le Professeur Amartya Sen dès 1979. Je le connaissais par ses ouvrages et ses articles scientifiques. La sécurité alimentaire est une question à trois inconnues: la disponibilité, c'est-à-dire la quantité, la qualité nutritive - 2 115 calories dans mon pays - et l'accès aux marchés pour avoir un revenu. Dans certaines régions de la République de Djibouti, nous avons travaillé pendant 25 ans pour donner aux bergers et aux nomades l'accès à l'eau, l'accès aux pâturages, à l'herbe et l'accès aux marchés.

Mais le problème n'est pas encore résolu, il y a des poches de pauvreté, de malnutrition. Qu'est-ce qui se passe? Un fermier qui a un cheptel peut le vendre sur le marché parce que Djibouti est un des points d'exportation du marché de cheptel vers l'Arabie saoudite, le plus grand importateur de cheptel au monde. Ce fermier vit à trois kilomètres de ce marché, il a un achat compétitif. Le cheptel, le petit ruminant coûte chez moi, au prix le plus bas, 30 dollars le mouton, et ce fermier a plus de 250 chèvres. Donc, tous le problème est résolu. Je demande alors à ce fermier: « Pourquoi n'arrives-tu pas à vendre ? Tu as des aliments, du bétail, tu as l'eau et tu as le marché. » Il me répond: « Je voudrais avoir 250 chèvres, c'est une fierté pour ma population. » Et moi je les nourris grâce à l'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial. Je voudrais qu'on réponde à cette question dans la mesure du possible, merci.

Prof. Amartya SEN

I am very interested indeed in what you said. I didn't have any disagreement at all with the analysis that you presented, that we have to look at these things. My own knowledge of that region is a bit outdated. The last time I worked on it was in the seventies and eighties and a lot has happened since then. But I was very struck by how much the thinking, to some extent you are referring to that, of the discussion of traditional understanding of famines, even those who are not just concerned with food output, have been confined to the large countries in the world, China, India, and others, Italy too, which have depended on cultivation of standard crops, you know, rice, wheat. Again we think of the difficult period of the Chinese famine, and so on.

So these are all based on an agricultural lending and the famine situation and hunger too of areas are really quite remarkable. It took me some time, through my studies, to find out that in the famines of the seventies, some of the areas, when the pastoralists were hit, they were hit partly because the prices of animals fell, including the prices of wheat. Now, you might think that that would make it easier because they could eat them, but I think for many of the poor pastoralists, the balance was that you sell this rather enriching food, namely meat, at a price and with that, buy cheaper things, namely ordinary grains. And that is the kind of peculiar equilibrium in which just as a rise in the price of grains hits you, the falling of the price of meat also hits you because you really don't eat much of it except for festivals.

And so these equilibrium conditions are very important to study, so I am really very happy with the way you presented the problem, that the issues have to be analyzed with the reality on the ground, taking into account the absence of water, the presence of pastoral lifestyle. I personally think eventually agricultural expansion may come less than industrial expansion in places which are really arid because there is not much difficulty in proceeding in that direction. I believe in the long run, that will happen and that will provide a kind of security to Djibouti and Sahel and that region in a way that you couldn't get. If you cannot do standard agriculture and if you are basically pastoral, if you cannot survive and do fairly well, you're not going to achieve the kind of economic progress that the rest of the world has seen.

So I would draw your speech and your commentary as a possible support to what I am trying to suggest, namely you ultimately need diversification of production in Djibouti and elsewhere. And I think this is not so much the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization excepting hunger which is a mandate, so it could be. I think leadership coming from here would make a very big difference. I've never been quite sure why there has been so much resistance to wanting diversification, as if FAO is concerned with agriculture and agriculture alone, and that cannot be. Even pastoralism is not agriculture, so I am really delighted to hear you say what you said.

Mr Hazim El NASER (Jordan)

Thank you, Professor, for the very informative lecture. However, I think we are missing here an important point, which is related to the fact that a good part of hunger and starvation is linked to the, again, fact, that we as a world throwing some important environmental system, and in particular, ecological systems out of their sustainability by man-made activities or as a result of climate change, causing less water available for cultivation and food production as is the case in the Middle East and North African and African countries. Thank you.

Prof. Amartya SEN

I think the ecological and environmental concerns are behind many of the things that I am talking about, because ecological harm makes agriculture difficult to continue. I think, referring to water for example, that the ground level is sinking, a possibility of acidic mixed water is becoming common and so on. I mean, these are all standardly present, actually, so you know, I wouldn't say that it is a missing point. It is a kind of general background point. I regard the environment as something which is like the water we drink and the air we breathe, and I couldn't have given the lecture without breathing oxygen, but I do not mention it. That doesn't mean that I rely less on oxygen. Even in India we have quite a bit of discussion on the quality of the environmental features, but I am grateful that you underlined that and drew attention to it, so thanks very much.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

Thank you, Professor Sen, for this nice and clear deliberation.

We thank Professor Sen, because, as he is of the Bengali nation and he is from Bangladesh, we are really grateful and thankful to him, as he is dedicated or is still engaged with the development, as well as India, with Bangladesh's poor people. We thank him again.

Now, Professor Sen, you have introduced the entitlement theory or approach long ago and definitely by this time, a lot of time has passed and I think huge hurdles were passed to get to this. Definitely you have very carefully followed or monitored the issues. If I now ask you to evaluate the contribution of the entitlement theory or approach in reducing or eradicating hunger, what will be your answer, in brief?

Prof. Amartya SEN

A very excellent question, again. I think it would be difficult for me to turn with time and say we're making a lot of good in the world. But, so you have put me in a position where I have to say entitlement has done that.

I think basically an understanding of the food problem involving good common sense helps a lot, and the entitlement approach is pretty much common sense based really. The basic intuition is just that

food is not given to us; we have to buy it, and that requires income and that requires prices. I think the entitlement approach would not have come as the slightest bit of surprise to Adam Smith, and indeed, I quoted him quite extensively, even discussing, since you are from Bangladesh, discussing Bengal at that time. He was being very critical of the East India Company and he accused the East India Company of producing a gigantic famine.

Smith has a somewhat exaggerated view of the prosperity of Bangladesh. It is true that the recent comparisons indicate that the living standard differences are very small and the kind of wage basket for a laborer in Bengal at that time and in the United Kingdom at that time, especially in some recent studies done in Harvard and elsewhere, indicate it has not been very different. But Smith thought that Bengal was one of the most prosperous parts of the world and in many ways it was. And he asked the question, why was Bengal so prosperous? And the answer was he thought that it had navigable water. You said something about water, passing down the Ganges River. That very much is focused and it allowed a region to indulge in trade which he always thought of as a main reason behind skill formation and the expansion of the economy. And, of course, Bengal was producing some great textiles and so on.

So, I would say that that general analysis, and in the context of the Bengal famine, he didn't use the word entitlement, but he was talking about entitlement. One thing I have never tried to do is to claim any kind of patent. I know that I am out of sync in the world and maybe some people want to patent the human gene as well, so I think I am completely out of this sphere. But entitlement is a thought that has occurred to anyone who has thought about it actually for a long time. In the past I also said to others like David Ricardo, having talked essentially about entitlement.

If I have had pleasure in something, it's not so much in that something has come true, but that ultimately common sense is breaking in a very peculiar view, that is, all that you produced, rather than what you succeeded in owning, that makes a difference. So it is as much Smith's theory as Ricardo's theory as mine.

And has it achieved something? Yes, I think so. I think famine relief has been organized now taking into account the famine factor. Even in the British period, there was understanding on that subject. There were no other people talking about that. The only thing that we also discussed within our book, that the application of it was very limited. So I think what we have to look at is to what extent the common stance about hunger is winning out and I think it is and I think investors see that. And since you referred to my Bangladesh connection, perhaps I should point out that the Dhaka University is among the places where people talk about these things. So I am a great believer in enlightenment and enlightenment making a difference, and it isn't so much who is facing forward, but the common sense about food and hunger, and I hope that the same will be true in this end, nutrition and food on which questions were raised, and even ones I am critical of, for example, I think the point of being critical is wanting to change things and that is what I would celebrate, and I think Bangladesh has a lot to celebrate in that respect indeed**.**

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes Item 32.1. I wish once again to thank Professor Sen for addressing the Conference at its opening meeting, and to wish him well for all of his future endeavors to increase our understanding of the causes of hunger, which of course is a step towards reducing and eliminating it.

Professor Sen will now take his leave.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the end of our work for this morning. Before closing the meeting, I would like to beg the indulgence of Conference and kindly request that it allow a slight change in the scheduling of our second meeting, which will open at 14:30 hours this afternoon. This is due to the fact that Mr José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission, who will be here to receive the Jacques

Diouf Award for 2012-2013, presented jointly to the European Commission and the Self-Employed Women's Association, is obliged to take leave of us at 15:30 hours today in order to return to Brussels.

Hence I would like to propose that Item 32.5, Presentation of the Jacques Diouf Award, be the first item when we meet at 14:30 hours this afternoon to enable Mr Barroso to accept the Award on behalf of the European Commission and return back to Brussels.

Can I take it that the Conference has no objection to this proposal? So it is decided.

Before closing our meeting for this morning, may I remind the Members of the General Committee elected earlier this morning, including the two Vice-Chairpersons, to make their way to the Lebanon Room, second floor, building D, for the first meeting of the General Committee, which will begin in a few minutes.

The second meeting of the Conference will reconvene in this Plenary Hall at 14:30 hours this afternoon with the presentation of the Jacques Diouf Award. Please ensure that you are here in the plenary hall for 14:30 hours. With this, our first meeting has closed. Thank you very much for your participation.

The meeting rose at 11:41 hours
La séance est levée à 11 h 41
Se levanta la sesión a las 11:41 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session
Trente-huitième session
38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA

15 June 2013

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 11.57 hours
Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 11 h 57
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 11.57
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Presidente de la Conferencia

32. Any Other Matters
32. Autres questions
32. Asuntos varios

32.5 Presentation of Jacques Diouf Award
32.5 Remise du prix Jacques Diouf
32.5 Entrega del Premio Jacques Diouf
(C 2013/INF/10)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the second plenary meeting of the 38th FAO Conference to order.

As agreed by the Conference this morning, we shall now start with the presentation of the Jacques Diouf Award, in order to enable Mr Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission to accept the award. Mr Barroso, who is honouring the Conference with his presence at this meeting, is obliged to take his leave shortly to return to Brussels due to pressing engagements there.

We will then return to the agenda as previously announced.

The Jacques Diouf Award, established in honor of FAO's Director-General from 1994 to 2011, is awarded for the first time at this Session of Conference. The award is conferred every biennium to an individual or an institution that has made the most significant contribution to the improvement of global food security in the previous biennium. The prize consists of a medal, a personalized scroll and a cash prize for a total of USD 25,000.

I invite the Director-General to introduce the co-winners and to present the Jacques Diouf Award for 2012-2013.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I am honoured to present this award for the very first time.

This year a shared award is being granted to two very deserving winners: for its implementation of the European Union Food Facility, the European Commission, represented today by its President, Mr José Manuel Barroso; and, for improving the food security of hundreds of thousands of poor self-employed women and their families, the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) of India, represented here today by Ms Reema Nanavaty, Director of Rural Organizing and Economic Development, and Ms Kapilaben Vankar, Executive Committee Member.

The European Commission is honoured through this award, for its rapid and massive response to the food price crisis in 2009-2011, in the context of the European Union Food Facility initiative.

This initiative helped over 59 million people in around 50 developing countries cope with higher food prices by supporting sustainable increases in smallholder agricultural production.

As a result of these and other efforts, agriculture and food security are once more seen as entry points for growth and development strategies in many countries, and increasingly designated as priorities for international development assistance.

The Commission's contribution to building a more food secure world is in line with the same spirit that resulted in the European Union receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012. I congratulate you, Mr Barroso.

The award to SEWA is given in recognition of the Association's innovative and dedicated efforts in lifting extremely poor women out of poverty and hunger, through the provision of integrated agricultural extension, financial, literacy, education, care, housing, and health services.

This Gujarat-based association has close to two million members spanning several Indian States.

It has demonstrated over several decades that its model offers a sustainable pathway out of poverty and hunger.

Their approach has proven to be successful in empowering hundreds of thousands of women.

The approach has great potential as a model for other countries and is an inspiration for cooperatives and other grassroots organizations everywhere.

Thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite the president of the European Commission Mr Jose Manuel Barroso to receive the award and address the Conference.

Mr Jose Manuel BARROSO (Jacques Diouf Award Recipient)

Mr President, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, Ambassadors, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends. It is an honor for me to accept the first Jacques Diouf Award on behalf of the European Commission and to pay a tribute to former Director-General, Dr. Jacques Diouf, for his high support to the European Union Food Facility.

I would also like to warmly thank the Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva for his strong commitment to the cooperation with the European Union. This award marks the great success of the European Union Food Facility, launched in 2008 in response to what was the worst world food crisis in recent years.

I accept this award with feelings of both humbleness and pride, and I do so, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

When we spear headed the Food Facility, that need was particularly acute. Between late 2007 and early 2008, global food prices had spiked dramatically, reaching their highest level in 30 years. Staple foods such as rice, wheat and maize were especially affected.

An additional 100 million people in developing countries were plunged into hunger, bringing the total number of people without access to sufficient food on a daily basis to over one billion.

High and excessive volatile food prices meant that the most vulnerable people could no longer buy food. This led to social and political instability with food riots in a number of developing countries.

I am proud that the European Commission, with strong support from the European Parliament and Member States, was quick to respond. During the G8 Summit in July 2008, we announced our intention to launch a Euro one billion facility to respond to the crisis and by December 2008, the Food Facility was born.

Between 2009 and 2011 the Food Facility successfully bridged the period between emergency aid and medium to long-term development assistance in 50 countries. It was designed to boost local production while strengthening governance and to mitigate the effects of volatile food prices on populations.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, when you give a prize to an institution and the politician comes, there is a risk that in the return of the prize the politician gives you a speech. And so I will take this opportunity to tell some of my opinions and the Commission's opinion on this very important agenda that is the FAO agenda and also on the issue of food security.

First of all, building on that experience it’s important to note that the Food Facility was successful because it was set up quickly, because it had a broad scope and thus had an impact, and because it was responsive and efficiently managed. These are lessons for the future.

The European Union and its partners delivered on their promises, resulting in swift, efficient and high-impact programmes. The speed with which the Food Facility was implemented was achieved thanks largely to the excellent cooperation we have enjoyed with all organizations, agencies and governments involved, all of whom share in this award.

I would like in particular to thank the three United Nations Rome-based Agencies for their commitment. Between them, they have implemented more than one-third of the Food Facility budget. To the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the World Food Programme, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation.

The Rome-based Agencies and European Union are longstanding partners, committed to fight hunger and under-nutrition in the world. The Food Facility represented an opportunity to put into action this joint commitment. It was the demonstration that when we address the problem of food and nutrition insecurity collectively, we can make a difference.

I would like to especially single out FAO, which implemented successfully the biggest share of the Food Facility. FAO has shown that it is not only a key body in terms of policy development – it can also manage and launch complex aid programmes. Together, the European Union and FAO, working hand in hand with its Member Nations, have the potential of the means to shape future policy on agriculture and food and nutrition security.

While the Food Facility largely reached its objectives, we know that there is still a lot of work to do. Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa confront food crises caused by poverty, climate hazards, high and volatile food prices, pressure on natural resources, rapid demographic growth, fragile governance, and political instability.

The Sahel and the Horn of Africa are particularly vulnerable and we need to strive constantly to respond in an integrated way. Fostering the resilience of the people who are most at risk, communities and partner countries is essential to our response.

We assist countries in developing the means to prepare for future shocks, preventing the worst aspect of the crises, but responding quickly when crises occur. Taking stock on the lessons of the Food Facility, building long-term resilience implies taking the root causes of vulnerability, promoting more sustainable and productive forms of agriculture and improving nutritional outcomes.

This is the exact approach the European Union is taking. It is reflected in our development strategy "An Agenda for Change" that we adopted in 2011, and our recent Communications on resilience and nutrition. This forms the basis for our future budget for 2014-2020 which is currently underway. We are in the last steps for its final adoption.

This is also the approach taken for the Sahel through the AGIR initiative, and the Horn of Africa, through the SHARE initiative, where the European Union also plays a major role. I'm therefore happy to recall that only last week the Commission announced that between 2014 and 2020, we will spend Euros 3.5 billion on improving nutrition in some of the world's poorest countries.

Euros 400 million will be spent on boosting nutrition through specific nutrition programmes in the health sector. Through these funds we hope to go a long way towards our target of reducing by 7 million the number of stunted children under 5 by 2025. The remaining Euros 3.1 billion will be invested in making sure programmes in other areas such as agriculture, education, water and social protection do more to reduce under-nutrition.

It is therefore only logical to announce that our intention is to use the prize of this award to top off funding for our action on food resilience and nutrition thereby ensuring that we can further help those most in need.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the European Union Food Facility was the first major financial response to the 2008 food crisis and helped strengthen international coordination in the United Nations and in the G8. I am heartened to see that food and nutrition security remains high on the international agenda.

Next Monday, I will attend the G8 Summit in Northern Ireland and I will underline once again the need to make malnutrition history. This must be one of the main focuses of the international development agenda. Therefore, this prize is as much recognition for the European Union's efforts in tackling food and nutrition insecurity as well as, most importantly, an encouragement to pursue our commitment against poverty and food insecurity.

Let me assure you, Ladies and Gentlemen, that it will remain a core objective of my action as President of the European Commission and a central priority for the Member States of the European Union.

To conclude, let me tell you that on behalf of the European Union, I am also very honored to share this prize with the world acclaimed Self-Employed Women's Association, SEWA, whose efforts to lift women out of extreme poverty and hunger in India have strongly contributed to fight food insecurity. I think that today here we have an example of what we can do together. Public authorities, NGOs, all those that feel some kind of responsibility towards the others that are living in difficult circumstances.

And once again, thank you very much for the initiative that I proudly accept on behalf of European Union and its Member States. Thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr President and congratulations to you and to your colleagues who have worked so well to make the European Union Food Facility such a resounding success.

I now invite Ms Nanavaty to address the Conference.

Ms Reema Nanavaty (Jacques Diouf Award Recipient)

His Excellency Mohamed Asif Rahimi, the Chairperson, the Honourable Director-General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva, the Honourable President Jose Manuel Barroso of the European Commission, Assistant Director John Rose, Directors, Secretary-General of the Conference, distinguished audience,

Indeed, I think we would really feel very humble and grateful that FAO has demonstrated how the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN can connect the very local to the global. And I'm extremely happy to accept this award today because, although it is going to be dedicated to me and put in my hands, the award is being given to the 1.73 million sisters of SEWA who are actually accepting it, so I really thank you for that.

As our sister Raniben says that when we have no work, we are worried about feeding the family. I keep telling my children, wait, I will soon cook for you, hoping that they fall asleep. I feed hope when there is no food. This is still the reality of very many who are working women, the sisters of SEWA in India and South Asia.

As our founder Elaben says, increasingly women farmers do not eat what they produce and they do not produce what they eat. So food therefore is not a grain or a calorie but it is the way of living and being for the women working in the informal economy in countries like ours.

Women weave the harmony of ecology and economy in the food they produce and feed to their families. Food security comes in many different ways to our SEWA members, by setting up their own green banks and their own mobile food vans, and through their own cooperative farms through the distribution network that integrates small farmers into the markets.

Today, the food security efforts of SEWA touch around 11 million households, reducing their vulnerability and relieving them from the clutches of poverty, hunger and starvation. When women build food security, they are able to educate their children, they are able to save for the future, plan for the future, and participate in planning and in decision-making processes.

Such food security initiatives bring a sense of dignity and self-respect to the women in these communities. Therefore, the first Jacques Diouf Award for global food security is recognition of SEWA's sisters' efforts in ensuring food security where it matters the most – in the kitchens of poor women workers.

SEWA joins the European Commission and its President José Manuel Barroso in working more closely towards ensuring food security for all and forever, especially in South Asia. We are also extremely grateful to the Food and Agriculture Organization for the excellent cooperation that we have had with the Organization for several years and hope that we are able to turn that into a long-term partnership to build community-based food security and economic organizations which sustain and ensure food security to build a hunger-free world in South Asia. Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ms Nanavaty and congratulations to you and all the women of the Self-Employed Women's Association for their daily work in constructing food security.

I now invite both Ms Nanavaty and Mr Barroso to receive the award from the Director-General.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, in the interest of the safety of all of us, I request your attention for a few minutes to view an audio visual presentation on fire safety.

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures
Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO
Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

Before we proceed further I wish to return to the question of the Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference. This morning the Conference elected His Excellency Kouassi Adjoumani Kobenan, Minister of Animal and Water Resources of Côte d'Ivoire and His Excellency Thomas Wriessnig, Permanent Representative of Germany to FAO.

I now wish to announce the name of the other proposed Vice-Chairperson: the Honourable Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, Minister of Agriculture of Sri Lanka.

Can I take it that the Conference approves this nomination?

It is so decided. Congratulations honorable Abeywardena. I look forward to working with you and your fellow Vice-Chairpersons during this Session of Conference.

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

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session
3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation de la session
3. Aprobación del programa y de las disposiciones organizativas del período de sesiones
(C 2013/1 Rev.1; C 2013/12; C 2013/LIM/9; C 2013/INF/1 Rev.1; C 2013/INF/4)

4. Admission of Observers
4. Admission d'observateurs
4. Admisión de observadores
(C 2013/13 Rev.1, C 2013/13 Add.1)

First Report of the General Committee
Premier rapport du Bureau de la Conférence
Primer informe del Comité General
(C 2013/LIM/11)

CHAIRPERSON

I shall now give the floor to the Secretary General who has a short announcement to make regarding the participation of the European Union.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

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

I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to the declaration made by the European Union and its Member States which is contained in document C 2013/INF/4.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Secretary-General. We will now turn to the next items on the Agenda, item 3, Adoption of the Agenda in Arrangements for the Session, and item 4, Admission of Observers.

The General Committee met earlier and prepared its First Report containing proposals on the following items: Adoption of the Agenda, Arrangements for the Session and allocation of Agenda items, Admission of Observers, as well as other related arrangements.

The Report of the First Meeting of the General Committee is set out in document C 2013/LIM/11. I will now proceed to read the title of the first section.

Section A: Agenda for the session.

If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted and so we proceed to the following sections.

Section B: Establishment of Commission and Tentative Timetable of the Session.

If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section C: Appointment of the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the two Commissions. The Secretary-General will take the floor on this Section.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you Mr Chairperson. I wish to announce that Regional Groups provided us with the names of the two Vice-Chairpersons for Commission II: Her Excellency Ms Carla Elisa Mucavi, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to FAO, and Mr Claudio Miscia, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to FAO. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Section D: Resolution Committee. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted and so we move to the next section.

Section E: Credentials Committee. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted and so we move to the next section.

Section F: Admission of Observers from Applicants for Membership. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted, and we move to the next section.

Section G: Admission of new Member Nations. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section H: Contributions of new Member Nations. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted and so we move to the next section.

Section I: Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section J: Election of Members of the Council. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section K: Right to vote. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section L: Right to reply. If there are no comments I declare the section adopted.

Section M: Verbatim records. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section N: Statement by Heads of Delegations. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section O: Admission of Observers from Inter-governmental and International Non-governmental Organizations. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section P: Informal Meeting of Observers from Non-governmental Organizations. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section Q: Attendance by Palestine. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section R: Conclusion. If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted. That was the last section.

If there are no comments on the Report, I take it that the Conference approves the Report in its entirety.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

First Report of the Credentials Committee
Premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs
Primer informe del Comité de Credenciales
(C 2013/LIM/12; C 2013/LIM/22)

CHAIRPERSON

Before moving on to the next item on our agenda, we need to adopt the First Report of the Credentials Committee. I give the floor to Mr Balázs Hamar, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee who will present the Report.

Mr Balazs Hamar (Chairperson, Credentials Committee)

We accepted and recommended that all Delegations be authorized to participate in the session. I would invite Members to communicate directly to the Secretariat, through the Protocol Unit, any additional information on the credentials as well as any corrections to the list. Revised reports and updated lists will be issued later in this session.

The First report of the Credentials Committee is available as document C 2013/LIM/12, and I would invite the Conference to approve my oral report.

CHAIRPERSON

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

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

My thanks go to the Chairperson and other members of the Credentials Committee for the work carried out before and during this session of the Conference.

5. Applications for Membership in the Organization
5. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation
5. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización
(C 2013/10 Rev.2)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Conference will now examine Item 5, Applications for Membership in the Organization. Three applications have been received, those of Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Singapore, and the Republic of South Sudan. Hence we will hold a secret ballot jointly for each of these applications.

Under Article II of the FAO Constitution, the Conference may be a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that the majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present, decide to admit a new Member. The document giving details of these applications is C 2013/10 Rev. 2.

In accordance with Article II of the FAO Constitution and the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 96 Member Nations must be represented at this time.

The Secretary-General will give details of the voting procedure and ascertain the number of Delegates present.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you Mr Chairperson. The Delegates will receive a ballot paper with the name of the applicant and three boxes with the words "in favor", "against", and "abstention". Delegates are invited to mark the boxes as they so desire. In accordance with Rule XII, ballot papers shall carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote. Ballot papers deposited in the ballot box as blank ballots shall be recorded as abstentions.

Under the same Rule, should any Delegate invalidate his or her ballot paper, he or she may request a new blank ballot paper from the Elections Officer before leaving the voting area. The invalidated ballot paper shall remain in the custody of the Elections Officer.

Delegates will receive ballot papers in different colors for each of the applicant Members to be deposited in the ballot box.

We will not calculate the number of Member Nations present. Please press the green button located at the front of your desk. That is the third button on your right, so that the electronic voting system can verify the number of Delegations present.

Have all of the delegates pressed the green button? The system indicates that there are 118 Delegations present in the room. We can thus proceed to vote.

CHAIRPERSON

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

Also, in accordance with the same Rule, the Chairperson of the Conference appoints two tellers from the Delegates or Representatives. May I therefore ask the Delegates of Canada and Iceland who have kindly agreed to carry out this task, to proceed to the voting area?

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

Vote
Vote
Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Voting has now been completed. The tellers will leave the room and with the assistance of the officers in charge of the election will count the votes. While the votes are being counted, we will continue with our work for this afternoon.

32. Any Other Matters
32. Autres questions
32. Asuntos varios

32.2 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards
32.2 Remise des prix B.R. Sen
32.2 Entrega de los Premios B. R. Sen
(C 2013/INF/7)

CHAIRPERSON

We proceed with Sub-item 32.2 on the Agenda, the Presentation of the B.R. Sen Award for 2011 and for 2012.

The Sen Award is presented in honor of the former Director-General, Mr Binay Ranjan Sen, to FAO Field Officers who have made the most outstanding contribution to the advancement of sustainable agricultural and rural development or food security in the country or countries to which they have been assigned.

The prize consists of a medal, a scroll, a prize of USD 5,000 and a round trip for the winner and spouse to attend the Conference session in Rome.

I should like to ask the Director-General to introduce the three winners who have been selected and to present the Sen Award for 2011 and for 2012.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I'm pleased to present this Sen Award for the years 2011-12. For 2011, the award is granted jointly to Mr David Doolan and Mr Patrick Durst.

Mr Doolan receives the award in recognition of his excellent contribution to the FAO Programme in Pakistan.

Despite a very challenging environment, he has led the successful growth of a project into a large multi-donor programme which has lifted communities out of extreme poverty, empowered them, and encouraged self-reliance, with a particular focus on women.

Mr Durst is receiving the Award in recognition of his extensive contributions to forests and forestry over his 19 year career in FAO, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

His leadership, intellectual and policy-related contributions have resulted in a variety of widely-used knowledge products, which have raised the Organization's visibility and credibility in the region.

For 2012, the same award is granted to Mr Luca Alinovi in recognition of his outstanding contribution to FAO Somalia Programme.

Together with his team, Mr Alinovi has set new approaches for increasing the resilience of farmers and pastoralists in crisis.

Particularly worth mentioning is the adoption of a Cash-For-Work as an emergency response modality in the country.

Under his leadership, his team has effectively assisted one of the worst-affected countries in the Horn of Africa crisis, helping Somalia overcome a devastating famine.

These are examples of what a knowledge organization with its feet on the ground is about.

I wish to congratulate the three very deserving winners and to express the Organization's appreciation and gratitude for their outstanding contributions and dedication to development in their assigned countries.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr David DOOLAN (B.R. Sen Award Recipient)

It is a great honor to receive this prestigious award, which I do on behalf of 59 staff on the project. Without their dedication and commitment, none of our achievements would have been possible.

In particular, I would like to dedicate this award to three colleagues, Mr Zahid Iqbal, a project Community Development Market Facilitator in District Mastung, and our driver, Mr Habibullah, who were both gunned down in a terrorist attack last year; and to Mr Mohammad Irfan, who despite being hit by 9 steel-capped bullets has survived and is striving to make a full recovery.

I would like to pay testament to their courage and dedication.

As you may be aware, the project operates in a deeply conservative and tribal area within 100 miles of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border bordering the troubled area of South Waziristan. One of the great successes of this project has been to mobilize nearly 5,000 women members of over 200 Project Community Organizations, improving their lives through livestock interventions, kitchen garden activities and access to drinking water facilities.

During discussions with these women, including by USAID's independent evaluators, one is struck by how the project had deeply changed their lives. They now have access to incomes and to new ideas. They have developed immense confidence in themselves and the role they play in their communities. One of their top priorities is education for their children, including girls. To me personally, this is a stunning achievement.

I would also like to acknowledge the immense support and encouragement from my colleagues within FAO and from the FAO Representative in Pakistan, Mr Kevin Gallagher, himself a previous winner of this award, and to thank them for their continuous support.

In tapping both the depth and breadth of technical support from within FAO itself, and from access to a pool of highly qualified international consultants, FAO in this project has shown that it is not just another national or international NGO, but is an international inter-governmental agency with the capability to draw upon worldwide expertise to address local needs, and to bring about change through sharing of experience, ideas and methods.

This aspect of FAO's work was highlighted by the Independent Evaluation of the project conducted in 2011, resulting in the mobilization of additional funds from our partner in development, the United States Agency for International Development, and in attracting additional funds from the Australian Agency for International Development, to allow expansion of the programme into western border regions of Balochistan.

This access to top quality international expertise, to my mind, is at the heart of the success of this project, and indeed, is the comparative advantage which FAO brings to agricultural development.

I thank you for this prestigious award and for allowing me the opportunity to undertake such valuable fulfilling work.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Patrick DURST (B.R. Sen Award Recipient)

Mr Chairperson, honorable Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. It's a great honour for me to be here this afternoon to accept this award. I do so, not so much for myself but on behalf of a vast number of peers, colleagues and mentors who have guided and helped me throughout my career.

I first started work in Asia and the Pacific more than 35 years ago and over the years I've witnessed tremendous changes in the region, including in forestry. It's been particularly satisfying for me during this time to work on grassroots forestry efforts, and policies and programmes that support them. Collectively, Asia and the Pacific can take considerable pride in being the first developing region of the world to turn the corner from net forest loss to actually increasing forest cover.

Undoubtedly, whatever I've achieved with FAO, the greatest part hasn't been in technical forestry. It's been in working with and for people. In line with this, I wish to use the award funds that have been granted to me to support scholarships for students in Bohol, Philippines whose families are engaged in regenerating degraded forests using assisted natural regeneration techniques that were introduced by FAO under a TCP project.

I consider this very much to be a team award, recognizing the dynamic forestry community in Asia and the Pacific, my colleagues in FAO Headquarters and in country offices throughout Asia and the Pacific, and especially the fantastic team that I work with at the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok.

I want also to acknowledge my recently deceased parents, who taught me to work hard, to pursue my dreams, and to be stubbornly persistent, as people who know me know to be true.

Finally, I want to thank my wonderful wife and daughter who have supported me tremendously over the years in so many ways.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Luca ALINOVI (B.R. Sen Award Recipient)

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished guests, FAO colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen. I'm honored to accept the Sen Award on behalf of hundreds of women and men from Mogadishu to Rome who work with determination, sometimes facing serious risks and danger to contribute to establishing a food secure nation in Africa, Somalia.

This award highlights the breakthrough in response to the 2011 Somali famine that put half of the Somali population at great risk. While the situation has greatly improved today, 1 million hungry people are still too high as a number for us. In our work to respond to the worst famine in the last decades, we had to be proactive.

And thanks to our donors, we were able to respond fast and by using creative cash-based interventions, putting food on the table of many thousands of families. This was not a FAO achievement alone but one of the Somali people, Somali government, and a humanitarian community that stood up to the challenge of the time.

During our emergency response, we continuously asked questions such as: How do we reach these people in need? How can we go beyond relief? How can we prepare them to face future shock? The answers vary but one was obvious. People is not helpless. This is why resilience building forms the bedrock of our current programming. With this renewed commitment, we are confident to achieve the objectives set by the FAO leadership, a hunger free Somalia.

As I conclude, please allow me to express special gratitude to the following people: The FAO management, the Director-General, his two deputies whose dedication to the decentralized offices particularly in Somalia inspired many of us.

Lastly, to my colleagues FAO staff from Rome to Mogadishu, I cannot thank you enough. Let this award be a sign of hope that yes, together working as one, we can still make a difference. Thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

32.3 Presentation of A.H. Boerma Award
32.3 Remise du prix A.H. Boerma
32.3 Entrega del Premio A. H. Boerma
(C 2013/INF/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We move on to Sub-item 32.3, the presentation of the A.H. Boerma Award, a biennial prize given to a writer or a journalist whose writing or work on radio or television has increased international awareness of world food problems and measures to resolve them.

The award consists of a medal, a scroll, a cash prize for a total of USD 10,000 and a round trip to Rome for the winner and the spouse. This award was established by the FAO Conference in 1975 as a tribute to the leadership of Mr Addeke Hendrik Boerma, FAO Director-General from 1968-1975.

I now invite the Director-General to introduce the winner and to present the Boerma Award for 2012-13.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

It gives me great pleasure to present this award to The Guardian Development editorial team from the United Kingdom.

This Award acknowledges their significant contribution to improving worldwide understanding of development issues, particularly agriculture, food security, and poverty with an emphasis on progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Ms Lucy Lamble, Global Development Editor at The Guardian Development, will accept the award on behalf of her team.

Since the portal's launch in 2010, The Guardian Development writers have provided high-quality, in-depth and up-to-date coverage, ranging from analysis of international policy to on-the-ground reporting. They have used new media formats to creatively and efficiently communicate on these important issues.

In bestowing this award, I recognize the important role played by the award winners in significantly enhancing public awareness and understanding of key aspects of the world food problem and of agriculture and rural development issues.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Lucy LAMBLE (A.H. Boerma Award Recipient)

Honourable Director-General of the FAO, Dr. José Graziano da Silva, Honourable Chairperson, Excellencies, Directors of FAO and Distinguished Delegates and Guests, we are delighted to accept the Boerma Award on behalf of the Guardian’s Global Development team.

It is a great honour for our coverage to be recognized in this way, and a wonderful opportunity for us to be able to dig deeper into the vital human issues surrounding hunger, agriculture and nutrition. We have many people to thank, of course.

Thank you to those who surprised us with this very welcome nomination. Thank you to those who made time to talk to us at inconvenient moments, helping us to gain invaluable insights into your work in the field. Thank you, too, to the often unsung heroes, crunching the data on which so much hangs. Thank you of course to our crucial funders, and a particular thank you to those who, through the Guardian’s open journalism approach, are helping us to build the site into a global conversation about some of the biggest challenges facing the world today.

Food and Agriculture are rightly rising up the global agenda, but as we all know there is still plenty to be done. Rest assured that we will be using this very generous award to continue to highlight pressing issues, from food and agriculture to health, education, employment, and of course adaptation to climate change.

We will continue to hold those responsible to account and will continue to listen to those most affected. This award will not only reinforce our determination to achieve those goals, and for that we are really, truly grateful. Thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

32.4 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award
32.4 Remise du prix Édouard Saouma
32.4 Entrega del Premio Edouard Saouma
(C 2013/INF/9)

CHAIRPERSON

We now go on with Sub-item 32.4, the Presentation of the Edouard Saouma Award for 2012 to 2013. The Saouma Award, which was established in honour of FAO Director-General from 1976 to 1993, who passed away in December 2012, is awarded every biennium to an institution which has successfully implemented a project funded by the Technical Cooperation Programme. The prize consists of a medal, a personalized scroll, and a cash prize for total USD 25,000.

I invite the Director-General to introduce the winners and to present the Saouma Award for 2012-13.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

This award is given in recognition of outstanding performance in terms of efficiency in project implementation and follow-up. I am pleased to announce that this is granted to the staff of the Kenya Forest Service for their outstanding contribution to the implementation of sustainable livelihood, development in the Mau Forest Complex Project.

Mr David Kahuria Mbugua, Director of the Kenya Forest Service, and Mr Peter Kirigua, Chairperson of the Kenya Forest Service Board, will accept the award on behalf of their teams. This project has facilitated the increased adoption of sustainable livelihoods attributes by communities living near forests and protected areas. In collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders including the private sector, the Kenya Forest Service pioneered an innovative approach to the sustainable management of forests.

Using FAO development tools such as the farmer field schools and rural invests, the service assisted rural communities living next to protected areas by helping them to identify and develop alternative, non-destructive livelihoods to increase household incomes.

The approach is now being expanded to other fragile areas in Kenya. Thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr David Kahuria MBUGUA (Edouard Saouma Award Recipient)

It is with profound pleasure that I join you here today at the Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters to receive the Edouard Saouma Award on behalf of the Kenya Forest Service and the Kenyan farmers who successfully and efficiently implemented a sustainable livelihood development project in the Mau Forest Complex.

Mau Forest Complex is one of the biggest forested complexes in Kenya, and indeed serves as catchment for the bigger Nile Basin water system. This project was implemented between January 2010 and April 2012 in Kericho County in the Republic of Kenya. This technical cooperation project

was designed to promote cooperation between the Kenya Forest Service and the forest adjacent communities in the Mau Forest Complex.

I am happy to inform you that the project has achieved remarkable successes in enhancing the participation of the local communities in the conservation and management effort in the Mau forest. This has been by way of bringing on board the user groups in the community forest associations and applying the Farmer Field Schools methodology for farmer capacity development and project development.

Through the project, twenty-four Livelihood Farmer Field Schools were established and are currently investing in various livelihood options after graduation. The project has created new sustainable livelihood opportunities among forest adjacent communities and the Service has witnessed reduced incidences of destructive activities in the forest due to other livelihood options developed or created out of this project. In addition, the project participated in the very successful transfer of farm forestry technologies to farmers and providing soft revolving loans through partnership with commercial banks, particularly Equity Bank of Kenya.

I take note that Kenya is one of the few countries which has successfully utilized the two tools which have been developed by FAO, that is the Rural Invest and the Farmer Field Schools methodology in a working combination to support rural development efforts in the forestry sector.

As I finalize, allow me to acknowledge the good effort by the Africa Technology Solutions and the Food and Agriculture Organization Investment Centre for developing a practical mobile phone based reporting, monitoring, and evaluation system which has assisted in the efficient delivery of feedback to farmers and the project team.

Indeed, the award sum is going to serve as seed money in starting an operation raising for the Forest Conversation Fund which has been created by our Forest Administration as a facility to be utilized in the participatory forest management in my country. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Mbugua and congratulations. I am pleased to announce that we now have an opportunity to watch a video on the FAO/Kenya Forest Service Project.

Video Presentation
Présentation vidéo
Videopresentación

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

32.6 Presentation of the Margarita Lizárraga Medal
32.6 Remise de la médaille Margarita Lizárraga
32.6 Entrega de la Medalla Margarita Lizárraga
(C 2013/LIM/7)

CHAIRPERSON

We now proceed with Sub-item 32.6, the Margarita Lizárraga Medal. I invite the Director-General to introduce the winner for 2012-2013.

EL DIRECTOR-GENERAL

En noviembre de 1997, la Conferencia de la FAO creó la Medalla doña Margarita Lizárraga, que la Conferencia concede cada bienio a una persona u organización que hubiese trabajado meritoriamente en la aplicación del Código de Conducta de la Pesca Responsable.

La Medalla es un homenaje a la ya fallecida Dra. Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga, Oficial Superior de Enlace de Pesca, por su papel decisivo en el fomento del Código de Conducta para la Pesca

Responsable y por su productiva labor en el campo de la pesca durante casi 40 años, especialmente en los países en desarrollo.

Tengo el placer de anunciar que la Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA) en El Salvador, fue seleccionada como receptora de la Medalla para el bienio 2012-2013. Es un reconocimiento de su significativa contribución al desarrollo sostenible en la pesca y la acuicultura en los países de Centroamérica, que es considerada como un modelo de organización intergubernamental emulada en otras regiones por el efecto catalizador de sus logros.

La contribución de OSPESCA a la aplicación del Código es por lo tanto destacada, práctica, tangible y sostenible, así como catalizadora en cuanto ejemplo a seguir por otras regiones.

Video Presentation
Présentation vidéo
Videopresentación

Sra. Xinia CHAVES QUIROS (Margarita Lizárraga Medal Recipient)

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia, señor Director General, Excelencia, señores delegados y representantes permanentes, amigos todos. En nombre de la República de Costa Rica, Presidente *pro* tempore del Sistema de Integración Latinoamericana y de la Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano, OSPESCA, hablo en nombre de las autoridades pesqueras de la República de Belice, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá, República Dominicana y Costa Rica, mi país de origen.

OSPESCA nació en el año 1995, el mismo año que se puso en marcha el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable de la FAO. OSPESCA promueve el desarrollo sostenible coordinando la pesca y la acuicultura en el marco del proceso de Integración Centroamericana, definiendo, aprobando y poniendo en marcha políticas, estrategias y programas regionales de pesca y acuicultura, basados en los principios del Código de Conducta de esta organización. OSPESCA ha pasado de acuerdos regionales de cumplimiento voluntario a acuerdos vinculantes, basados en el Protocolo de Tegucigalpa, génesis del proceso de integración centroamericana.

Uno de estos acuerdos está dedicado a nuestro propio Código de Conducta, a nuestro propio Código de Ética para la Pesca y la Acuicultura, que es una herramienta que facilita la aplicación del Código de Conducta de la FAO. Con alcance regional y armónico a nuestros contextos, bajo principios centroamericanos, también lucha contra la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada. Éste es el compromiso que explica nuestra participación como bloque de países en el Comité de Pesca, como otros foros internacionales.

Señor Presidente, sin duda tenemos desafíos que superar para la sostenibilidad de nuestro sector, pero hemos encontrado en el trabajo regional una modalidad de actuación coordinada que nos permite avances cualitativos y cuantitativos y a la vez, una mejor forma de interactuar en otras regiones del mundo.

En este orden, reconocemos que nos sentimos muy emocionados por que OSPESCA reciba, en esta ocasión, la Medalla Margarita Lizárraga para el bienio 2012-2013, que nos motiva a comprometernos más con nuestros países, con nuestra Centroamérica y con el mundo; redoblando esfuerzos para continuar trabajando por la pesca y la acuicultura responsable. Al dar gracias a Dios, permítanos extender un sincero agradecimiento a la FAO por haber seleccionado a OSPESCA para este galardón que llena de orgullo y de alegría a todos los Países Miembros de SICA. Agradecemos a la cooperación internacional que se ha identificado con nuestro trabajo, integrando a todos los que, de una u otra forma, han hecho posible este reconocimiento.

Compartimos este premio con todas las autoridades y el personal de las instituciones nacionales y regionales. En particular con nuestro querido Director Don Mario González Recino y su equipo de trabajo de OSPESCA, hacedores sin lugar a dudas de este hermoso esfuerzo; con los pescadores artesanales, los industriales, los acuicultores, los comerciantes y con todos los que, de una u otra forma, han unido el concepto de uso responsable de nuestros recursos, porque este premio es para todo el sector de la pesca y la acuicultura de los países de OSPESCA.

The meeting was suspended from 17:03 to 17:14 hours
La séance est suspendue de 17 h 03 à 17 h 14
Se suspende la sesión de las 17.03 a las 17.14

5. Applications for Membership in the Organization (continued)
5. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (suite)
5. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

We now return to Item 5, Applications for Membership in the Organization. The votes have been counted and the Secretary-General will now read the results.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you Mr Chairperson. Report of ballot for the admission to Membership of Brunei Darussalam: ballot papers deposited 127, abstentions 2, defective ballots 0, votes for 125, votes against 0, votes cast 125, required majority 96. Brunei Darussalam, having obtained the required majority is admitted to Membership to FAO.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of ballot for the admission to Membership of Singapore: ballot papers deposited 127, abstentions 1, defective ballots 0, votes for 126, votes against 0, votes cast 126, required majority 96. Singapore, having obtained the required majority is admitted to Membership to FAO.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	Admission to Membership Admission de Membres Admisión de Miembros

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	127	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos emitidos	126
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	126

7. Required majority Majorité requise Mayoría necesaria	96

SINGAPORE

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

Tellers/Scrutaleurs/Escrutadores

Eric Robinson (Canada)
Signature
Firma

Date
Fecha 15/06/2013

Anna Pála Sverrisdóttir (Iceland)
Signature
Firma

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of ballot for the admission to Membership of South Sudan. Ballot papers deposited 127, abstentions 5, defective ballots 0, votes for 122, votes against 0, votes cast 122, required majority 96. South Sudan, having obtained the required majority is admitted to Membership to FAO.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	Admission to Membership Admission de Membres Admisión de Miembros

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	127	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos emitidos	122
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	5	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	122

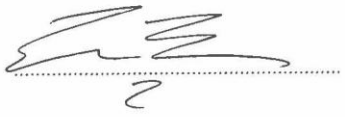
7. Required majority Majorité requise Mayoría necesaria	96

SOUTH SUDAN

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

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

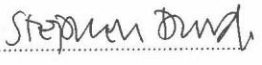
Eric Robinson (Canada)
Signature
Firma



Anna Pála Sverrisdóttir (Iceland)
Signature
Firma

Date
Fecha
15/06/2013

Stephen Dowd



Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Secretary-General. Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Singapore, and the Republic of South Sudan are now Members of FAO and their delegations will take their place among us. May I take this opportunity to add my personal welcome to the new Members.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Chairperson, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I welcome three new Member Nations to FAO: Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Singapore and the Republic of South Sudan.

These new members have expressed their firm belief in the universal spirit of the United Nations System and a clear desire not only to improve the living standards of their people, but also to contribute to one of the main areas of work of this Organization that is the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

By joining our Organization, they have expressed their faith in multilateralism, which is surely the key to resolving the complex problems faced by our global communities.

I welcome them to an Organization where, regardless of geographic location, size or economic status, we work together to forge a mutually beneficial relationship for all our Members.

With the accession to Membership of Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Singapore and the Republic of South Sudan, the Membership of FAO now stands at 194 Nations, one Member Organization, and two Associate Members.

I believe these figures pay testimony to the truly global nature of this Organization and recognition by the global community of the relevance of the mission of FAO.

Mr Yahya BAKAR (Brunei Darussalam)

His Excellency Mohammad Asif Rahimi, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan, Chairperson of the Conference; the Honourable Mr Jose Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the Food Agricultural Organization of the United Nations; Excellencies, Ambassadors, Permanent Representative of FAO Member Nations; Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, a very good afternoon.

I am indeed very honored and privileged to be seated here and given this opportunity to speak before this Conference today on the agenda of my country Brunei Darussalam's accession to the FAO.

First of all allow me, on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to take this opportunity to express our profound appreciation and gratitude to all Members of the FAO that have generously supported us in making our aspiration to become a full Member of the FAO into a reality.

Brunei Darussalam has long been accorded as an observer status within the FAO and since then we have learned and gained knowledge on the various initiatives and Work Programme of the FAO as well as the assistance rendered to the Member States.

We are a small nation with a population of only about 400,000 and imports more than 80 percent of our food supply. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve and enhance our agricultural system and policies so as to ensure food security for our people.

It is our aspiration to provide enough food for our people. Since the global food crisis in 2008, we have reviewed our policy on the domestic staple food production that is the rice production. Consequently in 2009, we have embarked on a long-term rice production programme that is the rice project to achieve self-sufficiency in Brunei Darussalam.

Through this programme, we hope to achieve a substantial percentage, a respectable self-sufficiency level in our local rice production in a few years to come. The various programmes include the putting up of new potential areas for rice production with improved infrastructures, upgrading of the existing farm infrastructures, introducing the high yield varieties and possible double or triple cropping per year with proper infrastructure and irrigation system, and also enhancing the capacity of the farmers and the government staff with the intention of adopting new and improved technologies to increase the productivity and quality of rice produced.

In our effort to increase our domestic food production, there are however several shortfalls, especially in the human resources. Lack of technical expertise and knowledge becomes our main hindrance towards further development of our effort. Thus we look forward to working closely with the FAO in the various initiative trainings and projects especially in this area of food security. We would appreciate the assistance from the FAO in formulating our national policies on food security and definitely to develop a food security master plan. In conclusion, once again, I would like to thank and commend all FAO members for supporting Brunei Darussalam to be a full Memberof the FAO.

We look forward to work closely with the FAO in achieving FAO's mandate to improve the level of nutrition, increase agricultural productivity, raise living standards of rural populations, and contribute to the growth of the world economy.

Before I end my remark here, I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Director-General of the FAO for his kind invitation to attend this Conference, and also to the government and the people of Italy for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Rome.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Poh Hong TAN (Singapore)

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of Singapore, I would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to the Member Nations for accepting Singapore as a Member of the Food and Agriculture Organization family.

Singapore is a small country and we do not have any significant agricultural production. We import more than 90 percent of the food that we eat. We are therefore subject to challenges of food prices and supply volatility. Given our reliance on the global market, we are interested in global developments in food production and of the need for the world to find sustainable ways to produce food.

Singapore also strives to maximize our limited resources to raise the productivity of the few farms that we have so that our local production can serve as a buffer in terms of any supply destruction. As a Member Nation of FAO, Singapore will now have the opportunity to participate in a global dialogue on food security and developments in agriculture, fisheries, and food production. We look forward to learning from FAO and assisting Member Nations on how to meet the challenges of food security.

We also hope to be able to share Singapore's unique urban solutions for food security. Once again, I humbly thank you for your approval of Singapore's membership in FAO and would like to take this opportunity to wish this Conference ever success. Thank you very much.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Nhial Deng NHIAL (South Sudan)

Excellency Chair, Excellency the Director-General of the FAO, distinguished ladies and gentlemen; first and foremost I would like to thank all FAO Member States that have voted in favor of the admission of the Republic of South Sudan into the Organization.

May I also take this opportunity, Chair, to congratulate you on assumption of your duties. It is indeed a tremendous privilege and honour for me to be representing my President and country at this formal launch of South Sudan's membership of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, the FAO.

Barely two years ago, South Sudan emerged as a sovereign independent state, taking its place among the community of world nations at the United Nations in New York. Today marks another historic milestone in its evolution as it accedes to the membership of the FAO.

Although South Sudan has just become a Member of FAO in an official sense, the association of my country with the FAO has been a longstanding one. It is worth underlining that recently and prior to independence, FAO assisted the people of South Sudan in different ways. Acting in consent with its partners, FAO helped eradicate Rinderpest in South Sudan to name an example. It also initiated a series of capacity development programmes which included among other accomplishments, the physical construction, equipping, and development of the premises and the human resource base for the Ministries of Agriculture and Animal Resources in five of South Sudan's ten states.

As a new Member of FAO, South Sudan is anxious to benefit from the instruments of good food and agriculture governance, including the voluntary guidelines for the responsible tenure of land, forests, and fisheries, the code of conduct on responsible fisheries, and the voluntary guidelines on responsible investments in agriculture, among others.

It is worth mentioning that in the context of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme, the CAADP, South Sudan remains firmly committed in principle to the Maputo Declaration which is completely in sync with our own socio-economic development paradigm. In its drive to realize this commitment and vision, the government of the Republic of South Sudan has set up relevant institutions such as the Food Security Council and its support arm, namely the Food Security Technical Secretariat. It has also formulated a comprehensive agriculture master plan.

These actions represent the natural effort for agricultural transformation. Chair, South Sudan plans to launch an agricultural trust fund by the end of this year in support of agricultural development and food security, and we appeal to our development partners to make their initial contributions to this prospective trust fund in order to enable us to launch it.

Distinguished Delegates, with the land mass of approximately 645 thousand square kilometers, much of which is arable and blessed with abundant water and the highest per capita livestock population in Africa, and with a mere ten million mouths to feed, the Republic of South Sudan still remains one of the most food insecure places on the planet. And of course this irony is certainly not lost on you.

Years of debilitating conflict and socio-economic neglect have belied the responsible for this precarious state of affairs. Now as an independent state which is determined to utilize its own wealth to make agro-industry its ultimate economic mainstay, the Republic of South Sudan will spare no effort to rectify this situation.

To that end, we pledge to work closely with the FAO among others, not only to banish hunger and food insecurity from South Sudan, but also to unlock the country's huge agricultural potential so as to enable it eventually to become a key contributor to the alleviation of food shortages and the improvement of access to affordable food in Africa and globally.

This is very important in view of the fact that recurring adverse climatic conditions and the increasing use of bio fuels appear to be combining to reduce available food quantities and push up food prices worldwide. However, the obstacle that we envisage is Sudan's reason and warranted decision to stop the export of all oil through its territory, an inexplicable act that economically harms not only South Sudan but Sudan as well.

Without oil revenues for initial investment in agriculture, there is not much we can do to combat hunger and attain food security. Nevertheless, we will continue to seek the support of the FAO in the quest to achieve the goals of both domestic and regional food security. Thank you for your attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes item five of the Agenda. A flag raising ceremony for the new Members will be held at the side of building A, where the flags of all Member Nations are flown, on Monday morning at 8:45 hours.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have finished our work for today and will meet again here on Monday morning at 9:30 hours.

Before closing the meeting, however, I would like to remind you of the special event on "Recognizing outstanding progress in fighting hunger" which will take place tomorrow in this Plenary Hall starting at 15:00 hours.

FAO has decided to honour achievements in combatting hunger and to recognize countries that have made outstanding progress in improving food security for their citizens by awarding them a diploma.

The ceremony will start at 15:00 hours with an opening statement by the Director-General, followed by the Award Ceremony, and will close at 18:00 hours. This special event will be webcast and is open to the media. Additional information on this special event is available on the Conference website in the schedule of side events.

I wish you all a very good evening and look forward to seeing you tomorrow afternoon at the special event.

The meeting rose at 17:39 hours
La séance est levée à 17 h 39
Se levanta la sesión a las 17:39 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session
Trente-huitième session
38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA

17 June 2013

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.51 hours
Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 51
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.51
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Director-General's Statement to the Conference
Déclaration du Directeur General à la Conférence
Declaración del Director General a la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the third Plenary Meeting to order. The first item on our agenda this morning is the statement by the Director-General. I am particularly honoured to invite Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, to deliver his statement to this 38th Session of the Conference of FAO.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

His Excellency the President of Benin, His Excellency the President of Togo, His Excellency the Vice-President of Nicaragua, His Excellency the Prime Minister of Sao Tome and Principe, Distinguished Ministers, Honourable Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to FAO for this Conference.

We had a good start on Saturday. We had the honour to hear an inspired McDougall Lecture by Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen, and yesterday we recognized the success of 38 countries that have already reached the Millennium Development Goal target of halving the proportion of undernourished people. Eighteen of them have also reached the World Food Summit goal of halving the total number of hungry people. They set the tone for what I am confident will be a very constructive and interesting week.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the foundation of FAO in 1945 reflected the need for better global food governance and for collective responsibilities. But it was also driven by idealism: the belief that it was possible to achieve universal "freedom from want" and that this was "essential for lasting peace". In a world devastated by World War Two, increasing the then insufficient food production was the natural response to hunger, and we have been able to do so with great success. Average food output per person has grown by nearly 40 percent in the last decades. But the increase in food production has come at a high environmental cost because of the intensive use of natural resources and chemical inputs. And, despite higher production, nearly 870 million people are still chronically hungry, at least 2 billion suffer from other forms of malnutrition.

If we keep looking at hunger simply in terms of food production, we will not solve this problem, as Professor Amartya Sen reminded us last Saturday in his McDougall Lecture in this very Plenary Hall. As he pointed out, hunger and starvation result from the fact that people do not have enough food to eat; that does not mean that there is insufficient food available.

The world already produces enough food. The main cause of hunger nowadays is the lack of access: hundreds of millions of people do not have the income to buy the food they need or the means to produce it for themselves. As Professor Sen added, this is an important point to emphasize, because public policies and debate on hunger are often geared entirely to food production problems.

Nowadays, to guarantee food security, it is essential to incorporate the access dimension into our responses, alongside our continued support to sustainably increasing food production. Different countries are successfully using approaches that combine production and access. For example, in stimulating income generation through better employment opportunities and strengthened social protection networks.

Reinforcing the support that FAO already offers to our Members in this area is one of the advances that I am proposing in the Organization. This way, we can make a more significant contribution to reaching a hunger-free and sustainable world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I ran for the office of Director-General two years ago, I presented my vision of how I would like to transform FAO. This vision was based on sharpening the focus of our work, listening more and

responding better to the needs of our member countries, in strengthening our work with key partners, and increasing efficiency and value for money. Since you elected me, I have worked to implement this vision. Today, I want to share with you some of the things that we have accomplished.

First, we have sharpened the focus of FAO's work through the strategic thinking process we embarked on when I took up office. This collective construction has resulted in five strategic objectives and a sixth technical one. As a whole, they embody what we believe should be the focus of FAO's work.

Second, we are becoming more efficient. We have successfully started to implement a new business management system: the Global Resource Management System (GRMS) now links FAO offices worldwide, reduces transaction costs and increases accountability and transparency. A critical review of posts has led to the elimination of nearly 90 positions, mainly from the administrative side of the Organization. We have found unprecedented efficiency savings of nearly USD 45 million since you elected me. Part of these savings are being reinvested into FAO's substantive work, for example:

To implement six regional initiatives, one for each region and two in Africa, responding to priorities identified by the last regional conferences.

To create around 50 professional posts in our regional and sub-regional offices, strengthening FAO's capacity to respond to the needs of our Members, without weakening our global technical and normative work.

Third, we approved strategies for partnerships with civil society and the private sector. We are also strengthening our work with the academia and with scientific and research institutions, such as the CGIAR Consortium of International Agriculture Research Centres.

And, fourth, we have brought the FAO reform to a successful conclusion. All this will help translate our work into better results where it really matters: at the country level, transforming FAO into a true knowledge Organization with its feet on the ground. That means ensuring that our normative and technical knowledge is more easily available to countries, and bringing back to the global level lessons learned from what we see and apply in the field.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since I took up office, brick by brick we have laid the foundation we need to improve the assistance we offer our Members. Now it is time for the next step: approve the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-2015 and the Medium Term Plan for 2014-2017. This is the missing piece that will transform into concrete action the results of the Reviewed Strategic Framework that we have built together. To deliver the proposed Programme of Work, we are asking for a one percent real increase in our budget, plus less than 4 percent to cover inflation and mandatory increases of staff costs.
Let me put this requested budget increase into perspective. It comes after two decades of real budget reductions resulting from the zero nominal growth policy introduced in FAO in the 1994-1995 biennium. In concrete terms, this has meant that FAO's budget has lost 27 percent of its real value in the last 20 years. Said in other words: at a time when the challenges that our Members face are increasing, FAO's capacity to respond to them is diminishing.

This Conference gives us the opportunity to reverse this debilitating downward spiral, this truly vicious circle. When you consider the Programme of Work and Budget, please take into account all that we have already done in the past 18 months. I will maintain this same commitment and will do everything I can to control the increase in FAO costs. However, please bear in mind that most of the decisions that concern staff salaries and benefits, which are responsible for around 75 percent of our budget, are made by decisions that I need to follow and that are taken in New York by the International Civil Service Commission, as mandated by the UN General Assembly.

Also bear in mind that, although we will continue to look at ways to increase our efficiency, there is a limit to what we can do responsibly without affecting our technical capacity. Even with the challenging economic situation that many countries are facing, and that only make the need for solidarity and cooperation even stronger, we believe that the modest increase we are proposing is justified. Especially considering the decline in real budget in the last two decades, and the fact that

countries that are facing more difficult economic situations will be paying less in the next biennium due to changes in their assessed contribution.

Also consider that this will be my first Programme of Work and Budget. Endorsing it will have a strong symbolic value. It will show your political support for our new Programme of Work, for meeting the goals of the Organization and our commitment to ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger, as stated in our Constitution.

I hope that during this week we will find consensus on the budget.

It is in times as these, when the challenges are greater, that we need most to show our collective commitment to the Organization and its goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Conference will also be asked to approve a change in the first global goal of the Organization: from the reduction to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. It is just a word, but it makes a great difference. The eradication of hunger and malnutrition will pay a large dividend in terms of peace and prosperity, from which all countries stand to benefit. And it is a crucial part of the sustainable future we all want.

We have a massive task ahead of us. Let us make sure that we have the capability to deliver on a relevant scale. Looking back at what we have already accomplished since I became Director-General, at the rebuilt trust between Members and the Secretariat, and at the transparent and frank dialogue we have established, I believe that we can do it. And as I have said to you before: I will not be able to do anything except what we can do together.

I wish all of you a successful Conference.

Thank you for your attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Graziano. I wish to announce that we have the privilege to welcome His Excellency Boni Yayi, President of the Republic of Benin, who wishes to address the Conference.

M. Boni YAYI (Bénin)

Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer toute la gratitude de ma délégation à l'endroit des plus hautes autorités d'Italie pour les dispositions qui ont été prises pour rendre agréable notre séjour. Je voudrais également dire merci au Directeur général de notre Institution, notre cher ami José, pour cette invitation à prendre part à la 38ème session de la Conférence de la FAO, notre commune Organisation.

Je voudrais également saluer Monsieur le Président de la Conférence et exprimer mes vives félicitations pour son rôle de leadership.

Mesdames et Messieurs, je crois que nous sommes arrivés au moment de vous dire un mot sur l'importance de cette session. Nous sommes venus, et c'est notre rôle, pour insister avec vous, aujourd'hui, sur cette journée capitale, qui fait suite à celle d'hier, au cours de laquelle nous avons pu saluer l'initiative qui a été prise par notre Institution dans son combat pour aider nos pays à éradiquer la faim, la famine et la malnutrition.

Nous avons vécu hier ce moment palpitant à travers cette initiative tendant à motiver et inciter chacun de nous, gouvernants, à perpétrer la vision de notre Institution, la FAO, dans notre lutte et à accélérer notre rythme de création de richesses pour mettre fin à cette pandémie, c'est-à-dire la famine et la malnutrition.

Monsieur le Président, je viens d'écouter avec beaucoup d'intérêt le message laissé par notre Directeur général, notre cher ami José, qui appelle absolument à la réflexion. D'abord, nous

reconnaissons aujourd'hui le rôle irremplaçable de la FAO, contrairement je crois à la vision qui était véhiculée dans le passé. Nous sommes venus dire oui, la FAO est une grande Institution dont nous saluons les efforts réalisés dans le passé et dont nous avons encore besoin aujourd'hui, vu les mutations qui ont affecté le monde, notre continent africain et ses différents pays et sous-régions.

Monsieur le Président, je dois vous dire que j'ai écouté avec intérêt. Je crois à l'empreinte personnelle que veut apporter le Directeur général de la FAO depuis son élection, notre cher ami José, sur le Cadre stratégique concentré sur le Plan à moyen terme 2014-2017 et sur le Programme de travail 2014-2015 et le budget subséquent.

C'est avec beaucoup d'intérêt que nous avons suivi cela. Comme je viens de le dire, nous sommes reconnaissants du rôle que la FAO a joué à nos côtés pour arriver à ce résultat. La preuve en est que nous sommes devant vous aujourd'hui, en tant qu'un des lauréats, appelés à donner une impulsion à la vision politique de chacun de nos pays pour aller de l'avant. Mais nous sommes venus demander d'appuyer le Programme de travail que présente aujourd'hui notre Directeur général et le management de notre Institution commune, non seulement le Plan à moyen terme, mais aussi le Programme de travail et budget.

Monsieur le Président, je crois que mon cher collègue, mon cher doyen, le Président du Togo est là, et je voudrais avoir son autorisation pour rappeler qu'en Afrique nous avons mis en place cette volonté politique d'aller de l'avant en ce qui concerne la lutte contre la faim sur le continent africain.

Nous avons mis en place, comme vous savez bien, le Programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture en Afrique, que nous avons présenté à la communauté internationale à Maputo en 2003, et le Premier Ministre, Secrétaire exécutif et j'allais dire du Comité d'orientation du NEPAD travaille d'arrache-pied pour nous appuyer. Ce Programme, qui intègre nos stratégies nationales et les stratégies de nos communautés et communes régionales, a toujours été appuyé par la FAO, mais également par les grandes institutions ici présentes et dont je salue les premiers responsables, je pense au FIDA, au PAM, à la Banque mondiale, à la Banque africaine de développement et à d'autres institutions.

Ce Programme détaillé, Monsieur le Président, fait notre bonheur, je dois le dire, mais compte tenu des mutations qui affectent le monde, nous avons besoin de rappeler à votre attention, aujourd'hui et comme je l'ai dit hier, les défis qu'il faut absolument relever.

Ces défis sont nombreux, Monsieur le Directeur général, Monsieur le Président, et je dois vous dire que le premier que nous avons indiqué, le défi de l'accès au foncier est très important, mais aussi le défi de l'accès à l'eau, le défi de l'accès aux intrants, aux semences sélectionnées, le défi de la mécanisation, le défi de la réhabilitation des prix des céréales, le défi du financement, le défi de l'organisation de nos marchés locaux, nationaux et régionaux, le défi de l'introduction de nouvelles technologies dans la gestion et la promotion de l'agriculture, le défi de la promotion de l'entreprenariat agricole, le défi du renforcement du rôle d'une éco-entreprise, du rôle de nos femmes et de nos jeunes.

Monsieur le Président, en ce qui concerne le défi du financement, je voudrais lancer un appel à la communauté internationale pour soutenir le budget que présente le Directeur général, afin de lui permettre la mise en œuvre de ce Programme et renforcer notre marche vers l'éradication de la pauvreté, et je crois qu'en ce sens les défis sont nombreux et qu'il faut tout le soutien possible.

Il faut aussi accepter que le secteur privé international puisse également s'impliquer. C'est pourquoi nous saluons l'initiative de nos partenaires du G8, la « Nouvelle alliance pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition », lancée en marge du Sommet du G8 l'année dernière et qui vient appuyer l'ancienne alliance pour la sécurité alimentaire lancée à l'Aquila, en Italie.

J'en appelle une fois de plus aux partenaires bilatéraux, qui ont joué un rôle de leadership et ont accompagné notre Institution, et lance un appel en faveur des institutions multilatérales ayant un rôle important, pour dire que nous avons besoin d'appuyer non seulement la FAO, mais encore toutes les institutions multilatérales qui opèrent et oeuvrent en chef de file dans la promotion de l'agriculture notamment, de la sécurité alimentaire et dans la résolution du chômage de la jeunesse.

Monsieur le Président, je crois que notre rôle aujourd'hui est de créer un nouveau monde, un monde de paix, un monde de stabilité, un monde de sécurité. A ce point, Monsieur le Président, le continent africain est décidé à aller de l'avant, mais je voudrais attirer votre attention sur les préalables: la création de l'unité de notre continent, l'appel à la stabilité et à la sécurité, la bonne gouvernance, la lutte contre la corruption, la transparence, l'obligation de respecter la reddition de comptes.

Je voudrais vous dire que nous sommes décidés, avec tous mes homologues, à renforcer toutes ces valeurs indispensables et à donner l'impulsion nécessaire à la réalisation des programmes que nous avons lancés dans le domaine de l'agriculture, la gouvernance environnementale, le système éducatif, le système de la santé, les infrastructures indispensables pour rallier nos États et nos différentes stratégies, l'intégration du continent africain: voici autant de défis aujourd'hui qui font que nous voudrions saluer le rôle de la FAO, mais également le rôle irremplaçable des autres institutions multilatérales qui appuient la FAO, pour nous permettre d'aller de l'avant.

Monsieur le Président, enfin, c'est à moi de vous dire que de notre côté nous sommes prêts à jouer le rôle d'ambassadeurs à vos côtés pour pousser à la mise en œuvre de ce Plan à moyen terme, en vue d'aboutir à un monde nouveau, un monde libéré de la famine, un monde où sera assurée la transformation rurale, condition indispensable à la transformation économique de nos pays dans notre marche vers le développement durable. Que Dieu vous bénisse, que Dieu bénisse la FAO, je vous remercie.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now have the honour to invite His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Togolese Republic, to address the Conference.

M. Faure ESSOZIMNA GNASSINGBÉ (Togo)

Je tiens à réitérer devant votre auguste assemblée mes sincères remerciements à la FAO pour l'occasion qu'elle nous donne, à travers les présentes assises, de mesurer ensemble les progrès et les obstacles qui jalonnent notre lutte commune contre la faim et la malnutrition.

Alors que l'année 2015 approche à grands pas avec la perspective du grand bilan qui nous attend, la FAO a réussi à donner une nouvelle perspective aux débats sur les enjeux auxquels nous sommes confrontés face au défi de l'insécurité alimentaire. En effet, en mettant hier en relief, au cours d'un événement spécial, des exemples palpables de succès, la FAO a donné une fois de plus toute la mesure de son leadership. Quelle que soit la situation qui prévaut dans chacun de nos pays pris individuellement, il est désormais clair pour tous que la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition n'est pas un combat perdu d'avance. Tout l'enjeu aujourd'hui, Mesdames et Messieurs, est donc de savoir tirer les leçons de nos expériences respectives, pour pérenniser et vulgariser les valeurs et les pratiques qui ont façonné les succès que nous avons ensemble célébrés hier.

Or ces valeurs, me semble-t-il, sont plus que jamais au cœur de l'agenda de la FAO, qui a su canaliser, depuis le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996, les efforts déployés collectivement et individuellement par nos États pour lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition. La flamme de l'espoir suscité par la FAO, qui reste la pièce maîtresse de notre architecture institutionnelle de lutte contre la faim, ne peut être entretenue que si nous donnons à notre Organisation commune les moyens de continuer à jouer pleinement son rôle. Au fil des années, ce rôle s'est accru; il s'est diversifié. Cela requiert naturellement des ressources plus importantes.

C'est pourquoi je voudrais devant vous joindre ma voix à celles qui, avant la mienne, ont émis le vif souhaite que la FAO puisse, avec le concours de tous les États Membres, se doter des ressources additionnelles dont elle a tant besoin pour continuer à incarner avec la même vigueur notre rêve d'un monde débarrassé de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Pour sa part, le Gouvernement togolais ne ménagera aucun effort pour maintenir son soutien financier à notre Organisation commune sur le prochain exercice biennal, en approuvant le projet de Programme de travail et de budget 2014-2015, présenté par son Directeur général, M. José Graziano da Silva. Je réaffirme pour terminer la disponibilité et l'engagement de mon pays, le Togo, à prendre une part active dans ce processus.

Vive la FAO, vive la coopération internationale. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I shall now call upon His Excellency Gabriel Arcanjo Ferreira Da Costa, Prime Minister of Sao Tome and Principe to address the Conference.

M. Gabriel Arcanjo FERREIRA DA COSTA (Sao Tomé-et-Principe)

Au nom du Gouvernement santoméen, je voudrais renouveler mes remerciements les plus profonds à l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, la FAO, à travers son Directeur général, M. Graziano da Silva, qui a bien voulu donner cette distinction à mon pays et pour laquelle nous sommes très honorés.

Je saisis cette occasion pour vous remercier Monsieur le Directeur général, ainsi que tous les membres de votre équipe, pour l'accueil que vous avez bien voulu nous réserver. C'est avec beaucoup d'honneur que j'ai accepté l'invitation pour participer aux activités réalisées dans le cadre de la 38ème session de la Conférence de la FAO, à laquelle ont pris part plusieurs Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement, Chefs de délégation des États Membres, ce qui témoigne de l'importance et de la vitalité de notre Organisation.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, cette reconnaissance du mérite, délivrée par la FAO au moment où nous allons célébrer le trentième anniversaire de notre indépendance nationale, le 12 juillet prochain, est d'une part, un signe d'encouragement dans la poursuite de l'effort de développement, et d'autre part elle est la marque de la crédibilité qu'a le pays dans son parcours envers la consolidation du processus démocratique.

Le niveau que nous avons atteint aujourd'hui dans la lutte contre la faim est le résultat de la politique de continuité poursuivie par de gouvernements successifs dans l'effort commun de la nation en vue du développement économique et social du pays. Si l'instabilité politique dont nous souffrons ne nous a pas empêché d'atteindre cet objectif, néanmoins il faut reconnaître que nos résultats auraient pu être bien meilleurs dans un cadre politique et institutionnel plus stable mieux à même d'assurer la défense des valeurs de dignité et de la solidarité sociale.

En effet, la production alimentaire suffisante pour satisfaire les besoins élémentaires de la nutrition des populations constitue l'un des objectifs inscrits dans la nouvelle ligne de la politique de développement rural adoptée par le nouveau Gouvernement. Nous sommes engagés définitivement dans la promotion et l'intensification de la production d'aliments, la sécurité et qualité alimentaire pour toute notre population.

Aujourd'hui, nous faisons partie du groupe des pays qui ont enregistré des résultats exceptionnels, car nous avons réussi à réduire la prévalence de la sous-alimentation sur notre territoire. Nous nous en réjouissons, mais nous ne devons pas oublier que nous sommes toujours confrontés à des problèmes sociaux liés à la scolarisation des enfants, des problèmes de formation professionnelle, de santé, parmi d'autres difficultés qui conditionnent sérieusement notre développement. La situation de nos enfants et de nos jeunes, insérés dans des milieux sociaux plus défavorisés, reste encore très précaire, particulièrement dans un milieu rural où il y a des difficultés spécifiques face à très peu de ressources à disposition et aux exigences que nous devons satisfaire.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, le combat que nous menons pour la réduction de la pauvreté et l'éradication de la faim qui font obstacle au développement risque de connaître des difficultés accrues

devant l'actuelle conjoncture internationale. En effet, la réduction considérable du montant de l'aide au développement en faveur des plus démunis constitue un obstacle majeur pour nous tous.

C'est la raison pour laquelle nous estimons que le Programme de travail et budget 2014-2015 et le Plan à moyen terme 2014-2017, présentés par le Directeur général, nous semblent aller dans la bonne direction.

En effet, force est de constater que depuis que le Directeur général a pris ses fonctions, la FAO est devenue sans doute plus dynamique et doit faire face à des tâches importantes lui permettant de poursuive les progrès accomplis. C'est la raison pour laquelle je voudrais joindre ma voix à celles d'autres représentants des États Membres, plaidant de façon énergique en faveur de l'augmentation d'un pourcent de la valeur réelle du budget.

Mesdames et Messieurs, au moment où nous célébrons les victoires contre la faim, il nous semble important de vouloir vous présenter quelques éléments de notre petite expérience dans ce processus intéressant, mais parfois complexe, de lutte contre la faim chez nous.

En effet, le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées à Sao Tomé-et-Principe a été considérablement réduit, passant de 27 000 individus en 1990-1992 à 13 000 en 2010-2012. Ceci signifie que le pays a pu atteindre le but de l'ODM 1 sur la sous-alimentation, c'est-à-dire que nous avons réussi à réduire le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées avant 2015.

Comme nous l'avons dit hier lors de la remise du diplôme délivré par notre Organisation commune, il s'agit de prime abord d'une reconnaissance des efforts constamment déployés par toute une population qui a joué un rôle déterminant dans ce combat. Ensuite, nous soulignons que ce progrès considérable n'aurait pu être accompli sans le concours de la FAO elle-même. L'Organisation nous a beaucoup soutenus, notamment dans la mise en place des stratégies et programmes nationaux dans le cadre général de la réduction de la pauvreté dans le pays, dont la sous-alimentation ne constitue que l'un des aspects. Nous avons manifesté, au nom des autorités de santoméennes, toute notre reconnaissance à tous ceux qui, d'une façon ou d'une autre, ont participé à ce succès, y compris les organisations non-gouvernementales parmi lesquelles figure l'Institut Marqués de Val Flor, une ONG portugaise qui coopère avec l'État depuis plus de vingt ans dans le domaine des soins primaires de santé, dans l'enseignement secondaire et dans l'assurance alimentaire.

Mesdames et Messieurs, la malnutrition a un coût économique énorme. Jusqu'à cinq pour cent des revenus mondiaux comme le souligne la FAO dans l'édition 2013 de *La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture*. L'augmentation de la production ne suffira pas à elle seule à mettre un terme à la faim, et la protection sociale non plus. Nous avons besoin des deux. Nous devons envisager la faim selon une approche plus globale, comme l'a très bien souligné samedi Amartya Sen lors de la conférence McDougall.

Mesdames et Messieurs, le Plan de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle mis en place par le Gouvernement avec l'assistance technique, notamment de la FAO et d'autres institutions du système des Nations Unies spécialistes des questions agricoles, tels que le FIDA et le PAM, a été envisagé comme une priorité nationale. Dans ce sens, il a joué un rôle important dans l'atteinte des objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et de ceux de 2001 pour le développement, OMD, entraînant une réduction considérable du nombre de personnes sous-alimentées à Sao Tomé-et-Principe.

Dans le but d'envisager des solutions pour apporter des réponses plus adéquates aux défis que nous avons relevés au cours de la constitution du nouveau Gouvernement, nous avons été amenés à créer un Ministère de l'agriculture, de la pêche et du développement rural de façon à permettre plus particulièrement de bien cerner les enjeux de l'agriculture en vue du renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition, et du développement de l'ensemble des terres agricoles. Il est notoire, la dégradation des terres et de l'eau, l'extension des terres consacrées à l'agriculture et à l'élevage au détriment des forêts et des terres marginales, ainsi que la perte de la biodiversité et l'épuisement du stock de poissons dans les océans sont, pour ne citer que ceux-là, quelques-uns des résultats négatifs de la manière dont nous produisons.

Le problème environnemental est considéré comme une priorité incontournable dans notre vie journalière. Toutefois, devant les faiblesses institutionnelles et l'absence de conditions matérielles et humaines, nous devons renforcer la résilience des communautés rurales, afin qu'elles puissent mieux faire face aux aléas climatiques extrêmes, toujours plus fréquents, engendrés par le changement climatique.

Le monde a changé et nous estimons que la FAO doit s'adapter afin d'aider les pays à atteindre leurs objectifs de sécurité alimentaire et de développement durable, car il ne suffit pas de produire. Certes, nous devons produire, consommer, mais aussi utiliser nos ressources naturelles de manière raisonnable pour qu'elles durent, et nous devons faire en sorte que les plus vulnérables y aient davantage accès.

Monsieur le Directeur général, je suis pleinement convaincu que dans l'exercice de vos importantes fonctions à la tête de notre Organisation, vous allez continuer à apporter votre valable contribution pour la réforme dont elle a besoin. Je termine tout en réitérant ma conviction dans le rôle déterminant que la FAO continuera à jouer à l'échelle mondiale dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale. Je vous remercie.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Statement of the Independent Chairperson of the Council to the Conference
Déclaration du Président indépendant du Conseil a la Conférence
Declaración del Presidente Independiente del Consejo a la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

I am pleased now to call on Mr Luc Guyau, Independent Chairperson of the Council, to deliver his statement.

M. Luc GUYAU (Président indépendant du Conseil)

Malgré les efforts entrepris, malgré l'engagement politique de nombreux États, malgré les programmes des institutions des Nations Unies, malgré la mobilisation de la société civile, malgré la présence plus forte de tous sur le terrain, un nombre inacceptable d'êtres humains souffrent toujours de faim et de malnutrition. Les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement sont en vue, mais pas encore atteints, à commencer par le premier (OMD1).

Les guerres, les catastrophes naturelles, mais aussi le manque d'investissement dans des politiques agricoles et alimentaires durables dans certains pays, ne permettent toujours pas de relever ce défi: éradiquer la faim et la malnutrition. Je veux cependant féliciter les pays qui y sont parvenus, et encourager les autres. La manifestation d'hier était importante et surtout pleine d'optimisme.

Pourtant, les équipes de la FAO n'ont pas ménagé leur peine, ni leur travail, en s'engageant avec efficacité sur le terrain. Les dispositifs mis en place pour mieux connaître la situation des productions et des stocks (comme le système AMIS), et la possibilité demain d'agir avec le Forum de réaction rapide (FRR), n'y suffisent pas. Il est indispensable de maîtriser la trop grande volatilité des prix des produits alimentaires de base et celle des marchés. Les deux sont préjudiciables aux producteurs comme aux consommateurs. La spéculation débridée est suicidaire pour le monde qui a faim. L'agriculture, l'élevage, la pêche et la forêt ne peuvent se développer durablement, pour une meilleure sécurité alimentaire, sans un minimum de régulation. La demande en biens alimentaires est journalière et permanente, aux quatre coins du monde, alors que l'offre subit à la fois les aléas du climat, des transports, des productions et de l'économie, et parfois de la spéculation. L'alimentation ne peut pas être gérée comme des produits manufacturés.

Nous sommes tous concernés, et c'est pour cette raison que la gouvernance rénovée de la FAO doit prendre toute sa place. Les États doivent être en permanence sur le pont, c'est d'ailleurs le point essentiel de la réforme: rendre les Membres acteurs permanents au sein de la FAO pour combattre la faim et la malnutrition.

L'exercice biennal en cours a vécu des temps forts et essentiels pour tendre vers ces objectifs. Je vous les rappelle:

- La finalisation de la réforme par la mise en œuvre quasiment totale du PAI,

- La définition et la reformulation des Objectifs stratégiques,

- La définition des stratégies de partenariats,

- La préparation d'un budget adapté,

- Les conclusions et recommandations des Conférences régionales et des différents Comités du Conseil.

L'ensemble a été conduit avec le nouveau Directeur général, José Graziano da Silva, qui a fait partager sa vision et sa volonté de rapprocher la FAO du terrain. Il a poursuivi le processus de réforme engagé avec son prédécesseur, Jacques Diouf, à qui je rends hommage. Le renouveau du personnel et des cadres, la rotation entre services, entre le siège et le terrain, parfois perçus de façon difficile, sont des éléments de cette modernisation, amplifiés par l'engagement sur la décentralisation.

Dans le cadre de la gouvernance rénovée, le Conseil et les Comités du Conseil ont œuvré à la fois pour moderniser leur fonctionnement et devenir plus efficaces, plus lisibles. L'ambiance a toujours été bonne et les relations de travail empreintes de dialogue, de compréhension et de la volonté d'aboutir au consensus. Je tiens à vous en remercier tous.

Bien sûr quelques sujets n'ont pas avancé aussi vite que nous l'aurions voulu. Mais pour l'essentiel, le bilan est positif et a permis au Directeur général d'engager ses réformes avec l'appui du Conseil, et à la FAO d'aborder le prochain biennium de façon dynamique et constructive. J'ai eu la chance de présider le Conseil durant près de quatre ans. Ce ne fut pas toujours un « long fleuve tranquille », mais je suis convaincu que nous avons avancé dans la démarche d'une gouvernance plus reconnue, plus présente, plus responsable.

Nous avons tous gagné: les Membres, par une meilleure reconnaissance de votre action; la Direction et le Secrétariat par un programme plus balisé pour atteindre les objectifs assignés.

Les différents Comités du Conseil, qu'ils soient de gouvernance ou techniques, ont joué un rôle important dans l'étude, la discussion, la mise en application et l'évaluation des différentes actions, pour plus de visibilité et d'efficacité de la FAO.

Le débat, parfois difficile, sur les stratégies de partenariats avec la société civile et le secteur privé, a été semé d'embuches, mais nous avons surmonté les écueils pour proposer à la Conférence des textes qui permettent d'augurer une bonne coopération, dans la transparence, l'objectivité et l'éthique, tout en respectant le rôle de chacun. Les Conférences régionales, auxquelles j'ai pris part, ont montré que progressivement elles atteignent leur maturité et renforcent leur légitimité, et ce d'autant plus que la participation ministérielle est forte.

L'animation de ces Conférences et les résolutions adoptées apportent à la FAO le lien avec les actions de terrain. Devant le Directeur général et moi-même, ces Conférences ont été des lieux d'engagement solidaire de nombreux Membres sur le plan financier. Le slogan «aide-toi, le ciel d'aidera» fait son chemin pour engager la responsabilité de chacun.

Cet engagement solidaire doit être suivi et développé, c'est suffisamment novateur pour que cela mérite d'être signalé et encouragé.

La société civile, dans sa diversité, a été, par sa participation active, au cœur du dynamisme régional. Là aussi il y a encore de grands progrès à réaliser.

Nous aurons au cours de cette session de la Conférence à statuer sur les années internationales.

Au-delà des décisions, nous devons veiller à être plus actifs et véritablement acteurs de ces évènements mobilisateurs qui mettent en valeur des sujets importants tout en illustrant la diversité du monde.

Durant la Conférence, nous devrons également définir et adopter le programme de travail et de budget 2014-2015, toujours en discussion d'ailleurs. Chacun est soucieux de ses engagements financiers et souhaite bien appréhender les priorités et les besoins essentiels pour une FAO forte.

Bien sûr le contexte économique est difficile pour de nombreux pays, même les plus riches.

Il est pourtant indispensable d'assumer les engagements qui sont les nôtres pour éradiquer la faim. Tôt ou tard des questions de restructuration ou de meilleure complémentarité vont se poser entre les différentes organisations du système Onusien, particulièrement à Rome. Si nous ne voulons pas subir il faut anticiper.

Je crois plus que jamais à une gouvernance dynamique, responsable, qui engage la réflexion stratégique et pas uniquement de gestion, notre crédibilité en dépend.

Nous avons une mission importante pour l'avenir, à nous de la défendre et de la promouvoir de façon dynamique et démocratique. L'exemple de nos prédécesseurs qui ont engagé la réforme de la FAO doit nous servir de référence.

Nous avons besoin de tous, membres, producteurs, associations, entreprises coopératives et privées, organismes de recherche et établissements de formation.

C'est d'un partenariat diversifié et actif dont nous avons besoin. Continuons dans ce sens.

Après ces quatre années passées à la Présidence indépendante du Conseil de la FAO, je me permets à cet instant de prendre le risque de faire quelques suggestions liées à la gouvernance.

Je pense que le travail de réforme engagé doit se poursuivre pour permettre à la FAO d'être à la pointe dans la participation active de ses Membres.

1- En premier lieu, il est essentiel de donner de véritables moyens aux instances de Gouvernance et en particulier au Président indépendant du Conseil. Il faut pouvoir lui assurer une indépendance financière et budgétaire, certes, mais aussi un minimum de collaborateurs pour qu'il puisse assurer sa mission. Ce serait le gage que tous les Membres y compris les plus démunis puissent assumer cette responsabilité.

2- En second lieu, la FAO développe des partenariats et j'apprécie ce que nous avons engagé avec la société civile et le secteur privé. Il nous faudra aller encore plus loin, en engageant sur le même schéma des partenariats – et c'est déjà commencé – avec les établissements de formation et les centres de recherche.

3- Pour le troisième point, il est tout aussi essentiel de développer dans les pays les Alliances contre la faim et la malnutrition, pour que s'engage sur le terrain un grand mouvement unitaire de plaidoyer pour mieux faire connaître la FAO, et mobiliser les différents acteurs: associations, privés, société civile, parlementaires, pour l'accomplissement d'actions communes.

4- En point quatre, durant cette Conférence nous allons adopter un budget pour 2014-2015. Les discussions se poursuivent et ne sont pas faciles. Il est temps, comme cela s'est fait dans d'autres secteurs, et pour pallier aux coupures de budget, de rechercher et de développer des financements innovants, et de veiller à les pérenniser, pour rendre les contributions moins aléatoires.

5- En cinquième point, même si les relations entre les secrétariats des institutions onusiennes de Rome s'améliorent, il me semble indispensable d'envisager au moins une fois par an une réunion entre les cadres de haut niveau et les Membres. Ceci permettrait de mieux définir les actions complémentaires et d'engager une coopération plus active, qui pourrait aboutir à un regroupement, voire à une fusion. Nous n'aurons pas toujours les moyens de financer des programmes parfois concurrents. D'ailleurs dans le cadre de cette coordination plus active, il serait bon d'organiser un échange régulier entre les organes de gouvernance des organisations des Nations Unies qui sont naturellement en lien avec la FAO (l'OIT, l'OMS, l'OMC, l'UNESCO et sans doute d'autres).

Ceci est particulièrement opportun pour les relations avec l'OMC, qui devrait valider le leadership de la FAO sur la gouvernance mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

6- En sixième point, l'action de la FAO est véritablement très large, et il me semble que certains secteurs devraient être mis plus en valeur. C'est le cas de l'élevage, dont l'activité devrait être mieux appuyée, compte tenu du rôle essentiel qu'il recouvre à la FAO et dans le monde (nourriture, emploi, énergie, santé, aménagement du territoire) et pour lequel il n'existe pas de gouvernance mondiale.

D'autres sujets, compte tenu de leur intérêt pour demain, pourraient être mis à l'ordre du jour, en particulier les débats sur les biotechnologies ou les nanotechnologies qui seront indéniablement au cœur des problématiques du futur.

7- Enfin, à l'instar de ce que nous avons déjà fait, lors des derniers Conseils, à l'occasion de la restitution concernant les visites de terrain, il est essentiel de développer un dialogue constructif entre la Direction et les Membres sur ce qui est vécu sur le terrain.

8- Et permettez-moi de terminer avec une dernière suggestion concernant la visibilité de la Gouvernance de la FAO, que ce soit de la Conférence ou du Conseil. Il serait souhaitable qu'une communication spécifique à la gouvernance soit mise en place, pour une meilleure explication et reconnaissance des organes directeurs de notre Organisation.

Ces quelques propositions sont l'expression de ma volonté personnelle de servir la cause qui nous mobilise: éradiquer la faim.

Je suis convaincu qu'une meilleure gouvernance permettra à la Direction générale et à l'ensemble du personnel de mieux mener leur mission. Si je me suis permis ces réflexions, à la lumière de ce que j'ai vécu durant ces quatre années de Présidence, c'est pour être encore plus au service de ceux pour qui nous sommes ici.

Pour conclure, je voudrais vous dire combien je suis heureux et fier d'avoir placé mon expérience et mon énergie au service de la FAO. Je me dois de vous remercier tous, car si j'ai donné de ma personne, j'ai beaucoup reçu, dans un esprit de tolérance, d'écoute et de respect mutuel, malgré nos différences de culture, de religion, d'origines professionnelle ou géographique. Ma mission ici s'achève cette semaine. J'ai le sentiment d'avoir accompli mon devoir, mais notre tâche n'est pas terminée.

Pour ma part, mon engagement reste entier et je vous assure de toute ma disponibilité dans le futur. Quelle que soit ma place, je poursuivrai mon soutien au travail engagé, à Rome comme sur le terrain, pour une FAO forte, soutenue par ses Membres et conduite par son Secrétariat, pour accomplir la mission qui lui a été confiée lors de sa création et qui demeure d'une brûlante actualité aujourd'hui.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Guyau, and our very best wishes for your future endeavours now that your term of office is drawing to a close.

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura
(C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, we will now continue with Item 9, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. There are two background documents for this item, C 2013/2 and C 2013/2 Add.1, the latter sets out the theme Council proposed for the General Debate, Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition.

I give the floor to Mr Jomo Sundaram, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department who will introduce this item.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

I have the honour of introducing Agenda Item 9. There are two documents before you: C 2013/2, The State of Food and Agriculture, Review of World Agriculture and C 2013/2 Add. 1, Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition.

The former is a straightforward summary of recent trends based on data available when the document was prepared. For more current information, you may wish to consult two recent publications: the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook to 2022 and the FAO Food Outlook. Both are available from the FAO website.

The latter Conference document addresses the theme of this General Debate. It is a summary of the full publication, The State of Food and Agriculture 2013, "Food Systems for Better Nutrition" launched two weeks ago by the Director-General. This publication and the document before you make the case that good nutrition depends on healthy diets, and healthy diets depend on sustainable healthy food systems.

This is the message the Director-General carried into the G8 Hunger Summit and that we will be advocating throughout the coming months, for World Food Day in October and the 2nd ICN in November 2014. It also positions FAO with the Post-2015 Development Agenda. I would now like to take you quickly through some highlights of the paper.

Presentation
Présentation
Presentación

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Statements by Heads of Delegation
Déclarations des chefs de délégation
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación

Nicaragua, Thailand, Ireland, Algeria, Yemen, Italy, Tajikistan, Cape Verde, China.

CHAIRPERSON

I shall now give the floor to the Heads of Delegation who requested speaking time in advance. In view of the number of speakers and the limited time at our disposal may I appeal to you to respect the five minute limit, which Conference agreed to in adopting the First Report of the General Committee on Saturday. Please remember that if you run out of time the full version of your intervention can be submitted to the Secretariat for posting on the Conference Web site and inclusion in the verbatim records of this session.

I shall now call upon the first speaker, Mr Omar Halleslevens Acevedo, Vice-President of the Republic of Nicaragua, to take the floor.

Sr. Omar HALLESLEVENS ACEVEDO (Nicaragua)

Buenos días estimados Sr. José Graziano Da Silva, Director general de la FAO, Señores presidentes, Vicepresidentes, Embajadores y delegados ante la FAO, nuestra delegación quiere compartir con ustedes algunos elementos relevantes en la reducción de la extrema pobreza y el hambre en Nicaragua.

Elementos que se expresan en políticas y programas establecidos en el plan nacional de desarrollo humano y en la promulgación de leyes, que trazan estrategias productivas sociales sostenibles, priorizando el fortalecimiento de la economía familiar, comunitaria, cooperativa y asociativa.

Entre los que se destacan:

1.- El programa productivo alimentario, o hambre cero, tiene como objetivo la erradicación de la pobreza y reducción del hambre en las familias rurales descapitalizadas. A través del bono productivo alimentario, entregando bienes animales y vegetales; materiales de construcción; asistencia técnica y capacitación, dirigidos a la mujer como administradora de los bienes en el seno familiar.

2.- Programa CRISSOL: destinado a promover y financiar la producción agrícola de grupos solidarios y cooperativas, en la siembra de granos básicos y su la comercialización, bajo mecanismos justos.

3.- Programa USURA CERO: en el cual se le otorga créditos a mujeres a una tasa de interés justa, restituyéndoles de esta manera el derecho a tener financiamiento para impulsar pequeños negocios.

4.- Patio saludable: destinado a que en el casco urbano se pueda producir frutas y hortaliza para el consumo familiar y comunitario.

En lo social:

5.- Programa AMOR: destinado a rescatar de las calles a niños, niñas y adolescentes en condición de riesgos y vulnerabilidad;

6.- Programa MILAGRO: dirigidos a mejorar la visión de personas que han tenido dificultad en este órgano humano, así como, la operación sonrisa para corregir el labio leporino devolviéndole el encanto y sonrisa al beneficiado.

7.- En la generación de energía:

Trabajamos en el cambio de la matriz energética pasando del uso de combustibles fósiles a la generación energética renovables, alcanzando un 41 por ciento del total de la generación, ampliando el acceso de las familias a la energía eléctrica, restituyéndole el derecho al servicio eléctrico.

En estos últimos cinco años, hemos tenido un crecimiento económico sostenido, acompañado de acciones que han fortalecido la producción agropecuaria.

Asi como providencias que ayuden a incrementar las exportaciones que permitan la sostenibilidad de estos proyectos, y en general del desarrollo social y económico de nuestra querida Nicaragua.

Exportaciones (millones de doláres)					
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1,255.49	1,550.34	1,447.53	1,901.52	2,363.22	2,778.32

En el periodo 1990 a 2011, Nicaragua ha logrado reducir la cantidad de personas subnutridas en un 50.4 por ciento.

En tan solo cinco años de gobierno, el impacto de la implementación eficiente de estas políticas, programas y leyes se ha reflejado tanto en una significativa reducción de la extrema pobreza y pobreza, y el hambre, expresadas entre otros aspectos, en la reducción del analfabetismo, la reducción de mortalidad materna y la mortalidad infantil, en el aumento de la escolaridad tanto en pre escolar, primaria y secundaria, en su retención y graduación; así como en la reducción de la prevalencia de subalimentación, pasando del 55 por ciento en el período 1990-1992 a 20 por ciento en el período 2010-2012.

Hoy gozamos de políticas de estabilidad macro económica; brindamos seguridad jurídica y seguridad ciudadana que permiten un clima sano y seguro para la inversión pública nacional e internacional, y trabajamos por el reforzamiento de las relaciones internacionales que favorezcan un comercio digno, con normas procedimentales claras y justas.

Consideramos que para seguir avanzando se requiere de voluntad y compromisos políticos, de gobernanza y políticas públicas, de participación ciudadana, y del reforzamiento de las relaciones internacionales, sustentadas por normas de justicias, comercio justo, complementariedad y solidaridad.

Para finalizar solo me queda expresar que somos partidarios por seguir fortaleciendo a la FAO en este importante papel protagónico y desde ya respaldamos el programa de trabajo y presupuesto, que se presentará en esta jornada de sesiones para los próximos dos años.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call upon Mr Yukol Limlamthong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, to take the floor.

Mr Yukol LIMLAMTHONG (Thailand)

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand I have the great pleasure to be here to address the 38th Session of the FAO Conference on Sustainable Food System and Food Security and Nutrition today.

First of all, let me welcome Singapore, Brunei Darussalam and South Sudan as new Members of FAO. The joining of Singapore and Brunei will complete the number of ASEAN Member countries as FAO Members. Again, welcome and congratulations to the new Member Nations.

Mr Chairperson, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for giving Thailand, yesterday, the award for the achievement on reducing the number of undernourished people by half in 2015. Thailand recognized the importance of food security which is essential to the living of all people, not only the Thai people, but for people around the world. By saying this, Thailand has already launched the Strategic Framework for Food Management as the direction of food security scheme by the Thai National Food Committee chaired by the Prime Minister.

In terms of transforming this Strategic Framework into action, Thailand developed and applied dual approaches in Agriculture Development.

The first approach is focusing on the large-scale farmer with an emphasized marketing aspect, which means the policy and activity will support more trade than the self-sufficiency aspect. Therefore, recently, Thailand has launched the new agricultural development policies, which we call agricultural zoning policy. Market interest will be the target of production in each area by matching the scientific information on soil and types of crop, livestock and fishery to select the proper commodity for a specific area. To support this policy, strengthening the capacity of farmers is needed by providing more knowledge and changing their mindset and habit of farming practice to become Smart Farmers and Young Smart Farmers replacing aging farmers. As a consequence, Thailand is able to contribute agricultural foods and productions with a premium quality and safety to the world market.

The second approach is focusing on small-scale farmers and rural people throughout the country. In this regard, the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, initiated by His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej is adopted as the fundamental in agricultural development in the rural area. The farmer will practice farm activity in livestock, fisheries and crop plantation to feed themselves first.

The farm that applies to this philosophy is called "New Agricultural Theory" which is "Integrated Farming System". The main activities in this system are having a pond and growing rice, in addition farmers can expand more activity to crop, livestock and fisheries as per their interest. This farming system would therefore lead to food security in the rural area.

These approaches will create food security in the rural area which will cover from household to the community, the national level and also people around the world.

Besides these, Thailand has also developed the Green City policy in order to campaign the reduction of climate change impact which is increasing more and more. Another policy is expanding the food lost and food waste concept in agricultural activities, not only for livestock, but also for all agricultural sectors for food security concerns.

In addition, we have developed a more comprehensive programme in terms of health. The Ministry of Public Health has also educated on dietary requirement and nutritious values by encouraging people in Thailand to be aware of staying fit with a healthy diet. Furthermore, Her Royal Highness the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has established the project called "School Lunch Programme" in

remote areas to help under-funded schools to have sufficient and nutritive food at school by adding the agriculture project such as fish, chicken or pig-raising and vegetable-growing in the school programme. Moreover, students will experience how important agriculture is.

In conclusion, Food Security and Nutrition are vital to the situation today. The more we succeed in food security, the more we succeed in developing Sustainable Food Systems. Therefore, as the kitchen of the world, Thailand is willing to share all experiences and would like to urge every country to combat global hunger and poverty for achieving the Millennium Development Goals for the all time well being of mankind.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call upon Mr Tom Hayes Minister of State for Food Safety, Forestry and Horticulture of Ireland, to take the floor.

Mr Tom HAYES (Ireland)

Director-General, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to be here today, to represent Ireland on the occasion of the 38th FAO Conference.

It is useful to remind ourselves thatm we are here to discuss food and nutrition security. 870 million people are hungry as we sit here today. That is almost twice the population of the entire European Union. It is good to see that we have begun to make progress in developing the necessary political will and commitment to end this shameful reality.

To help us to focus, we should reflect on the life of a poor small-holder farmer who wakes up early each morning determined to ensure her family's survival. She needs food, water and fuel. But they are in scarce supply. There is only one staple crop. The surrounding farms are scorched by severe drought because the rains failed. The science of climate change seems a million miles away from her homestead but its impact can be seen in the withered maize stalks and on the face of her baby daughter who is chronically malnourished and struggling to survive. How will her children grow and develop, or access health services or education?

This is a familiar story to those who are trying to cope on the frontline of the fight against hunger and malnutrition and the challenges of climate change. But it is only part of the picture.

It is not just about the quantity of food grown but also its quality and diversity. We often overlook the impact of climate change on water, sanitation and health, but the impacts can be seen in the spread of diseases. And of course there is the effect on food prices abd the affordability of food. High food prices hit the poor hardest.

Ireland is playing its part in meeting these challenges. We had our own experience of famine, during what we call the Great Hunger, in the 1840s. Back then, Ireland had a fast growing population of eight million people. Small subsistence farmers were dependent on one crop, the potato. The crop failed. With poor governance and the failure of leadership to address the situation, the tragedy unfolded. More than one million Irish people died of starvation and over one million more were forced to emigrate. This historical prespective underpins our commitment to combating hunger. That is why, during the Irish Presidency of the EU, we held a major international conference in Dublin, which brought together key policy makers, as well as local and grassroots representatives from around the globe facing the realities of rising food prices, failed crops, under-nutrition and hunger.

Also, Ireland recently endorsed a new "Global Nutrition for Growth" Compact pledging to double its nutrition efforts over the next eight years. This represents an ambitious commitment. We will do this by having a greater focus on fortidying food staples and crops with vitamins and minerals. We will increase our focus on hunger and under-nutrition across our entire programme, in line with Ireland's new policy for international development, "One World, One Future".

Ireland's response to addressing global hunger and under-nutrition focuses on:

- helping poor small-holder and women farmers in Africa to increase their productivity,

- targeting under-nutrition in mothers and children, and

- promoting governance and leadership action to reduce global hunger and under-nutrition.

Ireland's Presidency of the EU has come to a pivotal time in international development, as we approach the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and shape the post-2015 agenda.

Ireland has worked closely with the European Commission on the development of a new EU Nutrition Policy to enhance maternal and infant nutrition. The new EU Plan, entitled "Boosting Food and Nutrition Security through EU Action: Implementing our Commitments" sets out how we plan to translate our policy commitments into action over the period from 2014 to 2020.

I want to see us create a new vision of the poor small-holder farmer. In this alternate vision, the farmer has received advice and assistance from her local farmer support group to intercrop legumes and nitrogen-fixing trees with maize yields. Indeed she has a surplus, which she has sold at the market, giving her additional income.

Such transformation is possible. Let us use the diversity of our experience to put forward innovative solutions and take leadership at every level. By doing so, we can improve the lives not just for this generation, but for the generations to come.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call upon Mr Rachid Benaissa, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Algeria, to take the floor.

M. Rachid BENAISSA (Algérie)

J'ai le plaisir et l'honneur de vous transmettre, les vœux les plus chaleureux et de plein succès de Son Excellence M. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Président de la République algérienne démocratique et populaire, en soulignant particulièrement l'intérêt qu'il porte à la lutte contre la faim, la malnutrition et la pauvreté dans le monde, lutte devenue aujourd'hui essentielle pour notre planète.

Je voudrais adresser mes vifs remerciements à Monsieur José Graziano da Silva pour les efforts qu'il déploie depuis son élection à la Direction générale de la FAO pour en améliorer la gouvernance et lui permettre de remplir sa mission avec une efficience maximale – notamment au profit des populations qui suffrent de la faim et de la malnutrition – grâce à un développment partagé et durable.

Dans son message au monde, à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'environnement, organisée le 5 juin dernier sous le thème «Pensez, mangez, préservez, dites non au gaspillage alimentaire !», M. Ban Ki-moon, Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, notait que dans le monde où nous vivons l'abondance alimentare coexiste avec la sous-alimentation de centaines de millions de personnes et une pandémie silencieuse de retards de croissance des enfants.

La FAO, pour sa part, indique que 1,3 milliards de tonnes de nourriture sont gaspillées chaque année alors que plus de 20 000 enfants meurent chaque jour victimes de la faim.

Sur un autre plan, au courant du mois de mai passé, les pays africains de l'espace sahélo-saharien se réunissaient à N'djaména, au Tchad, pour discuter des moyens à mettre en œuvre pour inverser durablement les tendances à la dégradation des ressources naturelles causée par le changement climatique, la désertification et la sécheresse, ainsi que les activités humaines. L'organisation d'un important colloque international, dans le même pays, a suivi et fut consacré à la recherche des meilleures méthodes pour préserver les modes de vie ancestraux liés au pastoralisme, l'objectif étant de préserver et de renforcer la sécurité dans la région.

De leur côté, les pays méditerranéens se concertent depuis quelques mois sur le thème «L'agro-écologie, voie du futur».

Il en est de même du G20, qui a traité à plusieurs reprises du renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire, particulièrement dans la recherche de systèmes de régulation plus efficients, pour faire face à la volatilité des prix des produits alimentaires sur les marchés internationaux.

Aujourd'hui, en citant ces quelques événements, parmi beaucoup d'autres de même orientation et envergure, je veux mettre en exergue les multiples facettes et la pertinence du thème - « Des systèmes alimentaires durables au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition » -, qui sera abordé lors de nos travaux, mais aussi la diversité et la complexité des questions qu'il sous-tend, ainsi que la prise de conscience mondiale sur la nécessité de prendre en charge de manière frontale, durable, efficace et soutenue, le règlement des problèmes de la malnutrition et de l'insécurité alimentaire.

Il s'agit bien d'un défi d'une importance capitale, dans la mesure où il faudra nourrir bientôt neuf milliards de personnes, tout en préservant les capacités de reproduction des ressources de la planète. Et ce n'est pas un hasard si aujourd'hui l'agriculture et le développement rural, ainsi que le développement durable, se retrouvent de plus en plus au centre des politiques publiques de nombre de pays sur l'ensemble des continents et ce, dans un contexte où l'économie mondiale peine à transcender ses crises de croissance et à s'inscrire dans une perspective réelle de développment durable.

Malgré les progrès accomplis par les pays en développement, relever ce défi constituera une œuvre de grande envergure que nous pouvons réaliser par une mise en synergie des connaissances et une mobilisation efficiente des acteurs, en nous appuyant sur les expériences vécues et les études menées par notre Organisation, ainsi que par d'autres institutions et organismes internationaux.

Il s'agira en fait, pour nous, de faire de notre retard dans ce domaine un atout et construire l'agriculture et les systèmes alimentaires de demain.

En ouvrant ainsi ce grand chantier, avec ses facettes et ses dimensions multiples, notre Organisation, la FAO, fait montre d'une grande audace et d'une clairvoyance certaine que nous saluons et soutenons.

Mon pays, l'Algérie, s'inscrit de manière claire dans cette démarche et procède, dans le cadre de sa politique de renouveau agricole et rural, à la mise en place des conditions de la construction d'un système alimentaire durable au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition de ses populations.

Reconnaître la diversité des situations et des écosystèmes, libérer les initiatives, faciliter l'accès au foncier agricole, promovoir un environnement incitatif, mutualiser les efforts, encourager le partenariat public et privé, et compter avant tout sur nous-mêmes, comme le préconise le NEPAD, est un crédo qui guide nos actions et donne le sens à nos projets dans l'objectif d'assurer durablement la sécurité alimentaire, une nutrition équilibrée et un développement cohérent et harmonieux de nos territoires. Tout cela, en conformité avec des dispositions légales qui ont été prises en 2008.

Dans cette perspective, trois principes fondamentaux guident notre action:

- «Il n'y a pas de territoire sans avenir, il n'y a que des territoires sans projets.»

- «Le monde rural est synonyme de potentialités à découvrir et à valoriser.»

- «Il n'y a de développement durable que s'il touche l'ensemble des régions, sans marginalisation et sans exclusion aucune.»

De plus, grâce à un ambitieux programme de renforcement des capacités humaines et d'assistance technique, nous nous sommes engagés dans le développement et la généralisation des connaissances pour nous permettre de produire autrement, mieux et plus de nourriture, ce qui est également un élément nouveau que nous avons introduit.

Enfin, les premiers résultats sont là: un taux de croissance moyen annuel de la production agricole de 13,8 pour cent ces quatre dernières années, une amélioration significative de la sécurité alimentaire des ménages et du pays, une réduction sensible du taux de chômage – particulièrement en milieu rural – et un renforcement perceptible de la cohésion sociale.

Je terminerais en disant que j'affirme la solidarité agissante de l'Algérie pour la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde. Mon pays, en fonction de ses moyens, répond toujours de manière présente pour le renforcement de la paix, la prospérité et la liberté dans le monde. À titre d'illustration, une des décisions récentes de mon pays dans ce sens a consisté à effacer la dette de plus de 16 pays - 14 africains et des arabes. C'est l'expression de notre solidarité.

Il ne vous échappera pas, Monsieur le Directeur général, qu'il y a là matière à un très vaste champ pour la coopération et le partenariat avec la FAO, le contexte étant également très favorable à la promotion d'initiatives multilatérales.

Je ne conclurai pas sans saluer à cette occasion les efforts communs déployés, et les succès enregistrés ces dernières semaines, dans la lutte antiacridienne par les pays du Sahel et du Nord de l'Afrique, en collaboration avec la FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call upon Mr Farid Ahmed Mujawar Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation of Yemen, to take the floor.

Mr Farid Ahmed MUJAWAR (Yemen) (Original language Arabic)

I am pleased on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Yemen to take the floor at this 38th Session of the FAO Conference. This Conference is held at a time when the world is faced with many great and complex challenges. This requires the adoption of national, regional and international collective measures in order to overcome these challenges and impediments.

The Conference will be discussing many important issues. Namely, the revised Strategic Framework as well as the vision of the Organization, its Strategic Objectives, the Medium Term Plan for 2014–2017 and the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014–2015 submitted by the Director-General of FAO.

The Republic of Yemen welcomes the efforts deployed for more decentralization in FAO, by delegating more authority to the regional offices, in order to undertake its role fully. We would like to express our full support to the decentralization process and its forthcoming phase. We also support the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for the renewal of FAO.

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to FAO for the technical support and advice it provides to Yemen. Yemen would also like to express its support to amendments to the budget and the Plan of Action, as I said before.

We reiterate our thanks to FAO for its technical support and also its help in combating poverty, desertification, plant pests as well as transboundary animal diseases. And we would like to thank FAO for the role it played in the common programme between WFP and FAO, which had a positive impact on mitigating the adverse effects of the political transformation recently witnessed in Yemen.

In this regard, we would like to thank Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, for his recent visit to Yemen. This ended the isolation of Yemen and had a very positive impact in terms of increasing technical support and advice provided by FAO to many sectors in Yemen. It also encouraged many dignitaries and representatives of other international organizations to visit the Republic of Yemen.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are faced with a threat of infestation by three agricultural pests. At the beginning of the year, the tomato stem borer attacked our tomato crop, the entire crop, and this led to the destruction of the entire crop for this season and many losses incurred by farmers. It is a threat to many other crops such as potato and eggplants.

At the same time, we also discovered the palm weevil pest in the governorate of Hadhramaut and we fear that this pest might be propagated over larger areas. This will lead to even more losses, always incurred by farmers.

We also expect an outbreak of desert locust soon, and we call on our brothers and friends from donor countries to provide us with support for the implementation of the transitional programme of stabilization and development of Yemen and its agricultural sector, and to honour their commitments and pledges made in the Conference of the Friends of Yemen that was held recently in the British capital, London. This programme aims at rehabilitating the agricultural sector of Yemen.

We are faced with many challenges due to the dire economic situation which led to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, arising in poverty and unemployment and acute malnutrition amongst

children and women. There are over one million children suffering from malnutrition. The Yemeni society is an agricultural society and over 70 percent of its population lives in rural areas. The deteriorating economic situation and the decrease in production, have led to a hike in food commodity prices by over 50 percent since the beginning of the economic crisis in 2011.

Yemen also hosts over a million refugees from the horn of Africa, who fled armed conflicts there. They constitute an additional economic and security burden on Yemen, which suffers from a scarcity of resources. As such, we need to increase activities and programmes in order to deal with these challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen, to conclude, I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Government of Yemen to continue its cooperation with FAO in order to achieve our common objectives.

We would also like to reiterate our support to FAO's activities in Yemen, by providing all necessary facilities and overcoming all difficulties in order to guarantee the success of these programmes. Thank you for your kind attention.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call upon Ms Nunzia De Girolamo, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policy of Italy, to take the floor.

Ms Nunzia DE GIROLAMO (Italy) (Original language Italian)

First of all let me join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election. Allow me also to welcome the new Members of this Organization.

I am very honoured to represent Italy, the host country and historically one of the top donors of FAO and to reiterate the strong commitment of my Government to support FAO, as the leading Agency for Food Security, Nutrition, and Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development. My Government considers the General Conference as the highest qualified global forum, for debating, coordinating and planning agricultural, food security and nutrition policies, to promote sustainable development, in particular to the benefit of the partner countries.

I am very honoured to be here today to support the initiatives taken in this forum, which provide an essential network for a closer coordination and planning of international agricultural policies.

In this framework, I strongly agree with FAO's agenda on the need to engage to reduce hunger and under-nutrition.

We have encouraging data that show some progress towards the achievement of MDG 1, nevertheless more efforts need to be made in this direction.

Statistics by FAO estimate that about 870 million people 852 millionof which live in developing countries are undernourished. A number still too high which clearly demands some reflections.

We are all responsible in finding together effective and common actions to reduce hunger and malnutrition. Italy agrees that reducing food price volatility and increasing food production is certainly a way. But these actions should be supported by capacity building initiatives to empower partner Countries in drawing efficient agricultural policies; these policies will have to take into due account the role of women, whose work most contributes to food security in rural areas, the respect of the biodiversity and the hydro geological challenges of their territories. In addition, Italy reiterates the importance to support the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as a fundamental tool to achieve Food Security.

Following the commitment of the Aquila Summit, the recent G8 conference on Open Data for Agriculture held in Washington on 29 of April stressed the importance of sharing information valuable for farmers, researchers and policymakers in developing countries, particularly in Africa. Italy is supporting this action with 35 agricultural databases which will soon be made available in an open access format.

Italy believes that this activity as well as others within the G8 and G20 Fora, must be in line with the decisions agreed within FAO and the Committee on World Food Security and in close coordination with other international organisations that work to eradicate world hunger.

As Minister of Agriculture of a country that has historically contributed to enhance the role of a specialized and qualified agriculture, I agree with the vision of a world where food also meaning good quality food, is guaranteed to all and we should all be obliged to ensure that our citizens have a healthy life.

In this regard, the recent report on the State of Food and Agriculture highlights the costs of malnutrition in a broader perspective that includes problems such as overeating. To this I would add a subject to which I am particularly committed, which is the fight against food waste, particularly relevant also in Europe. These are problems that we can address in particular through better nutrition education from the youngest.

We should not overlook the environmental aspects, an essential component of the integrated policies that we are called upon to implement. In this context, the need to preserve the soil will have an increasing importance, as it is a scarce and fundamental resource, not only for agriculture and food, but also for landscape and environment. This Saturday, the Italian government has approved a bill that aims to protect the soil and the protection of agricultural land. I think this is an important contribution in terms of governance of the territory as it introduces the principle of containment of land consumption.

All these are issues, Mr President, on which international cooperation is particularly needed.

I would like to conclude addressing the importance of the Expo 2015 that will be held in Milano. The main theme of the event, to which the Organizations of the Rome-based Agencies are actively contributing, is not by chance Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life. I invite all governments not only to participate and visit the Expo but also contribute to its preparation and success. This event will be a great occasion to learn more of each other best practices and experiences in the field of food and agriculture. It will also be an opportunity to establish a network for private and public partnerships which share the common view of a planet with a sustainable growth.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call upon Mr Kosim Kosimov Minister for Agriculture of Tajikistan, to take the floor.

Mr Kosim KOSIMOV (Tajikistan) (Original language Russian)

First of all allow me to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity of speaking to you at this FAO Conference which is a well-established forum for discussing priority issues to deal with the agrarian sector and combating hunger.

Taking this advantage I would like to also congratulate my colleagues and my closer colleague the Minister of Agriculture of Afghanistan Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi on the occasion of his election to the Chair of this Conference.

This Conference is called in order to take stock of the activity and cooperation of the FAO with the Member States of the Organization and to also define the priority areas for the next couple of years. In the light of what the Secretary-General of FAO Mr da Silva said, I should also like to share with you some of our thoughts about the future of agriculture. Tajikistan is an agrarian country with limited land resources to boost food production and to strengthen the economy of the country. In addition to that, we have to remember that serious natural disasters prompted by climate change have had very negative effects on the agriculture of the country.

The losses to agriculture in Tajikistan because of such disasters have come to an average of more than 25 percent for cereals, 28 percent for coal and 25 percent for cotton; and the country's agrarian production amounts to 25 percent of the GDP.

In order to react to these challenges, the Government of the country has set in place a policy of improved system of national administration and a self-management of natural resources. As an

illustration of that, in 2008 we passed a National Programme on food security and in 2010 a law on food security in accordance with which, as from 2011, we have a Council on food security led by the Prime Minister.

To solve the current problems in the agrarian sector and also to meet these new challenges, FAO plays a particular part as a very solid partner of Tajikistan in trying to overcome the local problems.

Tajikistan's position on these issues is also on a regional and sub-regional level and they play a very important part in our region. Speaking at the 28th Regional Conference of the FAO for Europe and Central Asia in April last year, I noted the role of the Organization in working out a reformed programme of the agrarian sector of Tajikistan. It also plans to open a Country Office.

Today, I am delighted to inform you that the government of Tajikistan has endorsed the Programme for Agrarian Reform which foresees working out several strategies including investment projects to take us up through the next 10 years, which will allow us not only to solve the problem of food security radically in our country, but also to provide essential help to countries in the region as a whole.

Together with that, the Tajikistan FAO office has worked in very close cooperation with the specialists of the Organization to elaborate a country CPF where we have defined the priority areas for cooperation between Tajikistan and the FAO. This programme is aimed at strengthening food security and also promoting the development of the agricultural sector through the long-term sustainable use and management of natural resources.

These include village development and particularly, the infrastructure, improvement of agricultural diversification, support of small holdings and cooperation of modern agricultural methods and a plant protection, strengthening and improving seed production, promoting inventorization and the assessment of the state of the forests in the Republic, the development of a commercial forestry and timber processing, effective methods, modern methods for the use of land and water resources, adapting to climate change, improving the system of monitoring of animal diseases, the event of aqua-culture, and also effective methods for feed production and support of setting up a system for identifying animal registration.

Some of these points require a regional approach. To that we do endorse our support with FAO and we would like to state the following that FAO should help us perhaps in developing and improving personnel capabilities. Secondly, preparing projects and attracting investment. Thirdly, strengthening the country office of FAO in Tajikistan and the speedy appointment of a Permanent Representative.

Lastly, the Republic of Tajikistan as from 2 March 2013 joined the WTO and became a full member thereof. It is quite clear I think that in order to fulfill the commitments of the WTO, we have to improve and harmonize the legislative and normative base and we also hope that technical support here will be given by FAO.

In conclusion, allow me once again to express my sincere gratitude for this splendid organization of this Conference and the welcome provided to the participants of the FAO Conference, the close and productive cooperation which we have enjoyed, and also express the hope that in the next days we will be able to work out and to endorse decisions which will be able to promote and help the stable development of the agrarian sector and to solve the problem of food security.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call upon Ms Eva Verona Teixeira Ortet, Minister for Rural Development of Cape Verde, to take the floor.

Mme Eva VERONA TEIXEIRA ORTET (Cap-Vert) (langue originale portugaise)

Tout d'abord, permettez-moi de m'adresser à Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur Graziano da Silva, pour le féliciter pour le travail remarquable qu'il est en train de mener au sein de la FAO, et en particulier pour son effort et son engagement personnel, aussi bien dans le processus de restructuration de cette Institution que dans la recherche de compromis entre les Nations afin

d'éradiquer la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde. Dans ce sens nous réitérons, notre appui au budget 2014-2015, présenté par M. le Directeur général.

Permettez-moi également de féliciter notre compatriote, Madame Maria Helena Semedo, et lui manifester notre satisfaction et gratitude pour son élection au poste de Directrice générale adjointe de la FAO, et de lui dire aussi que tous les Cap-verdiens se sentent fiers de cette grandiose nomination. Au nom de tous les Cap-verdiens nous voudrions lui souhaiter bonheur et succès dans l'accomplissement de sa tâche à ce nouveau poste.

Monsieur le Directeur général, nous félicitons et encourageons les pays qui se sont distingués pour les progrès qu'ils ont réalisés afin d'atteindre les buts fixés lors par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation et les Objectifs de développement du millénaire, qui est celui de réduire de moitié la couche de la population malnourrie. Cependant, nous aimerions signaler le cas spécifique du Cap-Vert, qui, bien qu'ayant réduit la couche de la population malnourrie, de 12 pour cent en 1991 à 8,9 pour cent en 2011, n'a pas pu atteindre les objectifs préconisés, même s'il garde l'un des indices les plus bas d'Afrique sub-saharienne. Toutefois, le Gouvernement du Cap-Vert s'est engagé à réduire ce pourcentage.

Il est à souligner que les coûts par personne nécessaires pour investir dans les mesures de protection sociale, visant la réduction continue des niveaux déjà bas de malnutrition et de l'insécurité alimentaire chronique ou transitoire, sont d'autant plus élevés par rapport aux pays qui débutent ce processus avec une incidence de malnutrition élevée et absolue.

Dans ce contexte, nous appelons à la mobilisation de ressources pour les pays qui auront la tâche de continuer à réduire de façon continue les niveaux de malnutrition jusqu'á l'élimination totale de la faim et de la malnutrition. Malgré les limitations structurelles, particulièrement en matière de disponibilité en sols agricoles, en eau et le fait d´être archipel, le Cap-Vert est en train de mettre en œuvre des programmes, tels que la mobilisation et la distribution de l'eau, qui visent l'augmentation de la production agricole.

Ainsi, et pour ce qui est du secteur agricole, les résultats actuellement estimés pour la production horticole, de racines et de tubercules, montrent une augmentation significative, de l'ordre de 75 pour cent, par rapport à l'année 2000 et une disponibilité annuelle en produits horticoles de l'ordre de 84,3 pour cent par personne, en 2011 par rapport à la recommandation de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé.

Ces données renforcent l'idée que le secteur agricole est fondamental pour la garantie de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle du pays. Selon les données statistiques, ce secteur est celui qui a le plus contribué à la réduction de la pauvreté au Cap-Vert.

Ces progrès reflètent l'orientation politique du pays, basée sur un effort national d'investissement dans le secteur agricole. En effet, le Cap-Vert alloue de 10 à 15 pour cent du budget global de l'État, ce qui le place parmi les pays d'Afrique qui répondent à la recommandation du sommet de Maputo.

L'évolution positive de la production agricole a eu des reflets positifs sur les indicateurs de la situation nutritionnelle du pays, d'où il ressort que les enfants des écoles maternelles et primaires en sont les premiers bénéficiaires. Par ailleurs, l'offre d'un repas nutritif et diversifié dans le programme des cantines scolaires n'est possible que par l'introduction d'aliments frais produits localement, tels que les légumes, les fruits, les viandes et les poissons. Il est à noter, qu'après le retrait du PAM, le Gouvernement a pris la relève à travers le Programme d'alimentation scolaire, et a offert un repas chaud par jour à chaque enfant âgé de 5 à 11 ans, soit 100 pour cent de l'alimentation des enfants bénéficiant de l'enseignement public. Le nombre de familles et d'enfants qui ont bénéficié du Programme de l'alimentation scolaire représentait 25 pour cent de la population du pays en 2010. Ce Programme contribue fortement à la réduction de l'abandon scolaire, en plaçant le taux de scolarisation de 70 pour cent en 1990 à 98 pour cent en 2012.

De plus, les grands succès du pays, enregistrés pendant la dernière décennie, sont directement liés à la réduction significative du nombre de pauvres et à l'expansion de l'accès aux services sociaux. L´accès aux services sociaux essentiels, tels que les soins de santé, l'enseignement et l'accès aux biens

essentiels comme l'eau potable et l'électricité, les voies d'accès aux marchés, ont beaucoup contribué à la réduction de la pauvreté. De même, la pension sociale a été augmentée et le système de protection sociale élargi à davantage de personnes.

Ces progrès ont permis d'améliorer les conditions d'existence des populations avec des reflets positifs dans le taux de nutrition, mais également dans le taux de mortalité infantile et maternelle. Ceux-ci, sont les résultats d'une volonté politique claire et intégrée, qui mobilise tous les secteurs, notamment, la santé, l'éducation, le développement rural et l'agriculture, la protection et la cohésion sociale, et associée à la bonne gouvernance et à la stabilité politique.

Monsieur le Directeur général, malgré les progrès réalisés, le Gouvernement du Cap-Vert est conscient des défis à surmonter dans l'avenir. Il existe encore parmi nos citoyens ceux qui n'ont pas accès à des services sociaux de base de qualité et d'autres qui sont encore pauvres et qui ne sont pas en mesure de participer ou d'intégrer l'économie nationale, en plus de quelques déséquilibres lié au genre.

Ces défis doivent être gagnés, si nous souhaitons mettre en œuvre notre vision nationale qui est celle de construire une nation plus inclusive, prospère et une égalité d'opportunités pour tous.

Pour terminer, nous souhaitons plein succès aux travaux de la 38ème Conférence de la FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call upon Mr Yu Xinrong First Vice Minister for Agriculture of China, to take the floor.

Mr Yu XINRONG (China) (Original language Chinese)

It is a great pleasure for me to come to this beautiful city of Rome to discuss with you the state of global food security, share experience and observations of agricultural development, and especially exchange views on how to develop sustainable food systems to improve food and nutrition security.

Food is vital for human survival, and food security is one of the hot issues arousing greatest concerns by the international community. In recent years, plagued by factors such as the international financial crisis, climate change and energy policy, world food supply and demand is under a tight balance, regional shortage is aggravating, food price is high and volatile, and food security situation is not inviting a sense of optimism. Now there are merely two years left before we reach 2015, but there're still 870 million people suffering from hunger. We are facing a grave situation to achieve the MDGs.

The theme for the General Debate of the Conference is "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition". Food system is an extensive concept, covering the whole process of production, processing, storage, transportation, marketing and consumption. Each component of the process is indispensable for addressing food security and nutrition problems. Governments shall optimize top-down designs, adopt comprehensive measures, and enhance supply effectiveness to improve food security and nutrition.

I wish to emphasize here that in present food systems, particularly in the developing countries, the most important component is still production, and the most central sector is still agriculture. What's impressing now is to focus on agriculture to increasingly build up food supply, if to effectively alleviate the tight food security situation. Against the backdrop of a complicated economic situation and slow growth trend, governments shall increase investment in agriculture to enhance food productivity and supply, and to manage well distribution and consumption. Only by doing so can we improve food security and nutrition for the whole society, thus contributing to economic growth and social stability.

The Chinese government has always attached great importance to agricultural development and food security, always putting the subsistence of its 1.3 billion people as the country's top priority. We have been increasing policy support to agriculture, farmers and rural areas to strengthen the role of agriculture as the foundation of the economy, and to protect the initiatives of farmers or motivate them for production. With these efforts, we have gained a steady rise in the comprehensive agricultural productivity, and world-recognized achievements.

In 2012, the total grain output in China was nearly 590 million tons, marking the ninth consecutive year of growth. At present, there is an ample supply of major agricultural products and the prices remain stable in general. The self-sufficiency rate of rice, corn and wheat has reached 98.1 percent. Though import grew faster for corn, rice and wheat in the past two years, the total amount of import was limited, accounting for only 2 percent of the domestic production. Grain stock grew as well over the same period in China.

This year, the Chinese government has further intensified policy support to agriculture. The general situation of agriculture and grain production is good. Now another bumper harvest of summer crops is foreseeable, promising the tenth year of harvest we are striving for. China is fully confident and competent to rely on domestic production for its future food security.

As a responsible developing country, besides its own development tasks, China has also tried its best to offer support and assistance to other developing countries under the framework of "South-South Cooperation". China has established over 20 technology demonstration centers, and trained about a thousand of technicians for the developing world. Every year China will send about a hundred of experts and technicians to train the locals in the field.

Food security and agricultural development matters to the well-being of all peoples as well as prosperity and stability of all countries. I hope that countries can join hands and take concerted actions. And I would like to take this opportunity to make the following proposals:

First, to increase investment in agriculture. Governments shall continue to place top priority on agriculture and food production, and enhance the efforts to build infrastructure, promote disaster prevention and mitigation, boost science and technology, and expand investment opportunities in agriculture so as to fuel agricultural growth.

Second, to improve efficiency in grain utilization. We shall accelerate innovation and extension of post-harvest technologies, and improve management practices in storage, transportation and processing to reduce grain losses. In addition food waste shall be avoided to raise grain utilization efficiency.

Third, to strengthen international cooperation. Countries shall engage in bilateral and multilateral cooperation through sharing of policies, practical techniques and advanced experience. We shall act against trade protectionism, facilitate trade, and build a fair, equitable, sustained and stable agricultural trade order.

Global food security demands joint efforts of the international community. All countries, particular developed countries, shall honor their commitments and strive for the actual attainment of the Millennium Goals. The Chinese government is ready to work with all countries to make its due contribution to the global food security, and to a long-lasting prosperous world of stability.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the end of our list of speakers for this morning. We will reconvene at 14.30 hours with the next speaker listed in today's Journal.

The meeting rose at 12.15 hours
La séance est levée à 12 h 15
Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session
Trente-huitième session
38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

17 June 2013

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.41 hours
Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 41
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.41
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Presidente de la Conferencia

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)
(C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1)

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Republic of Korea, Norway, South Africa, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Hungary, Cameroon, Philippines, France, Guinea, Jordan, Mali, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Maldives, Romania, Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan, Senegal, Indonesia, Unites States of America, Russian Federation, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Canada, European Union.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, I call the Fourth Plenary Meeting to order. We will now continue with Item 9, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. I give the floor to the Bolivarian republic of Venezuela.

Sr. Elías Jaua MILANO (Venezuela, República Bolivariana de)

En primer lugar, quisiera reiterar el agradecimiento de nuestro Presidente Nicolás Maduro y de nuestro pueblo por el reconocimiento del que fuimos objeto el día de ayer; reiterar además junto al presidente Maduro, que ese reconocimiento es a nuestro pueblo, al esfuerzo y al profundo amor del Comandante Presidente Hugo Chávez por la felicidad y la prosperidad del pueblo venezolano y mucho más allá de la humanidad. Ese reconocimiento como parte de los países que han logrado cumplir la meta de erradicación del hambre nos compromete a continuar luchando en el mundo por eliminar este flagelo. En el planeta, 800 millones de seres humanos tienen hambre y 40 millones de ellos viven en América Latina. Gracias a la Revolución Socialista del Comandante Presidente Hugo Chávez, muy pocos, pero muy pocos de ellos viven en Venezuela; podemos decir que dentro de muy corto tiempo ninguno de ellos vivirá en Venezuela. Hoy, el 94,7 por ciento de la población venezolana, es decir 28 millones y medio de habitantes en 2013, comen tres o más comidas al día; la disponibilidad calórica aumentó en los últimos 10 años en un 49,6 por ciento alcanzando, según datos del Instituto Nacional de Nutrición, 3182 kilocalorías por día. Esta disponibilidad diaria es notablemente superior a las 2200 kilocalorías diarias, promedio de América Latina, Asia y África.

Al inicio del gobierno revolucionario el Índice de Prevalencia de Subnutrición era de 21 por ciento, es decir aproximadamente más de 5 millones de personas; transcurridos 14 años de gobierno del Comandante Presidente Hugo Chávez se ubica en 6 por ciento, aproximadamente 1,5 millones, el más bajo de la historia del país. En el año 80 el déficit del estado nutricional de acuerdo a la talla según la edad, era de 22,85 por ciento; es decir, que de cada 100 venezolanos, 22,8 estaban por debajo del tamaño en función a su edad. Hoy es apenas del 1,7 por ciento, o sea que de cada 100 venezolanos, 2, solo 2 están por debajo del tamaño indicado; lo que demuestra una reducción del 92 por ciento.

Estos indicadores demuestran que la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, durante el mandato del Comandante Hugo Chávez, erradicó el hambre de nuestro territorio cumpliendo anticipadamente y mucho más allá de lo solicitado con la meta del milenio referente al hambre: reducir a la mitad antes del 2015 la proporción de personas que sufren de este mal.

El triunfo de la Revolución Bolivariana ha sido comprender que la única vía posible para combatir el hambre es la construcción de una sociedad socialista; una política de desarrollo agrícolaintegral estructurada en la lucha contra el latifundio, el financiamiento oportuno, la inversión en infraestructura agrícola, la agroindustria, el acceso a la ciencia y a la tecnología por parte de los pequeños y medianos productores, ha permitido aumentar la producción agrícola y conseguido los máximos históricos de producción en la mayoría de los rubros vegetales, pecuarios y pesqueros. Sin embargo, aún no logran satisfacer el crecimiento de la demanda de un pueblo que ha visto mejorar su nivel adquisitivo. De allí la solicitud de apoyo a la FAO hecha por el Presidente Nicolás Maduro para continuar una política de crecimiento sostenible y suficiente de nuestra producción para ir reduciendo

los niveles de importación y que nuestro pueblo pueda continuar consumiendo los alimentos necesarios como lo hace hoy, pero a partir de la propia producción nacional. Estos importantes logros son el resultado de una combinación de políticas destinadas a cubrir el marco legal, la producción, la disponibilidad, el acceso a los alimentos y protección ambiental, pilares fundamentales del concepto de seguridad y soberanía alimentaria. Destaca un fuerte marco legal sustentado en el Artículo 305 de la Constitución de la República Bolivariana así como en la Ley Orgánica para la Seguridad y la Soberanía Alimentaria.

Sobre el acceso a los alimentos resalta una amplia red de abastecimiento que, como lo señalaba el día de ayer el Presidente Nicolás Maduro, ha llegado a tener en este momento 22.000 puntos de abastecimiento a lo largo de todo el territorio nacional. Actualmente esa red de distribución atiende a 17,5 millones de personas de los casi 29 millones de habitantes, con una cobertura que llega a más del 60 por ciento de la población venezolana. Hay quienes gozan de un subsidio que llega a alcanzar en algunos productos expendidos más del 80 por ciento del total del precio de los alimentos; adicionalmente, 4.799 niños comen en las escuelas sin costo alguno gracias al plan de alimentación escolar PAE y, aproximadamente 185.000 familias de escasos recursos, se alimentan tres veces al día, también sin costo alguno, gracias a las casas de alimentación.

Casi 5 millones de venezolanos y venezolanas comen de manera gratuita porque es un derecho humano fundamental. Dicho en palabras del Comandante supremo Hugo Chaves: la construcción de la soberanía alimentaria enmarcada en el proyecto socialista del gobierno bolivariano está en marcha: satisfacer las necesidades de todo el pueblo sin distinción de clases económicas ni discriminación alguna. Como lo dijo nuestro Presidente Nicolás Maduro en el día de ayer, el hambre no es la consecuencia de la escasez de alimentos sino al revés, los excedentes de alimentos han sido utilizados para este juego macabro cuyo resultado final es el hambre y la pobreza.

La Venezuela anterior al proceso revolucionario bolivariano es un ejemplo de esto: un estado desmantelado y una burguesía parasita de la renta petrolera. A partir de estas realidades la solución comúnmente propuesta es la utilización de nuevas tecnologías para aumentar la producción de alimentos como salida para apalear el hambre; nuevas variedades más productivas accesibles a unos pocos, infraestructuras o maquinarias también accesible a unos pocos, cuando en verdad lo que se trata es un sistema de distribución que permita a todos los pueblos del mundo tener el derecho a la alimentación. El Gobierno bolivariano ha enfrentado esta visión y ahí están nuestros resultados; hemos superado con creces nuestro compromiso en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación celebrada en el año1996, donde se estableció la meta de reducir a la mitad el número de personas desnutridas.

En el ámbito internacional la República Bolivariana ha lanzado varias propuestas concretas y ha sido un vatio muy importante en la consolidación de iniciativas contra el hambre en el marco de la CELAC, la UNASUR, Petrocaribe o la Alianza Bolivariana, para nuestra América. En este sentido, , seguimos insistiendo en las propuestas del Comandante Hugo Chávez, es decir la creación de un banco de insumos agrícolas regionales que permita a los pequeños y medianos productores reducir los costos y la creación de redes de institutos de investigación e innovación científico tecnológica para colocar la ciencia y la tecnología al servicio de los pequeños productores. Y finalmente, reiteramos el apoyo del Presidente Nicolás Maduro a la iniciativa América Latina sin hambre que ha propuesto el Director General de FAO.

Ponemos a disposición nuestra experiencia adquirida en estos 14 años de revolución política y social en materia de unión regional, para lanzar un gran movimiento mundial que remueva las bases que definen el modelo capitalista mundial en la producción de alimentos, haciendo frente a la mercantilización de un derecho fundamental como es el derecho humano. Finalmente, hacemos un llamado a esta Organización y apoyamos las iniciativas de transformación profunda para lograr que definitivamente la FAO se convierta en un instrumento para la lucha contra uno de los mayores males de la humanidad, el hambre, cuya causa, creemos se encuentra en el modelo capitalista, egoísta e inhumano que condena a muerte a millones de seres humanos año tras año. La sanación a este mal, desde nuestro humilde punto de vista, es el socialismo, y Venezuela lo está demostrando.

Mr Dong-Phil LEE (Republic of Korea)

Mr Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is indeed with great honor to address the FAO General Assembly today on behalf of the Republic of Korea. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the FAO for their wonderful organization of this auspicious meeting. Owing to climate change, rise in population and increased volatility in food price, agricultural authorities, farmers, consumers as well as other relevant parties throughout the world are highly concerned about food security and nutrition. We must note that, merely relying on intensive farming to mitigate concerns of food security could lead to creating a vicious cycle of aggravated productivity in the agri-food chain. Therefore, we must take a cautious approach when implementing policies for food security.

It is highly meaningful and timely that the FAO member states met together to exchange information on their respective agricultural and food system and seek cooperation opportunities, with a goal to promoting happiness of mankind by ensuring food security and nutrition.

In 1970, Korea was able to self-supply 86.2 percent of its total national food consumption. However, with continued decrease in the self-sufficiency rate of food, ensuring food security has been one of the top priorities of the agricultural authority. Although considerable improvements in agricultural productivity have been made, downtrend persisted to record self-sufficiency rate of 44.5 percent in 2011.

Following the inauguration of the new government, Korea has been pursuing innovative policy transitions in order to better ensure food security. The key idea is to reform agricultural system based on the principles of Creative Economy which is the economic paradigm of the new government, enhance sustainability in food system and encourage multi-sectoral collaboration.

First, our sixth-order industry integration policy, which is an initiative to integrate agriculture with ICT, creative ideas, production, processing and tourism industry, is expected to not only enhance economic value of agriculture, but also improve sustainability, attributed to better integration of urban and rural communities, so ultimately contributing to food security.

Second, along with innovating our agricultural system, Korea will endeavor to expand accessibility and availability of agri-food for all nationals. In more precise terms, Korea will advance distribution and allocation process to gradually reduce loss of agricultural produce. Korea will also mitigate price volatility of agri-food at the market with supply and demand harmonization by encouraging autonomous arrangements between farmers and consumers.

Lastly, Korea will put more emphasis on alleviating imbalances in nutrition and micro-nutrients, which resulted from changes in life-style and diet. Reinforced education on nutrition and diet will contribute to reducing current 10 percent of undernourished population. Nutrition issues are not limited to food system and have close linkage to health and social security system. Hence, Korea will address nutrition issues by collaboration of all relevant ministries.

Recognizing that the food safety and nutrition issues are not confined to a nation, but a global problem, Korea has been providing various supports aimed at improving sustainability in the food system of the developing countries. Korea has established a number of Korea Project on International Agriculture centers in Asian, African and Latin American region, which serve the purpose of disseminating Korea's experiences on agricultural policy and technology. Korea has also been partnering with the FAO to implement various programmes aimed at removing vulnerabilities in the food system of the developing countries.

I believe that collective spirit, shared value, willingness to cooperate and dedication of the member states will become the greatest asset in our way toward promoting happiness of mankind through eradicating global poverty. Availing this opportunity, Korea would like to express its hope that the current reform of the FAO will contribute to improving sustainability of the member states' food system.

While conveying that the requests of partnership for ensuring food security by the member states will be highly welcomed, Korea would like to assure its commitment to provide active support.

Mr Heikki HOLMAS (Norway)

Mr Chair, the President of Niger told me last year, when I visited his country, that drought used to come every 10 years, then every 5 years, but that now due to climate change, it hits every two years. We must end hunger and malnutrition and I will quote from Mr Graziano da Silva's intervention earlier on today: "Hunger does not mean that there is too little food in the world, just that the people starving do not have access to it or the means to produce it". These are wise words in my opinion.

If we are to succeed, we need to simultaneously increase the availability of sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet the needs of a population of nine billion by 2050.

Then, we need to respond to a change in climate in the same way we manage agriculture, fisheries and forestry. We also need to promote strong food systems based on an sustainable intensification of production and increased productivity.

Finally, we need to reduce income inequality and persistent social inequalities within countries so that all citizens - women, men, girls and boys - have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, and that equal access to productive resources is secured.

Addressing the structural causes of poverty is at the core of these challenges. Democratic institutions are fundamental for the promotion of social equity and a fair distribution of wealth. The Norwegian Government is committed to include equality and inclusive growth as key components in its international cooperation and I will say in the Development Agenda and the new Development Goals that we are going to make.

How can FAO contribute to this? Firstly, food security and nutrition based on the human right to food is a prerequisite for development. Hungry people are denied the most basic human needs and the ability to ensure their own well-being.

Empowerment of small scale producers is key. They are the main investors in agricultural development and need access to secure and predictable tenure, economic resources and other production inputs and training because access to knowledge of climate robust production methods is key to increased productivity.

Recently, in Zambia, I met with a farmer. Her name was Anastasia. She had adopted more climate robust agricultural methods. She had doubled her harvest and, at the same time, needed to work less. This had enabled her to save extra money she could invest in additional agricultural equipment and thereby increased her productivity. She had increased her food security and experienced the happiness felt by all those who see improvements in their own and their families' lives.

Rural institutions must promote inclusive growth, they need producers' organizations, and cooperatives have important roles to play through knowledge sharing and access to capital as well as to give voice to farmers. FAO should continue to promote favorable conditions for inclusive producers' organizations and cooperatives.

Gender equality is essential for development and for the fight to end hunger and malnutrition. This is one of many good reasons why achieving full gender equality and empowerment of women is at the top of Norway's political priorities. Gender equality and empowerment of women need to be a core theme in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The FAO has brought ample evidence on how the lack of gender equality hampers agricultural productivity and negatively affects food security and the livelihood of rural population. It is therefore time that we move from asking "Why gender equality and women's empowerment?" to "How can it be achieved". In this respect, we commend FAO for its Gender Policy and for its intention to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment in each of the Strategic Objectives. However, we do miss clearer evidence of FAO's ability to implement the policy. We do encourage FAO to compensate for this in the action plans and results frameworks that are to be developed.

Last, but not least, climate change and degradation of the natural resources base pose unprecedented challenges to food security. Natural resources are under severe pressure due to unsustainable

management practices, climate change and growing demand. FAO must promote a sustainable management of natural resources.

A good example of this is the ongoing work for the development of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and the fight to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. FAO also has a crucial role in shaping global forest policies and must continue its vital work for the development of sustainable forest management.

FAO's work on genetic resources for food security is crucial too and I would encourage all to support the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. FAO and the other Rome-based Agencies have a very important role to play in these endeavors.

As a conclusion, I would like to say that a world free of hunger is not a vision that we should talk about over swelling dinner tables. It is the demanding cry from those without a voice, living in the harsh reality of the hungry poor. Let us side with them for the dignity of a life where a father knows he can feed his daughter today, tomorrow and the day after. Thank you.

Ms Tina JOEMAT-PETTERSSON (South Africa)

Mr President, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to address you on this occasion of the 38th Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization. This conference coincides with two very special events for South Africa:

(1) Yesterday was 16 June, a day on which we commemorate our youth for their gallant contribution to the liberation of our country.

(2) Two days from now, 19 June, will mark one hundred years of the imposition of the 1913 Land Act. A heinous act of land dispossession from the majority of black South Africans. The destruction of a class of successful black commercial farmers is the root cause of land and agrarian reform policies today.

South Africa wishes to congratulate you Mr President and your Bureau on your election. My country also welcomes the membership of South Sudan, Republic of Singapore and Brunei Darussalam to the FAO family.

Mr President, South Africa would like to add her voice to those who have already thanked the FAO Director General, His Excellency Dr. Graziano da Silva for his excellent address to the Conference. Your Excellency, Director-General, we note that this conference marks the completion of your first full cycle of governance meetings since you took office. Having listened carefully to your intentions once again, you have underlined the urgency to address food security and nutrition for all.

South Africa, like other Member States, is encouraged that the FAO has embraced results-oriented management. We welcome the need to expand the agricultural productivity scope to forestry, fisheries, livestock and aquaculture. We support and endorse matters raised by the Regional Conferences of the FAO aimed at ensuring a world free from hunger and malnutrition.

In this regard we fully support the deepening of engagement between the FAO and Africa, especially in supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the activities of the African Union and its Regional Economic Communities.

The 28th African Regional Conference in 2014 must give further impetus to its member states, the various regions and continental bodies and the FAO to jointly and in partnership address the common challenges of agriculture development.

Excellencies, South Africa like many other Member States, is seized with the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. South Africa currently has about 12 million people that are vulnerable to food insecurity. The situation is further aggravated by negative impacts of climate change in the region. As such we have prioritized investment in sustainable food production and agriculture infrastructure, as an intervention to ensure food security. We believe we can address hunger and food security through our support for small holder farmers in general and women farmers in particular. We want to ensure that forests and fisheries contribute to food security and nutrition.

Your Excellency, Dr. Graziano da Silva, South Africa will continue supporting and working with the FAO Country Office and other United Nations agencies in South Africa. We look forward to further enhancing and building on our deepening partnerships with the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other Member States.

In conclusion, Excellencies, we thank our brother and sister countries across the globe, that have been united in the prayers and support for our ailing world icon, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. May this conference contribute towards his noble ideal of a world free of hunger, poverty and inequality.

Mr Sadegh KHALILIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

On behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I should express my thanks to Mr Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO and his colleagues for the successful holding of the 38th FAO Conference.

The 38th FAO conference is started in a situation in which FAO has adopted the agenda with the new approach of considering the strategic thinking process initiated by Director General to determine the future priorities of the Organization and strategy and programmes.

Since its establishment, FAO has carried out extensive efforts for the materialization of its objectives and has cooperated with its member states. These efforts have been done for the enhancement of food security in the world.

In addition, various challenges have been raised during consecutive years. The FAO's domain of activities covers areas such as standards, rural development, climate change, and environmental sustainability.

During recent years, we have witnessed severe fluctuations in the prices of agricultural products and they have created great challenges. Nevertheless the world has once again realized that any ignorance of the agricultural sector can have destructive consequences and this sector should always be considered as a vitally important sector of the economy. Therefore, FAO is required to redefine its strategic objectives at local, national, and global levels.

Dear audience, based on this argument, the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its support to the efforts and initiatives of the FAO Director General and his mid- term Programmes for the FAO for 2014-17.

At the national level, too, the Islamic Republic of Iran has signed the first Country Programming Framework (CPF) with FAO in 2012 which clarifies the framework of cooperation between Iran and FAO for a four-year period of time. This document has been prepared after extensive consultations with concerned organization at national and international levels. Currently, FAO and the Islamic Republic of Iran are preparing jointly for implementing this document.

The CPF was signed in a situation in which the Islamic Republic of Iran, due to its spectacular climatic and biodiversity conditions and the extensive efforts of the government, has been able to enhance its self- sufficiency in the agriculture sector during recent years.

For instance, we have increased our production of agricultural products from 86 million tons in 2004 to 118 million tons in 2012.

A great portion of this increase in the production of agricultural products is rooted in the use of Knowledge-based and modern technologies and adoption of comprehensive policies and strategies.

Within the context of agricultural development in Iran, great attention has been paid to modern irrigation systems.

As a result, some 1.3 million ha of Iranian farm lands are irrigated through modern dripping irrigation methods. In addition, the government has, during the past year, allocated more than USD 3 billion of low-rate banking credits for the development of investment and provision of liquidity for production units in the agricultural sector. This procedure will be continued in the next year as well.

Last year, the export of agricultural products had a 23 percent increase. It is predicted that production of cereals and oil seeds increased 10 and 40 percent, respectively.

Distinguished delegates, I am pleased that the 31st FAO Regional conference for the Near East emphasized on important initiatives for the enhancement of food security. In this conference, which was held in May 2012 in Rome and I had the honour of being a participant in it, there was a great emphasis on formulation of a regional strategy for the enhancement of food security and an action plan for the operationalization of this strategy based on the mechanisms for standing against price fluctuations, investments, establishment of strategic storage facilities for cereals, and development of the information regarding the food security.

We welcome partnership with civil society and private sector in global and at the country level as one pillar of the Strategic Thinking process initiated by the Director-General.

We wish to emphasize the role of South-South Cooperation in the exchange of knowledge and experience among the countries in different regions.

We also commend Director General's efforts on reduction of unnecessary bureaucracy and efficiency increase in FAO for improving technical and operational capacity where it was most needed.

We congratulate FAO and the Director General for successful implementation of IPA under leadership of Prof Noori and we support the decentralization with giving more authority to country offices.

Realizing the importance of this issue and in order to further coordinate the activities for enhancement of food security in the Near East, the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to contribute and help FAO for formulating "the programme for food security in the Near East" and preparing its operationalization plans.

Excellencies, at the end I should once again express my heartfelt thanks to FAO Director General and his colleagues. I wish this conference to be as fruitful and effective as possible.

Mr Sándor FAZEKAS (Hungary)

I am honoured to participate in the 38th Session of the FAO Conference and to speak on behalf of Hungary.

First of all I would like to congratulate for the new Member States of the FAO. I am convinced, that with the accession of Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and South Sudan the organization will be even stronger.

The points on the agenda of the Conference are all very important. The state of the hunger and the malnutrition is unacceptable, that is why we support all the efforts the reach the Millennium Development Goals. We are very glad that the UN General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals elected Hungary as one of the Co-chairs. Beside the active participation of the member states the role of FAO is obvious with close collaboration with the two other Rome based Agencies.

We think that the changes started recently are forward looking and are going into the right direction. Jose Graziano da Silva's proposal for the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15 is in line with the strategic objectives approved by the member states and serves the continuation of the changes and the renewal of FAO's institutional structure. That is why we support the revised PWB for the next biennium, and we think the financial background for its completion has to be ensured.

I would like to speak about another important element of the document, the support of the smallholder farmers. As it reads in the document C2013/12, the need for accelerating sustainable productivity growth in agriculture and recognizes the special importance of enhancing productivity in smallholder family farming. Family farming plays a central role in achieving global and local food security as well as keeping up sustainable use of natural resources. By supporting family farms, along with encouraging local production, processing and sales, we can ensure the production of healthy food in a sufficient quantity.

That is why we are happy to note that the UN decided that 2014 will be the International Year of Family Farming. I would like to take the opportunity to officially announce the in the framework of the International Year of Family Farming Hungary plans to organize "Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming" between 4 and 7 March 2014 in Budapest. All Member Nations are welcome.

As you all know, Hungary is hosting the FAO European and Central Asian Regional Office and the Shared Services Centre of FAO. Our country has provided suitable facilities for the FAO offices in Budapest. I wish to confirm the commitment of the Hungarian Government that we do our outmost in order to provide the best conditions for the most efficient functioning of these offices.

M. Essimi MENYE (Cameroun)

C'est un réel plaisir pour moi de prendre la parole aujourd'hui pour m'adresser à cette 38ème session de la Conférence de notre Organisation. Je saisis cette occasion pour remercier chaleureusement le Gouvernement italien pour son hospitalité, manifestée à l'endroit de notre délégation depuis notre arrivée à Rome, et renouveler à Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, l'engagement du Cameroun, à ses côtés, dans la défense des idéaux nobles de la FAO pour la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et l'éradication de la pauvreté.

Le Cameroun s'est trouvé honoré au cours de cette session de la Conférence grâce à la décision de la FAO de célébrer ses victoires contre la faim. La délégation que je conduis est heureuse du diplôme qui nous été remis pour reconnaître les progrès exceptionnels enregistrés par les petits agriculteurs de notre pays pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire de ses populations. Je saisis ainsi cette occasion particulière pour exprimer à la FAO et à son Directeur général, la gratitude et les remerciements infinis du Chef de l'État et du Gouvernement camerounais tout entier.

Pour louables que soient ces résultats, ils constituent sans doute un accomplissement, mais pas un aboutissement. Des efforts sans relâche devraient être poursuivis pour soutenir les actions engagées par le Gouvernement depuis 2008, notamment, la réalisation des infrastructures rurales, la mise à disposition aux exploitants agricoles, des intrants améliorés, la promotion de la mécanisation agricole, la redynamisation de l'encadrement agricole, le recadrage de l'appui financier aux producteurs agricoles et le développement des chaînes de valeurs.

Dans le cadre de la réflexion sur l'après-2015, il s'impose à la communauté internationale de maintenir la dynamique, afin que les efforts engagés pour atteindre un monde de prospérité, d'équité, de liberté, de dignité, de paix et débarrassé de la faim soient poursuivis sans relâche. Le Gouvernement de la République du Cameroun, est déterminé à travailler avec les Nations Unies, l'Union africaine et le NEPAD, ainsi que les partenaires techniques et financiers pour gagner davantage de victoires contre la faim et la malnutrition.

Dans ce contexte précis, le Cameroun participe activement au projet «2015: le monde que nous voulons», de la plate-forme interactive qui a pour but de préparer l'après-2015, dans le cadre des consultations mondiales sur le processus de développement de l'après-2015. Nous pourrons à cet égard, soutenir le programme du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, qui tient compte des nouveaux défis de développement et des résultats de la conférence « Rio+20 », ainsi que ceux de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le développement durable, qui s'est déroulée à Rio de Janeiro, au Brésil, en juin 2012. Pour ce qui concerne la FAO, la réforme engagée depuis quelques années devra être suivie d'effets concrets, notamment dans sa dimension concernant la décentralisation.

Dans le même ordre d'idées, étant donné la persistance des problèmes liés à la nutrition à l'échelle globale, et l'émergence de nouveaux défis et perspectives à l'amélioration de la nutrition, l'organisation de la deuxième Conférence sur la nutrition est désormais un impératif. Sa préparation devrait alors se faire avec la participation de toutes les parties prenantes, et ratisser large, y compris en intégrant les aspects liés à la sécurité sanitaire des aliments. Par rapport à ces aspects, le Cameroun est disposé à accueillir un symposium à l'échelle régionale, dont les contributions pourraient alimenter les discussions pendant la deuxième Conférence sur la nutrition.

Monsieur le Président, mon pays est heureux de soutenir la décision de la FAO, par ailleurs entérinée par la vingt-septième Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, de créer un fonds d'affectation spéciale

pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique, financé par des contributions des États Membres intéressés, en particulier les pays producteurs de pétrole. La participation financière du Cameroun à ce fonds se veut graduelle, mais résolue. Il s'agit, en effet, d'une première contribution de plus de 22 000 de dollars pour marquer notre engagement à participer pleinement à ce fonds. Je saisis par ailleurs l'occasion pour féliciter les États africains qui ont déjà annoncé leur contribution au fonds et encourager beaucoup d'autres à rejoindre la dynamique ainsi lancée.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi maintenant de saisir l'opportunité que m'offre cette tribune, pour signaler avec force que le Gouvernement du Cameroun soutient les processus, y compris au sein de l'Union africaine, des « Approches unifiées pour mettre un terme à la faim en Afrique », afin de promouvoir la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle. Par ailleurs, je voudrais annoncer que mon pays se prépare à organiser, au courant du troisième trimestre 2013, un forum sur l'agriculture, ouvert à tous, notamment aux partenaires techniques et financiers. Ce forum constitue une plate-forme d'échanges sur les orientations et la dynamique nouvelles de ce que devrait être « l'Agriculture de deuxième génération » au Cameroun. Nous serons heureux de vous accueillir tous à ce forum.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, plusieurs autres questions seront traitées au cours de cette session et nous n'avons aucun doute que les membres des Commissions I et II travailleront d'arrache-pied pour assurer un plein succès à nos travaux. À cet égard, le Cameroun, qui soutient le processus de décentralisation comme pivot de la réforme de la FAO, apportera toute sa contribution pour faire approuver la proposition de budget 2014-2015 du Directeur général, y compris la modeste augmentation de un pourcent des contributions mises en recouvrement.

Mr Proceso J. ALCALA (Philippines)

Allow me to welcome and congratulate our ASEAN brothers, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, and South Sudan, who have joined our noble Organization.

This Conference's theme: Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition is very timely as we prepare for an assessment 20 years after the International Conference on Nutrition.

The Philippines, just like the rest of the world, is still faced with the problem of undernutrition among Filipino children 0-10 years old and other population groups, including pregnant women and lactating mothers. The official figures have not improved for nearly 2 decades based on the latest survey undertaken by my government.

The persistence of hunger and undernutrition must be a cause for serious concern that should continue to disturb our collective conscience.

For this reason, the first and foremost Strategic Objective of this Organization is to contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

These three scourges of mankind are interconnected. They feed on each other like cancer.

In order to solve the nutritional problem of our country, and also of the world, it is necessary to produce the food needed to feed our people.

This is what we are committed to do in my country. For the past three years, we have pursued our Food Staples Sufficiency Programme, centred on rice production. However, we are also promoting other staple foods such as corn, bananas, sweet potato, and other traditional root crops.

Because land is a limited resource, the way to increase production to meet the demands of our people is to increase productivity by using high yielding seed varieties, expanding irrigation, improving post-harvest facilities, and building farm to market roads.

My government has invested heavily in these strategic agricultural infrastructures for the past three years. Today, the Philippines is practically self-sufficient in rice and corn.

For this reason, we are celebrating 2013 as our National Year of the Rice so that our countrymen may be aware of our food security and nutritional condition.

Very appropriately in this national year of rice, the FAO project being exhibited in the Atrium is the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems. This project is making strides in the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Ifugao Rice Terraces located in Northern Philippines.

After around 40 years, we have exported the first shipment of fancy rice varieties, as well as corn silage.

Mindful of the effects of climate change, we are developing, a rice variety which will be saline tolerant, drought resistant, submersible, nutritious and delicious at the same time.

Food self-sufficiency does not mean zero imports. In today's globalized economy, we have to consider our international trading commitments.

It is for this reason that my country believes that the spirit of the Doha Development Agenda has to move forward. This year's 9th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Bali should build on the Doha Round.

The walls of trade-distorting domestic support and export subsidies have to be torn down so that developing countries like the Philippines have a fair chance to improve ourselves through our engagement in the world market economy.

This is the first FAO Conference for our new Director General Jose Graziano Da Silva. He has inherited a much more complicated world food situation now than it had been 18 years ago. In order to solve this, I believe that he has to be given the resources to propel this Organization to fulfil its mission of eradicating world hunger and promoting food security. My country supports the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15 requested by the His Excellency, the Director General.

For the past several years, this Organization had been locked in an intense soul searching. The resulting reforms that have transformed this Organization are already in place and it is time to move on. It is now time to walk the talk.

This Organization should be brought back to the farmers. The way this can be done is to decentralize the FAO further and provide the regions and country offices the resources and authority to do so.

Next year, we will be celebrating the International Year of Family Farming. I believe this should be the occasion for all of us to see to it that farming remains a profitable option for our people, particularly the small holders.

Last year, we adopted the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure. This is another landmark code of practice among member countries as we try to preserve a basic asset for our peoples' land.

Next year, we hope to approve a set of Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment which will balance the needs of our people and the interest of the investors.

Clearly, there is a lot more work for the Committee on World Food Security. With our support and the support of other stakeholders, we look forward to the day when the number of hungry and malnourished can be drastically reduced, if not eliminated.

M. Stéphane LE FOLL (France)

J'ai beaucoup de plaisir à revenir ici pour m'exprimer à l'occasion de cette Conférence et donner la parole de la France sur les grands enjeux qui concernent le monde : la question agricole et la question alimentaire.

Nous avons à faire face depuis de nombreuses années, j'allais dire depuis de nombreux siècles, à cette question lancinante de l'alimentation humaine et de la capacité que nous avons tous ensemble à lutter contre la faim.

Des progrès incontestables ont été faits durant les dernières années, mais je crois qu'aujourd'hui il y a un double défi à relever : celui qui consiste à nourrir en quantité l'humanité et celui qui va consister aussi à tenir compte des évolutions liées à l'environnement et donc à la durabilité de l'agriculture partout dans le monde.

C'est pourquoi la France a pris des initiatives à la fois au niveau national et au niveau européen sur ce qu'on appelle maintenant le « produisons autrement », et je suis aussi très satisfait d'organiser avec l'Algérie et la FAO un colloque sur ces grands sujets, mercredi 19 juin à 13 heures. Bien sûr, je vous invite le plus largement à y participer.

Il s'agit bien de combiner la performance, qui doit être celle de toutes les agricultures, produire, tout en étant en même temps performant dans le domaine de l'écologie pour rendre cette production durable.

C'est un enjeu, je le disais, qui est celui des années qui viennent et nous devons le prendre en main tous ensemble pour réussir cette mutation.

La France est aussi, vous le savez, extrêmement attachée à l'idée de la coordination et de la gouvernance à l'échelle mondiale sur les grandes questions agricoles et alimentaires. Elle plaide, elle plaidera à chaque fois que cela sera nécessaire pour qu'à l'échelle du G20, dans le cadre de l'AMIS, et ici à la FAO - et nous avions pris une initiative avec le Directeur général l'an passé, que nous allons je l'espère renouveler -, pour faire en sorte que ces questions agricoles et alimentaires ne soient pas des questions oubliées. Cela a été le cas aujourd'hui dans le cadre du G20, il faut que le prochain G20 tienne enfin cette question au cœur des discussions à l'échelle du monde.

La France a été aussi à l'initiative de la lutte contre les pertes et le gaspillage. Les grandes sociétés développées gaspillent ce qui est consommé en alimentation. Près de 25 à 30 pour cent de ce qui est produit est gaspillé.

Nous avons signé un Pacte, et je salue la collaboration qui est la nôtre avec la FAO et son Directeur général, sur le travail qui a été fait puisque le Pacte a été signé avec la FAO et le PNUE. Cette collaboration est très importante et j'y ajoute un point : si les pays développés gaspillent lorsqu'ils consomment, nous avons des efforts à faire pour que ce qui est produit ne soit pas perdu. C'est aussi cela l'enjeu de la lutte contre la faim. Du fait que nous avons une stratégie agricole et alimentaire, et je reviendrai sur cette question, la France appuie toutes les initiatives qui seront prises en termes de stockage, des céréales en particulier, et de transformation des produits agricoles. On ne peut pas accepter aujourd'hui que 30 pour cent de ce qui produit quelquefois soit perdu. Cela fait partie aussi des stratégies de lutte contre la faim et nous sommes très attachés en particulier à appuyer le programme prévu, dans le cadre de la CDEAO, sur ce sujet.

Enfin, je voudrais aussi faire en sorte de porter sur les grands enjeux la question de l'alimentation, prise non pas uniquement sur le biais agricole, mais prise dans sa dimension culturelle. Chaque continent, chaque pays, chaque ensemble de pays a une histoire alimentaire, qui est aussi un élément structurant de la capacité que nous avons à répondre aux grandes questions alimentaires du monde.

Et je voulais le dire ici devant vous, à la Conférence, la question alimentaire, ce n'est pas simplement la question de la production, ce n'est pas simplement la question de la transformation et du stockage des produits, c'est aussi une question culturelle. La France, mais bien d'autres pays, ont des histoires et des cultures alimentaires. Il faut qu'on soit capable aussi de les promouvoir et de les défendre dans les débats qui portent en particulier sur les grands échanges internationaux, sur les échanges commerciaux.

Je termine par cet appel de la France pour une FAO toujours forte. Nous sommes un pays qui a plaidé tout au long de l'histoire de cette Institution, pour renforcer cette Institution, pour faire en sorte qu'à l'échelle du monde UNE Institution s'adresse à tous ceux qui pensent et qui doivent agir pour lutter contre la faim.

Nous sommes ici très attachés à collaborer avec la FAO. Je voulais d'ailleurs à ce titre remercier et féliciter M. Luc Guyau, qui a été, je le disais tout à l'heure, Président indépendant du Conseil ces quatre dernières années, et puis présenter mes meilleurs vœux de succès à celui qui succèdera à Luc Guyau : M. Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa.

La France donc tient à garder une présence ici dans cette Conférence, dans le Conseil. Et la France souhaite surtout que la FAO continue à œuvrer pour lutter contre la faim, mais surtout promouvoir l'agriculture et l'alimentation dans le monde.

M. Marc YOMBOUNO (Guinée)

La 38ème session de la Conférence de la FAO est une occasion opportune pour la délégation guinéenne, que nous avons l'honneur de conduire, de saluer les progrès réalisés dans le processus de réforme de notre Organisation.

En effet, la FAO, face aux grands défis mondiaux, s'engage de plus en plus à réaliser son objectif stratégique, qui consiste à éradiquer la faim et la malnutrition en contribuant à la réduction de la pauvreté.

Dans cette démarche stratégique, il y a lieu de se féliciter de la révision du Cadre stratégique de la FAO, qui met l'accent sur l'efficacité de ses interventions basées désormais sur les programmes prioritaires des États Membres.

À cet égard, la République de Guinée renouvelle son soutien au Programme de travail à moyen terme 2014-2017, issu des orientations de ce Cadre stretégique révisé, et souscrit à l'adoption, par la Conférence, du budget de l'excercice biennal 2014-2015, comme présenté par le Directeur général.

Ce budget, consolidé par les contributions volontaires, reflète le souci de l'Organisation et de ses États Membres de mieux répondre aux nouveaux défis d'ordre économique, social et climatique, à l'effet de maintenir l'accroissement des approvisionnements alimentaires et la compétitivité des ruraux pauvres.

Mesdames et Messieurs, à l'occasion de cette Conférence, nous souhaitons faire connaître à tous que la Guinée vient de s'engager dans la mise en œuvre de son Plan national d'investissement agricole et de sécurité alimentaire, PNIASA. Ce plan à moyen terme, qui s'inscrit dans le cadre du Programme détaillé de développement de l'agriculture africaine, PDDAA, vise l'accélération de la croissance de notre agriculture afin de garantir la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, et aussi d'accroître les revenus agricoles.

Comme suite à la Table ronde nationale PDDAA, tenue les 3 et 4 juin derniers, nous réitérons ici notre souhait de voir la FAO et les autres partenaires techniques et financiers s'impliquer constamment dans la poursuite du plaidoyer et dans la recherche de financements, afin de concrétiser sur le terrain notre PNIASA-Guinée.

Comme nous le savons, les récentes enquêtes statistiques montrent que 870 millions d'individus de la population mondiale souffrent encore de la faim, dont la majorité, soit 852 millions de personnes en situation de sous-alimentation, se trouvent dans les pays en développement.

Pour inverser cette tendance caractérisée par la forte prévalence de la sous-alimentation, nous devons nous faire une conviction commune de donner un nouvel élan à la promotion "des systèmes alimentaires durables au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition", thème central des débats de la présente session.

Pour ce faire, la communauté internationale doit accorder une importance particulière à l'accroissement durable de la productivité des exploitations agricoles familiales, qui produisent l'essentiel de l'offre alimentaire dans les pays en développement.

Aussi, nous sommes interpelés par les tendances persistantes à la hausse des prix des denrées alimentaires sur le marché international, depuis les crises alimentaires et financières de 2007 et 2008. L'agriculture mondiale doit pouvoir relever ces défis pour permettre l'accès aux aliments par des mécanismes appropriés de régulation.

En effet, pour lutter efficacement contre la faim et la pauvreté, l'enjeu majeur doit se traduire concrètement par l'aide à apporter aux populations rurales pour stimuler la productivité agricole et soutenir la promotion de la production agroalimentaire. Cette assistance, destinée prioritairement aux exploitations agricoles familiales, doit également permettre de créer des conditions de compétitivité par l'amélioration des infrastructures d'accès aux marchés et des capacités commerciales, ainsi que le développement de la chaîne de valeurs, source de création d'emplois et de revenus.

En somme, nous devons investir davantage dans l'agriculture en encourageant les partenariats à tous les niveaux, notamment entre les secteurs public et privé.

Avant de terminer, nous voudrons mettre à profit cette solennelle occasion de la Conférence, pour féliciter er remercier Monsieur Luc Guyau, qui achève brillamment son deuxième mandat de Président indépendant du Conseil de la FAO. Nous retenons que durant ses mandats il a contribué remarquablement à la conduite claire et clairvoyante du processus de transformation de cette Organisation.

La délégation guinéenne, au nom du Gouvernement, souhaite aussi féliciter par anticipation le nouveau Président indépendant qui sera élu dans les jours à venir. Qu'il soit rassuré d'avance de notre constante disponibilité et de notre parfaite collaboration au sein du Conseil.

Pour conclure, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous réaffirmons la volonté du Gouvernment guinéen, de renforcer la coopération avec les partenaires techniques et financiers, pour une agriculture performante garantissant l'offre alimentaire au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition des populations.

Mr Hazim Kamal Saleh El NASER (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

It is a pleasure for me to address you on behalf of Jordan and to speak before the whole assembly at this 38th Session of the FAO Conference. At a time when agriculture is of utmost importance in providing the global population with means of survival and a time when we see more than 450 million individuals are still suffering from a lack of food, we also observe that water resources are becoming increasingly scarce.

The FAO has attached utmost importance to this issue. Certain countries are focusing on these issues of food and water resources. We observe that the production of bio-energy has deviated a considerable amount of food products which has had a negative impact on the poorest and the developing countries. This has resulted in a considerable rural exodus and migration to neighbouring countries. All of these aspects have prevented the meeting of the food needs of these people.

These changes are recurring at a time when the FAO is continuing to play its normative role. These changes have not seen, at the FAO, the adoption of new methods to deal with these food needs. It is therefore necessary to develop a mechanism within FAO which will allow us to deal with climate change and changes in the type of farms in order to meet the challenges that these farmers are facing. This can only be done if financial assistance is granted, in enhancing productivity and preserving natural resources. We must lend priority to high yield species in order to be able to produce sufficient quantities. We must also adopt the most advanced technologies and allow for technology transfer in order to meet these objectives.

It is also necessary to provide assistance to these countries from the Organization free of bureaucracy also attempting to reduce costs. All of these countries are seeing a fragmentation of farm holdings with a focus on smaller holdings. So the Organization must help us to adopt the cooperative system. This can only be beneficial for producers and consumers. It is also necessary to adopt rational methods of governance at regional, national, and local levels in order to guarantee transparency, responsibility, and the supply of services.

Jordan is aware that the lack of food security is a global phenomenon and this phenomenon is being exacerbated due to a lack of natural resources including water resources. If measures are not taken urgently, if there is not a political will to ensure food security for everyone, we will be unable to meet these goals. Therefore, Jordan is determined to meet its international commitments.

It has taken into consideration the difficult situation experienced by neighbouring countries. We are living in a region where conflicts are on the increase and are outpacing development and resources that we have available. The blockade of Palestinian producers means that Jordan is the only outlet for their produce regionally or internationally. This comes in addition to other factors.

With the advent of the Arab Spring which sparked a set number of crises including this Syrian crisis which only exacerbated the situation in the North of Jordan, that area where there are more than 1.2 million refugees. This has only exerted additional pressure on already scarce resources and on water resources, thus exacerbating problems experienced by farmers.

The seriousness of the Syrian crisis has only worsened the burden carried by Jordan, placing more demand on resources. This has increased the rate of consumption of agricultural produce and also led to an increase in prices, an increase in imports also, thus worsening problems like unemployment.

The exacerbation of the situation in Syria has led to the closure of borders with that country which is also closed pathways for Jordanian produce to that country, to Lebanon, and other countries including in Europe. This means that Jordanian exports in the agricultural sector or the livestock sector have experienced losses of approximately USD 400 million per year.

These ills have not been met with great interest on the part of the international community, commensurate with the problems. So it is time the tension be focused on these products to ensure that we can achieve every objective of ensuring food security and improving living standard of our population, and to allow all of these people to contribute to the growth of production globally and ultimately also to allow our country to meet its international obligations to supply the necessary agricultural produce for self-sufficiency.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who have contributed to organizing this meeting and to FAO.

Mme Diane Mariam KONE (Mali)

C'est pour moi un honneur et un agréable devoir de prendre la parole du haut de cette auguste tribune au nom de mon pays, le Mali. Je sais que l'évocation du nom Mali éveille en chacun et en chacune d'entre vous un certain sentiment, vu ce que ce pays subit depuis plus d'une année. C'est aussi l'occasion pour moi, en ma qualité de chef de la délégation du Mali, de magnifier la solidarité internationale, multiforme, dont mon pays est l'objet. Grâce à cette solidarité notre cher pays se remet petit à petit et s'investit résolument pour son développement.

Au Mali, pays à vocation principalement agro-pastorale, le secteur du développement rural a payé un lourd tribut à cause de la rébellion et des actions des différents groupes terroristes qui ont occupé une bonne partie du pays, imposant aux populations, en majorité rurales (agriculteurs, éleveurs, pêcheurs et exploitants forestiers) des règles et des systèmes de vie contraignants ne leur permettant plus d'exercer leurs activités de production et de commerce traditionnels. Il s'en est suivi une désarticulation et une désorganisation de toutes les activités de développement rural dans les zones occupées. Ainsi les rizières ont été abandonnées ou faiblement exploitées, les troupeaux transhumants ont déserté leurs zones de pâturages ou se sont refugiés dans les pays voisins limitrophes, les pêcheurs ont fui les eaux riches en poissons de la boucle du fleuve Niger.

La présente session de la Conférence de la FAO, est pour moi l'occasion de rappeler que le Mali est un pays sahélien enclavé, où l'agriculture est soumise à de multiples contraintes naturelles de développement et de sécurité alimentaire, contraintes aggravées par ce qui s'est passé depuis janvier 2012.

Ces contraintes sont, entre autres, la forte vulnérabilité aux aléas climatiques et aux risques majeurs (sanitaires, déprédateurs, épizooties, feux de brousse), la faible performance des exploitations agricoles et animales, le faible niveau d'alphabétisation des producteurs, la maîtrise insuffisante des problèmes environnementaux.

Face à la situation aggravée par les événements de mars 2012, le Gouvernement du Mali sollicite une intervention accrue de la FAO qui a été toujours aux côtés de ce pays.

Les axes prioritaires définis sont:

- l'appui à la campagne agricole 2013-2014, qui vient d'être lancée le samedi 15 juin. Cette campagne, déjà soutenue par la FAO, doit être renforcée pour la recherche de financements additionnels pour l'acquisition d' intrants supplémentaires et de motopompes en grande partie détruits lors des attaques des groupes armés et par l'appui technique de la FAO pour la réalisation des aménagements;
- l'appui à la reconstruction du cheptel au Nord par la mise à disposition aux éleveurs affectés par la crise de Kits;

- l'appui à l'acquisition d'intrants vétérinaires, le recensement national du cheptel et la mise en place d'un système d'identification;
- la promotion de la riziculture et la valorisation des produits de pêche et d'aquaculture;
- l'appui à l'accès équitable et sécurisé aux ressources forestières;
- la protection de la faune et de son habitat.

Le Mali en général, et le monde rural en particulier, compte sur la solidarité internationale, la coopération multi et bilatérale, qui est déjà active mais demande à être renforcée, pour se relever, reconstruire ses infrastructures et équipements de production dans l'objectif de mieux valoriser son potentiel agricole où il dispose d'avantages comparatifs certains, notamment dans les domaines de l'élevage, de la production céréalière et la protection de son environnement. Je pense qu'aujourd'hui le discours a été qu'il fallait vraiment mettre plus l'accent sur l'élevage, aussi bien dans la sous-région ouest-africaine qu'au niveau mondial. Nous réitérons donc cette demande pour que l'élevage puisse être renforcé par la FAO.

Comme le Directeur général le demandait ce matin à cette tribune, le Mali soutient le Programme de travail et budget 2014-2015 proposé par le Directeur général.

Vive la FAO pour que disparaissent partout dans le monde la faim et l'insécurité alimentaire.

Mr Mahinda Yapa ABEYWARDENA (Sri Lanka)

Mr Chairperson, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, at the outset, I wish to convey the best wishes of His Excellency Mahinda Rajapakse, the President of Sri Lanka, and the Government of Sri Lanka to the Director General of FAO Mr José Graziano da Silva, who leads his team to achieve the set targets clearly spelt out in the strategic Framework, which is being presented and discussed during the Conference. I am sure, that the deliberations will address the issues in the member countries, and find favourable solutions towards the prosperity and wellbeing of the people of our nations.

As Minister of Agriculture of Sri Lanka, I am thankful to Mr José Graziano da Silva personally, for having invited Sri Lanka to this conference, which is the First Conference being conducted under his leadership, therefore considered a privilege and an honour to make this statement on behalf of Government of Sri Lanka at this Conference.

Many of you are aware, that agriculture sector is the foundation of Sri Lanka's economy, with 70 percent of the population living in rural areas, who depends on agriculture for their livelihoods. It contributes 11-13 percent to Gross Domestic Product, and employees 30 – 33 percent of the workforce. Despite a small island, Sri Lanka has a considerable potential for economic growth through agricultural sector, and therefore the Government is very optimistic of the persuasive need to attain food and nutrition security in the country through self-sufficiency.

In this context, Government of Sri Lanka implemented a National Campaign, called "Let Us cultivate and uplift the Nation" during 2007-2010, to accelerate the domestic food production. Having identified the impact of soaring food prices, and recognized enhancing food production as the main strategy to cope up with rising food prices, the Government continued with its national Campaign, by giving high priority to it, while also implementing an additional programme; a special home gardening project termed "Divi Neguma" – Raise the Life – to increase vegetable production, and making available the harvest throughout the year in order to stabilize the market prices.

The intention of this project was to establish 2.5 million domestic units covering all villages in the country. Its prime objective is to strengthen peoples' economic status and minimize their dependency on market for food and nutrition requirement. These programmes aim to raise food production through distribution of high yielding seeds and providing training, technical and credit facility etc.

A High Level Committee on Food and Nutrition Security and Monitoring of Cost of Living chaired by His Excellency the President meets regularly to review the food situation in the country, price movement in the market and other developments in these fields to make policy directives to address the issues arising therein. Moreover the Government has introduced following policy measures being complementary to brace up aforesaid programmes.

- Expansion of paddy purchasing programme, raising floor price of rough rice paid to farmers under paddy purchasing scheme and imposing ceiling price for milled rice in the local market;
- Continuing fertilizer subsidy scheme with further expansion to other crops;
- Relaxing seed import policy allowing to import of hybrid seeds;
- Provision of import duty concessions for agricultural machinery;
- Adjusting import tariff from time to time in favour of producer and consumer as well.

As a result of these strategies and directives, Sri Lanka has achieved self-sufficiency in rice, which is our staple food and nearly self-sufficient in maize, meeting high demand derived from rapidly increased poultry industry in the country. Currently, about 8 percent is deficit to fulfil the entire maize requirement.

Nevertheless, the country is blessed with good potentials to produce pulses, such as green gram, soybean, Black gram, cereal - finger millet, and other crops, such as potato, chilies and big onion within the country, as current production levels of these crops are not adequate to meet the national requirements. Hence, the Government has launched special projects aiming to increase the production of these crops.

To address the challenge of global food and nutrition security, investment in agriculture must play an important role in fostering agricultural productivity. We should encourage all stakeholders at National, Regional and Global levels to work closely with the professionals in the fields of science, technology and industry to ensure that investment in agriculture sector is given a high profile in the country investment Strategy for the sustainable development and world food and nutrition security and agriculture industry.

At this juncture, it would be remiss, if I do not mention the valuable contribution made thus far by FAO, which assisted our country by an array of ways and means in the form of projects. This assistance has given a kind of relief to the Government in term of financial and technical perspectives. The Government of Sri Lanka, highly appreciates this assistance and support rendered by FAO, and looks forward to receiving similar kinds of support in future, under the Leadership of Present Director General, Mr José Graziano da Silva and his team.

Sri Lanka being the Chairperson of the Group of Fifteen, I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a Summit Level Group of Developing Countries, comprising 17 Member Nations. The fuller statement is available for collection at the Conference.

The Group notes with grave concern that over 850 million people today are chronically undernourished, mostly in developing countries. The Group encourages united global action on food security and undernourishment for this generation and posterity.

The Group welcomes the first version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition and lends support towards its implementation so as to avert future food crises and hunger and ensure food security and nutrition for all human beings.

The Group fully supports the declaration of year 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming as it draws special attention to the small scale producers, family farmers and cooperatives in the Post 2015 development agenda on food security and nutrition.

The Group stresses the need for renewed, concerted, forward-looking and inclusive efforts to improve agricultural productivity and profitability in a sustainable manner. It recognizes the important role of agriculture trade for achieving food security and nutrition and highlights the negative effects of trade barriers and trade-distorting subsidies of developed countries.

The Group stresses on the need for taking urgent actions to assist developing countries in the field of education, capacity-building and adaptation to the effects of climate change on the agriculture sector particularly for small and medium holders, including through added investments, promoting, and harnessing of new technologies and innovation to enhance food supply, reduce food losses and wastes in developing countries.

In closing, the Group of Fifteen welcomes, recognizes and fully supports the on-going global efforts towards contributing to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The Group thanks the Director-General and the Secretariat for the elaboration of the PWB and wishes the Conference all the success.

Mr Devant MAHARAJ (Trinidad and Tobago)

Chairperson, Heads of Delegations, Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, it is indeed a privilege to address the 38th Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The team of sustainable food system for food security and nutrition is very timely. At the global level with almost 870 million persons chronically undernourished, we the Governments and people of this planet need to take consistent actions to eliminate world hunger.

The Zero Hunger Challenge launched by the United Nations Secretary-General seeks to achieve this very noble ideal of ending hunger. In seeking to develop and implement sustainable food systems however countries in the Caribbean have particular characteristics and vulnerabilities that should be considered. These include high food import bills, high incidence of non-communicable diseases, increased frequency of natural disaster and susceptibility to climate change, low rates of adoption of new technology.

It is within these turbulent environments characterized by food insecurity that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has consistently identified agriculture and food security as key priorities in the national development agenda. This priority was highlighted by my Government's Medium-Term Policy Framework 2011-14 entitled *Innovation for Lasting Prosperity* and reiterated in the National Food Production Action Plan 2012-15.

While the Government of Trinidad and Tobago views the rule of the state of agricultural development, principally as being a facilitator, it also recognizes that adequate planning is a critical factor in insuring sustainable food systems.

In this regard, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is focusing on the development of six commodity groups, namely: staples, vegetables, legumes and pulses, fruits, livestock, and aquaculture. Generally, the target is to achieve a greater degree of self-sufficiency in the Medium-Term for each commodity.

Already we have measured for the first time in over two years a reduction in the food inflation to single digit numbers, and for the first time in over three years a growth the agriculture sector.

Chairperson, primary production is just one element of the food value chain. The trend however is for food production processing and distribution to be increasingly organized where the flow of inputs, products, information and financial resources are closely coordinated among farmers, processors, retailers, and other economic actors.

Hence, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in addition to considering ramping up the primary production and optimizing the rule of the sector in national development, also takes into account other stages in the value chain, such as processing, marketing, food services and agro-tourism.

In this regard, packing houses and agro-processing facilities are being established in five locations in Trinidad and Tobago thereby providing a secure location for farmers to add value to their produce for supply to various markets.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago without doubt recognizes that the provision of adequate infrastructure for the sector is critical if we are to achieve our goal of national food security, especially to take into account the effects of climate change.

We are taking note that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLA, conducted an assessment of the economic impact of climate change under agriculture sector in Trinidad and Tobago in 2011 and identified the establishment of on-farm water storage such as ponds as a most attractive adoption option for climate change based on the benefit cost ratio.

The Ministry of Food Production of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has in fact been encouraging its shift in agricultural practice which relies solely on supply of water to water conservation, agriculture and water harvesting.

Hence, water management and flood control programme of the Ministry includes the acceleration of on-farm irrigation projects thereby facilitating the opportunity for farmers to shift production from seasonal cropping to year-end cropping. The number of on-farm ponds established in 2011-12 was 549, an increase of over 170 percent over the two year period 2008-09.

Chairperson, given the limited arable and available for agriculture production and small island development states such as Trinidad and Tobago, it is recognized that a regional collaborative approach is required to insure a sustainable food system. Hence, the government of Trinidad and Tobago is actively pursuing the establishment of a food security policy with the cooperative Government of the Republic of Guyana.

As I conclude, I wish to emphasize that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is an advocate for power of partnerships and that sustainable food systems requires simultaneous and consistent action on various funds including the sector of primary agriculture production, agro-processing, health, trade, infrastructure and education. While the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is taking a leadership role, we continue to partner with other relevant stakeholders including non-governmental organizations, private sector, civil society, and international organizations such as FAO to achieve the goal of food security.

M. Mohamed BEN SALEM (Tunisie) (langue originale arabe)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter et de féliciter l'Afghanistan pour votre élection à la présidence de cette 38ème session de la Conférence de la FAO.

C'est là un rendez-vous important pour des consultations et un large échange d'opinions, en vue de définir les futures politiques et les programmes d'action de l'Organisation, avec un objectif qui est le développement agricole et rural durables.

Permettez-moi également, Monsieur le Président, d'exprimer mes remerciements et ma gratitude à Monsieur Graziano da Silva, Directeur général de la FAO, qui n'a cessé depuis son élection à la tête de cette Organisation, de redoubler les efforts pour apporter l'assistance aux États Membres pour les aider à faire face aux défis imposés à eux, dans la production durable de produits alimentaires pour leurs peuples, dans la réduction de la pauvreté et de la faim et l'amélioration alimentaire, ainsi que pour conserver leurs matières premières.

Je tiens également à saluer les efforts du Secrétariat pour la bonne préparation et la bonne organisation de cette Conférence.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, nous avons pris note du rapport présenté par le Directeur général, et nous avons salué avec satisfaction les conclusions des consultations relatives à l'exécution du programme 2012 et des programmes à venir dans le Cadre stratégique 2010-2019, conformément à la vision du Directeur général et à la restructuration du Secrétariat. Ce sont là des initiatives que nous appuyons, surtout en ce qui concerne l'affectation des ressources financières, tenant compte des orientations données par les États Membres.

Étant donné que la demande en produits alimentaires va en augmentant, nous voulons, ici, affirmer notre accord pour le Plan à moyen terme et les objectifs stratégiques qu'il contient. Nous pensons que l'Organisation doit continuer à apporter son soutien aux États Membres, surtout en ce qui concerne l'augmentation de la production, la disponibilité des produits alimentaires, la réduction de la pauvreté dans les régions rurales et l'adoption de systèmes agricoles efficaces.

Nous sommes convaincus que les programmes préparés par le Secrétariat nécessiteront des ressources financières supplémentaires.

Mesdames, Messieurs, la Tunisie aura l'honneur d'accueillir la 28ème Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, qui se tiendra du 24 au 27 mars 2014. Je voudrais vous informer que nous suivons de

près tous les préparatifs logistiques et techniques pour que cette session se déroule dans les meilleures conditions possibles. Nous ferons tout pour assurer le succès de cette Conférence.

Nous espérons que la participation des États africains, frères et amis, sera du plus haut niveau, qu'elle sera nombreuse et qu'elle donnera aux participants l'occasion de se rendre compte de l'importance qu'accorde la Tunisie à l'agriculture et au développement rural, car ce secteur joue un rôle important pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire, pour créer des emplois et pour également assurer un développement régional équitable.

Nous comptons, dans les années à venir, renforcer et encourager davantage l'investissement dans le secteur agricole, renforcer la gestion durable des matières premières, notamment des ressources en eau, en terres et en forêts, et également en termes de ressources humaines. Nous allons aider à mettre sur pied des financements nouveaux du secteur agricole, permettant l'utilisation des nouvelles technologies.

Grâce à cela et profitant également de l'assistance que la FAO nous a apportée dans le passé, nous avons signé un Programme cadre de coopération avec la FAO, couvrant la période 2013-2015.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais réitérer nos remerciements à la FAO pour tous les efforts que cette Organisation déploie pour aider les États Membres, afin de mettre à exécution leurs programmes de développement dans le domaine agricole, pour renforcer la lutte contre la faim, contre la pauvreté, et pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire.

Mr Ahmed SHAFEEU (Maldives)

First of all, let me begin by noting the efforts of the current Director-General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva, to restructure FAO's working methods in order to achieve the maximum out of FAO's resources in combating hunger and malnutrition. I believe that your forward and modern thinking towards achieving the objectives of FAO and its Member Nations will bear the right fruits for all of us.

Further, let me also thank the Director-General and the Secretariat for the warm welcome, excellent preparation, organization and arrangements for this 38th Session of the Conference.

The Maldives has been working with FAO since becoming a Member in the early 1970's to develop its agriculture and fisheries sectors. The timely technical imputs to guidance in developing agriculture and fisheries related laws and regulations is highly noted. This has enabled the sound development of both agriculture and fisheries as we see it now in the Maldives. Namely overcoming hurdles of malnutrition and food insecurity for the people of Maldives could not have been easy without the help of development partners like FAO and various other international agencies and organizations. Thank you very much for your support.

FAO's assistance in formulating our 20-year Agriculture Master Plan is of essence if we need to continue with the upward curve of agricultural development in Maldives. In this line, FAO has recently developed the Country Programming Framework for the Maldives, which I believe is going to be essential to maintain the effective working relationship we have with FAO to develop our agriculture and fisheries sectors.

The Maldives is a country highly dependent on imports for feeding its population. Further, we should also take into account the high number of tourists who visit the Maldives every year. This proposes big challenges for local food security, as well as meeting market demands of our food production systems. Even such, we are moving steadily in eradicating extreme poverty and achieving food security in Maldives.

It has to be also noted that more than 60 percent of the rural population of Maldives are farming and fishing families. And within this, more than 40 percent of people engaged in food production and value addition in fisheries and agriculture are women. The Maldivian Government is keen in introduction and use of women-focused technologies in value addition and production for agriculture and fisheries. This eill enable and strengthen our farming and fishing families to sustain their livelihoods and expand their profits.

We in the Maldives have a very narrow base for economic development. Fisheries and agriculture continue to be the mainstay of the economy despite huge strides in tourism development. We are consolidating on our partnerships with the tourism industry, widening markets for producers from value chain cooperatives. We are convinced that such local partnerships will foster growth in the agriculture sector leading to food security, poverty alleviation and increased income levels for small-holder farmers and fishermen.

The introduction and formation of cooperatives with a focus on increasing production, marketing and establishing linkages with distributors and consumers have been an integral achievement of both projects. In addition, the training and capacity development – technical, managerial and entrepreneurship – have strengthened community participation in agriculture and fishery production and development. These, in turn, have increased market confidence for agricultural and fishery products – both fresh and value added.

The employment opportunities provided through the cooperatives to the marginalized farmers and fishermen – especially, fish processors and women groups in the islands – have had a big overall impact on the island development. It is worthwhile to note new processed products such as up-to-standard local fishery products, traditional chili sauce and home-made eggs have made notable introduction to the retail market of Maldives.

It is with pride that I note the developments in our agriculture and fisheries sectors. But, pride alone is not enough to sustainably continue the growth in these sectors. We need to make a more dynamic and integrated approach in food production that has high value and higher profits. Some initiatives such as Climate Smart Agriculture, Integrated Pest and Disease Management, and Environmentally Friendly Fishing Methods are what we promote in Maldives. Further, we are willing to work with FAO within the newly developed Country Programming Framework to sustainably develop our agriculture and fisheries.

Mr Daniel CONSTANTIN (Romania)

It is an honour to participate and speak to the 38th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Mr José Graziano da Silva, for his chairing of the first Conference as Director-General of FAO. I wish Mr da Silva a lot of success in implementing a new level of development of FAO, based on his idea to focus on shared knowledge.

The agriculture and food security are facing serious challenges all over the world. There are almost one billion people suffering of hunger in the world and another one billion who are chronically under feed, the majority being women, children and smallholder farmers. As it has been widely reported by FAO, the global agriculture production must increase by 70 percent by 2050 in order to meet the demand of the 9 billion people. Climate change, the reduction of fresh water and severe limitation of the soil resources make this goal very difficult to reach. The international situation of food demand, availability and sustainable development of the agricultural sector is often debated in different forums and the need to be better prepared and to ensure food security should be addressed by the decision makers in designing future policies. Agriculture, due to its specific nature, is one of the sectors most affected by climate changes and as a consequence the food security is also affected. That is why I consider agricultural policy as a key mechanism in addressing food security, poverty, climate changes and sustainable development of rural areas. Today, we are witnessing a paradox - someone's efforts to achieve growth may conduct to someone else's poverty. This way, it is obvious that we have a common responsibility in finding a solution to this problem. Also, Romania considers that it is important to support the creation of a sustainable food system, capable to address the need of an adequate development of rural areas and food security.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, an essential role in food security can and has to be played by small scale agriculture, a resource that is not cherished enough and which should be a significant food supplier on the market. Definitely, this type of agriculture can better meet local market demands, but regrettably, this opportunity has not been properly addressed by our rural development programmes. Small and medium size farms should be supported considering their important role in implementing

environment friendly agricultural techniques that can provide for quality products, knowing their contribution to the preservation of the vivid rural areas. It is true that modern technologies will allow us to increase agricultural production, but it is equally important to better manage our resources in a balanced way so that we can think globally and act locally. I do believe that we have to strongly support the small and medium agriculture by recognising its key role in the rural development programmes. Small and medium agriculture involves a big number of farmers, mostly in countries that do not have enough food; it should be our goal to improve their access to knowledge and markets, to achieve sustainable development of these areas, which could reduce hunger in the world. Therefore, big agriculture must coexist with small and medium agriculture, both in terms of farming and markets, while technological and economic research have to come up with clear solutions. Local food systems also stimulate local economies – small and medium size farms – many times family farms – can built a network capable to organise production-distribution chains offering their products direct to consumer markets or direct to retail, even to local institutions, local restaurants or hotels - generating jobs.

Farm products - generally processed on the farm or with the help of a small processor, are transported over shorter distances, offering to the consumer "fresh" products compared to the industrial food system which implies high energy and fuel consumption due to long transport distances, storing, freezing, packing, etc. Local food chain can also offer a diversified range of products, their taste varying due to traditional recipes, high natural value, etc. The creation of relationships between farmers and their urban customers through direct to consumer markets can help farmers to preserve their land, to protect their family, to maintain the population in the rural areas. I would also like to refer to innovation. Without innovation the world will not be able to produce enough food to meet the increasing needs of the population and to better protect the environment. In this respect, we need intelligent support policies for farmers, a more developed transportation system, modern storing devices, etc. The theme for this Conference and the latest State of Food and Agriculture Report is Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition. This goal is in line with the efforts of the Government of Romania to accelerate the need of sustainable productivity growth in agriculture and recognize the special importance of enhancing productivity in smallholder farming. Romania participates for the first time as an EU member state in the reform process of the Common Agriculture Policy. The new CAP aims at implementing sustainable agricultural practices, as well as rural development policies adapted to the diversity of local challenges. At the same time, it is necessary to create some reactive market management instruments adjusted to the variety of sectors and territories, with a better and more responsible involvement of farmers and their organizations.

M. Jeremy Tinga OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso)

Monsieur le Président, tout d'abord, permettez-moi de vous addresser nos félicitations pour votre élection comme Président de la Conférence. Nos félicitations vont aussi aux Vice-Présidents et aux membres du Bureau.

La délégation du Burkina Faso félicite la FAO pour l'organisation de cette Conférence qui nous permet de faire une rétrospective sur les politiques agricoles dans le monde et dans nos pays respectifs, et d'évaluer nos systèmes alimentaires axés sur la durabilité.

Au Burkina Faso, l'atteinte des objectifs de systèmes alimentaires durables au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition est mise en exergue dans tous les programmes de développement, qui sont axés sur ce que nous appelons chez nous la Stratégie de croissance accélérée et de développement durable.

En effet, la construction de systèmes durables de production, de transformation, de distribution et de consommation des aliments requiert des actions pérennes, cela pour éliminer les effets néfastes sur l'environnement et pour assurer aussi le respect et la protection de la biodiversité et des écosystèmes, tout en optimisant les produtions agricoles.

Les petits exploitants et leurs familles, qui représentent plus de 80 pour cent de la population active de mon pays, ont un rôle déterminant à jouer dans cette augmentation durable de la productivité.

Dans notre pays, le secteur rural demeure la base du développement socio-économique. A ce titre, il fait partie des secteurs auxquels les planificateurs du développement national ont toujours accordé une importance capitale.

Le Programme national du secteur rural a été élaboré dans le cadre de la construction de systèmes durables de production et couvre ainsi l'ensemble des missions des départements en charge du secteur rural (c'est-à dire l'agriculture, les ressources animales et helieutiques et l'environnement). Le Burkina Faso s'engage ainsi, avec tous les acteurs du secteur à aller dans le sens du respect de la Déclaration de Paris, de Maputo et de la Directive de l'UEMOA sur le budget programme. Le Programme national du secteur rural se fixe un objectif à trois dimensions interdépendantes, à savoir contribuer de manière «durable» à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, à une croissance économique forte et à la réduction de la pauvreté.

Les systèmes de production actuelles de notre pays sont basés sur des exploitations familiales de tailles diverses. La mise en œuvre de notre Programme national du secteur rural s'appuie sur ces exploitations dans le but de les rendre plus performantes, mais favorisera aussi le développement d'un véritable entreprenariat agricole respecteux de l'environnement. Cette vision est conforme à celle de la FAO en matière de politiques agricoles visant la réduction de la prévalence de la sous-alimentation. En termes d'actions, il faudra satisfaire la demande croissante aux niveaux national, régional et mondial, contribuer à l'éradication de la faim et de la malnutrition, et préserver les ressources naturelles.

Malgré les efforts et les actions engagés par mon pays, à savoir la consolidation de l'investissement humain et la promotion de la protection sociale, le développement institutionnel et le renforcement de la gouvernance, le développement des piliers de la croissance accélérée et de l'émergence, les dynamiques nouvelles pour l'économie et les priorités transversales, malgré ces actions, donc, la menace conjuguée de la sécheresse, de la hausse des prix des denrées alimentaires et d'autres effets connexes prouvent que des efforts peuvent être annihilés si des accompagnements ne sont pas faits.

Monsieur le Président, la FAO se trouve à une étape importante de son histoire et la mise en œuvre du Programme de travail et budget 2014-2015 et le Plan à moyen terme 2014-2017 se dérouleront dans un contexte de contraintes et de défis que nous devons savoir relever.

Je suis Ministre en charge de l'élevage et je m'en voudrais de ne pas relever que c'est un secteur clé, qui a mon sens devrait mériter un regard beaucoup plus appuyé, afin, comme on dit, que l'élevage tire l'agriculture.

Une anecdote, quand vous allez au restaurant, le plat central est toujours présenté sous forme de viande ou de poisson, et on vous demande quel accompagnement vous voulez. Cela peut être du riz ou des haricots verts. Faisons en sorte qu'en matière de financement aussi le plat central puisse être l'élevage pour tirer nos économies nationales.

Le Burkina Faso, pour sa part, s'est engagé dans la voie de dynamiser une agriculture complète. C'est ainsi que son budget en matière d'élevage est multiplié par deux pratiquement.

Nous saluons les efforts de la FAO et c'est le lieu pour moi ici de remercier les partenaires techniques et financiers.

Pour terminer, au nom de ma Délégation, nous adhérons aux actions de construction des systèmes alimentaires durables de production axés sur l'exigence environnementale, l'efficacité économique et la dimension sociale.

Mr Chingysbek UZAKBAYEV (Kyrgyzstan) (Original language Russian)

I would like on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to sincerely greet the participants of this session and to wish you all fruitful work and also to express deep gratitude to FAO Management for the excellent organization of the Conference. In dispute of the main theme of the Conference as recommended by the 145th Session of the FAO Council, sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition, it has emerged as one of the leading challenges of our time.

The risks and challenges that we face today such as population growth, financial crises, climate change, are such that we must step up our efforts to improve the food production effectiveness and also to expound our agricultural and food sanctuaries to meet the needs of our societies and economies. In my country, the food and agricultural sector is one of the priority sectors of the economy. It provides 18 percent of GDP and 13 percent of total employment in Kyrgyzstan.

For our 5.5 million population and for our export markets, well the main source of production is our one million acres of pasture land and 9 million acres of natural grazing land. In terms of food security, our country has identified nine commodity categories of vital food products, including cereals, potato, vegetables, fruit, and berries, meat, milk, sugar, eggs, and vegetable oil. Production volumes and access to these products are the focus of our particular attention.

Our country depends on imports for such main food products as bread products, sugar, and vegetable oil. So it is to address these and other matters that we are working to encourage the establishment of cooperative farms. We are also putting interest rates on loans and fostering conditions for exports of potato, dairy products, fruits, and vegetables. And all of these efforts alongside the implementation of the green economy principles and of integrated world resource management and surveying of livestock, enhancement of plant and animal genetic resources, increased mechanization of agriculture. All of this is enshrined in our natural sustainable development strategy for 2013-17.

Agricultural production together with imports provides for the population's food needs. This is achieved thanks in part to FAO technical assistance programmes targeting vulnerable households headed by women, and also through projects to enhance irrigation and improve veterinary services. I would like to express thanks to the Governments of Finland, Austria, Turkey, and also to the European Union which together with FAO have been supporting the development of fish farming and building food security and livestock rearing also.

We agree with the conclusion contained in the Director-General's annual State of Food and Agriculture report of 2013, his conclusion that although progress has been achieved in reducing hunger and malnutrition worldwide, we still face a long road ahead. Kyrgyzstan and other countries have succeeded in having the number of malnourished people from 686,000 people in 1990 to 1992 to 345,000 in 2010-12. Despite the fact that Kyrgyzstan has achieved the World Food Summit goal, we will not rest here. The risks we currently face mean that we must step up our efforts to tackle the food challenges. A step forward in this connection came with the opening of a FAO country office in Kyrgyzstan with the support of the Member States. Clearly, the Organization's fully-fledged presence in our country will enhance the coordination of multi-sectional cooperation with FAO and with other interest multi-lateral bodies.

By way of conclusion, I would like to wish all of you every success in your activities and good health.

M. Abdoulaye BALDE (Sénégal)

C'est avec un plaisir renouvelé que je prends la parole au nom du Gouvernement du Sénégal pour d'abord réitérer mes vives félicitations au Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, à qui je souhaite un parcours jalonné de succès à la tête de notre prestigieuse et noble Institution.

Le thème qui nous est proposé cette année, «Des systèmes alimentaires durables au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition», est d'une importance cruciale, eu égard aux nouveaux paradigmes qui alimentent les débats sur le développement rural des prochaines décennies.

Au Sénégal, il convient d'affirmer, de manière lucide mais volontariste, que l'agriculture familiale et l'agrobusiness, en particulier, constituent les éléments structurants d'une stratégie de création de richesse et de génération d'emplois pour les jeunes et les femmes.

C'est d'ailleurs, dans cette perspective, que le Gouvernement du Sénégal a élaboré et fait adopter par le Parlement, la Loi d'Orientation agro sylvo pastorale (LOASP), qui définit la vision de l'agriculture sur les 20 prochaines années et place la modernisation de l'agriculture familiale au centre de la problématique du développement rural. Cette Loi dit, et c'est l'occasion de le rappeler, que «le développement agro-sylvo-pastoral repose sur la modernisation de l'exploitation agricole familiale,

qui doit passer d'un système extensif à un système intensifié, diversifié et respecteux des ressources naturelles à côté de la promotion d'un entreprenariat rural dans les zones agro-écologiques propices».

Il nous apparaît clairement aujourd'hui que la promotion de l'agriculture familiale qui préserve les ressources naturelles est la voie royale d'amélioration durable de la sécurité alimentaire, car 80 pour cent de la nourriture du monde reste encore produite par ce type d'agriculture.

Malgré les approches diverses mises en œuvre, force est de constater que les objectifs de sécurité alimentaire ne sont pas encore atteints, particulièrement dans notre région de l'Afrique subsaharienne, et l'échéance de 2015 nous renvoie inéluctablement à nos engagements antérieurs.

Mais nous n'avons pas le droit de baisser les bras ou de changer de cap. Il faut que nous luttions résolument contre les adversités qui ont pour noms:

- contraintes techniques et institutionnelles,
- insuffisance et inefficience de ressources financières allouées au secteur.

Il faudrait donc s'orienter résolument vers une agriculture durable, adossée aux problématiques environnementales, car notre existence en dépend.

Il faut en effet se rappeler qu'à brève échéance, neuf milliards de personnes exigeront, *nolens volens*, une nourriture abondante, saine, nutritive et accessible physiquement et financièrement, et seul le développement d'une agriculture familiale performante permettra de réussir cet exploit.

À partir de ce cadre global, l'initiative dévéloppée par le Président Macky Sall va s'appuyer notamment sur le Programme national d'autosuffisance en riz révisé (PNAR), le potentiel agro-sylvo-pastoral et halieutique, des ressources humaines de valeur et des résultats pertinents de recherches agricoles et halieutiques.

L'objectif général du PNAR est d'atteindre la sécurité alimentaire durable et surtout d'auto-suffisance en riz en 2018 par la production de un million de tonnes de riz blanc. En matière de production animale, il s'agit aussi d'atteindre 400 millions de litres de lait en 2018. Concernant les ressources halieutiques, un objectif de 100 mille tonnes de poissons est visé à l'horizon 2018, à travers le Programme national de développement aquacole.

Il me plaît d'indiquer ici quelques réformes. Il s'agit de la mise en place de financements du développement économique et social à travers deux fonds: le Fonds souverain d'investissements stratégiques, pour développer les investissements structurants dans l'agriculture et l'agro-industrie, et le Fonds de garantie pour les investissements prioritaires, destiné au financement de porteurs de projets notamment les femmes et les jeunes. L'assurance agricole et le dispositif de réforme foncière constituent des leviers pour la modernisation du secteur agricole.

Par ailleurs, sous l'égide de la FAO, un Programme de renforcement de la production agricole au Sénégal (REPAS), d'un montant de 20 millions de dollars canadiens, est en cours de négociation entre le Sénégal et le Canada.

Il nous paraît clairement aujourd'hui que la promotion de l'agriculture familiale est la voie royale.

C'est dans cette optique que nous estimons que la notion de droit à l'alimentation devrait être plus soutenue et vulgarisée au niveau des populations, afin que les États le considèrent comme un indicateur de développement à entretenir et à respecter. Nous y souscrivons et invitons la FAO à engager la réflexion dans la structuration de l'arsenal juridique et technique permettant le suivi de l'application et l'évaluation pertinente du droit à l'alimentation.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

First of all, I would like to convey my highest appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization for its tremendous efforts in tackling global challenges to achieve sustainable food security. FAO reform is highly important and serves as a strategic step to strengthen FAO working mechanism. I acknowledge that FAO has focused on five pillars or strategic frameworks, in which the first pillar is to achieve conducive and favourable condition in eradicating poverty, reducing hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, and increasing people`s welfare.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Indonesia has achieved the target of halving the numbers of extreme poverty as measured by the indicator of USD 1 per capita per day. Progress is also being made to further reduce poverty as measured against the national poverty line to the targeted rate of 8 to 10 percent by 2014. The percentage of undernourished children under five years of age decreased significantly within 10 years, from 31.1 percent to 18.4 percent in 2007, and is on the track to achieve or even surpass the MDG target in 2015.

To achieve these targets, the government has given high priorities on rural and agricultural development, especially on empowering community through: (i) expanding credit facilities for micro, small and medium enterprises; (ii) providing poor people for better access and utilization of resources; (iii) improving access of the poor to social services; and (iv) improving the provision of social protection to the poorest of the poor.

As a response to FAO warning of possible global food insecurity in coming years, Indonesia has doubled its efforts to increase food production in order to have significant surplus of staple food as a national food reserve. This is done, among others, by intensifying agricultural research, accelerating technology dissemination to farmers, empowering farmer groups to optimize the use of their own resources collectively, and aligning small farmers into food supply and value chain. In addition, we also promote food diversification, including facilitating women to optimize the use of home-yard as food garden of various food crops, vegetables, inland fish, and local chickens.

In achieving long lasting food security and nutrition in the post-2015, we have to "produce more and share more". To produce enough food, we must pursue sustainable development of agriculture and fishery. To share enough food for all, we have to increase investment on agribusiness infrastructures; improve food distribution and trade system, align small farms into the supply and value chain; and reducing post-harvest loses and food waste.

Sustainable food security cannot be achieved only by government alone. Inputs from private sectors, in term of investment and direct participation in food businesses are necessary. Therefore public and private partnership in achieving sustainable food security and nutrition is an essential one.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, in this occasion, on behalf of the government and people of Indonesia, again we would like to thank FAO for its appreciation to Indonesia and other 37 countries for our achievement in reducing poverty and hungry people, as targeted in MDG 1 of the Rome Declaration of World Food Security. This achievement could also be regarded as a milestone to continue our efforts in achieving sustainable food security and nutrition.

In this regards, Indonesia is ready to share experiences on agricultural and rural development, including community empowerment on food security, with FAO member countries, through South-South cooperation scheme.

Ms Darci VETTER (United States of America)

It is an honour and a pleasure to join my colleagues from all over the world at this 38th Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The United States remains firmly committed to FAO's mandate to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy.

The 2012-13 State of Food and Agriculture report, titled "Sustainable Systems for Food Security and Nutrition", touches on issues of great importance to the United States. The United States takes seriously its role as a global food security leader, and a leader in agricultural innovation to meet modern challenges and growing demands for food.

Since the early days of his administration, President Obama has emphasized his commitment to robust US leadership on food security issues – from the G8 commitment in 2009 to prioritize donor support to food security and nutrition, which led to our "Feed the Future" programme, and through his launch last year at Camp David of the New Alliance, which is revolutionizing private investment for agriculture in Africa.

This year's State of Food and Agriculture report portrays the challenges that we face around the world, including in the United States, the twin challenges of hunger and obesity. They are present in every city, in every town, and every school in America. There are youngsters who are dealing with weight issues and at the same time there are youngsters who are literally not well fed, and in some cases, not fed at all before coming to school.

And the impact of this is obvious. Children who are hungry or those who are overweight may suffer from chronic diseases that they carry into adulthood – ultimately increasing the cost of heathcare and decreasing the quality of their lives. And these young people today are the leaders and innovators of the future, which makes this also an education issue. Clearly these challenges are also economic and national security issues.

In 1946, when the United States school lunch programme was established by President Harry Truman, he was concerned that we didn't have enough well-fed people to defend the country. And now, 65 years later, we are challenged at both ends of the spectrum and are changing the Unites States lunch programme to provide healthier food choices. The United States Dietary Guidelines for Americans also tackles these twin problems. Poor diet and physical inactivity are the most important factors contributing to an epidemic of overweight and obesity affecting men, women, and children in all segments of our society. Even in the absence of overweight, poor diet and physical inactivity are associated with major causes of morbidity and mortality in the United States. At the same time, we recognize that in recent years nearly 15 percent of American households have been unable to acquire adequate food to meet their needs.

At nearly the same time as the United States school lunch programme was established, domestically, the United States formally launched its international food aid efforts through the Office of Food for Peace. And in the nearly 60 years since then, we have not stood still. In addition to our emergency food security efforts, we began the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programme, which supports education, child development, and food security for millions of the world's poorest children. And to build on our efforts to develop improved food products, the Micronutrient-Fortified Food Aid Products Pilot Programme began. This programme provides grants to organizations to develop new food products that are tailored to the nutritional needs of a specific population. Products developed to-date target stunting, vitamin deficiencies, and anemia.

This is just one example of our commitment to agricultural innovation and our commitment to strengthening research that fuels productivity. Agriculture can lead the way in driving the economic growth necessary to reduce food insecurity and poverty.

American farmers have led and will continue to lead the world in innovating to sustainably increase production, respond to a changing environment, and do more with fewer resources. The United States Government is committed to innovation. We want to create the solutions to adaptation and mitigation of climate change. We want to encourage entrepreneurship in local and regional food systems, promoting access to investment and linking them to wider economy. We are investing in research and new technologies – focusing our limited research dollars on targeted priorities, working collaboratively with other significant investors in agricultural research.

At the same time we are trying to address another serious problem: food waste. On 4 June USDA launched the United States Food Waste Challenge, calling on all across the food chain – including producer groups, processors, manufacturers, retailers, communities and other government agencies – to join the effort to reduce, recover and recycle food waste. Secretary Vilsack commented that "the United States has the most productive and abundant food supply on earth, but too much of this food goes to waste". This programme is an opportunity to better educate people across the nation about the problem of the food waste and begin to address it.

But we are here today because global food security is not an insular discussion; it impacts all nations. Food insecure countries themselves have to place a priority on agriculture and food security. The private sector, civil society and donors all have roles in supporting agricultural growth.

That is why we are working in a number of international fora to build capacity to fight food insecurity, including by open access to data and research collaboration.

The United States was priviledged to host the recent G-8 Conference on Open Data for Agriculture and the creation of an online virital community for agricultural data. Greater access to these tools will allow farmers and ranchers around the world to produce more, increase access to food markets, and ultimately provide ladders of opportunity with improved incomes for people in rural places around the world. Data – all the information we have acquired through groundbreaking research and investigation – is and will be a critical factor in this effort.

And that's why we are also active partners in the G-20 Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). The work being carried out in AMIS will improve food market transparency and encourage coordination of policy action in response to market uncertainty.

Innovation will help us sustainably intensify production to grow the food we need – but trade is the engine we rely on to distribute the food for those in need. The United States remains committeed to a global, rules-based trading system. Trade and efficient markets are critical to global food security.

Our global trade environment must be based on established rules that not only reduce barriers and costs, but also increase the reliability of trading systems. Our goal must be a more efficient global market that allows trade to flourish.

The three international standards setting bodies – OIE, IPPC and Codex Alimentarius – play an increasingly crucial role today. They contribute significantly to sustainable systems for food security and nutrition by adopting hundreds of international standards that protect the health of consumers worldwide and ensure fair practices in international trade. I will be pleased to represent the United States at the side event commemorating the 50th Anniversary of CODEX, on Friday 21 June. Dear Colleagues, I hope I will see you there.

To be sure, the work ahead of us is challenging. Because of this, we need one another now more than ever. And resources around the world are tight. We will need to be even more strategic and thourough in our planning process – looking at what resources we have and how we might bring them to bear.

The United States budget policy for all International Organizations is zero nominal growth. This is the most feasible and sustainable approach to funding international organizations in the current extremely difficult budget environment. We are ready to work with FAO to find creative solutions that express programmatic priorities but respect and work within resources constraints. We believe we can work within the fiscal realities we collectively face without negatively impacting core programmes.

This is a pivotal time in FAO's history, one that presents FAO stakeholders with a unique opportunity to truly make a difference. We, the United States Delegation, are pleased to partner with you this week recommuting ourselves to the important work done by FAO, reducing hunger and fostering sustainability and food security for all people the world over.

Mr Ilya SHESTAKOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Hunger and malnutrition are among the main challenges today facing humanity. The global community is forced to devote increasing attention to the matter of food security.

Over the past years we have seen progress. We have seen reduced reduction in the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition but the situation remains worrying.

We call for an enhanced role for FAO as the main forum for discussing food security including the post-2015 Development Agenda. This endeavor is inextrinsically linked with sustainable food systems. We welcome the Report prepared by the Secretariat in this connection. We believe that the measures taken to improve the effectiveness of this Organization and the quest for new approaches deserve support.

The purpose of the Global Food System and the Global Food Market provides the population affordable quality and safe food in today's globalized world where we are seeing the influence of technology on the agricultural sector. It is quite a complex situation. We need to insure that the industrialization of agriculture does not lead to reduction in the quality of food; therefore, we need to enhance the standard setting function of FAO.

We wish to see the work of CODEX directed at protecting consumers. We also support the principles in agriculture. This will enhance sustainability. The world agricultural sector also makes contribution to energy advance. It is important to avoid increased demand for fuel. We need to also look at the issue of biofuels in terms of organic agriculture.

The Russian Federation has major natural resources. We intend to increase our production of organic food products and thereby to make a contribution to global food security in 2014. The Russian Federation will take over the Chairmanship of the G8. We will continue to attach great importance and focus on the fight against hunger, food security and also sustainable agricultural development in Africa and other regions.

The Russian Federation will support initiatives of FAO aimed at promoting agricultural development. We look forward to cooperating with FAO.

Sra. Xinia CHAVES QUIROS (Costa Rica)

Compartiré con ustedes la experiencia implementada en Costa Rica en cuanto al tema de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional; en el caso concreto, deseo hablarles de la producción de frijol, producto básico de la dieta de los costarricenses. El frijol es un cultivo propio de pequeños y medianos productores, cuya actividad productiva se concentra en las zonas más pobres, caracterizadas por mostrar los índices más bajos en desarrollo humano y social.

Desde que asumimos nuestra gestión, nos propusimos elaborar una estrategia que contemplara aquellos componentes más críticos, intentando superar los problemas recurrentes que conllevaban a que una importante cantitad de frijoles de cosecha nacional embodegada en malas condiciones, fuesen imposibles de insertar en el mercado, generando importantes pérdidas en las economías de los pequeños productores.

Ciertamente, la cadena de producción, acopio, almacenamiento y comercialización, no estaba coordinada, por lo que se requería una estrategia de comercialización para pequeños y medianos productores.

En Costa Rica producimos el 25 por ciento del frijol que consumimos, el resto se debe importar; de este modo, la participación de los importadores es muy significativa y tiene su peso específico dentro del mercado.

Debemos reconocer que el sistema social y de garantía de los trabajadores de Costa Rica, así como las condiciones agro-ecológicas de las fincas, hacen que en nuestro país los costos de producción sean más elevados que la mayoría de los países que producen este importante alimento. Para el 2011, por ejemplo, el frijol negro importado de China alcanzó un costo promedio de 38 dólares el saco de 46 kilos FOB, mientras que el producido por nuestros productores alcanzó un precio promedio de 56 dólares el saco de 46 kilos.

Se hacía necesario privilegiar la participación de los productores en todas las etapas de la comercialización, así como generar información para el consumidor consciente sobre el origen y calidad del frijol que adquiría, en particular sus aspectos nutricionales. Asimismo, continuar desarrollando investigación no solo en técnicas de cultivo y variedades, sino también en el manejo y uso apropriado de fertilizantes, y en la implementación de buenas prácticas agrícolas encaminadas a permitir una mayor rentabilidad productiva.

En concordancia con la política de Estado para el sector agroalimentario y el desarrollo rural costarricense 2010-2021, elaborada al inicio de nuestra gestión de territorios rurales y agricultura familiar, se está teniendo como objetivo el mejoramiento del nivel de ingresos de los productores y productoras, y contribuyendo a la seguridad alimentaria.

Nuestra estrategia entonces definió como objetivo general, dentro del programa de comercialización,el desarrollar e implementar una estrategia de comercialización de frijol que permitiera a las organizaciones de productores insertarse en el eslabón de la comercialización, ofreciendo al consumidor un producto empacado y, al industrial, la venta a granel; en ambos casos con garantía de origen, considerando así cuatro componentes sustantivos, a saber:

1. implementación de un sistema de trazabilidad desde la parcela productiva hasta el empaque;
2. implementación de un sello oficial, gratuito para los productores que garantiza el origen;
3. nuevos canales de comercialización; y
4. fuentes de financiamento para las organizaciones de estos pequeños productores.

Pretendimos a través de ella, generar capacidad y experiencia en comercialización para los productores y productoras de frijol, así como la articulación apropriada entre las organizaciones de los productores y las instituciones del sector agroalimentario y de aquellos con la industria.

Dentro del programa de investigación y transferencia de tecnologías, denominado PITTA FRIJOL®, instancia en donde convergen la institucionalidad agroalimentaria, desde luego la FAO dando un importante soporte a este programa, y la academia para desarrollar investigación y transferencia, se definió como uno de los objetivos prioritarios, ofrecer semillas de excelente calidad, con variedades apropriadas. En nuestra gestión gubernamental ya hemos liberado dos variedades de frijol: una de rojo y una de negro, con excelentes resultados en el campo y de gran adaptabilidad a la topografía y clima de las regiones identificadas con capacidad productiva.

Pero centrados en nuestra estrategia, permítanme compartir sus resultados, así como las lecciones aprendidas en nuestro primer año de experiencia, es decir, durante la cosecha 2011-2012.

1. Se elaboró un protocolo de trazabilidad, mediante el cual el Estado de Costa Rica garantiza el origen del producto, confiriendo a las organizaciones de productores un código, amparado con el sello "100 por ciento frijol de Costa Rica", verificando cada lote acopiado en las bodegas asignadas por los productores para su almacenamiento, así como la implementación de buenas prácticas de manufactura.

2. Se apoyó con el diseño de empaques y marcas para las organizaciones de productores y fue verificado el proceso de limpieza y empaque en bolsas de 900 gramos, incorporando en este proceso mano de obra familiar que recibió un pago por el trabajo realizado.

3. Para la ejecución de la distribución y transporte del producto empacado, el Ministerio de Agricultura dispuso de los vehículos necesarios para ese propósito, pero hoy me complace señalar que para la cosecha 2012-2013, las organizaciones con el apoyo institucional han adquirido vehículos con ese fin.

4. Para la venta a granel a la industria que se incorporó al programa de trazabilidad, se verificó todo el proceso hasta el empaque y se les otorgó el sello "100 por ciento frijol de Costa Rica". Aquí, es meritorio indicar que algunas de las empresas implementaron dentro de su política de responsabilidad social, marcas comerciales, exclusivamente para el producto trazado.

5. Se implementó una campaña de promoción y rueda de negocios para que las organizaciones de productores colocaran su producto en importantes cadenas de supermercados, y posteriormente se impulsaron ferias en donde los productores vendieron de manera directa.

6. Se implementó un sistema de financiamiento, en donde como primer paso se trabajó en escenarios relacionados con la oferta del producto por empacar, flujo de efectivo necesario y requerimento de capital de trabajo, con el propósito de darle una adelanto de pago al productor mientras se recupera el dinero de las ventas directas. Aquí se generó la oportunitad de dotar de capacidad empresarial a las organizaciones de productores, en las áreas de costeo, manejo contable e inventarios.

Lecciones aprendidas:

1. La venta del frijol empacado por parte de las organizaciones de productores con marca y sello "100 por ciento frijol de Costa Rica", de manera directa, permitió que el consumidor contara con una opción clara para su compra y una identificación con la producción nacional.

2. Los productores lograron insertarse en las agro-cadenas, con identitad, generando a la vez experiencia empresarial y logrando mayores beneficios de la fase de comercialización.

3. Mediante la promoción y comunicación de los medios de prensa escrita, radial y televisiva, se dio a conocer el sello "100 por ciento frijol de Costa Rica", generando además en un contexto determinado que bajaran sus precios en beneficio del consumidor.

4. La cosecha nacional fue colocada con gran fluidez en el mercado, evitando el problema que habíamos encontrado al inicio de nuestra gestión.

En nuestro hacer, tenemos claridad que aún quedan desafíos por escalar mejores y oportunas condiciones de conocimiento de infraestructuras y de fortalecimiento empresarial, sobre todo con las mujeres y los jóvenes.

Nos ilusiona reconocer los esfuerzos del señor Director General por procurar una mayor repercusión de los servicios de la FAO, mismo que se ven reflejados en este esfuerzo compartido.

Estimado señor Presidente, comparto con ustedes esta experiencia con el ánimo de reflexionar sobre el hecho de que a veces no se requieren grandes soportes financieros o excesivos gastos en consultores, sino un verdadero y genuino deseo de mejorar las capacidades mediante experiencias prácticas y con la sencillez de lo que hoy les he compartido, logrando la diferencia que permite a estos hombres y mujeres tener como ellos mismos lo han dicho, un antes y un después de esta estrategia.

M. Bernard LEHMAN (Suisse)

Nous le savons tous, le contexte alimentaire et environnemental est en rapide évolution. La hausse de la demande en produits alimentaires, la pénurie croissante des ressources naturelles, le changement climatique ont une incidence directe sur l'agriculture et le développement rural. Ils doivent nous amener à repenser notre façon d'agir si nous voulons véritablement atteindre notre objectif d'un monde libéré de la faim et de la malnutrition en respectant les principes de la durabilité. Rechercher une productivité accrue implique notamment une agriculture et des systèmes alimentaires moins gourmands en ressources, générant aussi moins de déchets et de pertes après récolte, des revenus plus élevés, des moyens d'existence plus résilients, un meilleur accès aux aliments nutritifs et davantage d'attention au rôle des femmes dans le système alimentaire mondial.

En deux mots, nous avons besoin d'une approche mettant l'accent sur la durabilité des systèmes agroalimentaires au service de la sécurité et de la nutrition.

Nous devons nous inspirer du «*défi faim zéro*» lancé, en 2012, par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies. Celle-ci a mis en exergue le rôle essentiel d'une agriculture durable dans le développement d'une économie verte. Le *«défi faim zéro*» place la durabilité des systèmes agroalimentaires comme un des objectifs clé de la lutte pour l'élimination de la faim. Il doit guider notre action.

L'apport de la Suisse à la stratégie post-Rio se fonde en particulier sur trois piliers: l'accès à une alimentation adéquate pour tous, l'amélioration des conditions de vie par l'« Empowerment » des petits exploitants, des ménages ruraux, et l'utilisation économe et efficiente des ressources naturelles au travers de système agroalimentaires durables.

La Suisse s'engage sur ces trois piliers aussi bien dans le processus post-2015 concernant les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement que dans le suivi de Rio+20 et la concrétisation des objectifs de développement durable. Elle veut que ces deux processus convergent en un seul set d'objectifs globaux des Nations Unies.

La FAO, avec les autres agences romaines, a un rôle clé à jouer à cet égard. Elle doit s'impliquer avec détermination en faveur de l'établissement d'un objectif global de développement durable couvrant l'agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

Mon pays collabore déjà étroitement avec la FAO à cet effet sur des initiatives globales, novatrices et multipartites.

Permettez-moi de mentionner deux exemples concrets qui font au demeurant l'objet d'événements parallèles en marge de notre session.

L'Agenda d'action global pour le développement durable du secteur de l'élevage en est un. Cette plateforme multipartenaires est le fruit d'un intense dialogue entre les parties prenantes dans ce

secteur, qui connaîtra une forte croissance au cours des prochaines décennies. En raison de la forte demande en viande et produits laitiers, l'Agenda vise prioritairement l'amélioration de l'efficience des systèmes de production et la gestion des prairies naturelles, prairies et pâturages, et de la valorisation des déchets et des effluents. Il s'agit de répondre aux défis en matière de développement durable, auxquels est confronté à long terme le secteur de l'élevage.

La Suisse appuie également avec d'autres donateurs l'initiative conjointe FAO/UNEP (Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement) pour des systèmes agro-alimentaires durables. Cette initiative représente la contribution du secteur agro-alimentaire au Programme cadre sur 10 ans des Nations Unies pour des systèmes de production et de consommation durables, adopté à Rio +20.

Dans le cadre de cette initiative, une attention particulière est apportée à un des objectifs spécifiques du «*défi faim zéro*». Je veux parler de la lutte contre le gaspillage et les pertes. Cette initiative revêt une grande importance car, selon les estimations de la FAO, un tiers de la production alimentaire totale est perdue après récolte ou gaspillée.

Il n'y aura pas de systèmes agro-alimentaires durables sans augmentation sensible et responsable des investissements dans l'agriculture. C'est pourquoi mon pays a accepté de conduire, dans le cadre du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, le processus de consultation en vue de principes pour un investissement agricole responsable. Le résultat de ce processus doit être un ensemble de principes concrets, applicables par toutes les parties prenantes, de l'agriculteur au gouvernement en passant par les banques et les fonds d'investissement. Il faut favoriser les investissements et s'assurer qu'ils contribuent réellement à la sécurité alimentaire et à la concrétisation du droit à l'alimentation.

Mesdames, Messieurs, la FAO a un rôle clé à jouer dans la mise en œuvre des divers projets mentionnés. La Suisse appuie aussi l'approche stratégique proposée par le Directeur général avec ses cinq objectifs stratégiques. Nous nous félicitons de l'inclusion du thème de la parité homme-femme comme thème transversal. J'aimerais souligner que mon pays accorde aussi une importance au rôle de la FAO concernant les forêts. Je souhaite que ce domaine continue à bénéficier de ressources financières adéquates.

J'aimerais rappeler l'importance de créer des institutions et des conditions-cadre stables et fiables pour les pays, y compris les plus pauvres, pour encourager l'initiative privée. Cela signifie, entre autres, combattre la corruption et promouvoir la bonne gouvernance.

Le monde auquel nous aspirons, un monde sans faim et sans malnutrition, nécessite que nous agissions ensemble de manière urgente et effective. La Suisse entend apporter sa contribution à cet effort de manière pragmatique. Nous voulons nous y atteler avec la FAO et avec vous tous.

Mr Frederic SEPPEY (Canada)

I am grateful to have the opportunity to address you today about the enormous and complex challenges we all face concerning global food security and nutrition. I would like to congratulate first the FAO for its S*tate of Food and Agriculture* report, which emphasises the importance of new approaches to address malnutrition. Canada considers nutrition to be one of the most pressing development challenges of our time.

Improving nutrition promises transformative effects on the lives of millions of women, children and their families. In particular, Canada recognizes that women – as entrepreneurs, wage earners and farmers – have a central role to play in advancing global food security, poverty reduction and economic growth. Three years ago, Canada's Prime Minister launched the Muskoka Initiative on maternal, new-born and child health as part of Canada's G8 Presidency.

Canada has since made nutrition a key part of our efforts under this initiative. In fact, at the meeting of global partners on "nutrition for growth: beating hunger through business and science", held recently, Canada's Minister for International Cooperation announced an additional USD 145 million in investments that will contribute to improved nutrition.

Canada is also mindful that increasing agricultural production and productivity around the world remains indispensable to win the fight against hunger.

Suite en français

L'analyse de la FAO nous procure de l'information sur les défis auxquels le monde est confronté. Ainsi, la production agricole devra augmenter de 60 pour cent d'ici 2050 pour répondre à la demande prévue de la population mondiale, qui comptera alors 9,3 milliards de personnes.

De plus, on s'attend à ce que la surface nette des terres arables dans le monde augmente de moins de 5 pour cent d'ici 2050.

Enfin, on prévoit aussi que les changements climatiques auront d'importantes répercussions négatives sur la production mondiale d'ici 2050.

Continues in English

So, we must increase production by 60 percent, during a time of climate change, and with barely more arable land than we have today. This represents an enormous challenge for food security that will impact billions of rural producers and consumers.

Sustainable improvements in food security can only be achieved if we put farmers at the core of any strategy.

This is especially important given the fact that half of the world's poor and undernourished are smallholder families, which include hundreds of millions of women and children.

Suite en français

Afin de satisfaire à la demande prévue en aliments et de réduire la pauvreté et la faim, le monde a besoin de systèmes alimentaires permettant aux agriculteurs de faire de bons choix qui stimulent leur productivité et leur production, augmentent leurs possibilités de revenu et réduisent les effets de l'agriculture sur l'environnement.

Continues in English

Canada also believes that innovation is vital for increasing production and productivity. This includes innovative processes, such as zero tillage, and innovative products, including biotechnologies.

The FAO has found that biotechnology can have a meaningful, and positive, impact on production and farmers' opportunities in support of food security.

A growing number of countries, including developing countries, are taking advantage of biotechnology to develop crops that are more productive or tolerate more extreme weather.

However, asyncronicity in approval processes disrupts trade, reduces access to food, and increase food prices.

Canada believes that it is crucial for countries to work together in addressing these challenges.

We are working with other countries and the FAO to address the issue of presence at low levels of approved genetically modified events and crop shipments.

In addition to innovation, Canada believes that open and predictable trade is vital for preparing for the future.

Suite en français

Le libre commerce fondé sur des principes scientifiques joue déjà un rôle crucial pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Des douzaines de pays sont des importateurs nets et ils comptent sur le commerce pour se procurer les aliments dont ils ont besoin, mais des douzaines d'autres pays ont également recours au commerce pour obtenir les denrées qu'ils ne peuvent produire eux-mêmes.

Cette interdépendance à l'égard du commerce ne fera que s'accentuer à l'avenir.

Ainsi, le Canada est non seulement un important producteur agricole, mais est également le sixième importateur d'aliments au monde.

C'est dire que même un pays comme le Canada a besoin d'un commerce ouvert et prévisible pour répondre aux besoins nutritionnels de sa population.

Continues in English

In conclusion, we believe innovation and increased agricultural productivity are key to ensuring that countries can deliver strong nutrition impacts through their food and agricultural systems.

Likewise, open trade can improve access to food, and enable farmers to earn better incomes and escape poverty.

Suite en français

Au cours des deux dernières années, le Canada a contribué de façon volontaire à la FAO dans les domaines de l'innovation, y compris les biotechnologies, et des échanges commerciaux ouverts et fondés sur la science.

Nous espérons que ces travaux pourront contribuer à améliorer la productivité et l'accès aux aliments.

Ms Laurence ARGIMON PISTRE (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU (Croatia) and the candidate countries to the EU (Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) align themselves with this statement.

We thank the FAO Secretariat for the document provided C 2013/2. The document provides relevant elements concerning the current level of undernourishment, the persistence of price volatility and the need for an increased and sustainable agricultural productivity.

We note that the report pleas for dramatic improvements in both the level and quality of investment in agriculture. As recognised by the Jacques Diouf Award for the EU Food Facility, this was "the first major donor programme to help break a trend of more than 40 years where agriculture and food security were low on the political agenda and in doing so, the European Union has contributed significantly to placing sustainable agricultural development and food security at the frontline of the global development agenda". We remain actively involved in policy discussions on agriculture and food and nutrition security, not only in FAO, but as well for example through the Committee on World Food Security, the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the G-8/G-20.

Under the new EU Development Policy, there should be strengthened support for sectors with a strong multiplier effect for sustainable growth, notably sustainable agriculture and energy.

We agree with the SOFA report that "the role of small farmers and their families in increasing productivity sustainably is crucial"; developing appropriate agricultural policies with their full involvement in order to enable emerging domestic production sectors is critical; they need to own the process of change and – in Africa- we consider that the CAADP process is critical in scaling up investments, in particular at local/regional level. We would also like to underline the importance of always maintaining a gender perspective for greater impact as conclusively proved in the 2010-11 SOFA "Women in Agriculture - Closing the gender gap for development".

Given the growing demand for food, feed, fibre and fuel, increased production must be achieved in a sustainable, responsible and resource-efficient manner, building resilience in the global food system. This was also reiterated in Rio+20 Conference last year. The private sector has an important role to play in this challenge.

To increase sustainable agricultural productivity, developed and developing countries need to cooperate in addressing climate change and its effects on food security and agricultural development through adaptation and mitigation measures. Efforts must aim to intensify production, reduce land conversion and capture carbon. This will lead to increased crop returns, improved economic growth and enhanced food security, while contributing to climate change mitigation. We further agree with the SOFA report of the importance of reducing food losses and waste as a way to increase food supplies, and consequently improve food security. Measures to enhance the managing of food must therefore also be more effective in order to reduce losses. This could be done by improved harvest

methods and storage facilities, better access to markets and a more efficient safeguarding along the food chain. We agree that agricultural production and supply chains need to be improved and adapted to do more for nutrition.

We welcome the focus on malnutrition and food systems of addendum 1 of the report. Nutrition is a determining factor for the development of nations and it has a key role in ensuring physical and cognitive development of individuals and economic productivity.

Nutrition is at the core of the EU's development policy. The European Commission has pledged to support partner countries in reducing stunting in children under five by at least 7 million by 2025 and to reduce wasting in line with the World Health Assembly target. A policy framework to enhance maternal and child nutrition has recently been adopted. This policy highlights the role of agriculture in nutrition, where agricultural policies themselves should become more nutrition sensitive, and the need to take a multi-sectorial approach, including other sectors such as health, water and social protection. It also stresses the need to address undernutrition both from the humanitarian and longer-term perspective and to ensure that these efforts are mutually supportive and compatible.

Global initiatives have been effective in putting nutrition higher up in the international development agenda, as we have seen in the recent nutrition high level event in the margins of the G-8 on 8 June of this year. The EU and its Member States, together with other partners including the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) movement are keen to ensure that all efforts to combat undernutrition take place within a robust accountability framework, where investments in nutrition can be properly tracked and their impact measured.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Ladies and Gentlemen. This brings us to the end of our meeting today. We will continue interventions on Item 9 at 9.30 hours tomorrow morning. I wish you all a good evening.

The meeting rose at 17.53 hours
La séance est levée à 17 h 53
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.53 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session
Trente-huitième session
38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

18 June 2013

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.52 hours
Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 52
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.52
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Presidente de la Conferencia

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)
(C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1)

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)

Comoros, Japan, Ethiopia, Turkey, Jamaica, Malaysia, Finland, South Sudan, India, Sudan, Oman, United Republic of Tanzania, Luxembourg, Iraq, Zambia, Bulgaria, Ghana, Bahrain, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Sweden, Côte d'Ivoire, Ukraine, Haiti, Afghanistan, Viet Nam.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Fifth Plenary Meeting to order. We will now continue with Item 9, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. I give the floor to Comoros.

M. Fouad MOHADJI (Comores)

C'est pour moi, un réel plaisir d'être avec vous à cette 38ème session, ayant comme thème "Des systèmes alimentaires durables au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition".

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de souhaiter la bienvenue, au sein de notre Organisation commune, à la République du Soudan du Sud, au Brunei Darussalam et à la République de Singapour.

Mon pays, en dépit de la période de vaches maigres qu'il traverse, s'inscrit dans la politique de la sécurité alimentaire et celle relative à l'élimination de la famine en général. C'est ainsi que la Stratégie de croissance et de réduction de la pauvreté (SCRP 2010-2014), document fédérateur de toutes les politiques sectorielles du pays a été élaboré. Il indique que pour réduire significativement la pauvreté, il faut (i) une croissance économique forte, (ii) une amélioration des capacités humaines et institutionnelles, et (iii) un renforcement de la gouvernance. L'appui de la FAO à mon pays cadre pratiquement tous les domaines qui relèvent de son mandat : agriculture, pêche, élevage, forêt, sécurité alimentaire et aides d'urgence. En 2010 elle a identifié et formulé le «Projet d'intensification, diversification et valorisation des productions agricoles», financé par la Banque islamique de développement (BID) à hauteur de 1,5 millions de dollars. Par ailleurs, des experts de la FAO ont participé en 2012, à l'élaboration d'une note de politique sectorielle en agriculture, réalisée à la demande de la Banque mondiale. Les résultats de cette étude devront être publiés en 2013.

Le Gouvernement de Son Excellence Dr Ikililou Dhoinine n'a ménagé aucun effort pour soutenir les agriculteurs, pêcheurs et éleveurs, et plus particulièrement les jeunes à se lancer dans ces secteurs pouvant permettre au pays de réaliser l'un des objectifs du Millénaire.

Ainsi une ligne de crédit, financée par le fonds koweïtien à hauteur de deux millions de dollars et cinq cent millions de francs comoriens financés par le Gouvernement, vient d'être ouverte pour octroyer des crédits. Comme vous pouvez le constater la réalisation de ces actions nécessite certes une volonté politique et des moyens financiers ainsi qu'un travail d'éducation, de sensibilisation et, dirai-je, de conscientisation pour convaincre toute une jeunesse à comprendre que ce n'est pas seulement en travaillant dans la fonction publique et dans les sociétés d'État qu'on peut avoir des revenus et mener une vie décente.

Le Département ministériel dont j'ai la charge, en collaboration avec celui des finances, a appliqué certains actes administratifs en détaxant les intrants agricoles et provendes, mais aussi les équipements et matériels photovoltaïques. Toutefois des obstacles plus ou moins graves continuent à entraver ces démarches. A l'exemple des aleurodes qui ont décimé plus de la moitié de nos produits vivriers, notamment le taro, la papaye, le fruit à pain et les produits maraîchers qui font partie de nos produits de base de consommation. Pour arriver à une croissance durable et augmenter notre disponibilité alimentaire, il nous faut nécessairement arriver à éliminer ces maladies.

En tant qu'Institution des Nations Unies, la FAO contribue de surcroît à la mise en œuvre des politiques et stratégies nationales de développement définies par le Gouvernement.

La dernière action en cours est son appui à l'élaboration du Cadre programme pays (CPP) qui dégage deux domaines prioritaires:

Domaine prioritaire 1: Intensification, diversification et commercialisation des productions locales dans les secteurs de l'agriculture et de l'élevage.

Domaine prioritaire 2: Gouvernance et gestion durable des ressources naturelles dans les secteurs de la forêt et de l'agroforesterie.

Toutefois mon pays reste vulnérable, car ses capacités financières restent modestes et une assistance technique et financière est nécessaire.

A cet effet, la FAO et le Gouvernement agiront ensemble, sur la base d'une stratégie de mobilisation des ressources, pour lever les fonds nécessaires au financement des programmes élaborés. Ils cibleront en particulier les partenaires habituels des Comores, au premier rang desquels: l'Union européenne, la France à travers l'Agence française de développement (AFD), la Banque mondiale, le Japon, la Chine, le FIDA, la Corée du sud, le PNUD et le Bureau du Coordonnateur résident du système des Nations Unies, à travers lequel il est possible de mobiliser des fonds multilatéraux du Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (FEM), de la BID, la Banque arabe pour le développement économique en Afrique (BADEA), la Banque africaine de développement (BAD), etc. Mais leurs actions seront élargies aux nouveaux partenaires au développement, tels que les pays et les institutions financières du monde arabe, dont certains sont très actifs en Union des Comores depuis la conférence de Doha.

Je voudrais saisir cette opportunité précieuse pour réitérer la reconnaissance et le soutien du Gouvernement de mon pays aux multiples actions de la FAO, réalisées au profit de la population comorienne. Je voudrais aussi, avant de clore mon propos, lancer un appel pressant à tous nos partenaires à soutenir financièrement les actions entreprises par le nouveau Directeur général.

Mesdames et Messieurs, je ne saurais terminer mon propos sans remercier tous les partenaires des Comores pour leur assistance et féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO pour l'organisation parfaite de cette Conférence.

Vive la coopération internationale.

Mr Taku ETO (Japan)

I would like to express my deep appreciation to His Excellency Dr. José Graziano da Silva, the Director-General of FAO, and the Secretariat for the Organization of this 38th Conference. I am truly honoured to have this opportunity to deliver our contribution to the global food security and our vision on agriculture.

We have been observing the food price volatility in recent years. Even now, international food prices remain above historical averages. At the Ministerial Meeting on Food Price Volatility held at the FAO Headquarters last October, Japan expressed that we should avoid the impact on the most vulnerable people.

We have been emphasizing that in order to ensure food security; each country is expected to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity, considering the diversity of environmental conditions worldwide and multiple roles of agriculture.

To increase agricultural production and productivity, it is extremely important that agricultural investments should be conducted in a manner that harmonizes the benefits of receiving countries, local communities including smallholders, and investors. With this belief, Japan has promoted the concept of "responsible agricultural investment" since 2009.

Japan intends to continue actively contributing to the CFS consultative process to develop principles for responsible agricultural investment. As a part of our contributions, Japan will financially support a forward-looking research and analysis programme for responsible agricultural investment as well as the implementation of "*Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land,*

Fisheries and Forest in the Context of National Food Security", both of which will be conducted by FAO and other relevant international organizations.

In addition, transparency of markets should be enhanced by sharing timely and accurate agricultural information through the Agricultural Market Information System, which was agreed at the Meeting of G20 Agriculture Ministers.

Based on these viewpoints and promoting these initiatives, Japan would like to continue our utmost contribution to achieving the global food security.

From this point of view, I would like to introduce the outcomes of the "Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development," namely TICAD V, that marks the 20th Anniversary this year. TICAD V has just been held in Yokohama, Japan at the beginning of June, with the presence of the Heads of State and Ministers of 51 African countries as well as the Heads and other Representatives of various international organizations, including His Excellency Dr. Graziano, the Director-General of FAO himself. Taking that opportunity, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan would support African growth through public and private means of 3.2 trillion yen or approximately USD 32 billion over the next five years.

Agricultural development has been one of the TICAD key themes as it is indispensable for economic growth and food security in Africa.TICAD V has also identified farmers as main players of the economy. The Conference reached the consensus to sustainably increase food production and productivity, as well as to expand agriculture and agribusiness with a view of generating employment, increasing rural incomes, and improving livelihood of women and smallholders. And also, at TICAD V, the official side event on responsible agricultural investment was held with the presence of the Director-General of FAO.

In considering the future vision on agriculture in respective countries, we cannot disregard the co-existence of various types of agriculture and multiple roles that agriculture plays. Based on this point of view, last month, we hosted the International Forum on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, namely GIAHS, in collaboration with FAO.

This international partnership on agricultural heritage was launched by FAO in 2002. It aims to identify, support and conserve important agricultural systems and biodiversity to be inherited to the next generations. Six sites were designated as GIAHS sites at this Forum, bringing about a total of 25 GIHAS-designated sites in 11 countries around the world.

GIAHS respects the co-existence of various types of agriculture and enhances multiple roles of agriculture. It is an effective framework for local communities to promote and vitalize their sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries on their own initiatives. Communities very often rediscover their great value and regain their self-confidence and vitality by the GIAHS designation.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce recent development in Japan's agricultural policies.

Since the inauguration of the Abe Cabinet last December, Japan has been making efforts in reviving our economy, while our rural society faces a number of challenges, including shrinking and aging agricultural population as well as increasing abandoned farmlands.

Having re-examined these circumstances, to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries as a new growing industry, we have outlined a new strategy. In particular, we endeavour to strengthen the production side and improve producer consumer value chains, while increasing demands for agricultural products.

Last but not least, we intend to contribute to ensuring food security not only nationally but also globally by supporting developing countries' efforts as the second largest donor in the agricultural sector, promoting the principles for responsible agricultural investment and implementing initiatives that enhance co-existence of various types of agriculture, such as GIAHS.

Mr Tefera DERBEW (Ethiopia)

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very much pleased to speak on this occasion to discuss on Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security.

As a matter of fact, agriculture is the leading sector in the national economy of most Member Nations of the Organization, which engages the majority of the population and contributes the largest portion of export earnings.

The importance of agriculture to the Ethiopian economy cannot be overemphasized as it has already become a motto in Ethiopia that "As agriculture goes, so goes the overall economy".

It might be well known to you that in Ethiopia agriculture contributes to most of the foreign earnings, employment generation, supplying agro-industrial raw materials, and generally most of the country's GDP. The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has always given priority to the agriculture sector and the fruits of this informed and well-meant focus are being harvested for quite some time now. The double-digit economic growth rates over the last nine years tells a lot about the importance of the agricultural sector and thus the appropriateness of the agriculture-led economic development strategy of the government.

This was not simple coincidence; Ethiopia has laid strong foundations to transform its agriculture sector via:

• A well-articulated agricultural policy and investment framework, and a growth and transformation plan, with clearly outcome targets and objectives, articulated as "To build a market economy in which

(i) a broad spectrum of the Ethiopian people are beneficiaries, (ii) dependencies on food aid is eliminated, and (iii) rapid economic growth is assured"

• A focus on smallholder productivity and production of high value crops, with a special focus on scaling up of best practices, intensified commercialisation, and support for development of large-scale commercial agriculture where feasible

• Capacity building of implementing institutions –in particular extension and research –to deliver on the four key pillars of the government agriculture policy –productivity and production, rural commercialization, natural resource management, and disaster risk management and food security

• Establishment of transformational institutions to support agricultural growth and market development (ATA, ECX)

• A strong government-donor coordination platform –Rural Economic Development & Food Security (RED&FS) –to coordinate, strategize, and provide technical implementation support to three multi-million flagship programmes –Agriculture Growth Programme (AGP), Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), and Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLMP). Significant public investments has been also made in:

• Large-scale infrastructure (power, roads, transport) to catalyse agro-industrial development

• Human development (education, health) to build a skilled labour force

• Domestic resource mobilization effort has increased the capacity of the country to finance development endeavours.

• Supportive policies–access to land, finance-to incentivize foreign direct investment are in place.

• In addition Ethiopia is among few countries that has exceeded CAADP targets

• Ethiopia's strong agriculture sector foundation has enabled it to align its policy and strategies with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) compact

• Ethiopia has already exceeded the CAADP budgetary target of 10 percent to the agricultural sector and agricultural growth target rate of 6 percent per year.

• Ethiopia's Policy and Investment Framework – a strategic framework for the prioritisation and planning of investments that will drive Ethiopia's agricultural growth and development – has been designed to operationalize the CAADP.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, as a result of all the above mentioned comprehensive interventions the country is coming out of dire poverty that it had for many decades. It is, indeed, gratifying that since 2003, the economy has grown at a higher rate and the growth has been sustained. The overriding development agenda of Ethiopia is to sustain rapid and broad-based growth path witnessed during the past several years and eventually end poverty in a foreseeable short time.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the achievement in the food security programme is also encouraging as a result of clear objectives and goals the Government has set for implementation.

The core objective of the Food Security Programme includes enabling chronically food insecure people attain food security through addressing the root causes of the problem. The programme components designed to attain the core objective are voluntary resettlement, productive safety net, household asset building programme and complementary community investment programme. These programmes are comprehensive and complementary. In order to sustainably address the root-cause problem PSNP protects asset depletion of food insecure households, increase food availability at household and community level and at the same time by engaging them in public works on soil and water conservation activities; it addresses the root cause problem which is the natural resource depletion. So far well above six million households have received PSNP transfers enabling them to meet consumption needs, reducing the risk they faced and providing them with alternative options to protect selling of productive assets. Since graduation is the ultimate target of the Food Security programme, up until now, more than 194,000 households have graduated from the PSNP.

The household asset building programme builds the asset of the PSNP beneficiaries through technology intervention and market access. Making the food insecure households benefit from increased productivity of crops and animals as well as increased incomes both from agricultural and non-agricultural income sources are the major targets of the household asset building.

The voluntary Resettlement programme in other hand provides access to fertile land. As a result of implementing the resettlement component, well over 224,000 households have been resettled and almost 98 percent of these people have already attained food self-sufficiency through the implementation of the resettlement programme component. The last but not the least is the community complementary investment programme which focus on water and community infrastructure development and is mainly implemented in the pastoral areas. Except the PSNP which is funded by our development partners the other three programmes are financed by the government budget. This clearly shows the real commitment of the Ethiopian government to tackle the food security and malnutrition problem through specific targeted programmes and sector focused and country wide development interventions.

We have now come to conclude that having all this efforts exerted alone is not a sufficient condition to tackle the problem of food insecurity and malnutrition. There is a global problem that is diluting our effort for example in our drought prone areas. Africa is suffering from this climate change. It is already severely affecting Africa as a result of which the lives of millions of Africans are at stake as the extra-ordinary drought in the horn of Africa shows. This issue needs to be addressed and addressed as fast as possible before it reaches point of irreversibility. At this juncture, I would like to urge FAO to continue supporting vulnerable countries as it has been the case in the past. Last but not least I would like to express my government's full support for the reform measures taken by the Director General to introduce a new management system that increases the efficiency, transparency and accountability of the organization and reduce its transaction costs. We are also of the opinion that the Director General's request for a modest increase in the budget of the organization is necessary for the effective implementation of the proposed work programme and has to be endorsed.

Mr Mehmet Mehdi EKER (Turkey)

It is my pleasure to address this honourable audience on the occasion of 38th FAO Conference. I wish you a successful Conference.

We have only two years away from the final deadline of 2015 set for the Millennium Development Goals. Progress is uneven within and across countries in achieving and the triple challenge of hunger, malnutrition and poverty remains central in our agenda today.

Every individual has the right to access enough food and sufficient calorie intake in order to live a healthy life. Undernourishment continues to be a global problem. Today almost 900 million people worldwide are chronically undernourished. On the contrary, the number of people suffering from obesity and overweight is increasing worldwide. This dual challenge needs to be addressed.

World population is expected to rise to 9 billion by 2050 and global food demand will increase simultaneously. This will put further pressure on the existing challenge and will require sustainable management of the resources. Unsustainable systems are degrading the natural environment, threatening ecosystems and biodiversity that are vital for our future food supply.

Overcoming these challenges require the individual efforts of the Member countries as well as the collaborative global actions through international organizations.

Aware of this, my country, Turkey, takes measures to insure sustainability of its food systems for food security and nutrition. Smallholder agriculture and rural livelihoods are among our priorities. In order to ensure agriculture industry integration, the rural development investment support programme is being implemented since 2006.

From the Organization of Irrigation Systems, low interest credits are provided. Efficient use of land is among our main concerns. To this end, we adopted the law on soil protection and land usage, utilizing alternative energy sources is encouraged through grounds.

In our effort to overcome the undesirable effects of climate change, a drought test center was established for agriculture. Agriculture insurance system has been introduced with a view to reduce the impact of natural disasters. In this respect, 50 percent of the insurance bill is covered by the Government.

For the purpose of strengthening the supply and marketing chains, the agricultural cooperatives are provided development support. Prevention of food loss and waste is as important as increasing the production. Processing and storage of perishable crops are encouraged through the investment support programme. A nation-wide campaign to prevent the food wastage was launched.

For the purpose of healthy nutrition and protection of public health, new regulations were put into effect to prevent unauthorized use of food additives and excessive use of salt. The school meat programme is being implemented throughout the country. Seven million children benefited from this programme in both 2012 and 2013.

I would like to state that Government of Turkey is ready to cooperate and collaborate with the international community through FAO to share all its experiences.

Before concluding my remarks, I would kindly request your valuable support for the election of Turkey as a Member of the Council.

Mr Roger CLARKE (Jamaica)

It is my pleasure today, to greet you all on behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica. Let me also acknowledge the continued dedication and commitment of the FAO in your efforts to conscientiously address the issues of world hunger and malnutrition. Permit me to congratulate you for once again organising a conference like this to keep us focussed on the challenges and opportunities we share as a family of nations.

Today, we recall that, against the background of world recession and steep increases in global food prices in 2008, issues related to world food insecurity reached crisis proportions. Today, we are

gathered in this forum happy that consequent fears of spiralling hunger and malnutrition have in fact abated. We, however, remain cognisant of the fact that although there has been some progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition in the world, global progress in reducing hunger has in fact slowed since 2007. It would appear therefore, that world food insecurity is not just a cyclical occurrence, but may be an indication of structural parameters which impact some regions more significantly than others and constrain their efforts to attain food sufficiency.

The truth is that the number of hungry and malnourished people on our planet remains intolerably high and so the global community must continue to vigorously pursue all strategies and initiatives to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to reduce chronic hunger by a fast approaching 2015.

Countries like Jamaica that are net food importing countries cannot afford to place food security on the back burner; we now have to re-orient our production systems to address food import substitution. Against this background**,** Jamaica is proud to report that on the 1st May, 2013, the Cabinet approved the Jamaican Food and Nutrition Security Policy which seeks to achieve the following goals in the domain of food security:

- Ensure that a sufficient quantity of nutritious food of appropriate quality is available to all people in Jamaica, through increased domestic production and a sustainable level of imports.

- Ensure that all individuals in Jamaica have access to adequate resources to acquire appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.

- Ensure that all individuals in Jamaica reach a state of nutritional well-being through food choices and consumption that reflect Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs).

- Ensure that all people in Jamaica have access to adequate, safe and nutritious food at all times, are not at risk of losing access to it due to external economic shocks and natural hazards, and consume foods that reflect their physiological needs.

Based on the aforementioned goals, it should be noted that the policy is anchored to four main pillars, namely, food availability, food access, food utilization and the stability of food supplies. In a nutshell, the aim is to increase the population's access to wholesome and affordable food.

It is our firm belief that in order to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition as reflected in the FAO Strategic Objective, we must provide the enabling policy framework and environment.

It is therefore in that regard that Jamaica intends to enact further a Food Security Law to ensure the domestic production of a minimum threshold of a selected basket of foods for which there is production capability and national comparative advantage to meet domestic food, nutrition and health goals.

This law will be supported by appropriate production and trade policies to increase production and productivity of the domestic agriculture and agro-processing sectors and protect local industries from unfair external competition.

We wholeheartedly subscribe to the expressed view of the FAO that raising nutrition levels include enhanced production, marketing and consumption of local vegetables and staple crops such as locally grown yams, sweet potatoes and cassava.

In light of the economic challenges, a high debt burden and consequent arrangements with the International Monetary Fund, we anticipate that the more vulnerable in our society will be faced with food security issues. Where there is challenge, however, there is opportunity and so Jamaica believes that our high and unsustainable food import bill provides a significant opportunity for import substitution.

We totally embrace the concept of zero tolerance for world hunger and recall the drive, supported by Director-General, Graziano da Silva in his then capacity as head of the regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean for a "Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative".

In closing, Jamaica underscores our commitment to totally eradicating hunger by 2025, and welcomes the focus and initiatives of the FAO in pursuing our shared goal of a hunger free world.

Mr Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri YAAKOB (Malaysia)

It is indeed a great privilege for me to speak on behalf of my delegate in this 38th Session of FAO Conference. I wish to congratulate the DG on the first Conference under his leadership and for guiding this organization for the past year-and-a-half towards the vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition.

The Malaysian Government has always attached great importance to national food security and placing agricultural growth, rural development and farmer's welfare as its top priorities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Malaysia would like to support the report in the *State of Food and Agriculture* (SOFA 2013) and especially in choosing nutrition as its main focus of debate in this year's conference.

As reported in SOFA 2013, 12.5 percent of world population or 868 million people are undernourished; with the majority of them are our children. Geographically, 70 percent of the undernourished children live in Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen, undernourishment or malnourishment is often seen as one of the neglected issue of the world. However, the fact stated earlier only confirms that this issue need to be tackled urgently.

There are many contributing factors to this global issue, like poverty, harmful economic system, conflict and climate change, just to name a few. This is a complex issue and need a holistic approach to deal with. But more importantly, all efforts need a strong commitment from the leadership of all countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is no doubt that Malaysia is very close in eradicating extreme poverty, but we must admit that there are still works need to be done in reducing the number of malnourished in the country.

In dealing with this issue, The National Plan of Action for Nutrition of Malaysia (NPANM) has been framed and implemented since 1996 following the call from the World Declaration on Nutrition and Plan of Action adopted by the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) in Rome, 1992.

Currently there is already an established and strong collaboration in nutrition and health sectors between Ministry of Health Malaysia and various ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism and the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development. The Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry of Malaysia has long been one of the major players in this collaboration especially to ensure that the people have access to adequate, nutritious and safe foods. All these collaboration are mainly coordinated through the National Food Safety and Nutrition Council.

Therefore, to ensure sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition in Malaysia, improving household food security is one of the enabling strategies stipulated in the NPANM. Some of the major activities carried out to facilitate the implementation of this strategy are as follows:

i. Continue existing food aid programmes for the vulnerable groups such as the Rehabilitation Programme of Malnourished Children and Supplementary Feeding Programme.

ii. Provide nutritious and safe supplementary foods to eligible pre-school and primary school children.

iii. Ensure access to affordable, safe and nutritious foods in schools.

iv. Develop food service and management guidelines for boarding schools, special homes and institutions.

In 2011, Malaysia has launched the National Agro-Food Policy. This policy has been put in place to address the issue of sustainable agriculture with food safety and nutrition aspects along its value

chain. The National Agri-food Policy has incorporated strategies that are in line with nutritional aspect of the food system among them are:

i. On-going nutrition awareness campaigns about the advantages and benefits of local food products;

ii. Special campaign for those who have nutrition related health problems;

iii. Special programmes to ensure safe and adequate food supply to specific groups such as children and pregnant women; and

iv. Healthy eating programmes in schools and special programmes for low income group.

Malaysia would like to reiterate our commitment to share our knowledge, experience and expertise with other countries in dealing with this issue.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in ensuring food and nutritional security, one of the main focuses that need FAO special attention is post-harvest losses. Post-harvest losses in Asia are estimated at about 30 percent of annual food production, which are valued at USD 5 billion. It is also important to note that post-harvest losses not only refer to loss in volume but also to the value of food in terms of nutritional value and physical condition.

These losses can be attributed to factors along the value chain, namely constraints of farm inputs, mechanization, processing, packaging, handling, storage, distribution and marketing infrastructure.

Malaysia believes the issue of post-harvest losses is critical in Asia especially for the smallholders in this region. I would like to request FAO to give a greater priority in solving this issue especially in Asia Region. The region needs FAO assistance in value chain development and in capacity building in order for us to enhance our effort in feeding the region.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, as a way forward I would like to urge FAO to step up its action to fight malnutrition and food insecurity. The member countries especially the developing nations need your strong leadership in improving the current global scenario.

There are still huge challenges in front of us, and Malaysia is well aware that FAO is doing her best together with member countries to transform these challenges into opportunities. I would also like to urge all member countries to continue our strong collaboration in responding to all the threats in front of us. Together we can make a better world for our children.

Mr Jari KOSKINEN (Finland)

It is a great honour for me to be here to speak on behalf of Finland. As a member of the European Union, Finland fully agrees with the statement delivered earlier by the European Commission.

During the past years FAO has been going through a fundamental reform process, which still continues. The reform process has shown us that FAO has become an organisation which can learn and change. Without this ability, the reform cannot succeed.

I would also like to thank the Director General, Mr José Graziano da Silva, for launching the strategic thinking process; as well as for the broad and inclusive process undertaken in revising the Strategic Framework of FAO.

Finland has always emphasised the role of natural resources and especially forests in the work of FAO, and we have a long history of cooperation in this field. We would like to thank FAO and its partners for organising the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition last month here in Rome. It is time to recognise the role of forests, agroforestry systems and trees in the fight against hunger. They have a lot of potential and they merit much more attention.

I specifically wish to underline the role of women in ensuring food security and nutrition, especially in forest-dependent communities. Their knowledge on forests and trees, on their species diversity, uses for various purposes, conservation and sustainable management practices have a great deal to offer. Their knowledge will not only contribute to food security and nutrition but it can also be an additional source of income. Trees and forests have been the backbone in the development of livelihoods also in Finland.

The next joint session of the UNECE Committee on Forest and Forest Industry and the FAO Forestry Commission will be held in December in Finland. Parallel to the UN meeting, the second European Forest Week will be celebrated. The week will highlight the contribution of forests, forest products and services to a green economy. I wish to welcome all of you warmly to these events taking place at the Arctic Circle.

Excellencies, sustainable management of natural resources is now one of the key challenges of the international community, and it must also have a central role in the strategic framework of FAO. In today's world food security is mainly compromised by poverty. Tomorrow the compromising factor may be the scarcity of natural resources, especially land, water and energy. This is why land and water management and energy policy must be dealt with in an integrated manner.

The growing demand for food, fibre, feeds and biofuels calls for higher agricultural productivity. It is said that only 10 percent of the additional production can originate from new agricultural land. Therefore smallholder farmers, most of them women, producing most of the world's food should be at the centre of the policies on food security and nutrition.

Ladies and Gentlemen, climate change means an additional challenge to food production, and urbanisation competes with agriculture for natural resources. We urge that FAO works together with its partners to improve our understanding of the ways how to improve the resilience of agriculture, while at the same time reducing its emissions with the help of Climate Smart Agriculture. Finland is prepared to continue supporting the work of FAO to find ways to do this.

We also have to pay attention to the fact that about one third of the food produced gets wasted at some point of the food value chain. Each ton of wasted food also contributes to climate change through greenhouse gas emissions. Finland welcomes the proposal of having Food Losses and Waste in Europe and Central Asia as the main topic in the European Regional Conference in Bucharest next year.

There are still realistic possibilities to achieve the MDG1 target of reducing by half the percentage of people suffering from chronic hunger by 2015. However, the issue of food security and nutrition is more complex. Besides sufficient calorie intake, the nutritional quality and safety aspects of food are key elements in this matter. We have to develop policies and food systems that enable sustainable solutions to malnutrition.

Finland is pleased to notice that on the international agenda more attention is now being paid to nutrition questions. We have to ensure that a comprehensive approach to food security and nutrition will also be included in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. FAO and the Committee on World Food Security will have a crucial role in this respect.

Ms Betty Achan OGWARO (South Sudan)

Chairperson of the Conference, Your Excellency the Director General FAO, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**,** allow me at the outset to express on behalf of the People and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan my profound gratitude for the overwhelming welcome to the family of FAO by voting yes on Saturday 15 June. Chairperson, allow me also to congratulate you for being elected to the position of the Chairperson and appreciate the Director-General for a forward vision in combating hunger and malnutrition in the world.

I would like to thank the Director General of this esteemed Organization for his gracious invitation extended to the President of the Republic Salva Kiir Mayardit to attend this momentous and historical occasion of the accession of the Republic of South Sudan to the membership of the Food and Agriculture Organization, However, due to the urgent duties of his office, it was not possible for him to come.

Excellencies, agriculture is the mainstay of South Sudanese rural economy. More than 85 percent of the population in South Sudan lives in rural areas practicing subsistence agriculture and rearing of livestock and fisheries as the main sources of their livelihood. As you are aware, South Sudan is blessed with abundant Natural Resources that include vast prime arable lands which accounts for about 50 percent of the total land mass; forestry and wood land (29 percent), plenty of rainfall and

large number of rivers and lakes. The Country is also diversified into a number of agro-ecological zones which make it suitable for the growth of varieties of crops, different types of trees and as well as suitable habitual to both livestock and wildlife.

Excellencies, this conference is held at the time South Sudan is facing a number of challenges which impact directly on food and nutrition security of the country. South Sudan face the challenge of agricultural inputs (machineries, good seeds, fertilizers etc.); low capacity, access to markets and farms, lack of resources especially credits to subsistence farmers, processing chains; political upheaval with its neighbour the Sudan, internal conflicts, and climatic change.

In order to ensure our agricultural transformation that addresses food security and nutrition, it will be imperative to focus on the management of risk and vulnerability that emanate from the threats of floods, droughts, plant and animal pests and diseases (East-coast fever – locust and green grass hoppers), economic shocks and conflicts (both localized and with neighbours), post-harvest losses.

Over time, these challenges to the resilience of South Sudanese natural-resource based livelihood systems have been partially addressed through generous humanitarian assistance to complement the fundamental efforts of affected populations themselves. What is needed now is a radical reorientation in our engagement in threats from post crisis reactions to risk management for resilience. For us, this means using development, investment and humanitarian resources, partners and strategies in an integrated manner so that risks are reduced, resilience in the face of shocks is deepened, and livelihood options are expanded. The hazards do not, however, need to be a source of livelihood or economic collapse at the household or national levels.

The Government of South Sudan has set as its priority, Agriculture and the achievement of food security in the Country and the drive for self-sufficiency in food production. This is a commitment and a vision that shall be central to our Agricultural policy and that we strive to carry out across all levels of government in partnership with FAO and other development partners. In earnest drive to realize this commitment and vision, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan has launched its National Effort for Agriculture Transformation and has backed up this by creation of relevant institutions such as the Food Security Council under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic owing to its paramount importance; prioritizing agriculture into zones, (ZEAT), the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan; and developed policies to go along with it and the support of the Food Security Technical Secretariat; the collaborative working with agriculture related Ministries, agencies such as FAO and other development partners South Sudan is making strong although slow progress in the fight against hunger, poverty and malnutrition setting out plans for the development of Agriculture that are harmonized to important regional initiatives, such as through the IGAD process for the Country Programme Papers and the Comprehensive African Agriculture Programme (CAADP).

Today, South Sudanese Agriculture is evolving into new roles in providing not only household food and nutrition security but also driving inter-communal peace and stability which is crucial for sustainable agricultural production and, attracting domestic and foreign investment, serving as the basis for a more diversified, resilient and robust economy for Citizens and the Nation alike.

The women and youth of South Sudan deserve special mention. Through the war, women sustained South Sudan with their tireless efforts to produce food, catch fish, harvest the gifts from the forests, and keep livestock alive, all under the most unfavourable conditions of war, poverty and oppression. Simultaneously, generations of children and youth were forced to sacrifice education and the opportunities education bring. Women need to be at the fore front of agriculture-based transformation in South Sudan. They should be given equal access to resources, to benefit from rewarding livelihoods that protect food and nutrition security while fostering prosperity, and to enjoy the protection from all forms of violence and discrimination.

The energies and ambitions of our youth needs to be focused on agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forests and value chains as important not only for their livelihoods, but also as a source of peace and healing.

While South Sudan is oil producing country, our policy is that we shall use the oil revenue as a catalyst for diversification with Agro-based industry as the priority to fuel the much desired

agricultural development. This will not be realized with the stoppage of the flow of crude oil through the Sudan. This, your Excellencies means that there will be increased hunger and malnutrition, food insecurity and poverty and more support from FAO will be needed to address the challenges of combating hunger, poverty and malnutrition.

South Sudan Development Trust Fund for Agricultural Development which was announced Saturday 15 June by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of RSS is aimed to provide dedicated resources for the Government of South Sudan to partner with FAO and other Development partners with the explicit aim of developing effective institutions of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security in South Sudan with focus in increased capacity, food production and productivity leading to a more food and nutrition security for the people of South Sudan. We expect to begin contributions to the Trust Fund by mid-2014. In this context we appeal to FAO and development partners to make initial contributions to help launch this much needed work. We expect FAO to lead the process and in this regard I support the Director General's improvement in the Organization and I appeal to my colleagues to support the 1 percent budget increase in the FAO budget which the Director General asked for.

To conclude, for South Sudan, food security is human security. We say that a hungry country is an angry country. Emerging from the long War as we did, South Sudan does not need to be angry anymore, just as much as it does not need to be hungry anymore. For us, Agriculture is more than food; it is central to the process of healing our society. Agriculture markets bring people together and bind them in positive relationships of reciprocity and exchange. There is dignity in eating the food one grows, joy in the sight of a new born calf, assurance in an abundant fish catch, soothing air from protected watersheds and hope in a field green with sprouting crops. Agriculture is Life and we are happy and proud that we are a part of the human Family that is dedicated to sustaining life.

Mr Sharad PAWAR (India)

Mr Chairperson and distinguished Delegates, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to address this august gathering to share our experience in agriculture development in India and to comment on the work planned by FAO in the coming two years.

I begin by complimenting Director General FAO and his team for making excellent arrangements for the Conference and for proposing an agenda which focuses on the key issues that impact global food security and sustainable agriculture development. I am confident that we would all benefit from the knowledge exchange and experience sharing for crafting a more involved plan of action for FAO in its endeavour to achieve food and nutritional security for all and thereby improving the socio economic status of our farming community.

Friends, agriculture is a critical sector of Indian economy, generating about 14 percent of India's GDP and providing employment to nearly 60 percent of our population. 60 percent of our cropped area is rainfed with no assured source of irrigation which inhibits the realization of full yield potential. Under the circumstances, it is challenging to meet the rising diversified demands of our growing population for food, feed, fibre and fuel with limited natural resources, mainly land and water, and competing demand for these resources by other sectors. In view of the more frequent climatic variability observed in recent times, there is greater pressure today in achieving higher agricultural production.

We embarked on a path breaking journey seven years ago to intensify support to our farmers, 85 percent of whom are having operational holdings less than 2 hectares and are solely dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. We initiated a slew of policy and programmatic measures that increased investment in Agriculture, created opportunities for private sector through marketing reforms and launched a focused programme on food security in a mission mode approach for increasing production of food grains, fruits and vegetables and the allied sector.

I am pleased to inform you that our efforts over the years have met with resounding success. We are progressing with an overall agricultural growth of 3.5 percent per annum. We are setting new records in production of food grains year after year. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the food basket of the country has been widened with increasing share coming from relatively under developed regions.

We are maintaining adequate buffer stock to tide over the impact of any natural calamity and to support our public distribution system which targets the vulnerable sections of the society. Not only have we been able to meet the demand of 17 percent of global population residing in India, but exporting more than 10 million tons of rice, 5 million tons of wheat and 3 million tons of corn to stabilize the global prices of these commodities.

While efforts are being made to bridge the yield gaps to increase agricultural production, it is a matter of concern that there is stagnation in realizing the higher yield potential in different crops. New technological tools especially through genetic engineering need to be employed more aggressively to build tolerance to various abiotic and biotic stresses that inhibit crop yields. Research products made available as a result should be easily accessible and affordable to all. In this regard, we call for strengthening the CGIAR institutions for generating significant technological innovations that could then be easily adapted and up scaled by the National Agriculture Research Systems.

A lot is happening in other spheres of our rural economy as well, through increased investments for developing Human Resources by way of Right to Education, Health and Employment for All, and by creating new institutions that enable the rural population to take advantage of the high economic growth of the country. We are now poised to enact a National Food Security Act which would guarantee access to food grains to the vulnerable sections of society in the country.

Despite several challenges, Indian agriculture has made tremendous strides. We will be happy to share India's success stories with other developing countries. We continue to assure our support to FAO in all its endeavours for promoting South-South Cooperation.

We look up to FAO as a knowledge repository and a natural apolitical ally for addressing global challenges in Agriculture. It is also a very useful platform for sharing of best practices across different countries for cross learning and mutual benefit in development efforts of each country. In this context, I would like to acknowledge the recent initiatives of the FAO secretariat in devolving more funds for supporting technical cooperation programmes and focusing on country specific strategies and partnerships by strengthening the FAO country offices. These are important first steps to make knowledge generated by FAO truly relevant and meaningful to meet the specific needs of individual countries. India welcomes such long overdue initiatives and looks forward to a more fruitful association with FAO in the coming times.

We are committed to strengthening the newly launched Agriculture Market Information System hosted in FAO under the G20 Action Plan on Agriculture. We are now regularly publishing periodical reports in the form of Agricultural Outlook of select commodities where situation analysis and forecasts are presented in the short and the medium terms. We are grateful to FAO for supporting this initiative with technical assistance on international exposure and capacity building. We believe that informed decisions based on sound analysis help develop better understanding of food situation internationally and locally.

I would like to conclude by saying that on the basis of our experience in recent years, we are convinced that only a country led agriculture development plan with liberal investments in creating the needed Rural and Agriculture infrastructure supported by strong Research and Development and an innovative programmatic formulation and implementation approaches for technology transfers to farmers is the right strategy to sustain agriculture development and ensure food and nutritional security.

We endorse the strategic objectives guiding the development of plan of action of FAO as most of the elements contained in these objectives are in consonance with what we are practicing in India. We hope that the conference would accord its administrative and financial approval to the proposal of the Director-General to carry out the plan of action finalized at the end of this conference.

I wish this conference a great success.

Mr Abdel Halim AL-MUTAAFI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Your Excellency, the President of the Conference, Your Excellency the Director-General, Your Excellencies, Ministers and Heads of Delegations, Ambassadors, dear guests, brothers and sisters, may the peace of God be with you all.

It is my pleasure and it is a great honour indeed to address this assembly on the occasion of the 38th Session of FAO Conference. I should like to greet on behalf of the Government and people of Sudan all the Heads of Delegations participating in this Conference and extend our congratulation to the President of the Conference for his election.

I should also like to express our greetings to the Southern Sudan, to Brunei and to the Kingdom of Singapore for becoming Members of FAO. We insist on the good relationships with our neighbours and the need to address all security tensions over the borders which result in the immigration of farmers and pastoralists. All controversial problems should be settled for the benefit of all the people of the region.

We also support the Programme of Work and Budget proposed by the Director-General for 2014-2015. Your Excellencies, this Session of the Conference is held in light of new developments at the global scene. New challenges in terms of food security, climate change, desertification, and the decrease of agriculture land together with the increase of the population.

This requires responses from FAO to these challenges in lights also of the available resources to improve the production and productivity and the livelihood of the rural people in order to reach a world without hunger with everyone on this universe has access to adequate and safe food.

In this regard, we insist on the importance of giving attention to the small holder farmers to insure food security and to enable the rural women and to promote gender balance in order to involve the women as well in improving the situation and their own situation in their societies.

The farmer or the pastoralist is the main unit leading to the increase in productivity. Therefore, giving attention to those elements providing entrance and inputs is essential in enabling them to play the role in increasing the production.

Your Excellencies, we appreciate the increasing role played by FAO and its ongoing efforts to promote the agriculture sector both in terms of plants and animals and in supporting the national efforts the current situation is alarming regarding the locusts' invasion in Sudan. This requires responding and preparedness to combat this problem. Sudan is at the forefront defending all the other countries in the area in this regard.

Your Excellencies, Sudan which has been blessed by God by plentiful of natural resources, 70 percent of our fertile land is unused. We have abundance of water, rainfalls and underground water in addition to the different climates in the country allowing for different crops to be cultivated in addition to the availability of agriculturalists and experts in the field.

Therefore, this sector is very important in our country and Sudan is very important in terms of providing food security. For this reason, we have put in place policies and programmes in order to achieve all these objectives for the benefit of all people. We need to promote our agricultural sector and to allow for more mechanization, extension, training in order to keep up with the challenges at hand.

After having lost a major part of the earnings of oil, we have also given priority to the rural areas to insure the development of the agriculture in the country since more or over 70 percent of the population depends on this sector.

The initiative for the Arab food security launched in Riyadh will be adopted in the forthcoming Conference in Khartoum in December. Our cabinet has recently adopted the School Feeding Programme implemented by WFP with a view to be generalized to all other areas in Sudan.

Consolidating our relationships with the regional countries and all other countries with a view to improve the productivity and the situation of the farmers and the people living in the rural areas, the use of natural resources and the conservation of these resources for the future generations.

Your Excellency, the President of the Conference I do hope that we will manage to allocate over 10 percent of national budgets for the agriculture sector in order to provide food to all people, to all generations since food is a basic right as much as health and education are.

In this regard, I should like as well to extend my thanks to the Government and people of Italy for hosting this Conference and to FAO for its support and assistance to all countries. And we insist on the importance of the decisions to be made in this Conference to achieve these goals. We ask God to grant us all success in our endeavours.

In order to insure food security, combating hunger and poverty, and the development of agriculture. Again, may God grant us all success.

Mr Fuad bin Ja'afar bin Mohammed AL-SAJWANI (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

It is my pleasure to express my thanks and appreciation to FAO for the preparation and the arrangements of this Session as well as for its effective role in terms of many areas among which the food security, combatting poverty, and the promotion of agriculture in the world. We applaud the Director-General's efforts in addressing the problems of poverty, disease, and hunger. I should like as well here to express my congratulation to the countries that have managed to achieve the goal of reducing the hungry people by half before 2015.

We highly appreciate the lecture by Professor Sen, the Nobel Prize laureate, where he said that hunger is not exclusive to the size of food production alone but should be accompanied by and requires policies to combat hunger and to have solutions to have access to food.

The Sultanate of Oman, since the Seventies, has adopted the strategies and a comprehensive strategy for development in order to diversify the income sources instead of depending solely on oil. Therefore, it has developed its agricultural and fisheries sectors. For this aim, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries adopted the policies and programmes to improve the management of agricultural resources despite the shortage of agricultural resources and water. However, these two sectors have covered over a third of the national needs for the last four years.

The two sectors also reached good growth rates since it has contributed largely to the 8.5 percent of GDP growth. This reflects the efforts by the Government to promote these sectors. Due to the importance of the fisheries sector in this Sultanate, this year in 2013, we have allocated USD 1 300 million for the promotion of the sector until 2020. We hope that this increase amounting to 200 percent will lead to the increase of fish production from capture fisheries as well as aquaculture. The Sultanate has signed an agreement with FAO to prepare a comprehensive strategy for this sector up to the year 2040. The vision of the Sultanate of Oman is developing in view of the global changes.

In this regard, the food security has become a main pillar in our development efforts in order to provide food for the country. However, this lost crisis in terms of food prices has also been translated in food availability which deprived categories of societies to suffer from food shortages. The Sultanate is proud to host the meeting of the International Treaty for Genetic Resources in our country, in September. We should like to welcome you all to our country and we should also like to invite all people from the Arab world to take part in the meeting that will take place in the Sultanate on 21 September 2013. In this regard as well, allow me to give my thanks to FAO and to the Director-General for the good preparation of this session and we hope that our global efforts will all succeed in providing food for all. May the peace of God be with you.

Mr Christopher K. CHIZA (United Republic of Tanzania)

It is my pleasure and honour to address this 38th Session of the FAO Conference on behalf or the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Mr Chairperson, allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate you and the distinguished members of the Bureau. I trust that through your able leadership our deliberations will be successful. Allow me

also to register my country's commitment to being a member of FAO, an organization with significant role in increasing food security and fighting poverty.

We all agree that agriculture is an important preoccupation for the majority of our people and will remain central in Africa's effort to address poverty alleviation and in realizing the continent's food security targets. In Tanzania, agriculture accounts for about 95 percent of the country's food basket during years with adequate rains and also accounts for 75 percent of rural employment. In 2012, the sector accounted for 26.8 percent of the country's GDP. However, the growth of the sector is still not appealing averaging to an annual growth rate of 4 percent, which is still below the CAADP target of six percent.

Performance of agricultural sector is still constrained by a number of factors, including low production and productivity due to use of inappropriate technology, overdependence on rain fed agriculture compounded by negative effects of climate change, inadequate research and extension services, low utilization of improved seeds, poor infrastructure, especially rural roads, weak network of input and output markets and very low prices netting to low returns.

These problems are further compounded by inadequate and weak financial services in rural areas. However, the solution does not lie in listing them rather but in embarking on measures to solve them. The Government is determined to solve themn not each in isolation but in an integrated, selective and cost effective approach.

As we all know, development of a competitive agricultural sector requires financial services, technological and information services, marketing services and capacity-building. The Government of Tanzania is still constrained by inadequate budgetary allocations and credit facilities directed to agricultural production. Other support services such as standardization and quality control are also inadequate. For example, Tanzania has not yet accomplished the Maputo Declaration of allocating 10 percent of her national budget to agriculture, but a commendable success has been achieved to the tune of 7.4 percent. Another major constraint is the rather unfriendliness of commercial banks in financing agriculture coupled with price volatility. I remember we discussed the problem of price volatility at length in our last meeting.

However, crisis of our important cash crops are frequently affected by the trend of the world market, a situation which is always beyond our control. In Tanzania we have started a process for setting up "Price stabilization Funds" as a fallback position. In this regard, I would like to know what other governments are doing.

Through the existing framework of National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) – MKUKUTA & MKUZA, Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS), the Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP) – Tanzania Mainland, the Agriculture Strategic Plan (ASP) for Tanzania, Zanzibar and "Kilimo Mwanza" (Agriculture First) initiatives we have addressed some of the challenges. The Government of Tanzania has set some priority areas for intervention within the Tanzania Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan (TAFSIP) with a view to increasing agricultural productivity and quality production through the second phase of ASDP, ASP and Southern Agriculture Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) among others. The objective is to catalyze investment in commercial agriculture, linking producers with domestic and international markets and putting in place attractive key policy issues, including the abolition of nuisance taxes.

Within the AU framework, our Government is determined to increase agricultural productivity and commercialization through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) operationalized through the TAFSIP framework. In this regard, I would like to commend the African Union Commission and FAO, in collaboration with Lula Institute, for convening a meeting with African and International Leaders on "New Unified Approaches to end Hunger in Africa" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 June to 1 July 2013.

Tanzania recognized the critical role played by the private sector in the growth of agricultural sector. However, our private sector is still weak compared to roles vested in it. Cognizant of this fact, African representatives to the World Economic Forum (WEF 2012) in Davos, Switzerland, echoed the

importance of enhancing transformation and modernization of agriculture to ensure that it contributes to economic growth and transformation.

Inline with this, the New Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security is also designed to increase private sector investment in the agriculture sector in the participating countries, Tanzania inclusive. This initiative in Tanzania came timely in support of overarching "Kilimo Mwanza" (Agriculture First) resolve and it is being implemented through the ASDP and the TAFSIP. A key milestone from the New Alliance roadmap is the development of the Second Phase of ASDP, which is an expanded sector-wide programme allowing participation of both basket and non-basket financing and recognizing private sector contribution to the sector's development. In this regard, Tanzania reiterates the need for continued support for FAO's budget framework as the Organization will in turn adequately support the implementation of TAFSIP, and hopefully the new phase of ASDP.

In recognizing this, our Government plays a role of creating a conductive environment that encourages Public Private Prtnership (PPP), and continues to catalyse private sector investment in the agricultural production value chain. In recent years, through a corridor approach (SAGCOT) already initiatives in rice and sugar partnerships are at an advanced stage with an objective of increasing production of rice by 290,000 MT, sugar 150,000 MT and maize 100,000 MT from the current levels by 2015.

Tanzania is very well blessed with available local resources like natural gas, which can be utilized to promote local industrialization in fertilizer and electricity production; water for both irrigation and fisheries/aquaculture; land for crop production and processing among others. Opportunities are also available for cashewnut, textiles and oil product processing factories complemented with incentive schemes such as the just adopted mechanism of abolishing food (maize) trade ban and tax relief.

In conclusion, allow me to congratulate the outgoing Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, Mr Luc Guyau, for the job well done. I am looking forward to a new Chairperson to do the same. Let me also finish by congratulating Brunei, Singapore and South Sudan for joining FAO. My words to them are: "Welcome to the family".

M. Romain SCHNEIDER (Luxembourg)

La sécurité alimentaire reste plus que jamais un défi que nous devons relever tous ensemble. La place de l'agriculture et des petits agriculteurs – ils sont plus d'un milliard – reste au centre de nos efforts d'apporter une aide au développement, notamment vis-à-vis des pays les plus pauvres et des pays structurellement faibles.

Paradoxalement, le rapport annuel de la FAO relève aussi que les régions d'Asie du Sud-Est et d'Afrique subsaharienne, régions où l'extrême faim et pauvreté sont malheureusement les plus répandues, sont également les régions sur terre où le taux d'investissement dans ce secteur vital stagne ou décline, et ceci depuis un bon quart de siècle.

Les raisons pour cet état de fait sont multiples – problèmes de gouvernance, désertification, accès insuffisant aux ressources naturelles primaires, conflits armés –, mais elles ne constituent pas une raison pour baisser les bras et «accepter l'inévitable».

Au contraire, il est temps que nous nous dotions d'une stratégie d'investissement agricole digne de ce nom.

A cette fin, plusieurs étapes devraient être respectées.

D'abord, identifier les besoins les plus pressants et les plus immédiats, en mettant à jour la cartographie des régions les plus exposées. Les données recueillies par la FAO permettent de mener à bien ce travail statistique à brève échéance.

Ensuite, focaliser le débat sur les zones de crise ainsi identifiées, tout en ne perdant pas de vue la dimension horizontale de ce dossier, qui intéresse également les économies rurales plus intégrées. Un planning conséquent, dans une optique de développement durable, tel que préconisé par les conclusions du Sommet de Rio, ainsi que des stratégies intégrées de protection des secteurs agricoles

vulnérables, doivent être discutés publiquement, à la FAO et au sein des agences onusiennes concernées.

Nous rejoignons ici le débat en cours sur les orientations post-2015 des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, où ce thème jouera également un rôle de premier plan.

Mais n'attendons pas les résultats finaux de ce débat, qui ne se terminera qu'en 2015 et qui n'esquissera des feuilles de route qu'à partir de cette date. Nous n'avons pas de temps à perdre dans notre lutte quotidienne pour l'éradication de la pauvreté extrême, et nous disposons en ce moment déjà de suffisamment d'éléments pour intervenir. Dans son récent rapport sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, la FAO souligne justement que « pour s'attaquer à la malnutrition, il est nécessaire d'adopter des mesures intégrées et intersectorielles ».

Dans le contexte plus large, c'est toute la chaîne de production et de distribution qui est en cause, mais à la racine, la priorité est d'améliorer le sort des petits agriculteurs et des exploitations agricoles de subsistance.

C'est dans ce domaine que l'aide publique au développement n'a pas dit son dernier mot. Elle reste l'instrument de choix pour des interventions à la fois larges et ciblées, selon les cas et les besoins. Elle peut évidemment se moduler avec d'autres apports. Elle devrait veiller à construire un tout cohérent avec les stratégies des pays et autres stratégies existantes, comme par exemple celle de la Banque mondiale.

Outre l'amélioration de l'accès aux ressources naturelles, l'accès au financement, notamment par la mise à disposition de microcrédits, est essentiel. Ces dernières années, le Luxembourg s'est largement investi dans ce secteur, aux côtés notamment du Fonds commun pour les produits de base (FCP), avec des résultats probants. Dans les neuf pays cible de la coopération luxembourgeoise, l'attention portée sur l'amélioration des conditions pour les petits producteurs est une constante, tout comme l'accent mis sur la promotion du rôle des femmes et la prévention de la spéculation avec des denrées de base.

Je tiens également à revenir sur la crise alimentaire et nutritionnelle de 2012 en Afrique de l'Ouest. Les pays de la région et la communauté internationale ont réagi de manière précoce et adéquate et il y a un large consensus sur le fait que la réponse était appropriée et que le pire a pu être évité.

Le Luxembourg a déboursé dix millions d'euros pour soutenir l'assistance alimentaire apportée par le Programme alimentaire et d'autres organisations, y compris pour venir en aide aux populations déplacées par le conflit malien, accueillis dans les pays voisins par des communautés dont les ressources étaient déjà limitées. Malheureusement, les populations affectées en 2012 font aujourd'hui face à des prix alimentaires élevés et, par conséquent, à un accès limité aux marchés. Malgré les conséquences dramatiques de la crise syrienne et des appels substantiels des organisations humanitaires pour leur apporter assistance, nous devons continuer à soutenir les populations vulnérables dans le Sahel et leur fournir cette année encore une assistance alimentaire et nutritionnelle adéquate. Dans les années à venir, nous devrons nous attaquer aux causes structurelles de ces crises alimentaires récurrentes et renforcer la résilience de ces pays régulièrement affectés par l'insécurité alimentaire.

Mr Azz Eldin AL DAWLA (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

It is a source of pleasure to speak on behalf of the Government and people of Iraq in this 38th Session of the FAO Conference and to wish you all the success in this very important and vital Conference.

I would like to commend in particular the Director-General who has proved throughout his excellent management over the last two years that he is up to the expectations and that he has led this Organization towards reform that has been included in the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

We would like to commend the fact that FAO represents the common will of Member Nations regardless of the size and location. FAO aims at implementing certain visions, programmes and strategies that are subject to the approval of its Member Nations. We commend the transparency and efficiency in enabling Member Nations to participate, to combat hunger and poverty in the world.

We believe that FAO undertakes a very positive role at the international arena to achieve the Millennium Goal and eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

Mr President, Iraq has always been an active Member of FAO as of its inception and we are still keen to be very active in the various activities of FAO be it international or regional. We had the honour of presiding over the 31st FAO Regional Conference for Near East.

Iraq, in spite of the well-known difficulties that it faces, has been able to make progress and looks towards further technical cooperation with FAO to achieve more production in food production and food security.

Food security in Iraq is an objective that can be achieved and we can achieve that very swiftly. We have indeed increased the production of various agricultural and animal food products. We are producing what we need in the market in terms of vegetation and vegetables. We are also covering agricultural production throughout the year. We have made improvements in the production of grains and the Ministry has supported closed irrigation systems that cover three million hectares and that aim at the increase of wheat to three million tons in spite of the shortage of water resources given the fact that we have irregular access to water from the neighbouring countries and the climate changes that have overstruck the region.

We are planning on having self-sufficiency in wheat production over the coming three years. We are adopting effective procedures to arrest desertification that presents a major threat to Iraq. In our Ministry we have a special department to combat desertification that undertakes pilot projects on the ridges of the desert under very dire climate conditions. However, we need regional procedures as well to reduce that threat.

We call upon FAO to set up greenbelts around cities and fertile and arable lands in order to be able to coordinate all efforts to combat desertification and to create job opportunities for the rural populations.

We have also made efforts to stem rural migration by building up modern villages for the modern graduates in agriculture. We are three thousand new graduates who will get grants and assistance from the Government in terms of housing and agricultural lots.

In addition to acclimatizing ourselves with the new climate conditions and the development of the human and financial resources in Iraq, we are also focusing on creating legislative framework that would enable the agriculture to prosper in Iraq after the fact that our State was extremely centralized in the past. We are turning towards decentralization with the provision of incentives, guarantees and support small scale farmers and investors in the private sector through a sort of programme that is supported by the Government of Iraq which is the Government letting fund.

Mr Robert SICHINGA (Zambia)

The Chairperson of the Conference, FAO Director-General, Heads of Delegations, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to deliver a message of warm greetings from His Excellency the Republican President Mr Michael Chilufya Sata on behalf of the people of Zambia.

From the onset, allow me to thank the Food and Agriculture Organization for successfully organizing the 38th Session of the FAO Conference. I wish to congratulate you Chairperson on your election to chair this very important conference. Allow me on behalf of the people of Zambia to also extend our congratulations to the director general of FAO for the reforms he is undertaking in the Organization to steer the development of agriculture and ending hunger in the world. Zambia is confident of his able leadership in this regard.

Chairperson, in the last decade, the world has been focusing attention on problems of climate change, global economic and the financial crises, all of which have contributed to rising food prices and the continually rising oil prices which have become the source of increased cost of living for all. The global financial crisis has exposed the interdependence of the global economy. Now the whole world is concerned about the sustainability of food production and consumption. In the light of this, the theme “sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition,” is quite apt.

It is therefore our submission that production strategies should be in line with consumption patterns, in order to balance the proportion of people over-consuming in the developed countries and those under-consuming in the developing countries.

Chairperson, although over the last decade, many countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, have recorded positive economic growth rates, in fact during the past five years, several African economies grew at over 5 percent per year. For example, last year, Zambia recorded growth rates in excess of 6 percent and projections for this year are that our economy is likely to record even more positive growth, yet this does not tell the full story about what is taking place at micro level.

In spite of these impressive statistics on economic growth, these have not been commensurate with food and nutritional security improvements, nor with poverty reduction and job creation. Forty-five percent of children under 5 are malnourished and their growth stunted.

Despite Zambia having ample arable land, with only 14 percent under any form of agricultural cultivation, and with 40 percent of water resources in southern Africa; and a favourable climate for agricultural production, yet agriculture has not been fully exploited. Hence our government has made agriculture one of the top four priority sectors for investment, in order to realize the unexploited tapped potential to achieve sustainable economic growth, food security and poverty reduction. As we strive to realize the full potential, we are determined to do this in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner.

Chairperson, over the past few seasons, Zambia has recorded an increase in grain production and exports. As I address this gathering, i have just come from an SADC Conference in Maputo, Mozambique, during which we shared information on how yet again; SADC will not produce enough food for the region. Zambia is among only two countries in the region likely to have some maize surplus. Zambia is making available maize grain and some other food products to our neighbours in the region as well as through The World Food Programme. Zambia stands ready to share the little extra stock that is available. His Excellency our president has declared that "no one shall die from food starvation in the region, as long as Zambia has some food stocks".

Despite our country's impressive growth in production and exports, it still faces a number of formidable challenges in the agricultural sector. Key among them are; low investment, low production and productivity, especially among smallholder farmers. Further, we are grappling with the challenge of climate change which manifest itself through drought, flooding, irregular rainy season and pest attacks just to mention a few yet we have 3.1 million children in primary schools needing school feeding programme.

Chairperson, given the projected increase in population growth, the consequential demand for food is expected to exert increased pressure on the available natural resources. With responsible agricultural investment and technological transfer, Zambia could easily offer many opportunities for increased contribution towards meeting the expected increased demand for the domestic and regional markets. Chairperson, in order to build a food and nutrition secure future for its citizenry and our neighbourhood, our government's strategies and interventions in the sector will include: commercialization of agricultural land through farm block development, promotion of reforestation and agroforestry, crop diversification, strengthening research and extension services, investing in small scale irrigation development; and rehabilitation of livestock infrastructure, control of livestock diseases and the promotion of sustainable fisheries.

Our government is vigorously pursuing the promotion of agro-processing, value addition, improved yields through the use of high yielding and drought tolerant seed varieties; and proven good agricultural practices such as conservation farming, organic farming, crop rotation, water conservation and similar other practices. Further, our government is systematically reforming the agricultural marketing system. Besides the foregoing, our government is promoting and strengthening community participation through rejuvenated cooperatives and farmer organizations.

Chairperson, I am aware that good nutrition underpins healthy lives and also leads to enhanced education and health outcomes that consequently contribute to improved productivity and overall national socio-economic development. It is for this reason that our government has adopted a multi-

sectorial approach to promoting good nutrition. For instance, under health, the focus is on advocating for increased access to and coverage of high impact community-based nutrition interventions. In agriculture, the focus is on advocating for the promotion of nutritious diet through crop diversification, adequate food processing, storage and utilization. Under education, the sector is supporting significantly expanded school feeding and nutrition services.

It needs to be understood that all these programmes require increased investment by our respective governments in the developing countries. We expect our cooperating partners to be more supportive.

Chairperson, the Zambian government recently launched the national agricultural investment plan (NAIP) which was developed within the context of the comprehensive Africa agriculture development programme (CAADP) framework. This plan seeks increased investment in agriculture development especially for our smallholder farmers. Let me take this opportunity to thank the FAO and other cooperating partners, particularly USAID, DFID and the European Union just to mention a few, for the technical and financial support provided during the CAADP development process. Together, we now need to practically implement the plan.

On behalf of the people of Zambia, I wish to acknowledge and appreciate the work of the FAO in providing technical support in forestry mapping and assessment, facilitating land reforms, climate smart agriculture and livestock disease control and surveillance.

Among the drivers of deforestation are energy needs, agriculture, human settlements, population increase and rural urban migration. The combination of these cause significant deforestation rates which impact negatively on the environment.

The need for water harvesting to enable irrigation in the drought prone areas, and power generations, all require massive investment into infrastructure. Sub-Saharan Africa and particularly the tropics, offer the largest area for arable land for agriculture. It is in the interest of the developed world to invest in capital equipment in those areas. Africa offers the best opportunity for future agriculture.

Zambia looks to the FAO and this conference, to continue providing technical support to regions such as the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) to meet the regional specific challenges in feeding itself.

Allow me to close by stating that FAO as an institution should be commended and supported in the process of reform to reposition itself to effectively address global agriculture challenges and to play a more active role in assisting its members improve agricultural production systems. It is our sincere hope that this conference will live up to this expectation and provide the necessary support for this process.

Zambia on behalf of itself and our neighbour Zimbabwe invite you to the UNTWO to be held in Livingstone/Victoria town on the shared border, from 20 August 2013.

Mr Dimitar GREKOV (Bulgaria) (Original language Bulgarian)

Mr Chairperson, kindly allow me to congratulate you on your election to this responsible position and wish you successful work during the 38th Session of the FAO Conference.

I would like to express my satisfaction with the honour rendered to me by the Bulgarian government to be the head of the Bulgarian delegation to this session.

Please allow me, Mr Chairperson, to present to your attention the state of agriculture and food in Bulgaria.

The location and the climatic conditions are good preconditions for the development of agriculture.

The agricultural sector accounts for about 5 percent of gross value added (GVA) generated in the economy of Bulgaria. In 2012, GVA in the sector amounted to Euro 2 148 million, registering an increase of 21.2 percent compared to the year of 2011. Cereals, industrial crops, farm animals, milk and dairy products have the largest share in the value of the production in the agriculture sector for 2012.

Investments in the sector are aimed at: modernization of farms, increasing the safety of food and protection of the environment; animal welfare; introduction of new technologies employed in agriculture account for about 19 percent of all people employed in the economy of the country.

Although incomes of Bulgarian farmers are still among the lowest in the EU, as a result of the support provided by various instruments, Bulgaria is one of the Member States of the EU with the largest increase in the average income in agriculture over the last three years.

Agriculture traditionally forms a positive foreign trade balance and it has a significant contribution to improving the foreign trade balance of the country. Agricultural trade turnover accounts for about 13 percent of the total trade of the country.

As a result of the improvement of the investment climate in Bulgaria, as well as due to the modernization of the food industry and the improvement of the legislation, there has been achieved food security and ensured food safety.

I would like to emphasize that FAO has a considerable contribution for the implementation of national and regional projects in the field of animal breeding, fisheries, forestry, institutional building.

We believe that reforming the Organization on the basis of the conducted Independent External Evaluation of FAO will contribute to more effective action for:

- The elimination of hunger and malnutrition worldwide;
- An even more significant contribution of agriculture to sustainable economic and social development;
- The preservation and sustainable management of natural resources;
- Strengthening the role of agricultural science in agriculture;
- More efficient use of specialized skills and expertise for the modernization of the agricultural sector worldwide.

We welcome the holding of international forums of FAO that examine the status of food security and provide guidance to facilitate the access to food for all population groups in the world. A good example of this is the Policies Against Hunger Conference.

In this regard, I would like to express the readiness of Bulgaria to host in the autumn of 2013 a Regional Workshop on Land Management in the Field of Fisheries and Forestry, a topical issue suggested by FAO.

Regarding the issue of the FAO budget for the 2014 – 2015 biennium, I have to emphasize our hope that this conference will lead to understanding and a resolution, relying on two main elements - the view of the Director-General on the work of the Organization and the realistic assessment of the financial and economic situation in which the Member States are placed. Bulgaria, as well as the European Union as a whole, has repeatedly demonstrated its support for the Programme of Work and Budget and the key priorities set out in it. We will continue to work actively and give our contribution, but we are convinced of the need to have the strictest budgetary discipline - a line that we follow both at the national level and in all international organizations we participate in.

Focusing its efforts on improving the state of food security in Bulgaria, as well as regionally and globally, I would like to categorically state that the Bulgarian government is ready to participate actively in the implementation of concrete actions to achieve food security in the world. It is therefore necessary to further consolidate and specify the efforts of individual governments which shall work together with the other international organizations, the NGOs, the financial institutions, the civil society, the scientific community.

In conclusion, I would like to express our general support for the proposals and decisions on the agenda of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference. I wish success to the Conference.

Mr Clement KOFI HUMADO (Ghana)

On behalf of our President, I wish to register our deep appreciation to the Director-General José Graziano da Silva and the FAO for the invitation to this meeting and for the prestigious award that we

have received. We also join others in welcoming the Brunei Darussalam, Republic of Singapore and South Sudan and congratulate them for their accession into the FAO family.

Despite the concrete achievements of the FAO and its member countries in reducing hunger and malnutrition over the years, we still have hunger, under nutrition in many parts of the world which calls for greater work to be done in the coming years. Ghana therefore congratulates the Director General for putting forward very bold reform initiatives within the FAO to show his preparedness to deal with the challenges ahead. Ghana therefore supports these reforms and the proposed budget as being in the right direction.

Ghana has been active in its quest to end hunger and malnutrition since the nineties. Its persistent efforts have resulted in Ghana not only reaching the target set out in the United Nations Millennium Development Goal One of halving the proportion of its population suffering from hunger but also the more ambitious target in absolute terms set during the 1996 World Food Summit held here in Rome of halving the number of its undernourished population.

Despite these achievements, Ghana continues to have pockets of poverty, hunger and malnutrition especially in the three northern regions of the country. Additionally, the population of Ghana is growing at the rate of 3.2 percent per annum which calls for more mouths to be fed as well combating the effects of climate change on agricultural productivity. Ghana is therefore not resting at all on its oars but continues to fight relentlessly to deal with the remaining pockets of poverty, hunger and malnutrition until all Ghanaians can go to bed without being hungry.

In line with the CAADP framework, Ghana launched its medium term investment plan, in 2011. The plan is currently undergoing a mid-term review to inform prioritization and focus of the Programmes. We are happy to say that key stakeholders, including government, development partners, private sector and civil society have demonstrated unparalleled commitment to the implementation of the investment plan. In order to meet the challenges ahead, Ghana has implemented a number of policy and legislative reforms to create the enabling environment for accelerated investment into agriculture by both public and the private sector in seed production, commodity value chains and post-harvest loss management. These are yielding results and Ghana is now self-sufficient in the production of cereals (except rice) and roots and tubers for consumption as food. There are plans to upscale production geared towards providing raw material for industry.

Government's expenditure on agriculture as proportion of its total expenditure has consistently exceeded 10 percent in 2009, 2010 and 2011. The President of the Republic of Ghana has further demonstrated political commitment to the development of the agriculture sector by instituting performance contracts with the Ministers for Food and Agriculture and for Fisheries and Aquaculture development to ensure that they deliver on agreed targets in the agriculture and fisheries sub sectors.

An estimated 60 percent of Ghana's labour force is in agriculture of which the majority are smallholder farmers. Agricultural transformation envisaged under Ghana's METASIP should not by pass the smallholders but must carry them along in order to result in increased smallholder productivity and incomes, social equity, reduction of poverty and improvement in standard of living of majority of agricultural operators. Hence, the policy focus of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is the Nucleus Farmer Out-Grower model and Farmer Based Organization development to result in overall agricultural transformation and smallholder improvement.

The government therefore identifies the mobilization of Farmer Based Organizations as crucial to improve their access to agricultural services and their influence on public policy. This will also strengthen their participation and integration into commercial agriculture in the coming years.

In support of the Government's agricultural transformation agenda, attention is being paid to key strategic areas of investments and these include increased investment in agriculture related infrastructure such as feeder roads, irrigation development and storage facilities to improve market access and reduce post-harvest losses. To address this we have launched a USD 150 million Ghana Commercial Agriculture Project (GCAP) to support private sector investors with needed production infrastructure to boost investment. We take this opportunity to invite our development partners to support this noble initiative.

To boost the fisheries sub-sector, and particularly to develop aquaculture, the Government has established a Ministry specifically for fisheries and aquaculture development. Ghana intends to meet the current deficit of 400,000 metric tons in her fish requirements in the next five years with investments in various interventions including aquaculture development in our inland Volta Lake and lagoon water bodies, where current annual production stands at 27,000 metric tons. Current initiatives include the FAO supported aquaculture development plan to meet a target of 100,000 metric tons by 2016; the West Africa Regional Fisheries Programme funded by the World Bank and supported by NEPAD which aims at improving sustainable fisheries management, reducing illegal fishing and increasing value addition. We are therefore calling on investors and development partners to support the implementation of the plan and other initiatives.

To improve market access for smallholders, Government has established the National Buffer Stock Company limited in 2010 to enhance market access to small farmers by providing a guaranteed floor price each season. The company's operations are also aimed at ensuring price stability and availability of emergency food stocks. Linked closely to market access is the need to address the high post-harvest losses in the range of 10-25 percent prevalent in our country. Government is partnering with private sector to increase community grain banks and warehouses. The introduction of the warehouse receipt system in Ghana in 2012 is addressing post-harvest losses. Initiatives are also under way to woo private sector into agro-processing to reduce post-harvest losses as well as increase economic opportunities in the agriculture sector.

In order to identify the remaining poor and hungry households in Ghana, the World Food Programme supported the Government of Ghana in undertaking the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis.

This survey has become a reference point and a planning tool for Districts Programmes to address the remaining pockets of poverty, hunger and malnutrition in Ghana.

Government is also implementing school feeding Programmes in collaboration with other development partners, including the World Food Programme and the Dutch Government. Ghana has developed a National Nutrition Policy to provide a framework for coordinated investment in nutrition Programmes in the country. The Women in Agriculture Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture also works closely with the Ministry of Health to address food utilization and nutrition through extension services at the smallholder farmer household levels.

To encourage Public Private Partnerships, the Government has developed a PPP policy within which framework, local and foreign investors are being facilitated to increase productivity in the agricultural sector.

In conclusion, Ghana will continue to collaborate with the FAO and the UN Agencies to do its utmost to ensure that the remaining pockets of poverty, hunger and malnutrition are removed from the face of Ghana.

Mr Juma Bin Ahmed ALKAABI (Bahrain) (Original language Arabic)

It is indeed a pleasure for me to take part in this Conference and to convey to you the greetings of His Majesty King Shaikh Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, May God protect him, and also the greetings of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, the Prime Minister, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Heir apparent and First Deputy Prime Minister, as well as their wishes for a very successful Conference and their hope that it will contribute to achieving food security for all.

I would also like to thank FAO represented by its Director-General for the kind invitation to participate in this Conference and for the excellent organization to ensure the success of this Conference.

Food security and nutrition are important strategic objectives that countries are trying to achieve and this undoubtedly will lead to sustainable agricultural development. This Conference is being held while we are facing many challenges. The increase in the number of undernourished people to 12.5 percent of the under nourished people according to FAO estimates, although this figure was 50

percent in 1947 total population of the world and now it is 12.5 percent. This is a substantial achievement by the Organization and the international community, but still there are 868 million people suffering from undernourishment in the world.

In spite of the great efforts made by FAO through its support to Member Nations in the form of programmes and projects in different fields of agriculture in order to achieve food security and improving nutrition, but still the current situation witnessed by the world is characterized by food shortages. People are trying to produce biofuel from crops, but they have problems linked to climate change, disasters and the new patterns of consumption, the new challenges posed by international and commercial and the pressure being put on natural resources. The International Committee is doing everything it can in order to plug these gaps and to make use of the new technologies so that these efforts will be sustained. Also the use of the negative impact of some markets and to find new market structures that will be sustainable and that will encourage farmers to adopt the new technologies that will inevitably lead to the productivity and production.

Mr Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Arab countries have endeavoured to enhance food security through a common agricultural development strategy that will achieve food for all their citizens and this will be in conformity with the international efforts. In this respect, I would like to refer in particular to the Arab Declaration which focuses on the creation, production, and also refer to the Arab emergency plan which has been achieved or adopted by the Arab Socio-Economic Summit held in Kuwait in January 2009.

Bahrain, in this respect, has been doing everything it can in order to develop an agricultural sector and this will be, of course, a push to our development. We have a vision for this until 2030 which has been adopted by the leadership to provide decent lives for the Bahrain citizens while using our agricultural capabilities and making use of the technology and the assistance provided by our friends in international organizations so that we can achieve sustainable agricultural development.

The Kingdom, also within the group of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries is working in order to achieve food security and a decent life for the citizens. We, in the Kingdom of Bahrain, are committed to implementing the reform laws that seek to achieve food security in addition to the agreements and memorandum of understanding signed by the Kingdom of Bahrain as some Arab countries in the field of agriculture. We have of course joined a number of international organizations in this respect.

The Kingdom of Bahrain within its agricultural development strategy has been trying to achieve self-sufficiency in some foods and to diversify its imports in order to achieve food security. We also implemented a number of measures that would lead to food security, like increasing the animal and plant production, encouraging investment in agriculture, aquaculture, providing help to smallholders and breeders establishing incubators and also providing market facilities for the products.

We also encourage the private sector to play an important role in improving agriculture and to achieve food security. In addition to the direct launch and support of some staple foods, we have provided sixty million dinars every year and this of course is part of the efforts done by the country in order to achieve food security.

Bahrain has organized in 2010-2012, two International Exhibitions in the field of animal production under the auspices of the Kingdom of Bahrain. This of course is our contribution to the efforts made by the international governments in order to exchange expertise that will lead to the strengthening the animal production and the use of techniques and technologies. This exhibition will be held regularly every two years.

In this Conference, we are discussing the efforts made by this Organization in the agenda field and we, in this respect, would like to pay tribute to the efforts made in order to achieve food security. We would like to say that the ex-Majesty, the First Lady, and the Head of the High Council, provided support for the agricultural sector and the animal sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Mr Chairperson, through this Conference, we look forward to revising the overall Strategic Framework for agriculture and the adoption of the Plan of Action 2014-17 which places the priorities for common actions in order to achieve the Strategic Objectives that will lead to a sustainable food

system by also achieving sustainable agricultural development. This, of course, will go a long way towards eliminating malnutrition and will lead to more sustainable agricultural systems that will be used on the national and the international level. We also look forward to the attainable line, and the indicators that will be used to measure the progress made.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for inviting us to take part in this Conference which we hope will represent a new beginning for our common efforts to achieve food security and overcoming malnutrition. We would like to thank you for giving us the floor to deliver this statement and to also extend our thanks to the distinguished participants.

May God guide all of us in the right and successful path. Peace be upon you and God's mercy and blessings.

M. Afonso Pedro CANGA (Angola) (langue originale portugaise)

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de vous féliciter au nom du Gouvernment de la République d'Angola pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Conférence. Nous sommes convaincus que sous sa coordination nous terminerons avec succès nos travaux.

Je voudrais féliciter également Son Excellence Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, Directeur général de la FAO, pour diriger de façon intelligente notre Organisation.

L'ordre du jour est vaste et dimanche nous avons eu le privilège de voir certains pays, dont l'Angola, reconnus pour avoir réalisé les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. La FAO peut jouer un rôle d'assistance, de sorte que d'autres pays sont également en mesure de réaliser ces objectifs. D'autre part, nous devons nous efforcer de continuer à maintenir au premier plan de l'Agenda international après 2015, les secteurs qui contribuent à la réduction de la faim dans le monde, plus particulièrement l'agriculture, l'élevage, la pêche et les forêts.

La délégation angolaise approuve le Programme de travail et budget 2014-2015 et le Plan à moyen terme 2014-2017, présenté par la Direction de la FAO, qui prend en compte les priorités établies par la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique et les autres régions. Elle approuve également la proposition de budget pour la même période, qui connaît une légère augmentation de un pour cent et prend en compte l'inflation, les variations des taux de change et les besoins des pays en développement à atteindre les objectifs du Millénaire.

La réalisation de ces objectifs n'est pas la responsabilité d'un pays, mais de tous, et la FAO en tant qu'organisation intergouvernementale consacrée à l'alimentation et l'agriculture, a un grand rôle à jouer dans la coordination des activités et l'aide aux pays les plus pauvres.

Par conséquent, nous suggérons qu'il y ait cohérence entre le programme que nous avons approuvé et les ressources financières proposées pour sa mise en œuvre, afin que l'Organisation puisse remplir son noble mandat. Mon pays est disposé à faire un effort pour contribuer à assurer l'augmentation de un pour cent de ce budget.

Nous reconnaissons que les crises entraînent des sacrifices pour le peuple, mais ils sont aussi des moments de réflexion, de défi, d'innovations et d'opportunités. Souvent, ils précèdent les moments de récupération et d'amélioration des conditions de vie des personnes.

Le cadre stratégique présenté est conforme aux aspirations des États Membres et aux résultats du processus de réforme que tous, nous avons décidé de réaliser pour le bien de notre Organisation.

Nous soutenons un renforcement de l'insertion des pays dans des organisations sous-régionales pour leur offrir plus d'ouvertures sur les marchés, sur l'échange d'expériences, de connaissances et de complémentarités, en particulier en termes de production, commerce et services, mais nous ne devons pas sous-estimer le développement du commerce interne, pour faciliter l'accès des petits producteurs aux marchés, les chaînes de valeur et assurer une meilleure stabilité et sécurité alimentaire.

Nous nous félicitons de la consécration de l'année 2014 comme Année internationale de l'agriculture familiale, compte tenu de sa contribution pour l'approvisionnement des populations, la sécurité alimentaire des familles, la lutte contre la pauvreté et la dynamisation des marchés agricoles.

Les secteurs de l'agriculture, de la pêche et des forêts continuent à faire l'objet des priorités des politiques publiques de mon pays en raison de leur rôle en matière de sécurité alimentaire, nutritionnelle et de lutte contre la pauvreté. De ce fait, le Gouvernement angolais a augmenté le budget pour ces secteurs.

Je félicite le Président indépendant du Conseil de la FAO pour son travail pendant ces dernières années.

Mr Ismat ABASOV (Azerbaijan) (Original language Russian)

It is a great honour for me to take the floor today and to have the opportunity to express my opinion on the regional priorities and the linkages with the new Strategic Objectives.

As you are aware, Europe and Central Asia are home to some of the world's richest and poorest countries. In this region, we have countries characterized by high economic growth and also developing countries with transitional economies and with medium levels of income. Rural regions in most of the countries and in particular in the poorest of those countries are densely populated and rely on agriculture as a source of employment and as a source of income for the majority of the population. Farms are characterized, however, by low productivity compared with other sectors of the economy.

Assistance to the region, therefore, focuses on improving food security, reducing poverty, improving productivity of farming, improving state services to rural regions and also capacity building for state institutions. Based on all this therefore, the recent Regional Conference for Europe held in Azerbaijan in April 2012 approved six regional priorities.

Regional priority one: improving food security and nutrition. Regional priority two: consultation with governments on policies for the support of sustainable intensive farming for smallholders. Regional priority three: management of natural resources, including climate change mitigation and adaptation. Regional priority four: control over the fight against pests and illnesses caused by animal, plant, and food products. Regional priority five: policy and institutional support to Member Nations for accession to regional and world trade, standard setting, and the organization of regional and economic cooperation. Regional priority six: support for the creation of an enhancing of global and regional organizations for applied research in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry.

These six priorities are a basis for the Medium-Term Plan for the period 2014-2017. The priorities were formulated on the basis of our existing requirements at the country level as reflected in state programs. The definition of regional priorities and the approval of the framework programmes for countries is an iterative process which requires constant updating in terms of defining regional priorities. Thus, the regional priorities provide a basis for the preparation of framework programmes for countries and their aim is to focus on efforts in the region and at the same time, there is a link with the strategic goals of the Organization.

FAO's Programme of Work in the framework of its regional priorities contains outcomes at the country, sub-regional, and regional levels. It is also based on standard setting work in the region and is carried out by the field officers and by expert support from the head office. The regional priorities are also a basis for thematic work and actions developed on the basis of the country framework programmes.

It is expected that the preparation of the work plans for each of the Strategic Objectives will be an iterative process that will lead to the establishment of a clear benchmark in products and services for the region.

It is expected also that the six regional priorities and the results, outcomes and services will provide a contribution to various strategic goals. The products and services at the national and regional level can be applied with respect to one or several strategic goals in a multi-disciplinary manner. I would like to briefly introduce in this context, the regional priorities individually.

Regional priority one, improving food security and nutrition. This priority focuses on the needs of the central Asian countries primarily, mainly those countries in which food security is at the lowest level. According to estimates, the role of Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan in the global grain trade will rise

from 20 to 30 percent by 2020. The products and outcomes of this strategic goal will serve the achievement of Strategic Objectives one and three. I look forward to the outcomes achieved by the Organization in 2014 and I pull for enhanced cooperation with the Member Nations in this respect.

Mr Muhammad Abdur RAZZAQUE (Bangladesh)

It is my great honour and pleasure to attend the 38th Session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of Government of Bangladesh and its people I congratulate Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan for his election as the Chairperson of the Conference. I also congratulate other Vice Chairpersons and thank the Chairperson of the last Conference Mr Tefera for his contributions.

Mr Chairperson, **s**ince its establishment in 1945, FAO has been engaged in eradicating hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty. Addressing this concern requires adequate food to be produced, which in turns entails the development and adoption of a continuous flow of sustainable technologies and the inclusive engagement of small holders. Equally essential is to ensure access of all the population to adequate, safe and nutritious food as needed for leading an active and healthy life. Access has to come from increased income generating opportunities and from social protection interventions to be able to ensure the right to food for those unable to obtain adequate access through the market or homestead production. Last but not the least, the safety and quality of the food needs to be ensured from farm to table and the absorption of food needs to be supported by adequate nutrition interventions to be able to ensure optimal utilization. I would like to commend FAO for its innovative and forward-looking approaches and take this occasion to reiterate my Government's appreciation for FAO as a trusted partner in the fight against hunger and rural poverty.

Mr Chairperson, allow me in this occasion to thank FAO in particular for awarding Bangladesh a diploma in recognition of our "notable and outstanding progress in fighting hunger". We feel honoured for this recognition. As estimated by FAO, we achieved the UN Millennium Development Goal-1 for hunger as the prevalence of undernourishment reduced from 34.6 percent in 1990-92, to 16.8 percent in 2010-2012 Moreover, the number of undernourished people in Bangladesh reduced from 37.2 million in 1990-92 to 25.3 million in 2010-12 despite the rapid population growth. My dear friends and colleagues, this was not an easy task for a small and densely populated country where 160 million people live on 55 thousand square miles and are confronted with natural calamities that are becoming more frequent and severe as a result of climate change.

I must affirm that this achievement has been possible due to the able leadership of our Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, who led the cohesive work of the Ministries of Food, Agriculture, Fishery and Livestock and many others in line with the "Vision-2021" adopted by our Government with the ambitious objective of reaching middle income status within 50 years from independence.

Mr Chairperson, you all know that poverty eradication requires rural and agricultural development. In Bangladesh, the agriculture sector still plays an important role in the economy. Half of the population is employed in agriculture and two thirds leave in rural areas. Agriculture is the main domestic source of demand and growth for the entire economy. The policy of the Government, under leadership of the Honourable P.M. Sheikh Hasina, recognises primary attention to this sector and this has increased our resilience to the global financial crises. We enhanced agricultural research and extension, expanded irrigated areas, improved the distribution of seeds and fertilizer, increased and rebalanced fertilizer subsidies, promoted mechanization and adoption of sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices, encouraged the modernization of food distribution and increased grain storage capacity and the participation in the market of small and marginal farmers also by improved access to financial services in collaboration with our NGOs.

It is noteworthy to mention that agricultural research has led to the development of saline and drought resistant varieties of paddy, and different genomes of jute. Production of rice, our main food staple, is now exceeding 34 Million Metric tons per year. This is more than 3 times the level recorded at the time of independence and almost 10 million metric tons more than just 10 years ago. We recognise the primary merit for these achievements to our farmers, their hard work and their resilience to natural calamities. We valorised their abilities and determination through a policy framework based on

macroeconomic, financial inclusiveness and comprehensive coverage of food and nutrition interventions. Under our National Food Policy and Country Investment Plan (CIP); intensification, diversification through increased production of micro-nutrient and protein rich food sources, sustainability and resilience of agriculture are coupled with targeted social protection interventions mostly targeted towards women empowerment through generation of employment opportunities, promotion of access to food for the poor and nutrition interventions aiming at eradicating child and maternal under-nutrition.

We acknowledge that the long lasting collaboration with FAO has been instrumental in putting in place this effective policy framework and in maximizing international financing. In the 2 years since the approval of the Country Investment Plan, we were able to mobilize additional USD 3.3 billion for investing in agriculture, food security and nutrition. More than one third was provided by the international community.

Mr Chairperson, we are very happy to learn that Mr Wilfred of Tanzania is going to be elected as the Independent Chairperson of Council. We welcome him as we thank Mr Luc of France for the successful completion of his term. We are very happy to learn that in this Conference, the Reviewed Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan (MTP) have been placed for approval. We acknowledge that the MTP has been developed through a strategic thinking process and describes the result based model and its strategic objectives, functional objectives and core functions. The 5 strategic objectives identified are fully in line with our expectations. It is praiseworthy to note that the first objective is the realization of eradication of hunger.

We hope that Bangladesh's successful experience in managing policy and investment planning, based on a governance inclusive of civil society, private sector and international development partners can inspire FAO in pursuing this strategic objective worldwide.

Mr Chairperson, we are happy to see FAO committed to partnering with civil society and private sector organizations. We are convinced that eradication of rural poverty requires the mobilization of all possible energies within each country and reinforced international collaboration. Bangladesh has high regards for its NGOs and CSOs, which are among the largest in the world and are now rapidly extending their presence internationally.

Providing resources and opportunities to women has positive impact on children's health and education, and long term economic development, and hence the government aims to further enhance women's productivity in agriculture and rural non-farm economy. We also welcome reinforced partnership among the international organizations we belong to. The technical and financial resources of the three Rome-based UN Agencies - IFAD, FAO and WFP - can be further valorised by reinforce partnership at country level. Meanwhile, we encourage the DG of FAO in continuing his effort to make FAO a more effective, knowledge-based organization.

Mr Chairperson, in conclusion, I must say that as a most densely populated country, highly vulnerable to climate change, Bangladesh is facing a formidable challenge in its fight against hunger. We have no room for complacency for achieving the MDG-1 target and we shall have to go a long way for ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all of our people, at all times. We expect that FAO will continuously be with us in the long journey ahead of us toward the progressive realization of Right to Food. I welcome the decisions of the Conference and look forward to see their successful implementation.

Mr Magnus KINDBOM (Sweden)

Excellencies, Chairperson of the Conference, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the theme of this year's Conference is at the heart of FAO's field of work. It is with delight I speak here today.

Food system is indeed a complex concept. It comprises a wide range of aspects, from farming, climate, food security, health, research, trade, waste, governance just to mention a few. I will focus on one of my priorities – productivity in the agricultural sector.

I believe the green sectors, that is to say agriculture forestry and fisheries, will play key roles in the transformation to a green economy. The Swedish vision is a competitive agricultural production

whose activities do not compromise the viability of future generation's farming: using without using up.

Study after study confirms that investments in agriculture in poor countries have the most positive effect on economic growth. There is an immediate domino effect of increased income for the farming households when these households have the means to purchase, be it services or products.

Still, poverty in rural area persists, especially among farmers.

The increase of yield in the world's agricultural sector is diminishing, especially so in developed countries.

Lack of access to water is one of the most important factors. To plough new land will only help to a very limited extent.

So, what is required, what could be done?

Our responsibility, representatives of ministries, governments and institutions, is to create conditions and environment for farmers to unleash their potential as producers and entrepreneurs. Especially, women entrepreneurs.

It is the farmers that produce food, not us, whereas it is on them that efforts need to focus on. We need to create market opportunities and dismantle policies that distort trade and prevent farmers to grow and develop.

I am pleased to read in the OECD-FAO agricultural outlook that agricultural sector is increasingly market-driven. This opens for the much needed investments.

Because, we shall not overlook the most obvious – both market and farmers have a high capability of responding to new situations and challenges, if only given the right incentives.

For this, rights and access to natural and production resources are central. Some remains to be done in this respect, not least for the individual farmer. Therefore Sweden intends to contribute financially to both the RAI (Responsible Agricultural Investment) and the Voluntary Guidelines on responsible governance for tenure of land.

M. Kouassi Adjoumani KOBENAN (Côte D'Ivoire)

Je voudrais d'abord féliciter le Président de la présente Conférence pour la bonne conduite des travaux et remercier notre Organisation commune pour le choix porté sur la Côte d'Ivoire, à travers ma modeste personne, pour occuper le poste de Vice-Président de cette Conférence.

Je voudrais ensuite remercier Monsieur le Directeur Général pour la qualité du travail qu'il a accomplit depuis son élection.

La communauté internationale dispose à travers la FAO de plus en plus de moyens pour lutter efficacement contre la faim dans le monde, avec M. José Graziano da Silva à sa tête. Sa nouvelle vision et le Plan stratégique inclusif qui en découle, ainsi que les différents partenariats élaborés et mis en œuvre, en sont les atouts majeurs.

Les dernières estimations indiquent que la proportion de la population mondiale souffrant de sous-alimentation a fortement régressé.

Malgré ce progrès remarquable et les importants efforts accomplis dans les pays développés pour les réduire, la pauvreté et la famine continuent de progresser dans certains pays. Aujourd'hui encore, 868 millions de personnes continuent de souffrir de la faim dans le monde.

La Côte d'Ivoire, pays agricole, bénéficiaire des approches et des importants appuis, voudrait manifester à la FAO, ici encore, sa gratitude en tant qu'organisme partenaire privilégié de tous temps et compter sur elle pour aller de l'avant.

Car, sous la haute autorité de Son Excellence M. le Président de la République Alassane Ouattara, une nouvelle stratégie de développement, dont l'ambition est de faire de la Côte d'Ivoire un pays

émergeant à l'horizon 2020, a été élaboré. Puis un Plan national de développement (PND), déclinant ses grands axes stratégiques, a été présenté à la communauté internationale.

Cette nouvelle stratégie, développée par le Gouvernement ivoirien au sortir de la crise, se veut socialement solidaire et inclusive, pour mener frontalement le combat contre la pauvreté et la vulnérabilité dans la dignité, en puisant dans les traditions et les valeurs de solidarité africaines. Elle assurera une meilleure répartition des richesses en commençant par les agriculteurs. Ensuite, elle mettra en œuvre une politique d'aménagement du territoire permettant le désenclavement des villages et des zones de productions agricoles.

L'agriculture, les ressources animales, les ressources halieutiques et les ressources forestières figurent parmi les sources verticales de croissance, qui ont été sélectionnées comme prioritaires au même titre que les ressources énergétiques et minières dans ce Plan.

Aussi, la Côte d'Ivoire a-t-elle conçu et adopté son Programme national d'investissement agricole (PNIA), à l'instar des autres pays de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO). Ce Programme a été évalué à plus de quatre milliards de dollars et il couvre la période 2010 à 2015.

Le PNIA s'aligne sur les grandes priorités nationales de développement et de réduction de la pauvreté, et concourt directement à l'atteinte du résultat intitulé comme suit: «La création de richesses nationales est accrue, soutenue, et ses fruits sont répartis dans l'équité ».

Il faut donc capitaliser cette dynamique de partenariat en structurant d'abord entre les acteurs du secteur agricole, ensuite ceux du secteur public et privé.

C'est ce modèle de collaboration inclusive que notre pays et les pays membres du G8, se sont engagés à poursuivre dans le cadre de la «nouvelle alliance pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition», avec l'appui de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, en choisissant comme thème de la 38ème session de la Conférence de la FAO, «des systèmes alimentaires durables au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition», les États Membres ont voulu mettre en exergue la complexité et le caractère multidimensionnel des systèmes alimentaires. Cela implique la prise en compte de tous les acteurs et de tous les facteurs non seulement qui participent à sa durabilité, mais aussi qui permettent d'atteindre une sécurité alimentaire et une meilleure nutrition.

L'atteinte de la sécurité alimentaire et d'une meilleure nutrition doivent résulter d'une approche globale et intégrée de la durabilité avec le respect de l'exigence environnementale, de l'efficacité économique et de la dimension sociale.

En Côte d'Ivoire, les programmes de développement exécutés ou à venir s'inscrivent dans cette approche.

La présence à mes côtés de mon collègue, Monsieur le Ministre Mathieu Babaud Darret, Ministre des eaux et forêts de la Côte d'Ivoire, à cette 38ème session de la Conférence de la FAO traduit avec éloquence la conviction de notre pays du caractère multidimensionnel des systèmes alimentaires durables au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition. Son Excellence Monsieur Alassane Ouattara, Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, qui s'attèle à offrir de meilleures conditions de vies aux Ivoiriens, y accorde une grande importance.

C'est pourquoi mon pays soutient le budget proposé pour soutenir le Programme de travail adopté.

Je voudrais pour terminer me féliciter de l'arrivée des trois nouveaux États Membres dans notre Organisation commune. Je félicite également Monsieur Luc Guyau pour le travail réalisé au cours de son mandat. Je souhaite à l'avance plein succès au Président indépendant du Conseil entrant.

Mr Ivan BISIUK (Ukraine)

Over the recent years cooperation with FAO has become one of the main priorities of our country's foreign policy.

Ukraine remembers well what the hunger problem means. Therefore, our country will further support UN initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and hunger in the world, including increased production and trade of the safe and nutritious food.

We clearly see two major tendencies shaping the current global food markets.

First, it is the growing gap between agricultural supply and demand, especially for cereals. The world production of cereals does not fully meet global consumption and there is a gradual decline in world carry-over grain stocks.

Thus, possible production shock and reduced carry-over stocks lead towards greater price volatility in the increasingly linked global agricultural and commodity markets. This is indeed a very sensitive issue for many governments and private sector market players.

In this regard, we see the need to first of all, build the capacity of farmers and agribusinesses to increase agricultural production in a sustainable manner. In the case of the grain sector, this applies to mainly improved plant breeding, sustainable crop production intensification as a result of better agricultural inputs, machinery, improvement in irrigation, post-harvest and transportation systems.

According to our expectations, the global cereal production could potentially increase from the current 1.8 - 1.9 billion tons to 2.1 - 2.3 billion tons by 2022. However, the growth of the world's population from seven to nine billion people by 2050 would require further sustained increases in agricultural production. Therefore, we clearly see the need for more investment, especially in the emerging economies of the Black Sea Region, to increase agricultural production as they can do it without any major environmental consequences. This will also lead towards the improved economic availability of the food for importing nations.

We also see a need for global seed-stocks for cereals as a prerequisite for solving the food problem in the world.

The second area requiring urgent attention includes joint action towards transparency, predictability and responsibility for our joint actions in global cereal markets.

In this regard, we welcome the G-20 initiative of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), the secretariat of which is hosted by FAO. Ukraine is an active participant in the system and we believe that it would allow improving transparency and predictability of the global cereal markets. The system will also give an opportunity for countries to identify potential risks and relevant preventive measures at early stages.

We have recently reinforced the public-private dialogue in the Ukrainian agriculture based on the principles of transparency, predictability as a move towards our common responsibility to domestic consumers and food importers.

We believe that this greater transparency at the national level would allow for an improved reliability of the food markets in the increasingly globalizing world trade.

On our side, the transparent national cereals market of Ukraine would ensure both country’s own food security and facilitate achieving that for our trading partners. We will work hard to ensure that every consumer in every corner of the world is sure of the availability and high quality of the Ukrainian products.

Ukraine is open for an active, enhanced and mutually beneficial cooperation. We believe that the real increase food production and its availability for the interest of the world community will be the product of this cooperation. It is currently the main priority of the national policy of Ukraine.

We are grateful to FAO for fruitful cooperation and we hope that our cooperation will be strengthened in the future.

M. Vernet JOSEPH (Haïti)

Permettez-moi d’adresser mes plus vifs remerciements au Directeur général de la FAO et aux organisateurs de cette 38ème session de la Conférence de l’Organisation pour l’opportunité qui est

offerte à la délégation que j'ai l'honneur de présider au nom du Gouvernement haïtien, de faire le point sur la sécurité alimentaire en Haïti.

En dépit des progrès accomplis par certains pays de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes dans la réalisation du premier objectif des OMD, qui est la réduction de la faim, la région affiche un taux élevé de pauvreté extrême avec, subséquemment, un nombre significatif d'habitants vivant en état de sous-nutrition. La majorité de la population d'Haïti, membre de la région, fait face à un problème grave et chronique. La phase critique a été atteinte depuis une quinzaine d'années. La moitié de la population, soit 5,2 millions d'habitants, n'a pas accès à la ration alimentaire minimale de 225 kg d'équivalent-céréales par an par habitant préconisée par la FAO. À cause des catastrophes naturelles, les efforts déployés par le Gouvernement pour atténuer la crise alimentaire ne sont pas toujours suivis de résultats satisfaisants. La population vivant dans l'insécurité alimentaire, estimée par la Coordination nationale de la sécurité alimentaire (CNSA), selon les variables de la production agricole et autres secteurs connexes, est passée de 3 millions d'habitants en avril 2008 à 1,9 million en septembre 2009, suite à l'augmentation de la production agricole nationale enregistrée, résultant des investissements consentis par le Gouvernement et les partenaires financiers. L'effet de cette amélioration sensible de la sécurité alimentaire a toutefois été perturbé en 2010, comme on le sait, par le séisme du 12 janvier qui a occasionné des déplacements massifs de gens, obligés de laisser provisoirement la capitale pour se rendre dans les villes de province et les zones rurales.

Pour pallier les effets du séisme, un Plan national d'investissement agricole a été élaboré par le Gouvernement haïtien avec pour objectif principal d'améliorer l'accessibilité aux produits alimentaires par une augmentation de la circulation monétaire en créant des emplois dans le milieu rural. Les résultats de la mise en œuvre de ce plan ont été masqués en 2012 par l'incidence de la sécheresse et le passage des cyclones Isaac et Sandy. Haïti a alors connu, premièrement, des pertes de récoltes estimées à 254 millions de dollars, et une réduction significative des sources de revenus pour la population rurale, comme conséquence des pertes de récolte.

Le pays a également connu une situation d'inexistence de réserves alimentaires de base, accentuée par une forte diminution des offres d'emplois en zones rurales, l'augmentation des prix des produits alimentaires de base sur le marché, la diminution de la disponibilité pour la majorité de la population et une plus grande dépendance alimentaire vis-à-vis de l'extérieur.

Heureusement, une tendance à une amélioration de la situation a commencé à se dessiner au cours du mois d'avril 2013 avec les récoltes du printemps, ce qui a permis d'observer une légère baisse des prix des produits de base.

Les perspectives d'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, et de lutte contre la faim résident dans la mise en œuvre du Programme triennal de relance agricole 2013-2016, élaboré par le Gouvernement haïtien, dont les objectifs sont:

1) accroître l'autosuffisance alimentaire de son niveau actuel de 50 pour cent à un niveau de 60 à 70 pour cent;

2) améliorer le revenu des agriculteurs par la promotion et le développement de paquets technologiques diversifiés et économiquement viables;

3) renverser le processus de dégradation des terres et promouvoir une gestion durable des ressources naturelles en encourageant les bonnes pratiques agricoles tout en reconnaissant l'importance de la gestion de l'urgence et de l'adaptation aux changements climatiques.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais attirer votre attention et celle particulière de la FAO sur l'intérêt que le Président de la République d'Haïti et le Gouvernement haïtien accordent à ce Programme triennal pour lequel l'assistance technique de la FAO est hautement sollicitée.

En attendant le lancement du Programme, le Gouvernement s'est activé pour stabiliser le prix de certains produits de consommation, tel que le prix du riz, dont l'introduction de stocks provenant d'un pays ami a permis d'alléger de 34 pour cent le panier de la ménagère.

Il n'est pas moins important de souligner que le cadre légal de la question de la sécurité alimentaire n'est pas à négliger. Un Projet de loi devant réglementer la structure de la CNSA a été déposé au Parlement de la République.

Pour terminer, je voudrais exprimer, tant en mon nom personnel qu'en celui du Ministre de l'agriculture, Son Exellence M. Thomas Jacques, et du Gouvernement dirigé par le Premier Ministre, Son Exellence M. Laurent Salvador Lamothe, sous le Leadership du Président de la République, Son Exellence M. Michel Joseph Martelly, mes sincères remerciements au Directeur général de la FAO pour l'accompagnement que cette prestigieuse Institution offre à l'agriculture haïtienne à travers le bureau de la Représentation en Haïti.

Je voudrais dire que nous devons lutter ensemble contre l'insécurité alimentaire, nous devons conjuguer nos efforts pour combattre la faim et la sous-nutrition à travers notre planète.

Et s'il faut parodier l'auteur de ce livre célèbre, « L'homme qui vendait sa Ferrari », aujourd'hui nous sommes les maîtres de notre destin pourvu que nous ayons foi en notre courage et la volonté inébranlable de gagner, la victoire ne nous sera pas refusée.

Mr Zia NEZAM (Afghanistan)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition", which is the theme of the Conference.

Over the past five years the collective impact of food price volatility, global financial difficulties and climatic shocks have had adverse effects on food and nutrition security in all countries, especially in the net food-importing developing countries. Therefore the theme selected for the 38th Conference is opportune and well-timed.

Although household food security in Afghanistan has generally improved in recent years, about 30 percent of the population still continues to suffer from food and nutrition insecurity in three aspects: insufficient calorie intake, low protein intake and inadequate diversity in diet. Droughts, floods, recurrent plant and animal diseases, pre-harvest and post-harvest losses, price volatility and underdeveloped market infrastructure have kept our fragile food system under severe pressure.

We regard sustainable food system as the process by which food items travel from the producer to the household for consumption, and involves sustainable production, sustainable marketing and trade, and sustainable consumption. It is estimated that 30 percent of our annual cereal production and up to 50 percent of vegetable and fruit production are lost to attacks from birds, pests, rodent and fungi; as well as mishandling of food at wholesale and retail level. The system of transfer is very much influenced by the type of food items locally produced and the consumption habits of the local population. Food waste at household level is minimal.

Overall, food production in Afghanistan is territorially dispersed. In each of our 364 districts, the household needs get priority before food items are released to the national food system. It is estimated that probably no more than 23 percent of our annual food production enters the organized national food market.

As spelled out in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, our national objective is to strengthen the productive capacity of our people so that they can have access to nutrient-rich food commensurate with their purchasing power. Special attention is given to improving the diet of the vulnerable segment of the population, especially children under 5 years of age.

In the realization of national food and nutrition security, Afghanistan faces six major challenges.

- One, to increase the nutrient content of locally produced food through diversification of crop and animal products;

- Two, to reduce pre-harvest and post-harvest losses and cut down on the loss of animals through disease control;

- Three, to augment through storage and better access roads the food supply to remote mountain regions during the lean winter months and early Spring;

- Four, to maintain adequate food supply of safe quality to our rapidly growing urban centers; at present about 25 percent of our population live in cities;

- Five, to ensure that our vulnerable population has access to an adequate level of food consumption through publicly administered food distribution systems;

- Six, to ensure that imported fresh and processed food is safe and meet the preference of our people.

While we face constraints in our food system, there are windows of opportunities for making the food system work better and I wish to highlight some of these opportunities. We are making gradual progress in reducing pre-harvest losses through control of locust infestation and other pests and saving more animals by proper treatment of diseases. Similar progress is being made in reducing post-harvest losses, for example by providing households with metallic silos that protects cereals from pests and allows for long period storage with no loss of quality.

The diversity of food production in Afghanistan, especially fruits, offers profitable opportunities for supply of domestic consumption as well as exports. Most promising is the processing for exports of raisins, apricot and almonds and lately also saffron. The role of women producer associations in these post-harvest value addition and quality control is prominent. All these activities are gender friendly. Another area for making rapid progress is the development of Dairy Cooperatives for providing fresh milk to urban population and the production of yogurt and cheese through village processing centers. Because of its dry climate and plenty of sun Afghanistan has high potential for solar-powered greenhouse-grown vegetable and flowers, both to meet the off-season needs of our population and that of exports.

Our growing cooperative system provides ample opportunities for a viable and sustainable business-oriented food system that can grow and flourish on its own initiatives, with public sector providing support in the form of infrastructure and technical services.

The achievements made so far have been as a result of continued and generous support of our international partners and particularly the FAO. While we remain committed to pursue our goals in creating sustainable food systems and improving food security and nutrition in Afghanistan, we will work to equally strengthen for achieving the mentioned goals on the regional and international level. Thank you Chairperson.

Mr LONG NGUYEN HOANG (Viet Nam)

First of all, I would like to convey the message of His Excellency the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Mr Truong Tan Sang, to congratulate and wish the Conference for fruitful outcomes. I also like to express our congratulation to you, Mr Chairperson, on your election, and firmly believe that under your leadership, the 38th FAO Conference will end with great success.

The Vietnamese delegation would also like to congratulate the Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and South Sudan for their full membership of FAO in this Conference.

Agriculture development, ensuring food security are the vital basis for social and political order, making ground for the socio-economic development in every country. Major common challenges of our world are: eradicate food insecurity, nutrient deficiencies and unsafe food, improve the quality and balance of food consumption and nutrition, improve the livelihoods of populations in rural areas, ensure more inclusive food and agricultural systems, increase resilience of livelihoods to threats and shocks, and strengthen governance mechanism.

We believe that facing such big difficulties and challenges, the FAO, more than ever, needs to continue its efforts in reforming and renovating to further improve the effectiveness of its activities to meet the expectations of the international community. In this regards, we would like to commend the Director-General Mr José Graziano da Silva and his Team for the efforts and dedication to the on-going the FAO reform process.

Viet Nam supports the FAO Reviewed Strategic Framework 2012-19 and related Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. In particular, the Medium Term Plan provides a clear line of sight from the amended global goal of the Organisation, through its new cross-cutting strategic objectives and related action plans to the measureable outcomes and outputs as well as to enhance the impact of the technical and operational capacity of FAO. We are of the view that a consultative approach with participation from all stakeholders should be applied to reach a consensus on a budget that will ensure a successful implementation of the agreed Programme of Work and Budget.

Viet Nam has been implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with successes recognized by the world community, especially in relation to the first MDG on Poverty Reduction as shown by the Diploma awards by the FAO.

However, the Viet Nam agriculture still facing with many difficulties such as low competitiveness for its products, the production system is not effective and seriously affected by climate change, natural habitats are declining, transboundary diseases, insufficient investment and lack of sustainable financing and economic crisis etc.. To cope with those difficulties, our Government recently launched the programme on restructuring the agriculture sector, aiming towards sustainable development and green growth.

Viet Nam wishes to participate in the world's poverty reduction programs, and is ready to share its lessons and experience with every country, especially the African countries. Much of this work has been conducted under the framework of the South-South Cooperation Programme. The success of these cooperation models has been recognized by the donors, the organizations as well as recipient countries.

One of the major difficulties however is the financial constraint. We therefore call for third party to be involved in our cooperation with Africa. Organizations such as FAO and developed countries will make valuable contribution to food security in Africa by providing financial support besides technical support. And Viet Nam will continue to take part by providing qualified agricultural experts in cooperation projects.

We strongly believe that with the support from international community, in particular the support of the FAO, IFAD, Viet Nam will put its best efforts in implementing programmes of poverty reduction, agriculture and rural modernization, to contribute to the achievement of our national objectives and to make agriculture a major sector leading our economy.

I thank you very much for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. This brings us to the end of our meeting this afternoon. We will continue interventions on Item 9 this afternoon when we reconvene at 14:30 sharp.

The meeting rose at 13.23 hours
La séance est levée à 13 h 23
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.23 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session
Trente-huitième session
38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

18 June 2013

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.38 hours
Mr Kouassi Adjoumani Kobenan,
Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 38
sous la présidence de M. Kouassi Adjoumani Kobenan,
Vice-président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.38
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Kouassi Adjoumani Kobenan,
Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)
(C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1)

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)

Iceland, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Lebanon, Spain, Belarus, New Zealand, Poland, Argentina, Mauritania, Malta, Denmark, Seychelles, Portugal, Brazil, United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Mexico, Belgium, Morocco, Palestine (Observer).

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Sixth Plenary Meeting to order. We will now continue with Item 9, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. I give the floor to Iceland.

Mr Sigurgeir THORGEIRSSON (Iceland)

Mr Chairperson, I would like to congratulate you upon your election to the Chair of the 38th FAO Conference.

Allow me to begin by confirming my Government's commitment to the important work at FAO. As a founding Member of FAO, Iceland has actively supported the Organization in its goals of eradicating hunger and malnutrition in the world and achieving food security for all. As a food producing and exporting country, Iceland puts a great emphasis on international cooperation in shaping the regulatory environment for food production and exports, safety, quality and environmental protection.

The new Icelandic Government, taking office only few weeks ago, has food production and food security as one of the central themes in its policy. This calls for emphasis on development cooperation, humanitarian assistance and strong participation in multilateral cooperation on responsible utilization of natural resources. The fight against hunger and malnutrition is a key element in the post-2015 global development policies and goals. Recent crises and famine have demonstrated the need for a twin-track approach of providing emergency food assistance. At the same time it is necessary to help fragile states to build up resilience to future disasters, natural or man-made.

Responsible and effective management of fisheries, be it industrial or small-scale, is crucial for food security and better nutrition in the world. Iceland considers FAO to be the proper forum for the global discussion on fisheries issues. Building on the Code on Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Iceland supports the FAO Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the shaping of international agreements and the important Voluntary Guidelines on various aspects of fisheries, fish trade, health issues and the fight against illegal and unreported fishing. Iceland has strived to reach consensus among fisheries nations on ecosystems approach and advocated the importance of regional management regimes.

Several cross-cutting issues are now playing an increasingly important role in the work of FAO to end hunger. To that end, one can name effective management of natural resources, energy issues, climate change, soil and water preservation and gender mainstreaming. Iceland has the privilege of hosting four United Nations University (UNU) programmes in the fields of fisheries, geothermal energy, land restoration and, most recently, in gender mainstreaming. Through these programmes, hundreds of experts from dozens of developing countries have been invited to Iceland to take part.

Increased attention to renewable energy sources, such as harnessing of geothermal energy, as called for in the Rio+20 document, could be of great value to FAO's work. That could be of benefit for better food preservation and storage, as well as reducing post-harvest losses and waste along the food chain – issues of huge importance to reach global food security.

The Global Soil Partnership meeting last week demonstrated clearly the importance of soil issues for growing food and preserving the environment. Iceland draws on more than one hundred years of experience of reclaiming land which the forces of nature and excessive utilization have damaged. We want to contribute to the fight against land degradation around the world.

It is becoming widely recognized that women play a crucial role in food security. Securing the rights of poor rural women, such as to land and resources, credit, inheritance and to take part in decision making, unquestionably contributes to increased food security.

Iceland is a candidate for a seat in the Council of FAO for the period 2014-2017. Our candidature is within a long-standing rotation scheme which the five Nordic Countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) have for one seat in the Council.

The Nordic Countries have for a long time been strongly engaged in the work of FAO with substantial financial contributions, as well as through the sharing of know-how, technology and human resources. Iceland is strongly committeed to continue this work as a Member of the FAO Council. For that, we need the support of other Members.

Mr Phouang Parisak PRAVONGVIENGKHAM (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

First of all, allow me to express my sincere congratulations to the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons to this 38th Session of the FAO conference on their election. On behalf of the Lao delegation, allow me also to present my greetings and warm wishes to all distinguished heads and delegates from FAO member countries. My warmest congratulation also to our new FAO members: South Sudan and our ASEAN brothers, Brunei and Singapore.

It is a great honor for me to attend the 38th Session of the FAO Conference. I would like to join the other distinguished delegations to sincerely thank FAO for the excellent arrangements made for the conference and the warm hospitality extended to our Lao delegation.

As we all know, the two greatest challenges that the world faces today are: 1) food security and nutrition and 2) climate change. Both challenges require urgent, innovative, practical and holistic responses. Tackling hunger and food insecurity in the world, Asia and the Pacific Region and especially in Lao PDR requires a widely shared vision, clear strategies and investment priorities as well as good coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders including government institutions, local communities, private businesses, academe and international agencies.

As food security is a complex, multidimensional and multisectoral issue, the need for a wider and comprehensive engagement of all sectors based on sustainable partnership is crucial. In this context, the Lao Government through the support of FAO will soon undertake a comprehensive revision formulation of its National Food and Nutrition Security Strategy which will include a governance framework on food and nutrition security that engenders full participation of the concerned stakeholders, builds on what already exists and ensures that existing resources are used most effectively while focusing additional resources in prioritized areas where they will have the most impact. By refocusing our strategy, we are hopeful to realize a more balanced diet and nutrition for our population across the country by 2015.

The Government of Lao PDR believes that to achieve sustainable agricultural development and ensuring food and nutritional security we need to continue to assist our farming communities; we need to invest in farmers. This means to continue to providing them with an enabling policy and legal environment ensuring fair and transparent property rights, security of land tenure and access to common property resources. It also means providing good infrastructure, expanding access to modern technologies and enhanced connectivity to markets to become more productive in a sustainable manner and empowered to deal with various risks and uncertainties.

Within this strategic framework, the Lao Government continues to support farmers through easy access to agricultural inputs, dissemination of new farming and post-harvest technologies through our extension system, and substantial investments in achieving a more diverse and better Mix of food systems. These efforts are further supported by the programmes to address the challenge of climate change, conserving and wisely using our diverse genetic resources and building strong cooperatives and farmers' organizations. We believe these measures will make the Lao agriculture sector more productive to ensure the availability of sufficient quantities and quality of food to meet the nutritional needs of our people. Moreover, our focus on mixed farming system should enable us to minimize the risks from natural disasters, price volatility, market failures and the loss of agro-biodiversity through

monoculture plantations and thereby build the farming system's resilience to ensure sustainable livelihoods to our farmers.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, thanks to the continued strong support provided by our development partners and in particular FAO, the Lao Agriculture Sector, generally speaking, has recorded a steady growth and since the year 2000 the country has achieved self-sufficiency in rice production. The Government of Lao PDR highly appreciates the invaluable policy and technical support FAO is providing to agricultural development and food security in my country. It is also assisting our country to forge stronger intra- and inter-sectoral and cross-border technical and economic cooperation.

We are hopeful that outcomes of this Conference will further strengthen FAO to effectively carry out its mandate and core functions towards achieving the Strategic Objectives contributing to eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in the world. In this regard, I have the honour to convey to this Conference the full support of the Government of Lao PDR to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015 and the Medium Term Plan 2014-2017 proposed by the Director General. We have noted that over the last two decades FAO's budgetary resources declined in real terms while the world faced new food crises and the effects of climate change in agriculture. Despite the financial difficulties the world is facing today, I believe, my fellow delegates will agree that FAO deserves the modest increase in resources the Director General has asked for so that it can continue to provide its much-needed support to the agriculture sector in developing countries.

Finally our delegation would like to thank FAO for its continued active role in Lao PDR in helping us in eradicating hunger and malnutrition and realizing the targets set in the World Food Summit Plan of Actions and the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr U Ohn THAN (Myanmar)

First of all, it is a great pleasure and honour for me, on behalf of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and onmy own behalf, to deliver the country statement in this 38th Session of the FAO Conference, held with a theme of "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition".

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect the present status of Myanmar. Everybody may be aware that Myanmar is located at a strategic area between the most populous countries in the world – China, with 1.3 billion and India, with 1.2 billion inhabitants. Out of 60 million peope of Myanmar, about two thirds depend on agriculture. Myanmar also has different agro-ecological regions, such as delta area, coastal areas, hilly areas, mountains and dry zones favourable for the production of various crops, livestock and fisheries.

Since the formation of a new democratic government taking responsibility in April 2011, step-by-step reform strategies in the areas of politics, economics and social issues are being carried out and priority has been placed on poverty reduction through socio-economic development of people in rural areas based on agriculture.

Out of eight Millennium Development Goals, the first goal aims at eradicating hunger and extreme poverty. In this respect, Myanmar is striving to attain this MDG by reducing current poverty level of 26 percent, down to 16 percent by the year 2015.

In order to implement poverty reduction effectively, efforts are being carried out to increase the productivity in agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors, in order to contribute to the Zero Hunger Programmes being implemented by FAO.

Mr Chairperson, kindly allow me to quote some of the points from the Ministers' Communiqué of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture held in Berlin on 19 January 2013, where the challenges for food and nutritional security and rural development are emphasized. The major issues, among others, are Right to Adequate Food, Sustainable Investment in Agriculture in Developing Countries, Negative Impacts of Global Warming, Desertification and Urbanization of Agricultural Land.

Since "Nutrition" itself covers the sense of "Food Security", nutritional education, including awareness and knowledge sharing, are also needed for the purpose of healthy, safe and perfect diets among the people, especially in developing countries like Myanmar.

Moreover, I would also like to emphasize the need for technology support for pre- and post-harvest technology in the agricultural sector where losses – about 40 percent of the production – are wasted in the handling process of agricultural supply chain in developing countries. Those post-harvest losses are also the major challenge to overcome the global food security issues.

Another key option to achieve food security through increased productivity would also be the transformation from traditional to mechanized farming, including improved irrigation systems, which also need infrastructure investment for small-scale farmers to become the large-scale ones.

Myanmar is a food surplus country and potential to contribute to regional food security, particularly in rice production, and countries in the region and FAO recommend that Myanmar will be able to get back to the leading position for rice export.

In this regard, I would honestly like to request all the distinguished guest from FAO Member Nations and development partners to achieve food security, the poverty reduction and zero hunger programmes being implemented by all the nations in the world. In addition, I would also like to request your kind support for the development of Myanmar in terms of financial and technical assistance required for the rapid development, particularly in the agricultural sector.

In conclusion, I believe that this Conference will be able to bring about the welfare of people, especially in developing countries, through good policy options, institutional arrangements and capacity-building aiming at improved food security and nutrition, taking into consideration the global warming, climate change and natural disasters. And I would like to express my sincere gratitude for being able to contribute to this Conference.

M. Louis LAHOUD (Liban) (langue originale arabe)

J’ai le plaisir de prendre part, au nom du Liban, aux travaux de la Conférence de la FAO. Je voudrais féliciter tous ceux qui ont participé à l’organisation de la présente session et rendre hommage à la FAO. Je la remercie pour les efforts qu’elle consent au niveau mondial et régional et la félicite pour les approches qualitatives qu’elle a adoptées pour aborder des questions vitales.

Parmi ces questions vitales, nous citons, entre autres, la garantie de l’accès à une nourriture suffisante et saine aux habitants de notre planète, en passant par la préservation des ressources naturelles et leur utilisation durable.

Tout d’abord, je voudrais féliciter Monsieur le Président pour son élection. Je souhaite également vous transmettre les salutations de notre Ministre de l’agriculture et du Gouvernement libanais et nos remerciements à la FAO pour tous les efforts qu’elle a entrepris pour développer le secteur agricole de mon pays.

Je voudrais également féliciter l’Organisation pour la recommandation, résultat de la Conférence régionale, d’ouvrir un bureau sous régional au Liban. Nous coopérerons avec le projet d’ouverture de ce bureau sous régional. Notre Gouvernement a déjà pris les mesures nécessaires, il y a eu des rencontres entre une équipe de la FAO et une équipe de notre Ministère de l’agriculture au mois de mai passé.

La superficie des terres agricoles exploitées au Liban est estimée à environ 230 mille hectares, mais le secteur agricole ne représente que 6,4 pour cent du PNB. Toutefois, le secteur agricole est un secteur important puisqu’un quart de la population libanaise en dépend directement ou indirectement.

Le Liban est obligé d’importer 80 pour cent de ses besoins en aliments à cause de sa petite superficie. Mais malgré cela, le Liban jouit d’un bon climat et de la richesse de ressources en eau comparé aux autres pays de la région du Moyen-Orient. Ceci constitue un grand potentiel pour diversifier les cultures et notamment les cultures à valeur ajoutée.

Le Ministère de l'agriculture libanais a établi une stratégie pour promouvoir le secteur agricole. Cette stratégie couvre la période jusqu'en 2015 et concorde parfaitement avec les nouveaux Objectifs stratégiques de l'Organisation.

Notre stratégie nationale repose sur huit axes principaux, dont les essentiels sont: la modernisation des législations en matière agricole, le renforcement du contrôle des intrants et des produits agricoles, la vulgarisation, et également la conservation des ressources naturelles. Ce sont les points forts de notre stratégie.

Le Ministère s'intéresse aussi à la commercialisation des produits agricoles libanais à l'intérieur du Liban et dans le monde entier. La journée du vin libanais, qui a été organisée en France récemment, en est un bon exemple. Grâce à cette journée, nous avons pu commercialiser le vin libanais et avoir accès à une plus grande part du marché européen.

Le Liban assume depuis 2011 son rôle de coordination régionale au sein de la Commission du Proche-Orient du Codex Alimentarius de la FAO. Le bureau de la FAO à Beyrouth a également entrepris d'établir le cadre d'un plan de travail pour la période 2012-2015. Ce plan de travail concorde parfaitement avec notre stratégie officielle nationale et se concentre sur trois domaines prioritaires, à savoir: l'innocuité des aliments et le renforcement des capacités en matière de sécurité alimentaire, la promotion de la production et des systèmes alimentaires et enfin, la gestion durable des ressources agricoles et halieutiques.

Ces priorités sont reflétées dans plusieurs projets mis en œuvre en coopération avec la FAO et avec le Ministère de l'agriculture libanais. Ils se concentrent sur le renforcement des capacités des cadres techniques, sur l'infrastructure dans les zones frontalières, sur l'agro-industrie, sur l'utilisation efficiente des ressources en eau, sur le rôle des femmes dans les régions rurales et sur la qualité des produits libanais.

Tous ces projets sont mis en œuvre en coopération avec des partenaires locaux et mondiaux. En tête de ces partenaires mondiaux, nous comptons l'Italie. Grâce à cette coopération fructueuse, nous espérons pouvoir améliorer le niveau de vie de nos agriculteurs, par le développement des communautés rurales et frontalières.

Mais malheureusement, l'élan prometteur du secteur agricole se heurte à des défis majeurs, dont les plus grands sont les répercussions de la crise syrienne et le flux de personnes déplacées qui quittent la Syrie vers les pays voisins.

Le Liban a accueilli et enregistré 257 mille réfugiés syriens. À ceux-ci s'ajoutent environ 200 mille réfugiés non encore enregistrés, mais ce nombre reste en deçà des vrais chiffres. Les autorités libanaises estiment à un million le nombre total de personnes comprenant les déplacés syriens et les expatriés libanais qui retournent au pays. Ce chiffre représente 25 pour cent de la population libanaise.

La crise syrienne a eu un impact lourd à plusieurs niveaux, car les déplacés syriens se concentrent dans les zones frontalières, qui, à l'origine déjà, faisaient partie des zones parmi les plus pauvres et dépendant essentiellement de l'agriculture. Avec l'afflux des réfugiés, la pression a augmenté dans les villages sur l'accès aux aliments et aux moyens de subsistance.

Un autre problème est la difficulté d'exporter les produits agricoles libanais qui transitaient auparavant par la Syrie pour arriver aux pays du Golfe, les pays du Golfe étant un marché essentiel pour les produits libanais. Les agriculteurs se voient obligés d'avoir recours au fret maritime et aérien ce qui augmente le coût des produits libanais.

Le troisième problème est le relâchement des contrôles des deux côtés de la frontière. Il y a des échanges de troupeaux sans contrôles et ceci aboutit à la propagation des maladies infectieuses et contagieuses parmi les animaux.

Le quatrième problème est posé par le fait que les bailleurs de fonds, au lieu d'investir dans le secteur agricole, investissent maintenant dans les secours de première nécessité et dans l'accueil des réfugiés, ce qui a freiné l'élan et l'essor de notre secteur agricole.

Il faudrait donc redoubler d'efforts et d'investissements, notamment en faveur des zones rurales frontalières.

Il faudrait soutenir les communautés agricoles dans ces zones pour que le fait de négliger leur situation et négliger les pressions auxquelles elles sont soumises, ne transforme pas ces communautés en ceinture de pauvreté qui deviendraient alors des bombes à retardement menant à une explosion sociale.

Sr. Jaime HADDAD SÁNCHEZ DE CUETO (España)

Quiero en primer lugar agradecer enormemente la elección del tema propuesto para el debate en esta trigésimoctava sesión de la Conferencia de la FAO, en la que se van a discutir y refrendar relevantes cuestiones que todos confiamos, habrán de reportar importantes beneficios para el conjunto de la población mundial.

El reto que supone garantizar la seguridad alimentaria y una adecuada nutrición para una población mundial en progresivo crecimiento es responsabilidad de todos.

Es importante recalcar que nos enfrentamos a un doble desafío: la desnutrición provocada por una deficitaria ingesta de alimentos, y simultáneamente, la obesidad y otros problemas derivados de una inadecuada alimentación. Ambos recaen, significativos y dramáticamente con mayor intensidad, sobre la población infantil que sufre sobre su salud las peores consecuencias, aunque este hecho es aún más dramático en el caso de la desnutrición.

Para afrontar este doble reto necesitamos unos sistemas alimentarios sostenibles en todos los eslabones de su cadena, con especial énfasis en el eslabón que sustenta al resto, el sector agrario, entendido en su más amplio sentido, comprensivo de los subsectores de agricultura, ganadería, pesca y forestal.

El papel que este sector juega resulta primordial para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional porque suministra, no solo los medios de sustento alimenticio, sino también los recursos económicos a un importante porcentaje de la población mundial, y facilita la gestión del territorio. Es por ello necesario conseguir, en equilibrio, un sector agrario sostenible en el triple sentido de lo económico, lo social y lo medioambiental.

Son numerosos los aspectos y vertientes que encierra la consecución de un sector agrario sostenible, pero quiero hoy destacar aquéllos que considero más relevantes; en primer lugar, las políticas que inciden sobre los colectivos más vulnerables y en segundo lugar aquellas otras que precisan de una acción concertada a nivel global para convertir al sector agroalimentario en el eje que vertebra la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Entre las primeras debo recordar que el medio rural, con carácter general, sigue mostrando un importante diferencial de desarrollo con respecto al medio urbano, especialmente acusado en determinadas zonas geográficas. Por tanto, resulta necesario acometer políticas públicas dirigidas a atender a poblaciones frecuentemente marginadas, procurando el desarrollo del medio rural, y facilitando su permanencia en él.

Son precisas también, iniciativas y acciones dirigidas al apoyo de las mujeres, por el importante papel que desempeñan en el proceso de revitalización del sector rural, impulsando su presencia y participación activa en la agricultura, la ganadería, la pesca y lo forestal.

Además, si pretendemos planificar unas medidas políticas de largo alcance, necesariamente habrá que prestar especial atención a los agricultores jóvenes, fomentando su permanencia en el sector rural en base a las expectativas sobre su futuro.

Finalmente, debemos reforzar el papel que cumplen los pequeños agricultores y la agricultura familiar en la alimentación de una población mundial en progresivo crecimiento. Es factible incrementar la producción de sus explotaciones de una manera sostenible, a la vez que se mejora su rentabilidad, si se facilitan los incentivos económicos precisos, a través de instrumentos de financiación adecuados, la prestación de servicios de asistencia técnica o su integración e implicación en la cadena del ciclo alimentario.

En segundo lugar, me referiré a las políticas coordinadas a nivel global. Y dentro de ellas, requiere especial atención una cuestión íntimamente ligada a la seguridad alimentaria, como es la problemática que conlleva el aumento de la volatilidad en los precios de los productos agrarios, que se viene registrando en los últimos años. Una mayor información y transparencia en los mercados mundiales, con la participación y colaboración de todos los Organismos y Gobiernos involucrados, reduciría la incidencia de los perniciosos efectos derivados de los bruscos cambios en los niveles de precios.

Por otro lado, para garantizar sistemas alimentarios sostenibles es ineludible prestar atención a todos los componentes del proceso, incluyendo la transformación, distribución y los propios consumidores.

En este sentido, la mejora de la eficiencia de la cadena alimentaria requiere evitar, por todos los medios, las pérdidas y desperdicios que se producen desde la producción hasta el consumo.

Las pérdidas y desperdicios de alimentos representan una oportunidad de contribuir al sustento nutricional de una población mundial en aumento.

Por todo ello, el Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente de España acaba de elaborar la Estrategia "Más alimento, Menos desperdicio", que se enmarca dentro de las políticas de sostenibilidad promovidas por este Ministerio y que tiene como finalidad fomentar la transparencia, el diálogo y la coordinación entre los agentes de la cadena alimentaria y las administraciones públicas.

Por último, hay que prestar especial atención al eslabón final de los sistemas alimentarios, los consumidores. En este sentido, la información, la educación y sensibilización de los consumidores constituye una tarea que deben afrontar todos los Gobiernos, con objeto de garantizar una nutrición adecuada para el conjunto de la población.

Para abordar éstas y otras cuestiones tenemos por delante una oportunidad sin precedentes, que tiene varias vertientes, complementarias entre sí.

Por un lado, con los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en la perspectiva de su culminación en 2015, nos encontramos ante la tarea de definir una agenda para el desarrollo a aplicar tras esa fecha, que afronte de manera integrada el reto de erradicar la pobreza y el desarrollo sostenible.

Por otra parte, nos encontramos inmersos en la definición de los próximos Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, compromiso adquirido en Río+20.

Sin duda, será una ocasión única para trabajar en la convergencia de ambos procesos, con el fin de concentrar los esfuerzos en la elaboración de una sola agenda tras 2015.

Quisiera finalizar mi intervención recordando una vez más que el reto al que nos enfrentamos requerirá el esfuerzo de todos, Gobiernos, sociedad civil y sector empresarial, de una manera continua y sostenida en el tiempo, pero no me cabe duda que seremos capaces de afrontarlo con éxito.

Ms Lyudmila NIZHEVICH (Belarus) (Original language Russian)

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr Chairperson, Members of the Bureau. I would like to welcome everyone in this room. Belarus highly values the work of the FAO to insure food security around the world.

Now the agricultural sector is an important part of our economy and plays a very important role in our economic and social development. Every year the agricultural sector accounts for about 9 percent of our GDP, about 2.3 million people are involved in agriculture.

Now there are agricultural organizations and household farms. There are approximately 5,000 companies involved in agriculture. There are about 1,250 large farms with an average of about 5.5 hectares.

Overall, they use approximately 8 million hectares, however 1/3 of all gross productionism in individual land plots there are over one million such plots and although the share of such plots in production of grain, milk and meat does not exceed 15 percent in production of potatoes, fruits and vegetables, it is up to 80-90 percent.

Over the past few years, Belarus has been active in creating food production companies that span the whole agricultural cycle from production processing and logistics.

We have completely changed our approach to the development of rural areas and we have moved towards the concept of developing rural regions as a whole and developing infrastructure based on central principles. We are currently implementing the state programme of sustainable development of rural communities for 2011-2015.

The main goals of the programme are enhancing the economic performance of the agricultural agro-industrial complex and increasing exports, increasing income of rural population and making it more attractive to live in rural communities and insuring socioeconomic development.

The framework for the state programme we are implementing 22 national and regional programmes that cover all aspects of agricultural production. Over the past seven years, we have created more than one and a half thousand new types of agricultural settlements, agricultural towns and their infrastructure makes it possible to meet our standards for their population.

Now thanks to the work of the State, we have insured the food security of the country. Now we have to say that we are meeting our medical standards. We are producing per capita 108 kilos of meat, 687 kilos of milk, 396 eggs, and 815 kilos of potatoes.

The results of the monitoring of food security show that we are managing to meet our food security up to 83 percent food supplies. Today already we are moving towards an export oriented agricultural production. In 2012, we have exported goods worth five billion USD. That is 55 percent of the overall volume of agricultural production. About 65 percent of exports in meat and milk products, 7 percent of the cheese produced is sold outside the country, 74 percent of dry milk whey, 48 percent of beef, 21 percent of pork meat, and 32 percent of poultry. Exports are sent to over 50 countries around the world. Last year this was expanded to include Vietnam, Qatar, Nigeria, Syria, Pakistan, Lithuania and Latvia.

Our main goal is to continue diversifying our export markets and promoting our production on markets around the world. To enhance the trust of consumers Belarusian producers are seeking to introduce quality control standards. As of the first of January of this year, an international quality control system was introduced.

Now we have also focused more and more on the green economy. We have developed a system of measures to enhance the technological potential of our economy. In other words, to continue developing our economy but on the principles of green economy.

Belarus is a fairly recent Member of FAO but we have been trying to be very active both for the benefit of the FAO and Belarus. Thanks to the FAO, Belarus has received access to very useful information, statistical data on agriculture, on forestry, fisheries and new technologies.

We are happy that the FAO administration has begun a process of rethinking the strategic approach of the Organization and focusing its efforts on areas where it has a natural advantage. We also support the decision by the FAO to grant Russia the status of official language which has made it possible to exchange information and facilitate our Membership in the Organization.

I would like to thank the administration for the understanding in concluding technical assistance agreement with Belarus. We hope that this agreement will provide further impotence to our cooperation aimed an insuring our common goal, that is food security and enhancing the well-being of our people.

Ms Deborah ROCHE (New Zealand)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of New Zealand at this Conference. We meet at an interesting time in the history of FAO: a new Strategic Framework has just been completed after wide consultation with the Membership, and we are beginning to see how the five Strategic Objectives are likely to be delivered.

Even with a new Strategic Framework, FAO will be asked to do many things. But FAO is not resourced to do everything. Nor should it attempt to do everything. Strategic use of partnership will be required, in this regard we are encouraged by the Director-General's increased emphasis on developing partnerships with the private sector, and with NGOs and civil society.

FAO will need to make a clear headed, objective assessment of the demands made on it, pay greater attention to prioritization and continue to reform in order to deliver. We look to FAO to continue to prioritise delivery of the global public goods for which it has a comparative advantage; including data gathering and analysis, normative and standards setting work and policy advice in fisheries, forestry and agriculture. We place a high value on this work and will continue to support the allocation of resource to do it.

The theme for this Conference is "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition". Sustainable food systems will be supported by FAO's leadership role in sustainable global fisheries management and cross-sectoral land use policy, which includes discussion of the role of forestry. Codex activities have a direct impact on the safety and quality of food and International Pland Protection Convention assists with protecting plant health and maintaining the sustainability of plant-based production systems.

A sustainable food system that supports food security and nutrition will necessarily rely on trade and undistorted markets. It is only common sense that food should be produced in the areas of the world that have the best environmental and climatic conditions for doing so. Trade enables communities to efficiently produce what they are good at producing and exchange that for products they are less able to produce on their own. Professor's Sen concept of food entitlement, which he reminded us of in his excellent lecure on Saturday, gives support to the idea that economic development is supported by trade, and enables improved access to food.

Improved access to food will also depend on the development of partnerships between governments, industry, consumers, international organizations and civil society. In New Zealand we have recognized the value to be gained from working in partnership with industry. Our primary Growth Partnership is a Government and industry joint initiative that invests in significant programmes of research and innovation to boost the economic growth and sustainability of New Zealand's primary, forestry and food sectors.

Internationally, New Zealand was pleased to initiate the partnership inherent in the Global Research Alliance, and we have been encouraged by the way other Members have come on board to develop what is now a comprehensive research programme in the areas of agricultural greenhouse gas mitigation.

The other FAO-based partnerships that New Zealand is pleased to participate in, and financially support, are the benchmarking partnership for livestock, and the Global Agenda for Action in support of Sustainable Livestock Sector Development. We believe that these initiatives can be instrumental in mitigating and reducing the environmental footprint of the livestock sector while at the same time contributing to economic, social and community well-being.

New Zealand was a founding Member of the FAO, we have a long and proud history of active and effective engagement, and we look forward to this continuing.

Ms Krystyna GURBIEL (Poland)

During this year’s session we discuss the problem of adequate and balanced nutrition in different regions of the world. This problem, in a sense, has “always” been there, but over the years its scale and character were significantly changed.

Today there are huge disparities. While in some countries millions of people die because of insufficient food supply, or they have access to few products only, in other parts of the world, or even in the same country, food is wasted, and a large part of the population is obese or overweight.

It is a great challenge but not only for the agri-food policy. An answer to these problems does not come down to finding *some single* universal solution. A model, which will allow for using the potential of the agricultural sector, at the same time, reducing the negative environmental or social effects. Since agriculture operates under a globalized network of economic and political links and it is an area of impact of different, often contrary phenomenon and processes.

We have to tackle the problem of adequate nutrition by using the experience of different policies. We can improve individual processes like a spider's web. Let me point to two examples.

One: People tend to forget how Europe looked like some time ago without food. This means that the Common Agricultural Policy fulfills its basic function. But this had its costs and was subject to external criticism that, however, lead to many positive changes in this policy.

Today an important achievement of the CAP is an attempt at reconciliation of the objectives of productivity with social and environmental objectives. The adoption of the European agricultural model is to benefit not only farmers and consumers, but also the future generations.

But we still have to tackle many challenges both within the scope of impact on external partners, as well as on the environment. We have to improve the shape of the food chain in order to strengthen the role of small producers. When increasing productivity of agriculture it is necessary to use the local potential. This requires a new approach to innovation and rapid transmission of research results to agricultural practice. Another challenge is reducing the losses in food production or the change of consumption patterns.

Two: The second example concerns the country that I represent. In the 1990s Poland underwent a radical political transformation. At that time, the agricultural sector became the "buffer" of political, economic and social changes. After twenty years it is clearly visible that the extreme solutions do not work – neither the strongly protectionist model, nor the so-called development model which gives rise to environmental threats and has a number of negative social effects. Each reform has to respect the basic needs of an individual, for instance the right to free management of one's own land.

The Polish experience from the times of the transformation point also to the fact that "the invisible hand of the market" will not take care of public goods, such as e.g. the environment or expenditure on health policy, since it is not in its nature.

We can also try to change the attitude of individuals by raising their awareness or through education, but these are long-lasting processes.

On the other hand, legal solutions and targeted programmes (e.g. labels informing on the ingredients of the food product or waste separation) help to overcome the barrier of people's habits that are sometimes unimportant from the perspective of an individual or the private sector (e.g. a corporation), but they gain in significance on a macro scale/ in the pubic area.

To sum up, let us not forget about the good practices of policy-making. We should remember that instruments or programmes under the agricultural system need to have clear and measureable objectives; so that their functioning does not disrupt competition or harm external partners. Each solution should be subject to a thorough impact assessment. However, not only in a given sector, but also as regards its interdependencies with the entire economy and considering its impact on individuals co-creating this economy.

Sr. Hugo J. GOBBI (Argentina)

La Argentina desea renovar, una vez más, su firme compromiso en la lucha contra el hambre en el mundo y destacar el rol central que tiene la FAO en vistas a alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria para todos.

En este sentido mi país desea felicitar al Director General, José Graziano da Silva, por sus avances en el proceso de reforma de la Organización, en particular, el carácter incluyente y participativo del proceso de reflexión estratégica, que derivó en la elaboración del Marco estratégico revisado de la Organización.

La Argentina apoya la propuesta de Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para el bienio 2014-15 y el Plan a plazo medio 2014-17 presentada para la consideración de la Conferencia. Dicha propuesta contiene los elementos necesarios para que la FAO y los Estados Miembros puedan avanzar hacia un nuevo nivel de seguridad alimentaria.

La Argentina considera que se transmitiría un mensaje muy negativo al mundo si no se brindan a la Organización los recursos necesarios para reducir la desnutrición, tema que conmueve las conciencias en toda la comunidad internacional.

El problema del hambre en el mundo es un problema de acceso a los alimentos. Como lo destacó el Profesor Amartya Sen, el hambre no es consecuencia de la falta de alimentos; millones de personas pasan hambre porque no disponen de ingresos suficientes.

La mayor causa de la inseguridad alimentaria es la pobreza extrema, y para atacar este flagelo que se ensaña sobre los más vulnerables, se requiere una suma de políticas públicas de desarrollo económico y social, que permitan la generación de empleo, la distribución de ingresos y la elaboración de sistemas de protección social.

Habiendo reconocido lo anterior, no cabe duda que la actividad agropecuaria y la pesca cumplen, no sólo con la función indispensabile de proveer alimentos a la humanidad, sino que también son la fuente de ingreso y de alimentación para millones de familias muy desfavorecidas que habitan en el mundo rural.

Tal como mencionara en diversas oportunidades el Director General, no hay seguridad alimentaria sin un desarrollo armónico de la agricultura familiar. Es indispensabile trabajar en los problemas específicos que enfrentan los pequeños productores como el acceso a las cadenas de comercialización, el financiamiento y el acceso a las tecnologías adecuadas.

Como todos ustedes saben, la Argentina es un productor agropecuario significativo y por ello atribuye particular prioridad a la problemática de la seguridad alimentaria global.

La Argentina hace una importante contribución a la situación internacional, esforzándose en aumentar su producción y productividad agrícola, propiciando de esta manera, no solamente la seguridad alimentaria local, sino también la capacidad de generar saldos exportables abundantes de alimentos de calidad para el mercado internacional.

Por otra parte, el gobierno nacional ha aumentado sustancialmente en los últimos años la inversión en investigación para el desarrollo tecnológico y la biotecnología, lo que ha permitido mayores rendimientos y la reducción de costos.

Paralelamente se ha incrementado la cooperación técnica y se han elaborado programas muy efectivos de cooperación Sur Sur triangular que favorecen el desarrollo de la agricultura y la ganadería en muchos países en desarrollo.

Para hacer frente al flagelo del hambre y al desafío de satisfacer la creciente demanda de alimentos, producto del crecimiento poblacional, se debe revertir el proceso de desinversión en el sector agropecuario que afectó a muchos países por largos años y que fue consecuencia de un contexto internacional particularmente desfavorable.

Se requiere un sistema de comercio internacional más abierto y menos distorsionado para el comercio de productos agropecuarios, lo que alentaría inversiones y permitiría una plena participación de los países en desarrollo. Es por ello que estimamos fundamental dar cumplimento a la continuación del proceso de reforma del comercio agrícola de acuerdo con el Mandato de la Ronda de Doha. Ésta es la contribución fundamental que el sistema multilateral de comercio puede hacer en vistas a alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria de todos. Esperamos poder dar algunos pasos firmes en la Novena Conferencia Ministerial de la OMC en Bali, dando cumplimiento, al menos parcialmente, al mandato de eliminar toda forma de subvenciones a las exportaciones.

Destacamos la import ancia de incrementar la producción agrícola sostenible desde el punto de vista económico, social y ambiental.

En la búsqueda de una mayor producción, sin lugar a dudas la innovación tecnológica juega y jugará un papel central. Es importante que la FAO acompañe este desarrollo y que se evite la adopción de restricciones injustificadas, sin evidencia científica.

Estamos convencidos también de que debemos poner énfasis no sólo en aumentar la producción de alimentos, sino también en reducir las pérdidas y desperdicios de éstos. Este es un tema en el que inciden múltiples factores tales como los precios, la infraestructura, el transporte, la educación y la comunicación entre otros, y para resolverlos será necesario contar con recursos orientados a generar cambios estructurales.

Es un hecho que en los últimos años se ha producido una recuperación de precios de los alimentos. Pero debemos reconocer también que en términos reales, los precios de los alimentos en la actualidad son más bajos que en las décadas de los sesenta y setenta del siglo pasado.

Es sumamente positivo que la recuperación de precios de los alimentos esté generada en gran parte por la incorporación a la mesa del consumo de millones de personas que provienen de sectores que han sido muy desfavorecidos.

Pero lo que centra nuestra atención es la excesiva volatilidad de los precios de los alimentos, fenómeno que no es sólo consecuencia de condiciones climáticas adversas y que representa una amenaza para la seguridad alimentaria. Esta excesiva volatilidad es también consecuencia de la acción humana, de la descontrolada especulación en los mercados de productos alimenticios, pero también de cierta política de aquellos miembros de la comunidad internacional que tienen impacto sistémico.

Asimismo, es la consecuencia también de décadas de políticas de desarrollo económico desprovisto de consideración ambiental, de políticas monetarias que favorecen la especulación financiera, de políticas comerciales que distorsionan los precios internacionales y de políticas agropecuarias que aíslan los mercato domésticos.

Por lo anterior, consideramos que las recomendaciones del documento C 2013/2 deberían hacer referencia a la "excesiva volatilidad de los precios de los alimentos" de los últimos años y no a "precios altos" y requerimos en funcion de lo expuesto, que el documento C 2013/2, segundo guión, donde dice "tomar nota de la persistencia de precios altos y volátiles de los alimentos", diga "precios sumamente inestables", en inglés "highly volatile" tal como se acordó en la 37ª Conferencia (ver párrafo 35).

M. Moctar OULD DAHI (Mauritanie) (langue originale arabe)

Merci beaucoup Monsieur le Président, au nom de Dieu le clément, le miséricordieux, je vous remercie de me donner cette occasion et je remercie Monsieur José Graziano da Silva pour la très bonne organisation de cette 38ème session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Au nom du Gouvernement de la Mauritanie, je vous réitère notre confiance dans la mise en œuvre du plan de travail et des stratégies que nous allons adopter au cours de cette session, afin de réaliser les nobles objectifs de notre Organisation, à savoir la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition et de garantir la sécurité alimentaire à tous les peuples du monde.

Excellences, Ministres, Ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, le secteur agricole de la Mauritanie a un très grand potentiel. A titre d'exemple, nous avons 513 mille hectares de terrains agricoles, dont 135 mille hectares consacrés à l'agriculture irriguée.

Nos ressources animales sont très importantes et en constante augmentation, à savoir 19 millions de têtes, dont 16 millions d'ovins et de caprins.

Nos ressources en eaux de surface sont aussi très importantes. Elles sont estimées à 11,4 milliards de mètres cube. Nous n'exploitons actuellement que 15 pour cent de cette quantité pour l'agriculture.

Notre littoral est l'un des plus riches au monde en ce qui concerne les poissons, les ressources pélagiques et de surface.

Tout ce potentiel a joué un rôle très important dans notre économie et les chiffres suivants en sont une preuve. Ils représentent 18 pour cent du PNB et sont une source d'emploi pour 23 pour cent de la population active tandis que 60 pour cent du secteur rural vit des activités de ce secteur. Il couvre 100 pour cent de la viande rouge et de la pisciculture, et ceci est une source très importante à l'exportation en devises étrangères, et représente aussi 30 pour cent des produits laitiers et des céréales.

Monsieur le Président, malgré tous ces chiffres positifs, il y a un certain nombre d'obstacles:

- Il y a un déficit avéré en ressources humaines et dans l'organisation des travailleurs du secteur rural. Il y a également un déficit des ressources financières consacrées à ce secteur.

- Nous ne contrôlons pas suffisamment nos ressources en eau.

- Enfin, il y a un déficit dans l'intensification agricole et son automatisation.

A cette fin, le Gouvernement de Mauritanie, depuis 2009, a pris des mesures urgentes pour améliorer l'exploitation de ce potentiel.

En entamant des consultations, nous avons revu les textes et nous avons mis en œuvre une stratégie pour remédier aux déséquilibres.

Nous avons par exemple réglé les dettes des agriculteurs et des fournisseurs de services dans les secteurs irrigués. Nous avons programmé des activés et des campagnes agricoles. Nous avons subventionné les intrants de certains produits. Nous avons aussi veillé à l'amélioration des services concernant les sols et la vulgarisation d'un très grand nombre de bonification des terres.

Nous avons augmenté tout ce qui concerne l'élevage des volailles ainsi que les cultures de blé, de pommes de terre, d'oignons et de canne à sucre.

Nous avons veillé à la vaccination et à la santé animale afin de parer aux épidémies et aux différentes maladies.

Nous avons aussi amélioré les moyens de transport; nous avons contrôlé du point de vue sanitaire notre flotte nationale et amélioré l'infrastructure de nos ports et de nos marchés afin qu'ils respectent les normes sanitaires internationales.

Nous avons répondu rapidement aussi aux besoins de nos citoyens et de nos éleveurs, notamment en temps de sécheresse et cela selon trois plans.

Sur la période 2011-2012, le programme connu sous le nom « Espoir 2012 » cherche à renforcer les produits agricoles et vise une distribution gratuite de certains produits alimentaires aux plus pauvres.

Nous avons aussi répondu positivement aux besoins de nos citoyens. Nous avons travaillé avec nos partenaires à la stratégie de 2011 et nous remercions tous nos partenaires, et surtout la FAO, pour tous les efforts qui ont été déployés pour nous aider.

Tout ce que je vous ai cité a été très encourageant. En effet, nous avons pu valoriser sept pour cent de notre surface agricole. Vingt-quatre pour cent de ces surfaces ont pris en considération la campagne d'aide aux chômeurs et les autres aux populations locales.

Nous avons également augmenté nos exportations agricoles. Nous avons augmenté la couverture de notre production céréalière de 23 à 37 pour cent, et en ce qui concerne l'autosuffisance, nous utilisons le riz, un des aliments les plus importants dans notre pays. Il a augmenté de 35 à 60 pour cent en dix ans.

Nous avons pris aussi en considération la couverture sanitaire de nos ressources animalières.

En ce qui concerne les réformes structurelles, nous avons paré au déséquilibre structurel et nous avons voté deux lois, une loi agricole régionale et l'autre rurale, afin de définir les rôles de tous les participants dans le secteur agricole. Nous avons aussi mis en œuvre une stratégie afin d'arriver à un développement durable avant 2025 pour promouvoir un développement équilibré et de mettre une fin à l'exode des régions rurales vers les villes.

Cette stratégie se compose de trois volets, sur trois étapes: 2013-2015, 2016-2020 et 2021-2025.

Nous visons, par cette stratégie, tout d'abord le développement des espèces animales et végétales, pour arriver à l'autosuffisance en ce concerne le riz avant 2018, l'exportation de la viande rouge congelée à tous les pays voisins, équilibrer la balance commerciale à l'horizon 2020, et réaliser des excédents d'ici 2025 afin de prendre en considération tous les produits laitiers, les légumineuses et les céréales.

Voilà ce que nous avons fait. C'est une stratégie qui était très réaliste et en même temps très ambitieuse et nous avons mis en œuvre un programme public prioritaire d'exploitation de 417 millions de dollars et qui va de 2013 à 2018.

Nous avons fourni beaucoup d'efforts afin de mobiliser nos partenaires et la FAO que nous remercions pour leur soutien à ce programme public prioritaire d'exploitation. Nous avons encore besoin d'aide technique, de renforcer nos institutions, de renforcer nos recherches agricoles et de mobiliser tous nos partenaires internationaux.

Nous espérons, Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, que l'Organisation déploiera tous ses efforts afin d'aider la Mauritanie pour lutter contre la famine et l'insécurité alimentaire, afin de réaliser les ambitions de notre peuple et cela en concordance avec les grands objectifs de cette Organisation.

Nous vous remercions, Monsieur le Président, nous remercions Monsieur Da Silva ainsi que toutes ses aides, pour ces résultats qui découlent de sa présidence et nous espérons que tous les projets de travail à court et moyen termes porteront leurs fruits.

Mr Roderick GALDES (Malta)

The challenges facing us as nations working together at this Conference remain deeply critical to ensuring peace and prosperity across the world. In a period of time when food markets remain persistently susceptible to volatility, when the level of undernourished people remains high and when the economic situation across the globe remains fragile, our vigilance in ensuring that the fight against hunger proceeds steadily must be higher than ever. There is little doubt however that sustainability is a consideration that must remain at the heart of all our policy responses in facing this challenge together.

My country sees these challenges through the eyes of a small island state that faces the delicate task of maintaining a balance between food production and environmental concerns. Maltese agriculture continues steadily in the transition to a small sector that can be competitive in the globalized market in spite of the economic uncertainties, while increasingly adapting to its role as the main bulwark defending our environment and natural resources. This change is driven by consumers who wish to buy food more affordably, while knowing that their tax money is better spent in terms of the public goods they expect from farmers and the food sector and that they are contributing to preserve the rural and social fabric of the communities they live in.

The FAO's own report on the review of the state of food and agriculture states clearly that dramatically improving investment in food productivity lies at the heart of meeting the challenge of eradicating hunger. This will require us all to continue to place food security high on the global and international agenda, and Malta has been and will continue pursuing this line vigorously at regional level. We feel that sustainability means that we must be sensitive and very aware of the land rights of people in developing countries as this process of investment intensifies. Two years ago in this forum, Kofi Annan made this a clarion call during his delivery of the MacDougall memorial lecture, and those same concerns face us today as climate change places in clear focus the future stresses on water, soil and other productive resources that all countries rely upon.

Malta sees food production as an activity that is profoundly connected to land and society and treads a delicate balance: the balance between preserving local production as part of regional production and trading systems, while allowing for the benefits of global trade to reach consumers. Nowhere is the particular importance of keeping this balance more evident than in than in small island states and I urge the FAO to continue recognizing the special susceptibility these face in its future work.

Malta continues to underscore the importance that the role of small farmers and their families in increasing productivity sustainably play in developing appropriate agricultural policies. Their full involvement in all countries is essential in order to enable emerging domestic production sectors to flourish. Similarly strengthening the role of women in production in several countries can play an important role in helping us move together toward the achievement for the millennium development goal relative to this challenge.

Even as we acknowledge the importance of building greater resilience in food production systems and of how to involve the private sector more strongly in partnerships to meet the growing global demand for food, feed and energy, we must recognize that much more needs to be done in terms of sharing of production and market transparency in crucial commodity markets if we are to stave off repeats of the crises of the past decade. Efforts to find methods of better governance of financial markets which limit spirals of speculation that can drive millions to hunger in short time-spans have not progressed sufficiently under the economic pressures of the past years, placing an even greater burden on governments to ensure that their policies in agriculture and trade reflect the need for transparency and multi-lateralism that inter-dependence imposes upon them.

The FAO must continue in its drive to increase global sustainable agricultural productivity. Malta shares the view that developed and developing countries must co-operate more intensely through various fora in addressing the serious issue of climate change and its effects on food security and agricultural development, particularly through adaptation measures. Efforts must aim to intensify production and reduce land conversion in order to increase crop returns for the farmers who depend on this activity for their livelihoods, as well as to lead to improved economic growth and enhanced food security. Reducing food losses and waste is certainly a key part of the effort to feed the hungry, as are measures to enhance the management and delivery of food to reduce losses. Structural approaches such as improved harvest methods and storage facilities, better access to markets and better balance and fairness for producers in and along the food chain are important.

However I must stress that work on common approaches to reducing the carbon footprint of the food we consume must proceed at a much faster pace than has been the case so far. It will become increasingly unacceptable for taxpayers to subsidize food production systems and trade which delivers food out of season and at prices which undercut local productive communities and which involves disproportionately high emissions of greenhouse gases in the process. Finding the right balance between local, regional and global production and consumption patterns means that we must also empower citizens to consume responsibly, and to be in a position to do so through their buying choices.

In conclusion, Malta urges the FAO to continue in its work of becoming leaner and more efficient in deploying its activities and in its efforts to keep this issue high on the agenda of world leaders. The right to food and nourishment is so basic a need for humanity that we can act in no other way.

Mr Ib Byrge SØRENSEN (Denmark)

Mr Da Silva, you can indeed continue to rely on Denmark in this Organization's immense contribution to eradicate malnutrition, and in your efforts to make FAO more cost-efficient.

The commitment of the international community in the Millennium Declaration to reduce by half the number of people, who suffer from hunger by 2015, is thus still within reach. Policies geared towards productivity must be accompanied by crop diversification strategies, education and –the most important one – "behavioral changes".

There is a need for a dramatic improvement in the level as well as in the quality of investment in sustainable agriculture with emphasis on the scarcity of water, energy and soil. Huge problems concerning the ongoing waste of food have to be addressed and the real residues from food production, i.e. fibers from crops and animal waste products also, have to be recycled.

Scaling up investments with a resource-efficient scope and building resilience in the global food system is mandatory for all regions and all nations. We ought to produce more with less; less residues, fewer pesticides, less energy, less water and less CO2 emissions. All with the purpose of feeding all human beings globally in a long term sustainable way – and still keep focus on the preservation of nature.

What we need is a targeted cooperation between companies, public agencies and authorities research institutions and civil society that will strengthen the standards for sustainability, for resource-efficiency and Life Cycle Analysis methods (LCA) on an international level.

These indicators must be founded on scientific knowledge and best practice, be robust, transparent and also re-duplicable in any relevant context. The aim is to reduce the environmental impact of food production.

I strongly support the FAO multi-stakeholder initiative concerning partnership on benchmarking and monitoring the environmental performance of livestock supply chain and the Global Agenda of Action for sustainable livestock, GAA.

Denmark has launched an ambitious project called the Moon Pig (first pig on the Moon). We want to develop the future livestock facilities for intensive pig production. The goal is to ensure, in combination, continued growth and sustainability of livestock production in Denmark and globally.

The initiative shall–through public-private-partnership–develop new innovative methods and technologies, which will make it possible to measure all residues and emissions from intensive pig production. This initiative shall demonstrate a profitable production which does not harm the environment and includes high animal welfare. The aim is to decoupling our pig production from the farmland and to produce more from less. This requires a new regulatory framework where we set a target for the acceptable level of emissions instead of the input-regulation we use today.

Pertaining malnutrition I shall emphasize the negative impact from malnutrition on education and each individual's possible contribution to prosperity for local communities. These abovementioned important issues have also to be seen as a crucial contribution to the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that globally we shall only prevail, if we all–at international, national, regional and individual level–take on our responsibilities combating injustice, mismanagement, corruption and lack of opportunities for every human being.

The means we all have includes professional governance, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. In that respect a strong focus on the empowerments and rights of women and girls, gender equality and the prevention and combating of any kind of violence against women are essential preconditions for equitable and inclusive development.

The Director-General can count on our continued strong commitment, but Denmark's position pertaining the budget is quite firm; FAO must also implement focused measures in order to obtain a more cost-effective and efficient structure without reducing its core functions

Mr Bernard SHAMLAYE (Seychelles)

Mr Chairperson, please accept our congratulations on your election and our best wishes for success in the discharge of your duties. It is an honour for me to present my country's statement to this conference today, the national day of Seychelles. Mr Chairperson, Distinguished Delegate.

The smallest of the African states, both in the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans, have little land resources for food production. They have to turn to the oceans. Seychelles has an exclusive economic zone of 1.3 million square kilometers and, of necessity; it exploits its marine fish resources, including the high value tuna–the blue gold. Besides, 40 percent of the protein diet of the population is derived from the products of artisanal and industrial fisheries.

There is increasing interest in obtaining a share of the blue economy and greater investment is being seen in value addition products for new markets. This is a positive development. At the same time, we have to meet the challenge of ensuring a judicious and sustainable management of our resources.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing in short) is a global problem. It undermines sustainable practices of legitimate fishing operations, threatens food security and denies coastal countries the benefits of their resources.

Seychelles has the largest tuna canning factory in the region and some 85 percent of the tuna caught in the South West Indian Ocean is landed or transshipped in Victoria. We have been at the forefront of the campaign for the judicious management of regional ocean resources and we consider it important to strengthen the global effort to combat illegal fishing.

Seychelles is depositing its instrument of accession to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing during this conference. We are determined to play our part in ensuring that illegally harvested fish does not enter the commercial trade. We urge all coastal states to become party to this Agreement.

We also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all states and organizations that have worked with Seychelles and continue to do so to combat piracy in the Indian Ocean and to contribute to peace, stability and development in eastern Africa.

Concerning land-based agriculture, the international NGO-the ONE-Campaign - recently published the findings of its study of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals on the African continent. Seychelles was ranked last of all the countries assessed. The study overlooks the progress in the Seychelles' blue economy, focusing only on land-based agriculture and progress made in the implementation of the commitments of the 'Maputo Declaration'.

It is a fact that our agricultural food production sector had reached an all-time low in 2010. The liberalization of meat imports, within the broader economic reforms undertaken, brought in cheaper equivalents leading to the collapse of the livestock sub-sector. This had a negative knock-on effect on the crop sector. More lucrative sectors such as tourism – the primary foreign exchange earner - attracted more attention and investment.

As part of our environment conservation efforts which are also of social, cultural and economic importance, 50 percent of the total land area of Seychelles is under protection. Hence agriculture competes for land with tourism, housing, and conservation. But the message of 'Sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition' is heeded and taking firm root and there is a growing determination to revive national food production.

Despite the constraints, there is welcome progress. The Government has been driving the raising of investment funds for the sector. Seychelles was the first country of the Indian Ocean to sign the CAADP document, in September 2011. A new Food and Nutrition Security Policy has just been launched and will provide the framework for defining the National Agricultural Investment Plan.

Last month, the Seychelles Government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development signed a 3 million USD loan agreement for the «Competitive Local Innovations for Small-scale Agriculture Project». The AfDB is providing a grant for a comprehensive economic study of the agriculture sector. We are discussing with our Organization, the FAO, specific interventions that will open up greater opportunities in the management and use of the country's limited natural resources base.

M Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, amid the uncertainties in world economies and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events and challenged by its many endemic vulnerabilities as a small island developing state, Seychelles is, nevertheless, poised for a renaissance in food production. We have no doubt that the improved focus, new initiatives, and increased investments will soon bear fruit. We are committed. At the same time, we need and count on the support of our organization and other partners. We thank you all.

In ending, we congratulate the Director-General on the organisation of this conference and express our support for the work he is undertaking. We congratulate Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and South Sudan on joining the FAO family.

Mr José Diogo Santiago ALBUQUERQUE (Portugal) (Original language Portuguese)

Despite the progress we have made, approximately 870 million people remain undernourished, which is totally unacceptable for mankind as a whole. FAO's work is essential to advance the international food security programme and governments around the world have a responsibility to contribute to solving this problem.

Portugal is strongly committed to intensifying cooperation with FAO towards the eradication of hunger, and we believe that the coordination of strategies and sharing of expertise in designing agricultural policies are means available to us all to achieve this end.

The African continent is a recognised area of strategic intervention due to not only its current levels of deprivation but also its potential for agricultural development.

The new FAO Office in Lisbon and the recent signing of the Portugal/FAO Cooperation Framework Agreement will certainly contribute to disseminate accumulated information, knowledge and expertise about the territory, with a view to increasing and improving agricultural production in Africa, particularly in the countries of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) with which Portugal has a natural relationship of proximity.

In order to solve the world food problem, FAO's support to this group of countries is crucial. The CPLP is an area with huge potential for economic development, with a population of 250 million, about 28 million of whom are in a state of malnutrition.

In 2011, CPLP's ministers approved the Strategy for Food and Nutritional Security aiming to build a consistent model of governance that joins efforts to fight hunger in its member States. From the outset, FAO has joined and supported this initiative, a contribution I wish to highlight and praise.

Also very recently, FAO has sponsored a study on the "State of Food and Nutritional Security Governance and the Role of Family Farming in CPLP countries", which provides an important contribution to support the planning of future actions to be implemented in this field.

Given the expected growth in global food demand and the limitations of natural resources, the challenges related to food security urge the need to sustainably increase food supply.

In the European Union, the on-going review of the Common Agricultural Policy aims at greater sustainability and higher efficiency in food production. Since the EU is a major world trade partner, the changes now being discussed will certainly make a significant contribution to increasing supply and stabilising world prices. On the other hand, changes recurrently made to EU food regulations have a considerable influence on the definition of global food standards.

In Portugal, food self-sufficiency is 81 percent in value. We have chosen as a medium-term objective for the agricultural sector the increase of domestic production.

Portugal has been promoting investment support to improve agricultural and forest productivity and the setting-up of young farmers. A Land Exchange was recently created to facilitate access to land, particularly by young people. These are measures that simultaneously allow increasing job creation, which is crucial to maintain the social balance in the critical period we are going through.

In addition, we have been working on improving the producers' negotiating capacity and on stabilising prices, by promoting concentration of supply and creating rules that increase transparency and provide a better balance in the distribution of value along the food supply chain.

We have also sought to increase the resilience of our agricultural systems, since Portugal is geographically located in a region of the world with great vulnerability to climate change, where investments in the management of water resources are a top priority.

We have half a million hectares of irrigable area and we have made a great effort to encourage investment in increasing and improving irrigated area. Over the last decade, about Euro 1.1 billion were invested, corresponding to a 360,000 ha area benefited. This investment not only gave a decisive boost to the completion of the large Alqueva Multi-purpose Project, which will add 100,000 ha of irrigated area by 2015, but also tripled the use of pressure irrigation systems (from 22 percent to 68 percent of irrigated area), thus improving irrigation efficiency.

We have considerable accumulated irrigation skills and expertise not only in the Portuguese territory but also in Africa, and therefore we can provide a good contribution to FAO's goals in terms of cooperation and knowledge exchange in this field.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge that the work ahead in fighting hunger is enormous and challenges are huge. But it is also important to note that we must not fear these challenges, because I am certain they can be overcome.

It is our duty to use a good coordination of strategies and exchange of skills as tools to do just that.

Mr Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brazil)

Ensuring food and nutritional security remains one of the main challenges of mankind. As stated by the Brazilian Minister for External Relations, no development is worthy of its name unless it includes food and nutritional security - for all countries, and for all people within all countries.

Despite the efforts of countries to eliminate hunger, an unacceptably high number of people still suffer from undernourishment throughout the world, which has deep and extensive impacts on global governance and on international peace and security.

Peace, security and development are intertwined. Article 55 of the United Nations Charter is unequivocal in appointing that interdependence between social progress and development must be promoted, in order to create the conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations.

It is unfortunate that many crises in the UN Security Council's agenda involve societies that, in themselves, do not constitute a threat to global peace and security. Nevertheless, these societies have been suffering from conflicts and instability in a scenario of poverty, unemployment and food insecurity.

Food and nutritional security, as well as poverty eradication, are essential preconditions for development. They play a crucial role in promoting peace, security and social justice.

Sustainability is pivotal in any dimension of development. We must create food systems that provide food and nutritional security for all people in a sustainable way.

To achieve this, some prerequisites are fundamental.

International agricultural trade is one of them. The international community needs to continue pursuing the establishment of a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system. Unfair subsidies to producers deny access of developing countries' products to consumer markets. Agricultural protectionism discourages rural sector investments in developing countries.

The extreme volatility in food commodity prices is another problem that must be addressed. However, we should resist the misleading temptation to associate food and nutritional security to low food prices. It is necessary to ensure that farmers in developing countries have a sufficient level of income. To that end, it is important to raise production levels and maintain remunerative prices for agricultural products.

In our agenda, we should also underscore the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns. This is an important cross-cutting

issue that we must tackle. The world has been falling short of bringing about changes in the way we consume and produce. Brazil is very pleased to note that the recently-issued report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda adequately acknowledges its importance.

Productivity, especially in smallholder/family farming, should also be fostered, in order to promote sustainable food provision and nutritional security. Investments and actions are needed, in this sense. Brazil has accumulated great advances in this area over the last decades and we are very proud that EMBRAPA, one of our flagship agriculture research institutions, has significantly contributed to improving productivity in many other areas of the globe. We hope that the recent arrangement signed by EMBRAPA and FAO will further enhance agricultural productivity in other developing countries, through South-South co-operation and knowledge sharing initiatives.

The International Year of Family Farming, in 2014, will offer us a great opportunity to focus our attention on small-scale producers, family farmers and cooperatives. They all play essential roles in alleviating poverty and undernourishment, improving livelihoods and promoting sustainable development, particularly in the rural areas of developing countries.

Brazil welcomes the State of Food and Agriculture 2013. SOFA correctly calls attention to the major problem of undernourishment. It also underlines other negative aspects related to malnutrition, such as undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity. Much must be done to improve the quality of nutrition.

Many SOFA recommendations are in line with policies already in place in Brazil to improve healthy diets and provide good nutrition. Examples are many: our public programmes to promote social inclusion of small farmers, by adding value to their produce, as well as by ensuring democratic access to land, also aim at stimulating family farming in producing healthy and natural food. In fact, more than 70 per-cent of the food we consume daily in Brazil come from family-farming. To an important extent, the key to a truly wide choice of healthy food to consumers may well be also in progressively inserting family farming in the food supply chains of production, thus allowing consumer access to an ample choice of healthy and nutritious produce, straight from the farms to the forks.

Brazil also welcomes the FAO Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015, presently being analyzed by Commission II. We think it's important that multilateral Organizations, especially those geared to development promotion and the Programmes they implement, be adequately budgeted, so that they can act as effective multilateral agents. The Programme of Work and Budget is an essential tool for the work of this Organization in the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, as well as in preserving FAO's excellence as a knowledge Organization and its efficiency as a cooperation Agency. We fully support the PWB, as presented by the Director-General. And we invite other Member States to do so.

In concluding, Brazil considers that SOFA is a sound document and we support it.

Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)

Over the last two days many speakers have underscored the need to address food insecurity and malnutrition and the major contribution that FAO can make. The stakes are too high for us not to dedicate ourselves fully to this urgent task. We applaud the progress by many countries in addressing hunger and poverty in line with the Millennium Development Goals. But it should focus all our minds that every minute of every speech or discussion we have here this week will still see more than 5 children die due to hunger-related causes. That means 64,000 children in the course of this 8-day Conference.

The High-Level Panel, co-chaired by Indonesia, Liberia and the UK, which submitted its report to the Secretary-General recently, recognised this challenge. Its focus on goals that move beyond proportions to reach 'Zero' in important areas would mean that no one is left behind as we tackle extreme poverty and hunger around the world. We are confident that FAO, the other Rome agencies and the rest of the UN system will bring their expertise and leadership to this debate and to the critical work afterwards.

For its part, the United Kingdom is significantly strengthening its commitment to tackling hunger and undernutrition. As ADG Sundaram noted, the Governments of the UK and Brazil recently co-hosted in London a high-level event on Nutrition for Growth. This included discussion among government leaders, civil society and private sector representatives of the fact that childhood stunting leads to stunted earnings potential and stunted economies.

The main outcomes of the event included:

- The Global Nutrition for Growth Compact. This was endorsed by 90 governments, companies, civil society organisations and others, to ensure that by 2020 at least 500 million pregnant women and children under two are reached with nutrition interventions; that the number of stunted children reduced by 20 million; and that at least 1.7 million children's lives are saved.

- International financial commitments amounting to an additional USD 4.2 billion to support direct nutrition programmes and nearly USD 20 billion for programmes that can deliver more nutrition results, in agriculture, sanitation and hygiene, and social safety nets.

- On Africa, the event also marked an important step forward for the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition with Benin, Malawi and Nigeria joining the initiative, and a greater focus on responsible investment and promoting women's economic empowerment. In the three new countries, over 70 companies, including 53 African companies, will make new investment commitments worth nearly 6 billion USD. The UK is committed to building on this progress and will continue to support strong African ownership and alignment with CAADP.

The participation of the DG and heads of the other Rome agencies underscored their commitment to tackling what is known as 'hidden hunger'. The DG agreed to share FAO's and his personal expertise by joining a new high-level panel to strengthen approaches to nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

A week after the nutrition event, the UK also hosted one on transparency as part of its G8 priorities. This included a discussion of land transparency where, again, FAO plays an important role. And again FAO underscored its commitment, through the participation of Deputy Director-General Gustafson.

The outcomes of that meeting included 7 African countries launching partnerships to support national implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure – in order to strengthen transparency and capacity in the land sector and promote responsible investment. We are keen to see FAO take on a strategic role as a facilitator in implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines.

Much of this work highlights not just FAO's leadership, but also the important role the Committee on World Food Security can play. Promoting increased investment in agriculture is critical but needs high standards for investors. We are looking forward to the CFS-led negotiation process on Responsible Agricultural Investment emulating the success of the Voluntary Guidelines.

We value FAO's normative work, including that undertaken under the International Plant Protection Convention and by its governing body, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. Plant health is important to food security, protection of biodiversity and rural livelihoods and we welcome continued core funding for the IPPC and the contribution to FAO's results.

FAO is a diverse organisation and addresses many challenges simultaneously. The UK remains committed to supporting the DG's objective to strengthen its focus and performance, improving delivery of results at global, regional and country level. As we review the priorities of our Multilateral Aid Review, we have been impressed by his sharper focus on FAO's objectives, the increase in transparency and accountability, and a growing emphasis on FAO as a results-based organisation. There are still challenges, particularly ensuring that the changes have maximum impact and undertaking detailed workforce planning to ensure that all posts are filled with the right people and that they have the right skills to deliver their best. The UK is confident that FAO will rise to the challenge: we all need this important organisation and together we will ensure that it succeeds.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

I am honoured to speak to you on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany. I am glad to convey my country's best wishes to the 38th FAO Conference.

The Federal Minister for Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, Ms Ilse Aigner, who had planned to come to Rome and attend this important assembly, asked me to convey her best regards. She is convinced that this Conference will take crucial steps towards our common goals.

As current floods in Germany have reached a disastrous dimension and have caused severe problems for agriculture and people in the affected areas, Minister Aigner had to stay in Germany. She regrets this very much.

As Minister in charge of FAO, Ms Aigner is personally strongly committed to agriculture, food security and nutrition. The Federal Minister for Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection hosts the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin every year, where FAO is an important strategic partner. In January 2013 many of you attended the GFFA and elaborated an important document to guide the discussions on Responsible Investments in Agriculture (RAI).

In addition, the Ministry hosted the "Policies against Hunger" conference last week, which discussed issues in the context of implementing the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of*

Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. We very much appreciate FAO's commitment in assisting Member Nations to apply the Voluntary Guidelines.

We fully support FAO's commitment to contribute to the eradication of hunger. As the Director-General highlighted yesterday, feeding the people is not only a question of production but also one of providing access to food. We generally support the Director-General's policy to make available FAO's experience in improving access to food and to cooperate with other UN Agencies in this regard.

The State of Food and Agriculture 2013 reminds us that we have tremendous challenges ahead of us. By 2050, 9.6 billion people need sufficient, nutritious and affordable food. Agriculture is key to tackling these challenges.

Firstly, we have to reverse the declining trend in productivity growth. Investment, research, innovation and training are among the means to increase productivity.

Secondly, natural resources are scarce and in many cases degraded due to climate change and sustainable use of natural resources of utmost importance.

Thirdly, poverty and hunger are widespread among food producers. It is therefore crucial to improve economic viability of farmers and rural areas.

Fourthly, we can no longer afford wastage of food and post-harvest losses. We need to substantially reduce waste and losses to save resources and provide food for the people.

These are areas and topics where FAO has a lot of experience and comparative advantage over other UN Organizations.

FAO enjoys an excellent reputation as the specialized UN Agency for Food and Agriculture based on its core functions. They were confirmed by the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) and they have also been reinforced in the Director-General's Strategic Thinking Process.

We strongly support FAO focusing on its technical expertise and knowledge, and promoting good practices available at country level.

We expect FAO to reaffirm its position as the main global player in the provision of public goods and policy advice in the areas of food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

However, this requires that, during the Decentralization process, FAO maintains sufficient resources and capacities at its Headquarters.

While FAO is clearly one of the important actors in the fight against poverty (new Strategic Objective 3), its own comparative advantage, based on its core functions, lies in:

- its extensive experience in generating evidence-based policy advice;
- promoting research and knowledge sharing;
- cooperating with national authorities to develop capacities.

This also implicates that FAO has to coordinate its activities within the UN System, in particular with the Rome-based Agencies, in order to insure best delivery and most efficient use of resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen, all of us are aware that one of the most important tasks of this Conference is to reach an agreement on the PWB 2014-15, including a budget level acceptable to all of us.

We are confident that the good and trustful work between us will help to find a consensus with mutual respect for the expectations and constraints in our countries.

As stated by the Presidency of the European Union and many other delegations: we have to recall that many states are operating under very constrained fiscal circumstances, requiring the utmost responsibility and efficiency when it comes to public expenditure. Many of our countries are under strict instructions regarding public expenditure, both domestically and internationally.

In order to reach and agreement on an acceptable budget level we need further suggestions from the Management where to make additional savings without jeopardizing FAO's new orientation.

There should be more room for efficiency savings in the implementation of the Programme of Work, as well as in the area of staff-related costs.

To be clear: we are in favour of FAO's new orientation but we see the need for a critical analysis of the Programme of Work as a whole, identifying areas of lesser priority that should be de-emphasized.

Let me finally raise three crucial cross-cutting aspects for FAO's work: the responsible use of natural resources, the principles of gender equality and governance.

We expect that the Management of FAO will give adequate attention to these issues as promised in the deliberations of the past few months. The Members of the Governing Bodies will surely keep an eye on this.

Germany remains a reliable partner and supporter of FAO. We are strongly committed to the Organization's work at technical, scientific, as well as at the political level.

We want to maintain a strong FAO which successfully uses its unique competences in the areas of nutrition, food and agriculture in the fight against hunger.

Mr David J. RITCHIE (Australia)

The FAO is the only global forum on food and agriculture that brings policy and technical responses to bear on the food security challenge.

The work FAO does on setting international standards, sharing technical knowledge and capacity building globally is particularly valuable. This work facilitates trade and builds capacity.

The global spotlight is on FAO – in particular with so much focus on improving food security.

The coming decade presents great opportunities and challenges for the global food system —for growers, food processors, retailers and consumers. As the *State of Food and Agriculture* paper notes, the challenges of undernourishment and a growing global population remain.

Addressing these challenges will require improved agricultural productivity growth and an increase in global food supplies. It will also require the management of scarce natural resources.

Australia is taking a comprehensive approach to addressing these challenges.

We are doing this by:

- providing technical and development assistance,
- increasing investment in rural development and agricultural Research and Development,
- taking part in efforts to reform global trade, and
- helping the most vulnerable to adapt to climate change.

Australia's expertise in agricultural technology, water resource management, and economics allows us to provide technical assistance to those in developing countries.

This includes helping our development partners adopt farming techniques and processes to achieve productivity gains.

Our goal is that by 2025, Australia will have contributed to global food security by helping farmers in developing countries gain access to new agricultural technologies.

Over the coming decades the Australian Government will continue to provide development and technical assistance through collaborative relationships with our development partners.

Australia is committed to playing a role in meeting the significant challenges posed by ongoing food security concerns and the demands of a growing population. Australia is also committed to ensuring that the opportunities these challenges offer can be met.

It is this commitment to act that has led the Australian Government to institute a range of measures addressing not only significant domestic issues, but to enable Australia to play a role in global responses.

These measures include:

- Australia's first National Food Plan, working to position Australia to meet rising demand in Asia;
- reforming Australia's research and development arrangements; and
- taking a leadership role in the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

Australia's first National Food Plan was launched in May 2013. It focuses on Australia's food system from paddock to plate. Its purpose is to foster a sustainable, globally competitive, resilient food supply that supports access to nutritious and affordable food.

Australia wants to be a leading food and fiber supplier to the growing Asian marketplace. The increase in demand among Asia's middle class presents significant opportunities for Australia's agriculture and food sector.

In seeking to take advantage of these opportunities, Australia released the *Australia in the Asian Century* White Paper in 2012. The White Paper is Australia's roadmap for our future engagement with the Asian region, of which agriculture is a key area of focus.

The White Paper envisages Australia's food production systems as globally competitive, with productive and sustainable agriculture and food businesses.

Australia seeks to be an important partner across the region in supporting food security, by positioning our food production systems as productive, innovative and sustainable.

In terms of specifics, the White Paper suggests:

- promoting freer trade in agricultural and food products and to support food security
- increasing two-way investment in food and food processing and in related transport infrastructure
- enhancing private and public engagement in the region: and
- collaborating in science and research

Much of the work has already begun. The National Food Plan will drive changes necessary to support Australia's food value chain domestically, and capitalize on the growing potential for food producers and processors internationally.

Australia considers that open and efficient markets for trade and investment are one of the most effective ways to enhance food security. Responses to issues of price volatility should not have a negative impact on food security through the over-regulation of markets or protectionist trade policies. Engagement here in the FAO is vital to ensure that this is the case.

Transparent and open markets assist in reducing price volatility and Australia is taking a leading role in aiding global market transparency through the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

Australia will work to consolidate the implementation of this important initiative when we assume the chair position on 1 October 2013.

AMIS helps to promote coordinated international policy responses to market conditions. This helps the development of common strategies to deal with market uncertainty and avoid adverse trade responses. The AMIS works to provide stability for the benefit of all.

AMIS promotes transparency and encourages measured policy responses to any changes in market trends, in particular food prices.

This dialogue ensures emergency assistance is provided when needed and avoid the application of trade distorting measures.

While AMIS is a relatively new initiative, it has already strengthened communication channels between its member countries during 2012's wheat and corn price spike.

The *State of Food and Agriculture* paper points to the important role that research and development plays in enhancing the productivity of the agriculture sector. Research and Development underpins future productivity and innovation within agricultural industries.

It is in this light that the Australian Government released the *Rural Research and Development Policy Statement* in 2012, paving the way for the future direction of Australian rural R&D.

It highlights the Australian Government's commitment to rural R&D and includes improvements to rural research, development and extension.

This will see greater collaboration on research and a drive to improve innovation across the sector. In addition to the research and development focus of our domestic efforts, Australia is taking an active role in promoting global productivity growth.

Alongside Brazil and Canada, Australia is piloting the OECD's "framework for analyzing the role of the government in agriculture innovation".

The purpose of the framework is to improve communication between countries. It will help identify information needed for best policy approaches to increasing agricultural productivity growth.

The three pilot country reviews will provide useful information for policy makers to improve policy incentives for the creation and adoption of innovation in the agriculture and agri-food sectors.

Regarding the FAO itself, Australia is committed to supporting the Organization in its reform process. The reform of the FAO is a unique opportunity to help shape its transformation into the future. It provides an opportunity to ensure the Organization can contribute efficiently and effectively to global economic development.

Australia takes an active role in the broader management of the FAO, through its governance committees, in setting its strategic direction and to support its reform efforts.

We welcome the leading role of the Director-General in FAO's strategic reforms. It is undoubtedly a difficult change-management process, in a complex and geographically dispersed Organization. But a worthwhile process nonetheless.

We welcome the Director General's work on a strategic framework for the FAO to focus resources on a smaller number of cross-cutting objectives, leading to a more focused Organization.

It is essential that strategic and prioritizing work continues so that resources stretched over multiple issues and activities can be prioritized and applied strategically.

Steps in the right direction are being taken, and it is early days, but it will be important that changes made are not merely cosmetic.

The reform process must result in long-lasting change that places the organisation in a position to better address the significant challenges that the global food and agriculture sectors will face in the future.

Sr. Miguel RUÍZ-CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO (México)

La celebración de esta Conferencia tiene lugar en un momento propicio, en donde varios órganos de las Naciones Unidas están haciendo esfuerzos para erradicar el hambre. Me refiero no sólo a los trabajos de la FAO sino también a la iniciativa del Secretario General de la ONU con su "Reto del Hambre Cero", así como la discusión para la agenda de desarrollo post 2015. Todos estos esfuerzos nos deben alentar a redoblar nuestro trabajo.

En su disertación, el Premio Nobel de Economía Amartya Sen aseguró que: "los principales factores que explican que siga existiendo hambre en el mundo incluyen la elevada persistencia de la pobreza, a pesar de la creciente prosperidad del mundo moderno en términos de promedios y totales".

"Sin embargo –advirtió Sen-, la pobreza puede verse agravada por los problemas de la producción, debido en parte a una oferta de alimentos que no puede cubrir la demanda, lo que tiende a elevar los precios y puede llevar a muchas familias a una pobreza mucho mayor, teniendo en cuenta sus ingresos".

Explicó además que el hambre y la subnutrición no son uniformes en un país, comunidad, familia o incluso entre individuos de la misma familia. Al analizar las causas del hambre, indicó que los

gobiernos tendrán que tener en cuenta las "normas sociales y convenciones establecidas de compartir", especialmente entre hombres y mujeres, niños y niñas.

En México estamos haciendo nuestra parte. Al igual que muchos países en desarrollo, México enfrenta el reto crucial de erradicar el hambre y la pobreza y alcanzar una sociedad incluyente e igualitaria.

Para lograr este objetivo estratégico, el 21 de enero de 2013 el Presidente Enrique Peña Nieto presentó la "Cruzada Nacional contra el Hambre" que atenderá a 7.4 millones de personas que viven en los 400 municipios rurales y urbanos de más alta marginación.

Esta Cruzada se inspiró en el Programa "Hambre Cero" de la Organización de Naciones Unidas y tiene cinco ejes centrales:

1. Cero Hambre a partir de una alimentación y nutrición adecuada a las personas en situación de pobreza multidimensional extrema y carencia de acceso a la alimentación.

2. Eliminar la desnutrición infantil aguda y mejorar los indicadores de peso y talla de la niñez.

3. Aumentar la producción de alimentos y la producción agraria.

4. Reducir las pérdidas post-cosecha y de alimentos durante su almacenamiento, transporte, distribución y comercialización.

5. Promover la participación comunitaria para la erradicación del hambre.

Con esta cruzada, México reconoce que tiene un enorme reto con 7.4 millones de mexicanos que viven en pobreza extrema y tienen carencia alimentaria, y nos impone un reto moral y de justicia social.

Hemos visto con gran preocupación la tendencia creciente de la malnutrición, junto con un rápido crecimiento en el sobrepeso y obesidad, con las consecuencias en el área de la salud que eso conlleva. Esta es, lamentablemente, una tendencia frecuente en México, así como en otros países de renta media.

Con esta "doble carga", la obesidad va relacionada con la falta de educación sobre la alimentación, es decir, comer alimentos con poco valor nutricional, en particular en los niños, lo que se manifiesta en obesidad y diabetes infantil, con el consiguiente costo en el futuro para el sistema de salud en México.

No basta con hacer esfuerzos para erradicar el hambre en nuestros países, sino también poner a disposición de nuestra población alimentos con los componentes nutritivos adecuados.

Tenemos entonces dos retos: uno: erradicar el hambre a través de programas sociales, y dos: contar, no sólo con acceso a alimentos, sino que sean nutritivos y alentar su uso.

Estas son áreas en donde, en nuestra opinión, la FAO puede apoyar los esfuerzos que hacemos en nuestros países para combatir el hambre y la malnutrición.

M. Vincent MERTENS DE WILMARS (Belgique)

C'est avec plaisir que je prends la parole aujourd'hui à l'occasion de cette 38ème Conférence, qui est une opportunité pour un échange constructif sur les projets et programmes communément mis en œuvre et les grands défis qui nous guident.

Nous vivons dans un monde en crise, je crois que nous sommes nombreux à le souligner. Une crise sans précédent dont les effets se font sentir aux niveaux social, humanitaire, environnemental, économique et financier, mais également au niveau alimentaire. C'est dans ce contexte que notre planète doit se préparer à nourrir neuf milliards d'âmes dans les années à venir.

De par son mandat, la FAO est une des organisations mondiales les mieux placées pour y contribuer et relever ce défi majeur pour le futur.

Suite à l'Évaluation indépendante de 2007, la FAO s'est engagée dans la mise en œuvre d'un ambitieux programme de réformes, entre autres par l'adoption du Plan d'action immédiate (PAI).

Ces réformes se sont traduites par une réorientation des objectifs stratégiques de l'Organisation, plus en phase avec les défis actuels.

Ces réformes se sont également matérialisées par un renforcement de la gouvernance et une attention accrue pour améliorer l'efficacité et l'efficience de son action: les efforts réalisés en matière de ressources humaines - dont la politique doit être basée, avant toute autre considération, sur la transparence, la compétence et le mérite - ou en matière de décentralisation en sont quelques illustrations concrètes. Il est maintenant important de « normaliser » le PAI dans le travail quotidien et je souhaite féliciter le Directeur général, Monsieur Graziano da Silva, pour ses efforts en la matière.

La Belgique souhaite accompagner la FAO dans cette réforme. Comme vous le savez, mon pays est un partenaire actif et de longue date et se réjouit que le montant de ses contributions volontaires fasse d'elle un des partenaires bilatéraux des plus importants.

Comme beaucoup d'autres pays, la Belgique doit faire face aux défis de cette crise financière: les récentes restrictions budgétaires ont eu une incidence sur la portée de notre coopération avec la FAO l'année passée, et en particulier en matière d'aide d'urgence. Ces mesures doivent rester temporaires.

C'est dans ce contexte que mon pays demande à la FAO de tirer le meilleur parti de ses ressources et des moyens à sa disposition - et la position de mon pays à ce niveau est bien connue – elle est faite dans une optique de « value for money », axée sur des résultats et la durabilité.

C'est aussi dans cette perspective que mon pays a choisi d'utiliser des modalités financières plus flexibles, qui doivent permettre à la FAO de travailler de façon plus efficace, à travers un engagement pluriannuel, sous forme de contributions volontaires non affectées et une contribution au SFERA, afin de permettre à la FAO de pouvoir répondre avec souplesse et rapidité aux crises humanitaires.

Ceci dit, mon pays s'attachera à respecter ses engagements internationaux, pris lors de la Conférence de Monterrey, en consacrant, à terme, 0,7 pour cent de son Revenu national brut pour l'aide publique au développement. La Belgique s'est également engagée à porter à 15 pour cent, en 2015, la part de son aide publique au développement consacrée à l'agriculture. La Belgique accorde enfin une importance primordiale à la dimension du genre, qui vise l'« empowerment » des femmes et l'égalité des hommes et des femmes dans la société en général.

Ainsi, les contributions volontaires de mon pays seront globalement maintenues à leur niveau passé pour la période 2013-2015, ceci correspond à un montant de plus de neuf millions d'euros.

Je crois que ceci démontre toute la confiance que mon pays a dans cette Organisation et la volonté d'accompagnement dans le processus de sa transformation.

Mesdames, Messieurs, il y a un an, le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire (CSA) a adopté les Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers. Cette adoption signifia un premier grand succès pour le CSA et constitue une avancée considérable en ce qui concerne la protection des droits relatifs aux régimes fonciers. Aujourd'hui, la Belgique est fière de pouvoir contribuer à leur mise en œuvre.

Pour nourrir neuf milliards d'individus, il sera nécessaire, entre autres, d'investir massivement dans l'agriculture afin d'augmenter la productivité et donner l'accès aux moyens de production et aux marchés aux petits agriculteurs qui sont à la base de la production agricole.

C'est dans ce contexte que l'appui aux organisations paysannes et l'agriculture familiale est importante pour mon pays.

Je soulèverais dans ce même contexte l'importance de la collaboration et le partenariat avec le secteur privé et je tiens à saluer dans ce cadre les nouvelles stratégies de la FAO relatives au partenariat avec le secteur privé et avec le secteur civil.

Enfin, la protection de l'environnement et la lutte contre le changement climatique continuent de recevoir une attention particulière de la part de mes autorités.

En effet, le respect de l'environnement, du climat et des ressources naturelles sont essentiels afin de promouvoir un développement durable.

Aujourd'hui, l'architecture de la coopération est devenue de plus en plus complexe. La multiplicité des initiatives et des partenaires, ainsi que le fait que les pays du Sud soient de plus en plus engagés à s'investir dans leur propre développement, rendent la coordination, la recherche de synergies et de complémentarité entre les divers acteurs indispensable.

Dans ce cadre, je salue les efforts réalisés par les différentes institutions des Nations Unies, en particulier l'initiative « One-UN », sur le terrain et l'intégration des actions onusiennes dans les politiques gouvernementales.

Ici à Rome, je ne peux qu'encourager davantage la coopération entre les institutions des Nations Unies.

De son côté, la coopération belge s'est engagée dans un processus ambitieux de restructuration: une nouvelle Loi a été votée et est dans le processus de mise en oeuvre. C'est important pour la collaboration avec la FAO, un partenaire important pour la mise en œuvre de l'aide humanitaire belge.

Je vais en terminer là, mais voudrais dire quand même que je remercie le Directeur génénal Graziano et toute son équipe, pour leur engagement continu au sein de cette Organisation.

M. Hassan ABOUYOUB (Maroc) (langue original arabe)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de saisir cette opportunité pour vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre brillante élection et vous assurer de notre pleine disponibilité à collaborer avec vous pour faire avancer la cause de la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition.

Je voudrais également, au nom du Royaume du Maroc, souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres qui ont rejoint notre Institution.

Notre 38ème Conférence se tient à un moment éminemment sensible pour traiter une thématique particulièrement pertinente.

Introduite brillamment par le Professeur et Prix Nobel d'économie Amartya Sen, cette thématique replace dans le cadre d'une approche holistique, la problématique de l'accès des populations qui en sont privées, à l'alimentation.

Les orateurs qui m'ont précédé, ont développé et détaillé à l'envi, les symptômes et les causes des fléaux de la faim et de la malnutrition. Je m'abstiendrai donc de toute redondance pour aller à l'essentiel, compte tenu du temps qui nous est imparti.

En effet, le Royaume du Maroc, pleinement conscient des défis de la lutte contre la faim, la malnutrition et la pauvreté, a consacré le droit à une alimentation adéquate comme un droit fondamental qui fait partie du corpus de la nouvelle Constitution adoptée en juillet 2011.

La mise en œuvre de ce principe constitutionnel est conçue dans le cadre d'une gouvernance démocratique garantissant la participation de tous à sa concrétisation. Entre autres mécanismes prévus par cette réforme, figure l'Initiative nationale de développement humain (INDH), qui se veut le cadre privilégié d'un partenariat entre l'État, les collectivités locales et la société civile pour la lutte contre la pauvreté. Le bilan de cette Initiative parle par lui-même: plus de 22,000 projets, 5,200,000 bénéficiaires et plus de 1,6 milliards de dollars mobilisés.

L'impact de cette initiative et des nombreux programmes sociaux mis en œuvre sur les indicateurs sociaux globaux est édifiant. Le taux de pauvreté ne dépasse pas huit pour cent en 2012 et est appelé à baisser davantage pour s'établir à six pour cent environ en 2015.

Les OMD, pour ce qui concerne le Maroc, ont été pleinement réalisés. La seule zone d'ombre demeure le taux de mortalité maternelle, qui fait l'objet de programmes spécifiques de prévention.

La prise en considération du critère de la pauvreté multidimensionnelle montre cependant que dans les zones rurales il reste beaucoup à faire. En effet, le taux de pauvreté demeure élevé aux alentours de 17 pour cent en 2012. Ces populations vulnérables aux chocs climatiques et aux catastrophes naturelles doivent encore être soutenues pour l'amélioration de leur niveau de résilience.

C'est notamment l'un des objectifs nombreux que nous poursuivons à travers la réalisation d'une stratégie audacieuse de développement du secteur agricole, parallèlement à ceux relatifs à une meilleure contribution à la croissance économique, à la sécurité alimentaire et à l'amélioration de la compétitivité globale du secteur.

Le Maroc en entreprenant, depuis l'année 2009, la mise en vigueur du Plan Maroc Vert (PMV), opère un changement stratégique majeur dans la conduite du secteur agricole. Un plan similaire est également déployé dans le secteur des pêches maritimes. Ce faisant, le Maroc tire les enseignements de plus de 50 années d'expérience et élargit le patrimoine de connaissances accumulées depuis lors.

Qu'il me soit permis de saisir cette opportunité pour rendre hommage à cette belle Institution qu'est la FAO, à ses compétences et à son expertise, sans lesquelles notre parcours n'aurait pas pu être ce qu'il est.

C'est convaincu de l'importance de partager ces acquis avec le voisinage, dans le cadre d'une solidarité bien comprise, que le Maroc s'est ouvert sur les pays frères d'Afrique. Des projets de coopération bilatérale et trilatérale ont ainsi été initiés à la satisfaction de tous. La FAO, en nous soutenant dans le projet conclu avec le Niger et le Burkina Faso, illustre l'importance du partenariat Sud-Sud et son impact sur notre responsabilité collective face aux fléaux de la pauvreté. La prochaine réunion de Haut niveau sur les nouvelles approches pour éradiquer la faim en Afrique, qui aura lieu à Addis-Abeba à la fin de ce mois, sera pour nous une nouvelle occasion d'échanges sur cette expérience qui, il faut le rappeler, s'aligne parfaitement sur la nouvelle vision de l'orientation stratégique de l'Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, vous l'aurez constaté, notre démarche stratégique est le reflet fidèle des efforts qui ont été déployés dans le cadre de la réforme de la FAO, en vue d'en faire une Organisation efficace, performante et axée sur les résultats. La réforme engagée par notre Organisation depuis 2009 est incontestablement la bonne marche à suivre, si j'en juge par les résultats obtenus à l'échelon modeste du pays que je représente.

Nous tenons donc à saluer la dynamique que Monsieur le Directeur général a insufflée à ce processus, dans une conjoncture internationale extrêmement difficile.

En effet, cette réforme a été conduite dans le contexte d'une discipline budgétaire de grande rigueur, qui a complètement transformé les équilibres historiques du budget de la FAO. Ceci est particulièrement visible au niveau des ressources allouées au PCT et aux actions de terrain.

La politique de croissance zéro des dépenses du Siège, décidée au milieu des années 90, en totale asymétrie avec le comportement des dépenses allouées au personnel, donne de notre Organisations le visage d'une structure bureaucratique qu'elle ne mérite pas. Avec 75 pour cent de son budget ordinaire, décidés à New York et réservés aux dépenses au titre des ressources humaines, la FAO affronte une contrainte politique que l'on ne peut plus ignorer.

Durant le processus de concrétisation de la réforme et sa mise en œuvre effective, il fallait déjà affronter les effets de la crise bancaire de 2008 qui, rappelons-le, a donné lieu à deux phénomènes qui méritent toute notre attention:

- Des politiques drastiques de restrictions budgétaires qui ont eu, et continuent de le faire, un impact négatif sur les ressources allouées à l'aide publique au développement. Ce phénomène se complique davantage avec la concurrence qui s'observe sur le marché de la dette souveraine.

- Un comportement erratique des prix des denrées alimentaires qui avait aggravé les conditions d'accès des populations vulnérables aux aliments.

Ces facteurs et bien d'autres constituent désormais une incertitude quant aux contributions volontaires et cofinancements mobilisables pour donner toutes ses chances à notre programme d'action.

C'est dans ce contexte que je voudrais saluer la vision prônée par Monsieur le Directeur général et soumise à notre appréciation dans le cadre de la réflexion sur une stratégie révisée de la FAO, que nous avons menée collectivement. Ce défi dépasse, à notre avis, la dimension, somme toute symbolique, du débat en cours sur le budget et le programme d'action 2014-2015. Le large processus

consultatif engagé a permis de mesurer à sa juste valeur, la dimension du défi qu'il nous appartient de relever. Il pose notamment le problème de la conduite et du *monitoring*, au niveau national, des politiques d'alimentation et de nutrition.

Je voudrais soumettre aux États Membres et au Directeur général une réflexion sur un mécanisme de revue et du respect total de la souveraineté des États, ce mécanisme a vocation à améliorer sensiblement notre gouvernance globale de la lutte contre la faim dans le monde.

Nous saisissons donc cette occasion pour exprimer notre soutien au Programme de travail et budget (PTB) proposé par le Directeur général pour l'exercice biennal futur, et estimons qu'il serait important d'allouer les ressources financières conséquentes pour la mise en œuvre de ce Programme.

A cet effet, nous nous réjouissons de voir que ce PTB prévoit, malgré la conjoncture économique difficile, une augmentation des allocations à des domaines que nous considérons prioritaires pour la mission de la FAO, en particulier, le Programme de coopération technique, la réduction de la pauvreté rurale liée à la protection sociale, le renforcement des partenariats et la fonction de renforcement des capacités.

En exprimant ce soutien, nous estimons cependant que la FAO doit accélérer le processus de décentralisation, condition essentielle pour concrétiser et traduire toutes nos priorités concrètement sur le terrain.

De même, nous observerons avec beaucoup d'attention, la manière avec laquelle une synergie harmonieuse sera identifiée pour concilier les priorités de la réforme avec les cinq nouveaux objectifs stratégiques nouvellement conçus. Nous mesurons toute la difficulté d'un exercice qui consiste à conduire une gouvernance novatrice à caractère transversal avec une culture de l'institution qui a toujours fonctionné selon le modèle hiérarchique vertical.

Je conclurai en confirmant, depuis cette tribune, que le Royaume du Maroc sera toujours disponible pour appuyer la Direction générale et le Secrétariat dans cette noble mission qui nous unit.

Mr Abdallah SALEH (Palestine) (Observer) (Original language Arabic)

Please let me first express my thanks and appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva, on the continued support of agriculture and farmers in the State of Palestine, that mitigates the severe circumstances and challenges faced by Palestinian farmers, especially the small ones. I would also like to thank all the friendly countries which have been funding FAO activities and projects in Palestine.

Also, please let me take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to you, and through you to your people and your states, for the support and assistance that you have provided to the Palestinian people by voting for Palestine as an Observer Member in the United Nations, hoping that the countries that did not vote for the Resolution, most of which have good relations with Palestine, will reconsider their position, as this constitutes a direct contribution to the achievement of peace and justice in the region and the world at large.

Ladies and Gentlemen, an estimated 860 million people still suffer from hunger and chronic undernourishment in the world, which calls for achieving sustainable growth of agricultural productivity to help eliminate hunger and ensure a more efficient use of natural resources.

The importance of agriculture as the way to achieve food security continues to increase, especially in light of the global challenges posed by the economic and financial crisis and its negative effects, as well as climate change, drought, global warming, degradation of agricultural land and aquatic systems, weak agricultural productivity, especially grain production, risks of pests and diseases of animal and plant cross-border, inefficiency of risk management with regard to natural disasters, especially drought, as well as weak capacity to reduce food losses and waste.

In addition to the global challenges that overshadow the Palestinian agriculture, the Israeli occupation with its settlement activity and arbitrary measures are considered the most important challenge and obstacle facing agriculture and food security in Palestine.

For example, the ongoing siege of the Gaza Strip isolates more than 15 percent of the agricultural lands under security pretexts. In addition, more than 60 percent of the West Bank territory (Area C) is still under the full control of the Israeli occupation, which prevents the exploitation of these lands.

Moreover, the establishment of the apartheid wall has destroyed 75 000 dunams of agricultural land and isolated more than 700 000 dunams, of which 150 000 are agricultural fertile lands, not to mention the occupation's control of more than 82 percent of the Palestinian water resources and 85 percent of the natural rangelands territory.

All this causes a significant increase in the rates of unemployment and poverty, forcing 72 percent of the Palestinians to become food insecure.

We have reviewed with great interest FAO's Strategic Framework 2010-2019 and its five Strategic Objectives, especially the fifth one which has to do with increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises. In this context, we would like to appeal to you from this international rostrum, to give special attention to the countries that suffer from chronic threats, especially our State of Palestine whose people have been under occupation for more than 50 years.

Despite the huge distortions and obstacles that we suffer from as a result of the Israeli occupation and its negative effects on Palestinian agriculture and farmers, we have succeeded over the previous years to provide the foundations and fundamentals for modern agriculture, taking into account that the farmer is the means and the target for agricultural development, while the role of the state is concentrated on providing the appropriate environment to bring about growth and attract investment. Here, we one again would like to espress our appreciation and gratitude for the brotherly and friendly countries that funded and supported agricultural projects in Palestine, in addition to the great attention of the Palestinian government, which has allocated 7 percent of its development budget for agriculture over the years 2011-2013.

The Palestinian agricultural sector has witnessed remarkable growth over the past few years, particularly in the following areas:

1. Production of high quality and value export goods that are highly competitive in domestic and overseas markets. This maximizes the return on the scarce water used.

2. Improving the management of agricultural natural resources, especially land and water.

3. Continuing to implement the National Greening Programme of Palestine, the cultivation of fruit, forests and pastoral seedlings.

4. Providing a legal environment to promote and encourage investment in agriculture, through the preparation and updating of agricultural laws and regulations, especially with regard to the quality and safety of food.

5. Strengthening the institutional capacities in order to improve the level of agricultural research, extension and sanitary and phytosanitary services.

6. Strengthening cooperation and partnership with NGOs and the private sector, and distributing the roles within a clear framework of partnership, transparency and distribution of tasks.

The attraction of more local and foreign investment to the agricultural sector in Palestine necessarily requires the removal of all obstacles and distortions related to occupation, through the Israeli withdrawal from all the 1967 occupied territories, in addition to providing the necessary infrastructure, particularly for marketing, export, supporting farmers' associations, especially small-scale farmers, and providing systems for financing, insurance and tackling disasters.

At the end, I hope that the Palestinian Minister for Agriculture will attend the next FAO Conference with the State of Palestine has already become a full Member and an active contributor to achieving the goals of your esteemed Organization.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Ladies and Gentlemen. This brings us to the end of our meeting for today. We will continue interventions on Item 9 tomorrow morning when we reconvene at 09:30 sharp. I wish you all a good evening.

The meeting rose at 17.14 hours
La séance est levée à 17 h 14
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.14 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session
Trente-huitième session
38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA

19 June 2013

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.58 hours
Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 58
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la septima sesión plenaria a las 9.58
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Presidente de la Conferencia

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)
(C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1)

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)

Niger, Austria, Kenya, Lithuania, Swaziland, Vanuatu, Chad, Tokelau (Associate Member), Central African Republic.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, I call the Seventh Plenary Meeting to order. We will now continue with Item 9, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. I give the floor to Niger.

M. Saidou OUA (Niger)

Je joins ma voix à celles des éminents orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour adresser au Président de la Conférence, mes vives félicitations pour la confiance placée en lui pour diriger cette 38ème session de la Conférence de notre Organisation commune. Ces félicitations s'adressent également aux autres membres du Bureau qui ont la responsabilité de l'assister tout au long de nos travaux.

Monsieur le Président, l'essentiel de mon intervention porte sur le volet « Sécurité alimentaire et nutrition » du Programme pour la renaissance du Niger de son Excellence Monsieur Issoufou Mahamadou, Président de la République du Niger, et plus précisément de l'Initiative 3N «Les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens», la politique agricole actuellement en cours de mise en œuvre dans notre pays.

Rappelons que le Niger qui était autosuffisant en denrées alimentaires et même exportateur de céréales jusqu'à la fin des années soixante, a connu des déficits fréquents au cours des trois dernières décennies.

En effet, les statistiques agricoles font ressortir un déficit céréalier assez significatif, une année sur trois. Les besoins céréaliers nationaux sont de l'ordre de 3.800.000 tonnes pour une production céréalière moyenne disponible de l'ordre de 3.000.000 tonnes. Le fort taux de croissance annuelle de la population (3,3 pour cent) réduit les taux de couverture alimentaire.

Le régime alimentaire des nigériens se caractérise toujours par une forte consommation de céréales pour 70 pour cent, de tubercules pour 6 pour cent et des légumes et légumineuses pour 10 pour cent. Toutefois, avec les fréquents déficits céréaliers, les racines, les tubercules et les légumes sont de plus en plus produits et consommés comme repas principal.

La malnutrition est endémique, notamment chez les enfants de moins de 5 ans. Environ 4 enfants sur 10 sont dans une situation de sous-nutrition chronique et 1 sur 10, vit une sous-nutrition aiguë.

Monsieur le Président, pour remédier aux problèmes ci-dessus évoqués, Son Excellence Monsieur Issoufou Mahamadou, à l'époque candidat à la Présidence de la République, a proposé son projet de société à la sanction du peuple nigérien, qui l'a adopté dans son écrasante majorité.

La composante phare du Programme de la renaissance, appelée « Initiative 3 N pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et le développement agricole durable: les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens », est une révolution verte à la nigérienne dont le but est de sortir définitivement notre pays des conséquences désastreuses des aléas climatiques et du cycle infernal des famines en s'attaquant vigoureusement aux contraintes du secteur agricole. L'Initiative 3N s'inspire des leçons tirées de la mise en œuvre des politiques agricoles successives, des expériences réussies de certains pays aux conditions agro-écologiques similaires à celles du Niger et des bonnes pratiques agricoles nationales, régionales et internationales. Son objectif global est de mettre les populations nigériennes à l'abri de la famine et de leur garantir les conditions d'une pleine participation à la production nationale et à l'amélioration de leurs revenus. De manière spécifique, il s'agit de:

- Résorber le déficit alimentaire national et améliorer la qualité de l'alimentation par l'augmentation de la productivité et la diversification des cultures;
- Augmenter la capacité de résilience des ménages pauvres par l'augmentation de leurs revenus;
- Accroître les capacités nationales et locales d'anticipation, de prévention et de gestion des crises alimentaires;
- Réduire la malnutrition des groupes les plus vulnérables (enfants de moins de cinq ans et femmes enceintes ou allaitantes) par la diversification des productions et l'éducation nutritionnelle.

Concernant ce dernier point, l'Initiative s'est fixé comme objectif à terme de réduire la prévalence de la malnutrition aiguë globale de 15 pour cent à moins de 10 pour cent chez les enfants de 6 mois à 5 ans. A cet effet, les actions développées sont les suivantes:

- La promotion des cultures à haute valeur nutritive et/ou médicinale;
- Le développement de l'élevage et de l'aquaculture;
- Le renforcement des capacités nationales pour la prise en charge et la prévention de la malnutrition;
- Le renforcement de la surveillance nutritionnelle;
- L'amélioration de l'accès à la prise en charge diététique et médicale.

Monsieur le Président, la diversification des cultures constitue un choix stratégique de notre Gouvernement dans l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et de l'état nutritionnel des populations. Notre ambition est de créer les conditions pour produire plus et satisfaire les besoins alimentaires et nutritionnels, et procurer des revenus substantiels aux populations. Les choix portent sur la promotion des cultures à haute valeur marchande, secteur où le Niger présente des avantages comparatifs certains, l'amélioration des filières bétail/viande, le développement des chaînes de valeur et du partenariat public/privé pour susciter l'installation de gros investisseurs dans le domaine de l'agriculture de notre pays.

De même, la maîtrise de l'eau, la recherche agricole, le transfert des technologies éprouvées, la mécanisation, la conservation et la transformation des produits, ainsi que le désenclavement des zones de grande production constituent d'autres défis prioritaires à relever.

Après deux années de mise en œuvre de cette Initiative, il apparaît clairement que la voie est tracée pour que les « Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens » comme en témoigne le prix décerné à notre pays, dimanche dernier au cours de la session spéciale. En effet, l'accès facilité aux moyens de production comme la terre, les équipements et intrants agricoles a permis une participation remarquable des femmes et des jeunes dans les activités de cultures irriguées avec des sites spécifiques. D'importantes productions maraîchères, céréalières et de légumineuses ont ainsi été obtenues et les jeunes ruraux sont restés vivre pour mieux vivre dans leur terroir, réduisant fortement le départ en exode des bras valides.

De même, la mise à en œuvre des dispositions de l'Initiative 3N au cours de la campagne agricole d'hivernage 2012 a permis d'obtenir une production céréalière de 5000 tonnes, traduisant une augmentation de 48 pour cent par rapport à la campagne précédente et de 27 pour cent par rapport à la moyenne de ces cinq dernières années. Aussi, le taux de croissance économique de notre pays s'est-il accru, passant de 7 pour cent à 11 pour cent.

Monsieur le Président, pour consolider les acquis et assurer la durabilité et l'efficacité de toutes ces actions, nous avons besoin d'accroître progressivement et de sécuriser de manière pérenne les investissements dans l'agriculture. Des initiatives sont actuellement en cours pour élaborer et mettre en œuvre des projets devant permettre d'absorber les importants financements annoncés par nos partenaires au cours de la table ronde de Paris sur le financement de notre Plan de développement économique et social et de l'Initiative 3 N.

Par ailleurs, nous nous acheminons vers l'élaboration, l'adoption et la mise en œuvre d'une loi d'orientation et de programmation agricole recommandée par la Constitution que le peuple nigérien s'est librement donnée. Nous invitons donc les partenaires du Niger, dont la FAO, à nous accompagner dans cet exaltant processus. Il me plaît de souligner que le Niger soutient le Plan à

moyen terme 2014-2017 et le Programme de travail et budget 2014-2015 présentés par le Directeur général de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais exprimer au nom du Gouvernement, toute notre gratitude aux partenaires extérieurs pour leur assistance, combien précieuse, dans la recherche de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle à laquelle aspirent nos vaillantes populations. J'adresse enfin mes vifs remerciements aux autorités italiennes et au Directeur général de la FAO pour la qualité de l'accueil et de l'organisation de la présente Conférence. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

Ms Hedwig WOGERBAUER (Austria)

First of all I would like to convey the sincere wishes of Minister Berlakovich, the Austrian Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management for the success of the 38th Session of the Conference. Due to unforseen reasons, he is unfortunately not able to attend today.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General and the FAO for presenting the State of Food and Agriculture Report (SOFA 2013), showing the current level of undernourishment, recall the persistence of prive volatility and putting the emphasis on small farmers to increase sustainable agricultural productivity.

Food Security is getting an additional facet: not only hunger and malnutrition, but also obesity. We, therefore, are looking forward to the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition of FAO and WHO in 2014, which should strive for concrete results and guidance.

I am strongly convinced that sustainable agriculture policies have to become increasingly nutrition sensitive. Sustainable policies may not only be geared towards productivity alone but must be accompanied by crop diversification strategies, education and behavioural change campaigns, and post-harvest storage improvements.

I have launched the campaign "food is precious", an Austrian initiative which has been a great success at the national level.

The Austrian campaign helps to prevent food waste at any stage: puschase, storage and consumption – and will be one contribution to the joint FAO/UNEP campaign "Think.Eat.Save".

Time has come to find a common approach to tackle this. Austria therefore repeatedly called for *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Waste and Food Losses* in various bodies and Committees of FAO, OECD and the EU, and seeks your support.

I am grateful to FAO and to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) having classified this topic as priority and included the food losses and waste into FAO's Strategic Objectives.

I do appreciate all UN Agencies working strongly together, the call for International Years may be a suitable instrument. This will be the case for the next year's International Year of Family Farming.

There is an undeniable need to put small-holder agriculture at centre of action. Small-holder agriculture is mainly driven by families which are the social unit of production and consumption, as well as the source of labour force in agriculture and therefore require adequate policies to sustain their livelihoods.

Focused investment in small-holder agriculture for food security and nutrition is key to increase sustainable agricultural productivity. But this cannot be done in isolation. Given the growing demand for food, feed, fibre and fuel, increased production must be achieved in a sustainable and resource-efficient manner.

There are many forms of small-holder agriculture at regional, national and local levels; there is no one-size-fits-all. Nevertheless, family labour plays an important role. Most of the Austrian farms are run by family farm units.

To conclude, I do strongly support all efforts to put investment in small-holder agriculture on the Post-2015 Agenda and Rank it high priority on the revision of the Millennium Development Goals or in the Rio+20 process.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your attention and state that Austria aligns itself with the statement presented by the European Union.

Mr Felix Kiptarus KOSKEI (Kenya)

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kenya, allow me to express my gratitude and that of my Delegation for the invitation to participate in this Conference.

Despite the progress made at the global level in addressing food security and poverty reduction, Sub-Saharan Africa remains the only region in the world where per capita food production has not increased significantly and poverty remains high. Africa's population is projected to increase to about 1.8 billion by 2050 and this makes the fight against poverty and hunger more challenging.

In addition, the number of chronically undernourished people in the world has declined in the last five years but in Sub-Saharian Africa the number has continued to increase and now stands at 227 million constituting more than 30 percent of the population.

This is not acceptable and African leaders must give priority to agriculture in their development agenda, as it is the key driver for economic development.

The Kenya Government agricultural policy is guided by the national blueprint "Vision 2030" and the Agriculture Sector Development Strategy (2009-2018). These policy documents clearly identify agriculture as a key sector for economic development for our country. Our focus is to transform agriculture from subsistence to viable business ventures that will enhance farm profitability and competitiveness. This, therefore, calls for more investment along the value chain of various agricultural products through public private partnerships.

Our constitution identifies food security and nutrition as a human right and in the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy of 2011, it is a requirement that food manufacturers fortify and enrich basic foods with vital vitamins and nutrients. To address access to food, the Government will facilitate infrastructure development to effectively distribute food from areas of high production to areas of low production.

The school feeding programme supported by the Government and World Food Programme will also be enhanced especially in pastoral areas where malnutrition is prevalent and school enrolment is directly related to the feeding programme.

Kenya has also just gone through very successful elections in March 2013, which have culminated in a devolved government. This system of government is aimed at getting service delivery closer to the people and involving them in decision making.

The new government is committed and has clearly spelt out the pivotal role that agriculture will play in the economic development of our nation. Among the key areas that the government will focus on include:

1. Improving efficiency in agricultural production through mechanization, employment of modern technology and enhanced crops and pasture seed and fertilizer subsidy programmes.

2. Expanding area under irrigation by 1 million acres in the next five years for crops, livestock and fisheries production.

3. Providing necessary infrastructure to support commercial agriculture, fisheries and livestock production. With regard to livestock, the government will develop slaughter houses in arid and semi-arid lands for pastoral farmers and establish livestock disease-free zones in order to attract regional and international trade for livestock and livestock products.

4. Initiate and support a country framework for value addition especially through public private partnerships.

5. Ensure food security in times of calamities by doubling and diversifying the strategic food reserves from the current 22 percent to 40 percent of annual consumption.

6. Reduce cost of agricultural credit to at least 50 percent of the commercial rate to crops, fisheries and livestock farmers.

7. Provide necessary infrastructure to support commercial agricultural production including greenhouses, dams and storage facilities.

8. Within the next two years, initiate and implement a public private partnership insurance scheme to cushion farmers from production risks.

9. Offer minimum guarantee to farmers in terms of producer prices at the beginning of the crop season.

10. Enhance exploitation of our inland and ocean waters for fishing, expand aquaculture and improve the quality and standards of our fish to attract external markets.

These actions among others will enhance productivity, employment, income generation and food security.

Kenya appreciates the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 as proposed by the Director-General. We strongly recommend that the technical assistance that FAO provides to developing countries, particularly in Africa, should now focus on value addition, promotion of agricultural mechanization and irrigation programmes.

Kenya is grateful to FAO for their support to agriculture and urges that support be enhanced to effectively address the threats of food insecurity, proce volatility, climate change and extreme natural disasters and at the same time manage our natural resources for sustainable production.

Mr Vigilijus JUKNA (Lithuania)

It is my honour to deliver the following statement on behalf of the three Baltic countries: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. However, we fully support the statement delivered on behalf of EU Member States.

The topical discussion of the current FAO Conference, that of the sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition is important and timely as it reflects the shift of the paradigm from only feeding the World to feeding the World in a safe and healthy way. Furthermore, those different actors whose activities can determine the outcome need to be defined. As can be seen from the useful background document, this topic is common for all countries, as everyone is lacking in one or another aspect of nutrition, be it micronutrient deficiency or weight related issues.

We all need to share responsibility to deal with the challenges, but we need to keep in mind that most of the solutions are local. Let us remind that the volume of trade of the agricultural products, although it has increased significantly, in a whole food chain still comprises only a small part of the total food consumed.

In the case of our region, quick widening of food choices during the past 20 years have amongst the positives also brought about issues of overweight, obesity and growing food allergies, where especially population groups with less income and education are those that are more vulnerable to the danger of heavily processed calorie-rich food, often containing trans fats or unhealthy ingredients. Therefore, diversification of diets should be efficiently politically prioritized. In the free market this cannot be achieved unless consumers are educated, can read the food labels and know what is good for their health. Hence, it is vital to turn our efforts especially to children, pregnant and nourishing mothers in educating them towards healthy nutrition.

Furthermore, from sustainability and efficiency point of view, we cannot underestimate the burden of increasing food waste. Such high quantities of food, particularly losses of unconsumed food are unforgivable and immoral.

Finally, we have to ask ourselves, what should be the role for the FAO in this context? We know that one of the biggest assets and additional value of FAO is its data collection capacity and as significant knowledge caps exist in monitoring and evaluating, how policies can affect healthier diets, this could be one of the key fields of activity for the future.

I wish us all a successful conference and strength in fight against the global problems we address here.

Mr Clement M. DLAMINI (Swaziland)

It gives me great pleasure to participate in this very important historic session of the FAO Conference. This is the first Conference under the new Director-General and I believe it will give us a glimpse of what he intends to give to the Organization during his term of office. I would like to take this opportunity to wish him all the success in his new assignment. I know it will not be easy but with adequate support from all stakeholders, especially Member Nations of the Organization, success will surely come.

I bring you the greetings from Their Majesties and the people of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The challenges of hunger and poverty are still a major concern to most of the developing world and this is equally so for the Kingdom of Swaziland. Our efforts should be in addressing these human sufferings in a more sustainable way and should be key in our agenda as I have noticed the emphasis of the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15.

The prioritization of programme areas for emphasis by the Organization is recommendable. I have taken personal note of the increased budget for Technical Cooperation Projects (TCP) with a bias towards emergency projects.

The state of food and the challenges of climate change that are manifesting themselves in increased crop failure in the African continent are a concern and one hopes that the meeting organized by the African Union and the FAO in collaboration with the Lula Institute will give the necessary impetus for addressing these.

The Kingdom of Swaziland is grateful for the support provided through FAO but I would like to plead with the office of the Director-General to ensure that Sub-regional Offices of the Organization are technically capacited to ensure their increased support to National Offices in Member Nations because there are areas of concern with regard to the delivery of essential services.

The involvement of the youth in agriculture is long overdue. The failure of sustainable agriculture development is better placed in their participation now. Gender mainstreaming and the youth is key to the improved implementation of programmes of the Organization and national governments.

If we desire to realice sustainable agricultural development, it is important that the role of women and youth is addressed. I further note with great concern that the nutritionous status of our citizens would not be realized if women and youth are excluded or marginalized.

Women do not only produce the food that we eat but they also prepare it. Men should understand and appreciate what food types should be used in a diet. This goes for food safety as well, which is so vital in food security. There is no food security without food safety and nutrition.

Food is not a luxury but a basic requirement which should be consumed in the right quantities and correct intervals. This is important for children, the elderly and the sick. No medication will work on a hungry stomach.

Farm families should be given the correct expertise to grow food crops and to keep livestock in the most sustainable manner. This should ensure the protection of the environment, adequate soil fertility to sustain crop growth and good soil moisture retention practices, such as conservation agriculture.

Where irrigation is practiced, it should optimize the available water resource. I condemn the practices that give rise to soil erosion, uncontrolled fires and the destruction of forests. Production should be linked with adequate storage, markets and processing.

May I also mention that the Kingdom of Swaziland is very committed to the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). We strongly encourage FAO to continue playing its role in ensuring the successful implementation of the programme. The implementation of the programme by most Member Nations will demonstrate the common purpose of increasing the contribution of agriculture to the national gross domestic product of each Member

Narion and in the drive to create more jobs through the sector. It will also increase trade between Member States of the African Union, which is currently lower than is observed in other continents.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to FAO to play a major role in the mobilization of thechnical and financial resources to implement CAADP. Centres of excellence and other relevant institutions should avail themselves to assist the Organization in providing the needed support to Member Nations.

Mr David TOSUL (Vanuatu)

Vanuatu profoundly thanks the FAO and all the Member Nations for the initiative, extremely hard work and positive action in developing and actioning the "Zero Hunger" initiative.

Our island nation, whilst many thousand miles from here, wholeheartedly agrees with the initiative and direction taken by the Director-General of FAO. While we may not have the capacity to contribute globally, we can, in our way, show that it is really possible.

With a population of 260,000 people, Vanuatu is experiencing many different problems today. We have indeed good resources in our oceans and a wonderful unsoiuled environment. However, we are charting new and unknown territories as we experience the onslaught of climate change.

While we believe we have dynamic solutions, we can be no further from the truth. Our traditional farming systems have come under attack from the ravages of climate change and now seem to be weakening at the seams. Its path is relentless. Temperature changes have destroyed whole eco-systems in our oceans and destroyed kilometres of coastlines.

Our people have no knowledge of this kind of invasion into their daily lives and have nowhere to turn. Our systems to educate and assist the people of Vanuatu to adapt are poor and inferior to say the least.

Vanuatu is trying to adapt, and adapt quickly. We have limited time in which to educate and steer our population in a direction that will ultimately pave a way for a better and more sustainable future.

In our efforts, we have identified a vision which will ultimately see a new and improved Agricultural Extension Service which experienced its demise in the late 1980s due to efforts associated with reform. A new cooperative association structure is now being put before the Government for endorsement, and this will quickly and efficiently dovetail with the extension service to provide the education, direction and support needed at the rural level.

Sustainability within the five different subsectors of my Ministry is paramount, and to tackle this we are working seriously to develop our aquaculture and agro-forestry industries.

The Southwestern Pacific fisheries, while still retaining good levels of resources is under a major threat of over-fishing and indeed illegal and unregulated fishing. Vanuatu too has its own problems, and these have been addressed by the European Union. I am happy to say that we have spent a great deal of time and effort trying to meet the requirements of the EU.

Vanuatu maybe feels the pressure that this meeting is addressing more than most. Being surrounded by vast oceans of water and having most of our islands towering from the ocean floor, leaves very little room on land for development.

Our trade with other nations is small in comparison, but our efforts match most.

We put our nationals first and foremost, and with a still strong culture and associated custom base, we have a chance of surviving into the next millennium.

Resilience has been touted as the key to dealing with the onslaught of climate change. We have a number of assistance packages on the table, but at the end of the day we are a small "LDC", Least Developed Country, with a small voice.

We agree and support all Members of FAO that poverty, hunger and malnutrition have begun to eat into the very fabric of society, and we believe that the efforts of this institution under the leadership of Mr José Graziano da Silva will achieve its ultimate goal.

There is no real quantitative way of foretelling the future, but I believe the efforts of FAO might be a start.

M. Dangde Laoubele DAMAYE (Tchad)

Nous avons l'honneur de prendre la parole à cette 38ème session de la Conférence de la FAO pour, avant tout, adresser nos compliments à la FAO ainsi qu'à son Directeur général pour le soutien au Tchad dans la planification des investissements agricoles et le financement des actions pour la sécurité alimentaire.

Le Tchad, pays enclavé de l'Afrique centrale, est caractérisé par des conditions agro-climatiques aléatoires, accentuées par le changement climatique, avec des accès de sécheresse et d'inondations qui entraînent des crises alimentaires dues aux déficits récurrents de production agricole.

Pourtant, le Tchad dispose d'un potentiel de 39 millions d'hectares de terres cultivables, dont seulement 7,7 pour cent sont exploitées.

La situation alimentaire au Tchad est l'un des défis majeurs auxquels le pays est confronté. En effet, malgré les multiples interventions de l'État avec des partenaires techniques et financiers pour améliorer la situation, l'insécurité alimentaire demeure récurrente. L'analyse de la situation, sur la base des normes de la FAO, révèle que les besoins de consommation en céréales, base de l'alimentation, ne sont pas régulièrement couverts.

Face à cette situation, l'État tchadien poursuit ses efforts, alliant des actions d'investissement productif aux mesures de prévention et de gestion des crises, suivant l'engagement du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996 et celui des Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement africains à Maputo en 2003.

Je puis affirmer avec satisfaction que dans les pays du Sahel en général et au Tchad en particulier, la FAO mène des actions participatives de lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire, avec des impacts très positifs.

Ainsi au Tchad, à la suite du Forum national sur le développement rural tenu en janvier 2012, auquel la FAO a participé et sous impulsion de notre Président de la République, un Plan quinquennal de développement de l'agriculture est laboré en cohérence avec le Plan national de développement, avec l'appui de la FAO.

La volonté politique et l'engagement personnel du Président de la République et de son Gouvernement en faveur de l'agriculture visent notamment, la modernisation de l'agriculture et de l'élevage pour un développement durable, la création d'emplois pour les jeunes et les femmes, et la valorisation des produits agricoles.

La décision de notre Président de la République s'est traduite par une augmentation subsantielle et progressive des investissements consacrés au secteur rural, conformément aux engagements des Chefs d'État africains pris à Maputo en 2003 dans le cadre du NEPAD.

Ainsi, des actions concrètes de grande envergure en faveur de l'agriculture, initiées par les plus hautes autorités de l'État, sont enclenchées depuis trois ans dans notre pays, notamment la mécanisation de l'agriculture et les aménagements hydro-agricoles.

Monsieur le Président, nous ne saurions terminer nos propos sans vous féliciter pour votre position de Président de la 38ème session de la Conférence de la FAO et vous encourageons dans la conduite des travaux, tel que vous le faites maintenant avec une grande dextérité, avec Monsieur le Directeur général à vos côtés.

En vue de permettre à la communauté internationale de continuer à soutenir les pays les moins avancés, notamment ceux du Sahel africain, à travers la FAO, nous soutenons le Plan à moyen terme de la FAO ainsi que le budget additionnel y afférent, afin que la lutte contre la faim engagée communément soit décisive.

Vive la coopération internationale.

Mr Kelihiano KALOLO (Tokelau, Associate Member)

I bring to you all greetings from Tokelau. I am indeed very privileged to be here today addressing the 38th Session of FAO in which, collectively we come to share our experiences, learn from our mistakes, and at the same time find solutions to the challenges posed by the theme of "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition". I would take this opportunity also to convey our greatest gratitude to the FAO establishment and the Government of Italy for facilitating the participation of my delegation at this 38th FAO Ministerial Conference.

It has taken me and my delegation just over five days to get to this conference from Tokelau. Having travelled the vast Pacific oceans first by sea and then taking to the skies around the globe in order to get here is rather a big testimony to how serious Tokelau is committed to seek better outcomes for sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition hence to achieve the 38th FAO conference objectives.

Geographically Tokelau is only a dot floating in middle of the Pacific Ocean. With a population of just over 1400, it has three low lying atolls with its highest point barely 8 meters above sea level and with a total land area of 12 square km. Tokelau is considered very remote and very far from its neighbouring countries and import markets. As an Associate Member of FAO since 2011, Tokelau is a self-governing territory administered by New Zealand under the supervision of the United Nations Decolonization Committee. Over the past decade Tokelau has been steadily working towards a greater level of self-determination and full self-reliance.

As an atoll, and with very little opportunities in agriculture, Tokelau is overwhelmingly dependent on fisheries with over 98 percent of earned revenue coming from the sale of fisheries access right to the Tokelau Exclusive Economic Zone. In mid-2010 Tokelau has, in collaboration with our constitutional partner New Zealand, developed a Fisheries Policy and an associated Offshore Fisheries Plan to not only ensure food security for our people but also to maximize revenue.

In two parts the Tokelau's fisheries policy first ensures food security in the Inshore Fisheries while the Offshore Fisheries maximizes revenue that goes into the Tokelau International Trust Fund for our future generations. Need I therefore acknowledge both the governments of New Zealand and Australia as the major donors into the Tokelau International Trust Fund. Furthermore, may I emphasize that the fisheries particularly the inshore fisheries has provided for Tokelau's sustainable food systems and nutrition for centuries and over that period our people has become resilient to the sometimes harsh environment of low lying atolls.

Need I therefore also mention that our long time sustainable food systems and nutrition are not immune to the challenges we face today particularly coming by way of climate change as we are experiencing globally.

To save ourselves, as a people and as a country, Tokelau in working collaboratively with our constitutional partner New Zealand has responded to climate change by becoming the first nation in the world to become 90 percent renewable energy dependent.

Last but not least, may I again acknowledge the Government of New Zealand for its continuous partnership support to Tokelau. The government of Australia our major donor for Tokelau's mitigation programmes for climate change and FAO for the kind assistance it has provided through the TCP partnership framework. It is hoped that FAO and Tokelau will work together towards full membership for Tokelau full in the near future.

Mme Marie Noëlle KOYARA (République centrafricaine)

Ma délégation remercie le Directeur général, Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, pour l'invitation adressée à mon pays à prendre part à cette 38ème session de la Conférence de la FAO à Rome. Nous présentons nos félicitations au Directeur général et à toute son équipe pour les efforts fournis afin de finaliser le Programme de travail et budget soumis à notre appréciation , et que nous soutenons pleinement.

La République centrafricaine (RCA), ce pays situé au centre de l'Afrique et du monde, devrait bénéficier pleinement de cette position qui lui offre d'énormes potentialités pour le développement de son agriculture. Ce pays, qui s'étend sur 628 000 kilomètres carrés et peuplé d'environs 5 millions d'habitants, s'est engagé à réduire de moitié d'ici 2015 l'extrême pauvreté et la faim avec l'appui de la communauté internationale. C'est dans ce cadre que son programme-pays 2012-2016 a été élaboré et finalisé dans un processus participatif.

Malheureusement, depuis quelques mois, suite à un changement politique, la RCA connaît une crise politico-militaire multidimensionnelle et probablement la plus grave de son histoire. La RCA, qui dans les années 1970 avait le plus grand centre de recherche agricole en Afrique subsaharienne et qui avait axé son développement sur l'agriculture est totalement réduite à l'aide alimentaire.

Au moment où j'interviens devant vous, la population rurale vit dans une instabilité totale. Bon nombre de paysans sont refugiés, soit dans la brousse, soit dans la forêt ou dans les pays voisins. Vous comprenez que face à cette situation, le pays fait face à l'imminence d'une grave crise alimentaire, avec toutes les conséquences possibles, et ce d'autant plus que, dans certaines circonstances, l'arme alimentaire peut être plus redoutable que l'arme atomique.

Je profite de cette tribune pour remercier les pays de la sous-région, notamment le Gabon, le Congo, le Tchad, la Guinée équatoriale, le Cameroun et le Soudan qui se sont mobilisés pour venir en aide à leur pays frère.

Toutefois, nous nous interrogeons sur le silence total de la communauté internationale face à cette crise où 5 millions de personnes sont exposées à une situation désastreuse sans le minimum pour leur survie. Qu'en est-il donc de la solidarité internationale?

Nous remercions vivement la FAO et les autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, ainsi que l'Union européenne et la Belgique pour l'assistence d'urgence en cours. C'est aussi dans ce sens que nous encourageons une forte mobilisation et un soutien marqué à notre Organisation commune qu'est la FAO, pour son investissement au quotidien, pour que la faim ne soit plus qu'un souvenir.

Dans sa déclaration, le Directeur général a souhaité que le mot «réduction de la faim» soit remplacé par le terme «élimination de la faim». Oui, il a raison, et nous pouvons y parvenir, car les ressources existent à travers le monde et demandent seulement une meilleure répartition.

Si nous nous donnons la main autour de la FAO pour soutenir le développement de l'agriculture, ainsi que sa chaîne de valeurs, nous allons créer les conditions pour une sécurité alimentaire et pour la paix. Nous allons créer des emplois, assurer une nutrition adéquate de nos populations, et par conséquent, créer l'équilibre nécessaire pour un monde meilleur.

Second Report of the General Committee
Deuxième rapport du Bureau de la Conférence
Segundo informe del Comité General
(C 2013/LIM/13 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to request all the distinguished delegates to ensure they have the Report of the Second Meeting of the General Committee before them. The Report is set out in document C 2013/LIM/13.

I will now proceed to read the title of each section.

A. Election of Council Members. Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section adopted.

We move on to the next and last section:

B. Resolution on Awards. Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section, including the Resolution, adopted. Thank you.

With this I take it that Conference endorses the Second Report of the General Committee in its entirety.

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)
(C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1)

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Nepal, Singapore, Namibia, Guatemala, Cuba, Egypt, Greece, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Dominican Republic, Holy See, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, International Atomic Energy Agency

Sr. Victor Hugo VÁSQUEZ MAMANI (Bolivia, Estado Plurinacional deia)

Aprovecho esta ocasión para expresarlesa nombre del Presidente del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, nuestro hermano Evo Morales Ayma, nuestros agradecimientos a la FAO por el apoyo recibido para la declaración del Año Internacional de la Quinua 2013. Asimismo, deseo compartir con los representantes de los países presentes en esta Conferencia, algunos logros en torno a este importante cultivo:

1. Estamos impulsando la implementación de sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles, como modelo de desarrollo que promueve el incremento de la producción de quinua, reduce la degradación del ambiente natural y la amenaza a los ecosistemas y la biodiversidad. Es decir, podemos incrementar nuestra producción a más de 1 millón de hectáreas al 2025, en pleno equilibrio con nuestra Madre Tierra "la Pachamama".

2. Contamos con una amplia colección de recursos genéticos del mundo (3.104 accesiones), ubicada en la localidad de Tolarapa-Cochabamba, a 3.450 metros sobre el nivel del mar; más de 200 ecotipos caracterizados y más de 300 variedades nativas, entre ellas las silvestres.

3. Para conservar las especies del grano de oro andino, se creará un Centro International de la Quinua donde se puedan recuperar, conservar y mejorar las semillas para ponerlas a disposición de los productores.

4. También se está desarrollando una importante promoción de la quinua en varios países del mundo, que en el futuro podría significar una alternativa importante para enfrentar la inseguridad alimentaria de nuestros pueblos más vulnerable.

Nuestro hermano Presidente, durante el informe realizado en el año 2012 ante nuestra Asamblea Legislativa, planteó la Agenda Patriótica 2025, cuyos ejes principales son: la erradicación de la extrema pobreza y analfabetismo; el logro de la seguridad alimentaria con soberanía; la universalización de los servicios básicos; el acceso pleno a servicios de salud y tecnología, y el fomento al deporte, la cultura y las artes.

Confiamos en alcanzar los desafíos planteados en la Agenda Patriótica, pues contamos con el compromiso y apoyo de las organizaciones sociales y productivas más importantes del país.

Respaldamos moral y materialmente los Objetivos estratégicos de la FAO, que son: *la erradicación del hambre, de la inseguridad alimentaria, de la malnutrición* y *la reducción de la pobreza rural*, porque fueron establecidos sobre la base del diálogo con los países miembros y guardan estrecha similitud con los objetivos estratégicos de la Agenda Patriótica 2025 de Bolivia.

Solicitamos a todas las delegaciones la aprobación del Presupuesto del bienio 2014-15 propuesto por el Director General pues, destinar mayores recursos económicos al fortalecimiento del trabajo de la FAO en el área de la protección social es uno de los pasos más sólidos para la erradicación del hambre en nuestros pueblos.

Hermanas y hermanos, hoy tenemos la gran responsabilidad histórica de consolidar el camino hacia la erradicación de la pobreza y el hambre en los pueblos del mundo, o definitivamente someterlos a un futuro de miseria y hambre, como parecen pretender algunos países industrializados.

Mr Oreeditse Sola MOLEBATSI (Botswana)

Thank you Mr Chairperson, allow me to start by joining my other colleagues in congratulating you for your election as Chair of this important Conference. I also wish to commend you for the excellent manner in which you are directing our deliberations.

Mr Chairperson, this Conference comes at a time when the global food insecurity continues to worsen. This, no doubt threatens security of all humanity. By security here, I also refer to the stability of our nation States, as the expression goes, *"a hungry man is an angry man"*. Therefore, by addressing food insecurity we are also addressing issues of peace and security. In this context, the theme, "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition" could not have come at a more appropriate time.

Mr Chairperson, as you may be aware; Botswana has not been spared by this growing scourge of food insecurity. As a country, Botswana is not endowed with favourable climatic condition for arable agriculture or surface water for pastoral farming. It therefore remains a challenge to get water for increasing human population in both urban and rural areas, and water for irrigation and livestock. This scenario is exacerbated by climate change, which has negatively affected even the basic traditional methods used for food production due to erratic rainfall patterns. Batswana have always depended on rainfed agriculture for subsistence food production. This poses a serious threat to national food security and nutrition, as well as our national strategies to eradicate poverty and hunger in the country.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned difficulties, the Government of Botswana has introduced a number of mitigating strategies to promote agricultural production and productivity in line with Millennium Development Goal 1, "To Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger". Under the arable agriculture subsector, the Government has introduced an Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agricultural Development (ISPAAD) to boost production and productivity. This programme targets farmers and assists them with free inputs (seeds, fertilizers, fence materials, weed management, etc.) and free ploughing/planting up to 5 hectares. Under the livestock subsector, the Government has introduced the Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development (LIMID) Programme, where farmers are assisted with various packages such as borehole drilling and livestock infrastructure development and livestock for poor households. There is also the overall strategy under the National Master Plan for Arable Agriculture and Dairy Development (NAMPAADD) to promote commercialisation of agricultural production to increase its productivity.

These Government initiatives come at a cost to the national budget to the extent that some projects in our current National Development Plan have been suspended due to budgetary constraints. It is therefore, critical for FAO and other development partners to note that despite the global economic downturn, one of Botswana's national priorities remain human development including rural development, health, education, water, food security and nutrition, among others. It is against this background that we urge our international development partners including this Body, to consider Botswana for financial and technical assistance. In this context, it is important to consider Botswana not just as a middle-income country, but as a country emerging from economic hardship.

I wish to point-out that our agricultural activities are well-aligned with the MDGs, with a view to, among others: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; combat HIV & AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis; and ensure environmental sustainability. In this way, we are of the view that our programmes are more sustainable and to a larger extent provide the much needed food security and nutrition, within our limited technical expertises and financial resources.

Mr Chairperson, Botswana, like most developing countries, values international development assistance towards improving our economic growth and advancement. I therefore, wish to reiterate our firm commitment towards cooperation with all our development partners.

Finally, Mr Chairperson**,** let me take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of Italy for their warm welcome and generous hospitality. I thank you for your attention.

Mr Lila RAM PAUDEL (Nepal)

It is my great pleasure to deliver a short statement on behalf of the Nepalese delegation in this august gathering. I take this opportunity to congratulate you Mr Chair on your election and also extend my sincere thanks to FAO Director General for the excellent preparation of this 38th Session of FAO Conference.

The theme of the 38th Session of FAO Conference is Review of the State of Food and Agriculture be: Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition is more emphasizing on the need of well-designed food systems for better nutrition. The situation of malnutrition is alarming and became the global problems and this is more serious in Africa and South Asia regions where the poverty is very high.

FAO's most recent estimates indicate that 12.5 percent of the world's population are undernourished in terms of energy intake, an about 26 percent of the world's children are stunted, 2 billion people suffer from one or more micronutrient deficiencies and 1.4 billion people are overweight, of whom 500 million are obese. The situation is more pervasive in most developing countries and is burdened by multiple types of malnutrition, which may coexist within the same country, household or individual.

The chronic problems of all forms of malnutrition impose unacceptably high economic and social costs on society. The state and even an individual have spending a large portion of their income in health care, food items and to fulfill their daily dietary requirements. Therefore, there is an urgent need to reduce these costs by introducing agriculture based nutrition interventions and establishing sustainable food systems and that must begin with the integration of food and agriculture.

The issues of malnutrition are complex and multidimensional. The major causes of malnutrition and its consequences are inadequate availability of and access to safe, diverse, nutritious food; lack of access to clean water, sanitation and health care; and inappropriate child feeding and adult dietary choices. The root causes of malnutrition are even more complex and encompass the broader economic, social, political, cultural and physical environment. Addressing this multi sectoral problems require integrated and collaborative actions and complementary interventions in agriculture and the food system.

Nepal is also one of the high risks country from malnutrition like stunting, underweight, under nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies perspectives. The rural children and women particularly lactating women and children below five years of age are more affected by stunting, underweight and micronutrient deficiencies whereas obesity and overweight is the problems of urban areas. About 41 percent of the households are consuming the foods less than calorie requirements.

In this juncture, the Government of Nepal has started several initiatives and developed policy frameworks to address the problems of malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, dietary improvement programmes with focused interventions. In this context, we have good partnership and joint programmes with FAO Nepal in formulating Food and Nutrition Security Plan, Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan of Action and some country specific nutritional improvements. Similarly, some of the global initiatives like Global Agriculture and Food Security Programmes, Feed the Future, Global Health Initiatives are currently ongoing initiatives in order to reduce the problems of malnutrition and improved the food insecurity situation of the country.

Addressing malnutrition requires integrated approach and actions in all level: global, regional and national level and investment on agriculture and food systems need to be increased substantially. We need some focused country specific interventions like agriculture based nutrition intervention, gender sensitive nutrition programmes and policies to address specific issues of affected population.

Nepal believes that this is possible with multi-sectoral co-operation and need to have strong partnership between public and private sectors and Rome based UN Agencies particularly FAO in

order to address the emerging challenges in nutrition, food systems public health and education. The role of UN agencies, international community and development partners is very much crucial to find out the sustainable approach to overcome with these challenges and deriving a common lasting solutions.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to FAO for its support in agriculture and rural development in Nepal. I wish successful conclusion of this 38th Session of FAO conference and this conference would be milestone to derive the common and pragmatic solutions to address the issues of malnutrition and its consequences in general.

Ms Poh Hong TAN (Singapore)

It is Singapore's honour to be here today to participate in this plenary session to discuss the state of food and agriculture in the world. Once again, the Republic of Singapore thanks all member nations for supporting and welcoming us into the FAO family.

FAO's reports on the State of Food and Agriculture have provided valuable insights on the challenges on food security and the possible ways to address these challenges. Noteworthy is the need to focus on food systems to address undernutrition. Indeed an appropriate food system will determine the type of food available and acceptable for good nutrition.

Singapore is not spared from the challenges to food security. Singapore notes that resource constraint is reported as one of the key challenges and that there is a need to increase sustainable agriculture productivity.

Resource constraint is something that Singapore is very familiar with. As a small country with only 700 square kilometres, Singapore has very little land available for agricultural production. However, we believe that local production of some key food items is an important supplementary strategy for our food security. But we will have to ensure the productivity of our farms in a sustainable manner. We do this through research and development (Research and Development) and the adoption of appropriate technology.

For instance, Singapore's molecular research to aid in the selective breeding of sea bass allows for faster growing fish, leading to higher production and food availability.

Another example is Singapore's first vertical farm for tropical vegetables. It adopts a new technology that can potentially yield 5 times more leafy vegetables than that of a conventional soil-based farm. It is also low in energy consumption as it is a water-driven system.

Secondly, Singapore supports the need to look at the broader food system and not just at the production end to ensure food security. Reducing post-harvest losses, recycling of food to create new food products and alternative animal feeds as well as reducing food wastage along the supply chain are also important in availing food and these are strategies which Singapore is looking into.

Equally important is that the food must be safe to eat and does not pose risks to the consumers. For instance, excessive use of antibiotics could lead to the emergence of resistant bacteria in farm animals, and a source of infection for humans. Intensive farming practices can facilitate the spread of diseases. Hence, we must establish and adapt food safety and animal health management programmes appropriately to maintain effective control.

Lastly, it is important for the world to continue to have a functioning, free and open market, so that food is moved from where it is produced to where it is needed, thus benefitting farmers, food processors and consumers.

The issues we discussed in this plenary transcend national boundaries. We must seek to forge win-win partnerships, share and work closely with one another to achieve our common goal of ensuring food security and nutrition. And Singapore will do its part to contribute to achieving this goal.

Mr Chief Samuel ANKAMA (Namibia)

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Namibia, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Italy our host and the Food and Agriculture Organization for inviting Namibia to participate in this important meeting.

On behalf of my delegation, I want to register our appreciation for the warm and kind hospitality extended to our delegation since our arrival. Namibia is deeply honoured and delighted to be part of this gathering that seeks to discuss and find solutions to common challenges pertaining to hunger and malnutrition.

My Delegation concurs with the Director-General's proposed four-year Medium Term Plan and the two-year Programme of Work and Budget as a guiding tool for activities of FAO from next year. Complementarily, the Strategic Thinking Process has produced a commendable Strategic Framework which will guide us until 2018.

The crafted Strategic Objectives are smart as they will have indicators of achievement, and concrete Action Plans that will describe the overall approach that FAO will use to tackle the issues and problems identified under the Strategic Objectives.

This will make implementability at country level simple, as many developing states suffer from well capacitated natural resource management technocrats. Namibia will benefit tremendously through this with regard to food and nutrition security and the agriculture, water, lands, fisheries and forestry sectors.

At country level Namibia acknowledges the pivotal coordinating role of FAO towards the implementation of the South-South Cooperation initiatives. Namibia has identified priority areas for FAO intervention in the next five years, based on government priority needs and FAO's comparative advantages. We have carefully and briefly described the institutional arrangements for implementation, as well as the Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation frameworks. We have taken cognisance of the five Strategic Objectives and their impact on our activities.

Despite its marginal contribution to the Gross Domestic Product, the agricultural sector remains central to the lives of the majority of the population. Directly or indirectly, it supports over 70 percent of the country's population. The sector can be divided into two distinct sub-sectors: the capital intensive, relatively well developed and export orientes comercial sub-sector; and the subsistence-based, high-labour, low-technology communal sub-sector.

The communal sector farmers practice subsistence rain-fed agriculture and livestock (cattle and goats) farming, and occupy about 27 percent of the total land area. They produce about 30 percent of grainconsumption requirements, and keep about 60 percent of cattle and 40 percent small stock populations of the national livestock herd.

The comercial sector farmers occupy about 57 percent of the total land area of Namibia and are involved in the production of maize, wheat and other crops (such as grapes), as well as livestock (cattle and small stock) and game farming.

Although the food and nutrition security situation has improved considerably in the last two decades, this is still a top priority issue for the Government. According to the preliminary findings of a recent assessment carried out following the 2012-13 drought situation, an estimated number of 330,925 people are food insecure, 447,577 moderately food insecure and 859,898 food secure, with food insecurity more prevalent in the north-western regions mainly due to recurrent droughts.

Main contributing factors to food insecurity and under-nourishment are the high poverty rate, inequality of the income distribution and the incidence of HIV/AIDS. Together with FAO, Namibia should be in a position to eradicate the plague of hunger and malnutrition.

Namibia's agriculture sector, including water, forestry, lands and fisheries, is constrained by a variety of challenges, such as: limited human and institutional capacity; updating policy and turning into practice; lack of coordination on food and nutrition security issues; inadequate access to agricultural information for farmers.

With the new arrangement by FAO our country hopes to benefit in eradicating these bottlenecks hampering our development objectives.

Finally, Namibia congratulates and welcomes the sister countries that joined the large family of FAO and further anticipates a global healthy and successful implementation of the Strategic Objectives geared towards eradication of hunger and improvement of nutrition, as well as poverty reduction among the peoples of the world.

Sr. Elmer LÓPEZ RODRÍGUEZ (Guatemala)

Guatemala afronta retos de desnutrición y pobreza acumulados desde finales de la década de los 80, principalmente en el área rural, cuando el sector público agropecuario fue desmantelado y al mismo tiempo se incrementaron fenómenos climáticos adversos, que afectaron severamente a los más pobres.

En ese período, el presupuesto del Gobierno para el sector agrario llegó a ser de tan solo 100 millones de dólares anuales al 2011. En consecuencia de estas decisiones desacertadas y de los fenómenos climáticos, la pobreza alcanzó el 70 por ciento de la población rural, y la desnutrición crónica el 49 por ciento de toda la población del país. Ante esa problemática, el actual Gobierno decidió darle la más alta prioridad a la solución de esta situación,convocando a todos los sectores de la sociedad a unirse dentro de un pacto denominado Hambre Cero –PH0–, firmando en febrero de 2012.

Mediante la implementación del PH0 y el fortalecimiento de la Gestión Pública por Resultados, alcanzaremos los objetivos estratégicos de Gobierno que son:

- Reducir la desnutrición crónica en un 10 por ciento en niños y niñas menores de cinco años del 2012 al 2015.
- Disminuir la mortalidad materna y neonatal.
- Incrementar el consumo proteico y calórico en las familias.
- Incrementar los ingresos familiares y el bienestar de los guatemaltecos.

Los ministerios y las instituciones que conforman el Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional (SINASAN), siguendo los mandatos de la Ley del SINASAN, han adecuado sus presupuestos a partir del año 2013 a la Gestión por Resultados, designando para el PH0 un presupuesto anual de 406 millones de dólares; asignación que no se preveía en presupuestos anteriores.

El Plan del Pacto Hambre Cero es la hoja de ruta del Gobierno para hacer operativo el PH0 priorizado en el 50 por ciento de los municipios del país, y está diseñado para fortalecer los sistemas alimentarios locales.

Se han previsto 10 acciones contra el Hambre Crónica que forman parte de la *Ventana de los 1000 días*:

1. Cuidado de la mujer durante el embarazo;
2. Lactancia maternal;
3. Alimentación complementaria para los infantes de los seis meses a los dos años;
4. Higiene y uso de agua segura;
5. Vitamina "A";
6. Otras vitaminas y minerales;
7. Desparasitación;
8. Uso de Zinc como parte del tratamiento de la diarrea;
9. Sal yodada y fortificación de los alimentos;
10. Estimulacióm temprana.

Se han previsto asimismo cinco acciones para contrarrestar el Hambre Estacional:

1. Apoyo a la agricultura familiar, como la acción priorizada de las 15 acciones; en ella se utilizará el 33 por ciento de todo el presupuesto destinado al PH0;

2. Prevención y tratamiento de la desnutrición aguda moderada a nivel comunitario y la Alimentación Suplementaria Lista para Consumo (ASLC);

3. Tratamiento oportuno de la desnutrición aguda severa utilizando Alimentos Terapéuticos Listos para el Consumo (ATLC);

4. Establecimiento de un sistema de alerta en SAN con sitios centinelas; y

5. Red de protección social contra el Hambre Estacional a través de un programa de empleo temporal (mano de obra intensiva).

Las propuestas de la agricultura familial son:

- Fortalecimiento del extensionismo rural como herramienta del desarrollo local y agrícola, con la meta del incremento en la producción de alimentos para el autoconsumo, surtir los mercados locales, y generar ingresos.

- Incremento del apoyo a la agricultura familiar de ladera para hacerla más sostenible, con un enfoque especial en el manejo y mejora de suelos y agua; el incremento de árboles en la parcela y la recuperación de bosques en las tierras degradadas; implementación de un plan de atención de las familias vulnerables al Hambre Estacional (areas geográficas afectadas por fenómenos climáticos,sequía, inundación, heladas y granizo).

- Monitoreo del volumen y precio del suministro externo de los productos de consumo básico del país como parte de la estratégia para el establecimiento de mecanismos de contingencia por desbalances del mercado internacional.

El Ministerio de Agricultura agradece el respaldo de la FAO, el PMA y el FIDA porque, con recursos adicionales a los señalados, apoyan los programas de Guatemala para que las familias de los municipios priorizados logren mejorar su situación a partir del fortalecimiento de la agricultura familiar.

El Gobierno de Guatemala reconoce, agradece y apoya la labor y reestructura de la FAO mediante la cual brindarán major apoyo y atención no solo a los países con necesidades, sino especialmente a las familias que sufren hambre y desnutrición.

El Gobierno de Guatemala saluda a la FAO y a sus Países Miembros y se congratula que el año 2014 haya sido declarado Año de la Agricultura Familiar. Esperamos poder compartir experiencias sabiendo que hay muchos países que han logrado enfrentar el hambre apoyando la agricultura familiar, que consideramos es la estratégia idónea para eliminar, en el más corto plazo, la pobreza en los territorios rurales.

Sra. Milagros Carina SOTO AGUERO (Cuba)

Según el informe sobre el Estado de la Agricultura y la Alimentación en el mundo, presentado a esta Conferencia, hasta hoy solo podemos hablar de modestos avances; mientras los que padecen y mueren por hambre, los que sufren las consecuencias de la malnutrición, representan aún cifras alarmantes y dolorosas para quienes aspiramos a un mundo mejor y más justo.

No hay dudas que para hacer frente a la inseguridad alimentaria se requiere, además de una fuerte voluntad política, un enfoque sistémico y multisectorial que conlleve cambios en los sistemas alimentarios, de salud y educación, así como la aplicación de políticas de inclusión social que garanticen, por igual, el acceso a los recursos, el mejoramiento de las dietas y la nutrición.

Cuba se siente honrada al haber recibido el reconocimiento de la FAO por los resultados alcanzados en materia de seguridad alimentaria.

Nuestros indicadores no son el resultado de un día; son el fruto del enfoque sistémico que el gobierno cubano ha aplicado desde el triunfo revolucionario en 1959, con políticas que garantizan igualdad de oportunidades, y el acceso gratuito y universal a la salud y la educación.

Partes de esa política han sido también una profunda reforma agraria y el desarrollo científico-técnico en el campo agropecuario.

Los resutados de Cuba se han logrado a pesar del obsoleto y criminal bloqueo económico, financiero y comercial que se impone a nuestro país desde hace más de cinco décadas, para tratar de rendir por hambre a nuestro pueblo.

Hoy estamos empeñados en la actualización del modelo económico, con el propósito de garantizar la continuidad del Socialismo, el desarrollo económico y la elevación del nivel de vida de la población.

Entre otras medidas, se ha establecido un marco jurídico para ampliar la tenencia de la tierra, entregando en usufructo gratuito las tierras ociosas, eliminando trabas y barreras que dificultan el aumento de la producción agropecuaria y su productividad; prestando especial atención a las ciencias agrarias, a la producción cooperativa y a la agricultura familiar.

Todo ello con vistas a desarrollar una agricultura sostenible, en armonía con el medio ambiente, que propicie a la vez, un incremento de la productividad y la reducción de las cifras de importación de alimentos, que son una carga para la nación, habida cuenta de sus altos precios en el mercado mundial.

Durante estos años, Cuba no ha guardado para sí la experiencia adquirida, la ha puesto modestamente a disposición de otros países, potenciando la cooperación Sur-Sur. Los más de 56 200 colaboradores cubanos que hoy brindan servicios en 101 países, dan fe de ello; como también los más de 29 000 jóvenes de 115 países que estudian en Cuba, y los 55 200 jóvenes de 134 países que se han graduado en universidades y escuelas cubanas.

En su condición de Presidente *pro tempore* de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC), Cuba desea hacer patente el compromiso de esta Comunidad en la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición, así como el apoyo de la CELAC a la Iniciativa América Latina y Caribe Sin Hambre para 2025.

Cuba ratifica en esta Conferencia que continuará apoyando a la FAO en su lucha por la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza en el mundo, y reitera que pone a disposición de esta Organización su humilde experiencia.

Para concluir, mi delegación desea manifestar su total apoyo al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto presentado por el Director General recordando, porque mantienen plena vigencia, las palabras pronunciadas en este mismo plenario por el Comandante Fidel Castro Ruz, en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación en 1996, cuando dijo: *"Reine la verdad y no la hipocresía y la mentira. Hagamos conciencia de que en este mundo debe cesar el hegemonismo, la arrogancia y el egoísmo. Las campanas que doblan hoy por los que mueren de hambre cada día, doblarán mañana por la humanidad entera si no quiso, no supo o no pudo ser suficientemente sabia para salvarse a sí misma"*.

Mr Amr Mostafa Kamal HELMY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Mr Chairperson, allow me, at the outset, to convey the greetings of His Excellency Dr Ahmed Mahmoud Ali El-Gizawi, the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt.

Dr El-Gizawi was looking forward to taking part in this important meeting; however he could not, due to some urgent and emergency engagement. I would like, first of all, to convey my congratulations to His Excellency Minister Mohammad Asif Rahimi for chairing the 38th Session of this Conference, and I wish him all success in running the events of this important Session.

I would like also to convey my greetings to the FAO, at the top of which comes Mr José Graziano da Silva, in recognition of the great efforts exerted for the preparation of this important meeting.

The issue of food security is a national commitment in the first place. Based on this, Egypt has adopted a number of important policies in order to face the issue and the crisis of food security. In particular, the price rise of food commodities that contributed to the increase of expenditures of livelihood. In this regard, Egypt has adopted a strategy for sustainable development including the following main points:

- The development of water resources and their management,
- The development of research as well as agricultural extension,
- The support and development of internal and external marketing mechanisms for agricultural products, and
- The increase of the yield and of the productivity to reduce all the wastes and losses that came as a result of the marketing system to rationalize food consumption and to carry out important institutional reform.

We are also aiming at increasing the investment directed to agricultural sector while paying more attention to the small enterprises and the micro-enterprises in rural areas. We would like to indicate that we are carrying out a number of procedures in order to expand social safety network while focusing on small holders and small producers within the framework of the rural development strategy in Egypt.

This would contribute to provide more job opportunities to the small farmers in order to secure decent income to them, to support human resources as well as supporting the rural infrastructures and all the services that are rendered to them.

This also includes improving the road network and the storage capacity, improving irrigation systems and carrying out reform in the field of agricultural extension and technical education.

We are also aiming at increasing the investments on technology and the scientific research. Egypt has supported more investment in the field of agricultural sector in order to provide additional resources for investment in agricultural infrastructure.

Mr Chairperson, allow me first of all to highlight the fact that Egypt has nominated itself in order to renew its Membership at the FAO Council during the elections that will be held on the sidelines of this session.

This decision came out of Egypt's keenness to continue its pioneering role as well as its contributions in the activities of this esteemed international Organization. Egypt has the support of the Arab League as well as the African Union.

I would like in this regard to pay tribute to the strong ties between Egypt and FAO. Especially within the framework that Egypt is hosting the Regional Office of the FAO in addition to the FAO of the Near Middle East Office. This Office is supervising the implementation of all projects that are within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme with the countries of the region. These projects include the following: the agricultural pest control project, the plan of action in order to control the trans-boundary animal diseases, as well as the project for the promotion of fisheries in East Mediterranean.

I should like in this regard to pay tribute to the role played by the FAO in organizing the High-Level Forum on means to promote the food security issue in Egypt. This will be held on the 27 of June in Egypt under the sponsorship of the FAO, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and in coordination with Egypt as well as other businessmen and the stakeholders, including small farmers' societies.

We do hope that this meeting will be successful. This meeting will focus on the concept of partnership between the private and public sector being the main means in order to improve the environment of investment in Egypt and abroad in this sector. It will also discuss the role that the international financial institutions could play in order to support this type of investment in Egypt.

The Government of Egypt is attaching the greatest importance to the discussions and debates of this meeting on how to reduce the post-harvest losses, and this can be taken as one successful example of cooperation between Egypt, FAO and the World Food Programme, and it comes within the framework of the FAO commitment according to the recommendations of the Near East Regional Conference.

The achievement of sustainable agricultural development needs more international cooperation. Not a single country by itself can control these important challenges that we are facing, especially when it comes to the food and nutrition issues.

Based on this, Egypt is seeking to expand its external and foreign cooperation with all countries in the field of agricultural development, especially on the African continent and with the countries of the Nile basin.

I do wish that this Session will result in specific and viable recommendations that contribute to boost our collective capacity and strengthen the mechanisms of coordination for the interest of developing countries, and that unify our visions in order to implement the policies that will enable us to find sustainable solutions for the food security and the nutrition issues.

Mr Themistoklis DEMIRIS (Greece)

I would like, first of all, to convey the greetings and best wishes of the Greek Minister for Rural Development and Food, Professor Athanassios Tsaftaris, who regrets being unable to participate personally in this Conference.

I will shape my short intervention on three key phrases, on three key axes: huge remaining needs, impact of economic crisis, need to get adapted to new realities.

First, the needs. Despite the progress towards the MDG1 hunger reduction target and the efforts in the implementation of the relevant FAO's Strategic Objective 1 – *To contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition* – a significant proportion of world's population remains hungry or undernourished.

We all know that the world's population is expected to grow in the coming decades. This, combined with local, regional and in many cases protracted crises multiply not only the simple human dramas that the international community has a tendency to underestimate, but also the factors that could lead to regional and world instability.

Even regions and countries that never before knew phenomena linked with poverty and malnutrition discover now that food safety can never be considered as guaranteed and that has a series of internal and external repercussions, adding to a scenario in which widespread poverty and hunger come to the fore, and underscore world imbalances in any kind of development.

Second, the crisis. Against this background and to make things even more complicated, came the economic crisis, mainly in parts of the world that some years ago looked continuously self confident in economic terms. It is clear that this economic crisis has undercut the international community's means to respond to hunger and malnutrition challenges and to advance political stability and social cohesion at the global level.

On the other hand, the comeback of poverty even in developed societies increased the level of awareness and the spirit of solidarity. The recent economic crisis, felt especially in Europe, and in particular in Greece, where recession has been going on for the last five years, has boosted the Greek people's sensitivity concerning malnutrition and hunger especially in cases of the poorest and most vulnerable population segments. The same goes, I think, in other places too.

This is an element which wein FAO should also take into account. Within this spirit I should stress that despite such economic and financial constraints, particularty felt in Europe, the EU and its 27 Member States have responded to food crises in a timely manner, through various schemes, such as the Food Facility Programme. The Jacques Diouf Award received by the President of the Commission last Saturday is a well deserved recognition of this achievement.

However, as I said, the needs are huge and the challenges bigger than ever and in order to have serious hopes that we can cope, even partially, with the tremendous task we have in front of us, we cannot continue with a spirit of "business as usual".

Extraordinary circumstances require extraordinary efforts and new approaches that fit new demands.

Here comes the need to get adapted. In the current global economic and financial framework which has severely impacted on the budgets of many governments, especially in Europe, and in our country in particular, we are all striving to work more, to do more with less and we are confident that this Organization, our Organization, will be able to do the same.

On the other hand, economic and demographic developments shape new parameters and add to the demand for nutritive and balanced food. Responsible multi-sectoral and coordinated multifaceted actions are required. Consumer's choices are of critical importance because they not only affect the people's health but they also may have negative impact both on food security and the environment.

FAO has the capacity to help better streamline and combine, wherever posible, such efforts and introduce and disseminate new working methods and technology.

Partnerships are extremely important in this task and the implementation of the Organization's Strategies for Partnerships with Civil Society and the Private Sector have our full support.

In Greece we believe in the role of agriculture in facing the global challenges. Moreover, through the European Union CAP reforms we have been striving for sustainable agri-food systems that are resilient to new global challenges, provide for the environment and supply adequate and affordable food. We do remain constant to this belief while adjusting our development and trade policies.

A holistic approach and integrated actions for sustainable solutions in the battle against hunger and malnutrition need to be adopted. Reforms might be needed at a global level. New food system paradigms are worth of consideration and FAO's role is paramount in this respect.

Hunger and poverty are causally interlinked and some members of the global population remain more vulnerable than others, namely, women and children. Having said that, women's role, especially in small farms' activities, remain vital. Greece strongly emphasizes the importance of women in rural areas as a driving force in the development of sustainable agriculture and appreciates FAO's actions for small-holder agriculture.

The reformed Committee on World Food Security has already taken up a primaryrole in meeting the aforementioned challenges. We are keen to participating and contributing to the Committee's activities. Moreover, we underline and support the implementation of FAO's actions and programmes in the regional context.

We fully support FAO's initiatives such as the Action Plan for improving Statistics, including instruments for depicting regional variations in agriculture and food related trends.

Cooperation between the Organization and Member Nations an Efficiency are the key words for the successful implementation of FAO's Strategic Objectives. Greece looks forward to further cooperation within the FAO and, not ignoring of course our present financial limitations, we will actively support the Organization's continuing implementation of its important mandate, in an efficient and effective manner.

Ms Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI (Zimbabwe)

Chairperson of the Conference, Director General and Staff, Representatives of Member States, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Zimbabwe joins other member states in congratulating the Chair of the 38th Conference and his Deputies on election to steer the work of this very important meeting. I would like to commend you for the sterling work you have done thus far.

Allow me to express the Zimbabwe delegation’s appreciation of the outstanding work by the Director-General since assuming office in January 2012. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General for his excellent reports on the State of Food and Agriculture and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB).

Turning to the theme of the general debate, the Zimbabwe delegation believes that much more can indeed be achieved by taking a food systems approach which goes beyond production to give deserved attention to post-harvest processing, distribution and marketing. The approach takes into

consideration changing production and consumption patterns to ensure food is available, accessible, safe, diverse and nutritious.

The challenge that many developing nations face – Zimbabwe included – is how to achieve sustainable food systems. Allow me, Chairperson to share Zimbabwe's experience as it relates to sustainable food systems.

1. Sustainable Food Systems are based on shared diagnosis of national, regional and global challenges and Policies. Zimbabwe is committed to the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the attainment of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and Millennium Development Goals within COMESA and SADC food security and natural resources frameworks.

Informed by these frameworks, Zimbabwe has in place the Medium Term Plan and Draft Zimbabwe Comprehensive Agriculture Policy Framework (ZCAP), 2012-2032. The latter is to be implemented through the Zimbabwe Agriculture Investment Plan (ZAIP) which Government is finalizing.

Realizing the multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral nature of food and agriculture systems, Zimbabwe is working on a myriad of policy initiatives**,** in other food security related ministries such as Land, Forestry, Water, Environment and Rural Development to provide a comprehensive enabling environment for sustainable food systems.

Some of the policies include the recently launched multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) aimed at increasing food production, productivity, diversity, food safety and standards; the Comprehensive Land Policy and Comprehensive Gender Sensitive Agricultural Policy Framework.

2. Support to Production and Promotion of Market Linkages is Central to Sustainable Food systems.

The Government of Zimbabwe in partnerships with development partners is supporting crop and livestock production through the Electronic Voucher System to enable vulnerable households to access breeding stock for livestock, particularly small stock.

In Zimbabwe, Contract farming has emerged as an important agriculture value chain coordination mechanism that links farmers to input and output markets. In order to extend contract farming to other crops, particularly grains and horticulture to ensure food security and nutrition, the Government of Zimbabwe commissioned a study to develop an enabling Contract Farming Regulatory Framework that will promote fairness and eliminate side marketing.

In the wake of the inevitable realities of regional and global integration, the Government of Zimbabwe is aware of the need of well-functioning local agriculture commodities markets. In this regard, Zimbabwe is structuring an agricultural commodities exchange that will also provide local level competitive physical primary markets for an estimated 1.4 million smallholder farmers and improve their access to credit from the banking system.

3. Investment in Post-Harvest Storage, Handling and Processing Facilities is Key to Sustainable Food Security and Nutrition

The Government of Zimbabwe is working on developing national capacity in crop and pest management to address problems that smallholder farmers are facing in handling and storing food grains while at the household level Government is promoting building of metal silos to prevent and or reduce food wastages.

4. Sustainable Food Systems Require Coordination of Stakeholders Across the Value Chain.

The Government of Zimbabwe is working on an Agriculture Sector Coordination Mechanism that will coordinate stakeholders and interventions at the national, provincial and district levels to ensure sustainable food systems through smooth flow of inputs, finance and information on production and market conditions.

5. Sustainable Food Systems Conserve the Environment

Zimbabwe is implementing a capacity building project in Integrated Pest Management Practices to protect forest resources and sustain rural livelihoods. This is in addition to the sustainable management of existing indigenous forests where communities find refuge during droughts to find alternative nutritious foods.

In the wake of climate change and recurrent droughts, conservation farming has emerged as an important intervention to ensure sustainable food systems. Currently 120,000 Ha, the rate of adoption of conservation farming however remains constrained due to low levels of mechanization.

6. Food Systems are Vulnerable to Drought and Diseases Outbreaks**.**

In order to reduce the vulnerability of food systems to emergencies, Zimbabwe has an Emergency Drought Mitigation Operation for Livestock in the dry Southern regions of the country.

Other preventive emergency programmes include provision of agricultural inputs, input and output market linkages and capacity building in research and extension.

7. Conclusion and Way forward

Consistent with promoting sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition in developing nations, Zimbabwe would like to express its profound support for the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) presented by the Director General for the next biennium. Zimbabwe prioritizes support to the Technical Cooperation Programmes, and Decentralization as well as capacity building of technical staff. The concept of an increased FAO budget requires further discussion and consensus to ensure that FAO is adequately resourced to carry out the mandate at hand, especially given the renewed focus on increased agricultural production in order to meet growing demand of food by an increasing population.

Zimbabwe will continue to collaborate with FAO in the following areas:

- Gender mainstreaming in agriculture programmes
- Promotion of small grains in dry areas
- Improved coordination of agricultural assistance
- Support to production of quality seeds and improved farming practices
- Capacity building of service delivery institutions
- Smallholder Dairy Production
- Rehabilitation of Dip Tanks
- Promotion of market linkages and contract farming
- Smallholder irrigation rehabilitation and development
- Promotion of mechanization for conservation farming
- Raising awareness on the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests to reduce deforestation and enhance livelihoods from the utilisation of both timber and non-timber forestry products

Ms Brave Rona NDISALE (Malawi)

Mr Chairperson, permit me to convey best wishes and congratulations from Her Excellency Dr Joyce Banda, President of the Republic of Malawi, to Mr José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General on the holding of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference.

May I commend the Director-General and his team for the candid report on the State of Food and Agriculture which was presented. Indeed addressing issues of food security and malnutrition require integrated actions across sectors. Malawi places greater importance on its obligation to ensure that no person in Malawi goes to bed on an empty stomach. In this regard through the leadership of Her Excellency President Dr Joyce Banda Malawi continues to undertake measures aimed at ensuring that food and nutrition security is attained both at household and national levels. The recognition Malawi received here a couple of days ago is a clear testimony that Malawi is on the right track to fight hunger and malnutrition.

To address the challenges of food and nutrition security Malawi is implementing its agricultural development programmes through a home grown plan called the Agricultural sector Wide Approach

(ASWAP) which is aligned to the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the World Food Summit outcomes and the Millennium Development Goals. The country is also fulfilling the African Union's Maputo Declaration which calls on Member States to allocate a minimum of 10 percent of their annual budgets to the agricultural sector. Malawi remains committed to this requirement as demonstrated by allocating 19 percent of its annual budget to the sector in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Within the framework of the Presidential Initiative on Poverty and Hunger Reduction, Malawi has embarked on several programmes such as: promotion of legumes production to improve nutrition and income, production of milk though the dairy development and small animal stock on pass on basis; as well as fisheries and aquaculture development. In addition, the country has been implementing the Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP) for the past 8 years with remarkable success in improving food availability, particularly in rural areas. The Government has established under the Office of the President and Cabinet the Department of Nutrition and HIV/AIDS headed by the Principle Secretary to deal with issues of nutrition, HIV and aids.

The group mostly affected by hunger and malnutrition includes women, the youth, orphans, the elderly and children. Malawi therefore includes these groups in its programmes to fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Due to the negative impact of climate change, it is increasingly risky to fully depend on rain-fed agriculture as occurrences of drought in some parts of Malawi are becoming a common phenomenon. In this regard, Malawi has established the Green Belt Initiatives which aims at promoting irrigated farming. Under this initiative, Malawi has targeted to increase the area under irrigation from the current 100,000 to 200,000 hectares by 2016. Apart from that Malawi follows good land, water and natural resources management practices for sustainable agricultural production.

Malawi realizes the importance of Research development and technology dissemination for its economic development. The country has therefore embarked on improving its research and extension systems. To reduce postharvest losses Malawi is promoting various crop protection methods including use of metallic silos and approved pesticides with the support of FAO.

The fight against hunger cannot be won by government institutions only. Malawi believes in building strong partnerships. In this regard Malawi government wishes to commend the role Development Partners, Civil Society Organisations and the private sector are playing in providing the much need financial and technical support to the country in agriculture. The CSOs have been playing a crucial role in the sector through provision of agricultural extension services following the reforms undertaken by the Government to allow for partnerships in delivery of services and promoting organization of farmers into groups, clubs and cooperatives to ease marketing and get bargaining power. This has paved the way for greater participation by Non State Actors.

In the same vein, let me commend the Director-General for the well-thought out Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15 which is under the consideration by the Conference. We have no doubt that the strategic re-orientation that has been proposed will enhance the impact of FAO programmes in our countries. However, this can only be achieved if requisite resources are put at the disposal of the Director General. Malawi, therefore, supports the draft budget.

Malawi Parliament recently passed the Public-Private Partnerships Bill which will contribute significantly to the consolidation of the gains made in the achievement of the fight against hunger and malnutrition as this will encourage investment in the agricultural sector by the private sector for increased agricultural production and economic growth by participating in production, marketing, agro processing and value addition.

Despite all these successes Malawi continues to face enormous challenges in implementing its programmes in terms of financial and technical needs. The country needs continued support financially and technically. I have no doubt that with concerted efforts, the battle against food insecurity and malnutrition shall be won.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Señor Presidente, Señoras y Señores, reciban un saludo del Presidente Danilo Medina, cuya gestión de gobierno está comprometida con estimular la intensificación sostenible de la producción agroalimentaria con la meta de erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición de República Dominicana.

Hace tres días, el Director General entregó a la Vicepresidenta Margarita Cedeño de Fernández un certificado mediante el cual se acredita que mi país ha logrado, con tres años de antelación, el primer Objetivo de Desarrollo del Milenio.

En palabras de la Vicepresidenta, si bien esta es una victoria de la dignidad, de la igualidad y de la liberdad, aún falta mucho camino por recorrer, porque la verdadera meta es la plena seguridad alimentaria. El hambre cero, porque cero es el único número aceptable.

Esta semana estamos reunidos en Conferencia. Mientras subimos a este podio a pronunciar discursos, cientos de millones de personas están buscando qué comer.

Ya sabemos que la mayor parte de los hambrientos son mujeres y niños, y la casi totalidad vive en el sur global, el llamado mundo en desarrollo. Cuatro de cada cinco son campesinos y sus familiares, es decir, productores de comida. Esta es la paradoja de nuestro tiempo.

Hay quienes buscan alimentos en la basura, y algunos de ellos lo encuentran, porque nosotros, los privilegiados de esta Tierra, desperdiciamos la comida. Esta Organización estima que los alimentos echados a la basura sólo en Norteamérica y Europa servirían para nutrir al triple de todos los hambrientos del mundo.

Hay quienes ingieren lo que encuentran; comen tierra, tragan alimentos putrefactos, o consumen calorías inútiles que sólo producen obesidad. Otros, no pudiendo producir ni comprar comida, se debilitan, caen enfermos, y mueren. Serán alimento para los gusanos.

Durante el día de hoy, cien mil personas, incluyendo dieciocho mil niñas y niños menores de cinco años, morirán de hambre y por trastornos derivados de la malnutrición. Esta tragedia cotidiana ha dejado de ser un escándalo; los noticieros de televisión y los titulares de los periódicos nos contarán otras historias.

Nos informará, por ejemplo, que los gobiernos del mundo gastan 1.63 trillones de dólares al año en armamentos y pertechos militares. Esto es, 4,500 millones de dólares por día para sembrar destrucción y cosechar lágrimas.

Mientras nosotros hablamos, el hambre proyecta una sombra sobre la condición humana. El hambre genera sufrimiento y desesperación, y empuja a los hombres al delito y al crimen. El hambre es terror.

Una vez, el líder alemán Willy Brandt dijo a la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas que el hambre es la guerra. Ante ese mismo foro, el entonces reportero especial para el derecho a la alimentación, Jean Ziegler, dijo que cada niño que muere de hambre es una víctima de asesinato.

Los gobiernos del mundo, alarmados por la persistencia del hambre, crearon esta agencia para identificar causas y aportar soluciones. Por cierto, muchos de los programas de la FAO, como los normativos y de fijación de estándares, tienen como principales beneficiarios a los productores y consumidores de los países más desarrollados del planeta.

En el Cumbre Mundial sobre Seguridad Alimentaria de 2009, nuestros gobiernos encomendaron a la FAO acelerar la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición para su erradicación definitiva.

En los últimos años hemos evaluado y hemos reformado la institución. Hemos indicado prioridades basadas en objetivos estratégicos. Hemos acordado acciones precisas a ser evaluadas en base a resultados.

Hace dos años elegimos como Director General a una persona que ha demonstrado tener la visión y los conocimientos técnicos para derrotar el hambre, de modo sostenible, en la realidad concreta de uno de los países más grandes y complejos del mundo. Hemos encargado a ese Director General que nos diga qué presupuesto necesita para desarrollar su trabajo global durante los próximos dos años.

El nivel de presupuesto dela FAO para acelerar y profundizar la lucha contra el hambre, que es la lucha de quienes no comieron ayer, non han comido hoy, y tampoco van a comer mañana, equivale a menos de seis horas de gastos militares. Luchar contra el hambre y la malnutrición en 2014 y 2015 cuesta lo mismo que fabricar bombas por cinco horas y trenta y ocho minutos.

Esta semana hemos estado jugando el juego de la diplomacia con el Programa de trabajo de esta Organización. La hora de ser coherentes con nuestros discursos ha llegado. Suenan las alarmas. La hora de erradicar el hambre no puede ser postergada. Los hambrientos no pueden esperar.

CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentleman, given that we are unlikely to finish the list of speakers published in today's Journal before lunch time, I should like to beg your indulgence and allow me to give the floor to the representatives of three Conference Observers who have informed me that other engagements, including travel plans, would prevent them from attending an afternoon meeting. The Observers concerned are:

- The Holy See

- The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

- The International Atomic Energy Agency.

Can I take it that I may give the floor to these three observers before we finish our work for this morning? Thank you.

Monseigneur Luigi TRAVAGLINO (Saint-Siège)

Tout d'abord, je souhaiterais vous remercier, Monsieur le Président, de me donner la parole, et en même temps, vous adresser mes salutations respectueuses, que j'étends aux délégations réunies ici.

En cette occasion, la délégation du Saint-Siège veut redire combien elle apprécie les activités de la FAO, qui visent à promouvoir le développement agricole et la sécurité alimentaire, et réaffirmer sa volonté de soutenir ce devoir qui touche un aspect fondamental de la vie des personnes et des communautés.

En ce moment particulièrement délicat pour l'économie mondiale, nos encouragements s'adressent à toutes les parties prenantes pour mettre en œuvre les programmes de l'Organisation, qui conduisent à la sécurité alimentaire, devenue indispensable. Il convient toutefois de passer des paroles aux actes, en mettant à disposition de la FAO les ressources nécessaires. Cela implique une solidarité qu'il faut rendre concrète. Ceci permettra à la FAO de fonctionner de manière efficace, cohérente et transparente, et à tous de regarder vers l'avenir avec plus de sérénité et de confiance.

Quant à la programmation pour les deux prochaines années, la délégation du Saint-Siège espère que seront élargies les formes de soutien aux activités artisanales et à l'exploitation agricole familiale dans laquelle sont honorés la transmission des valeurs fondamentales, la conservation des savoirs traditionnels, les relations entre les générations et le rôle irremplaçable des femmes.

Un autre motif de réflexion concerne la manière de mettre en place les politiques de développement agricole et de les combiner avec l'action internationale de coopération et d'assistance. La croissance intégrale des différents pays exige l'adoption de mesures spécifiques visant à assurer une responsabilité effective des États.

En particulier, pour la délégation du Saint-Siège, l'objectif de la durabilité agricole et alimentaire pourra être plus efficace s'il est lié à une pleine participation des populations rurales. Cette approche de la *durabilité* liée à la personne humaine nous semble pouvoir contribuer à donner du sens à la responsabilité qui nous incombe à l'égard des générations futures.

La même responsabilité se traduit dans les différents aspects qui touchent les divers secteurs de l'agriculture, des forêts et de la pêche, non seulement pour les questions liées à l'écologie, mais aussi pour la gestion des ressources.

La responsabilité exige une cohérence et une fidélité plus grande aux règles que la FAO pose au fondement de son action. On espère l'élaboration de lignes directrices qui spécifient l'objectif de durabilité pour les différents secteurs en se fondant sur les indicateurs d'insécurité alimentaire ou de malnutrition.

La préservation du patrimoine génétique réclame également la responsabilité de veiller sur les activités qui produisent des dommages souvent irréparables. La responsabilité par rapport à ce problème doit trouver des solutions au profit des communautés rurales et des populations indigènes qui restent, dans de nombreux cas, les seuls gardiens des ressources de la Création.

Monsieur le Président, la délégation du Saint-Siège rappelle la nécessité d'une perspective essentiellement éthique, au sein de laquelle chaque décision et chaque action subséquente est le fruit de ce principe de *solidarité*. De la sorte, on pourra promouvoir concrètement le développement efficace de tous et de chacun.

Enfin, je voudrais rappeler aux nombreuses délégations présentes, l'audience que la Conférence aura demain, jeudi 20 juin, avec Sa Sainteté le Pape François.

Mr Gyan Chandra ACHARYA (United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries)

I wish to express my sincere thanks for the opportunity to make a statement at the General Debate of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference. I wish to express my appreciation to the Director-General, Mr Graziano da Silva, for his excellent report. I also thank him for co-organizing a side event in collaboration with IFAD and WFP on food security, sustainable agriculture development and structural transformation in LDCs, which was held yesterday.

Nowhere the echoes of food security, nutrition and rural development resonate more than in vulnerable countries, in particular the least developed countries. Indeed, despite continued decline in prevalence rates of undernourishment in these countries, it is estimated that 260 million people are still living with hunger in LDCs. Also, the share of the hungry people in relation to the total population is highest in LDCs. According to the most recent FAO's Crop Prospects and Food Situation, of the 36 countries requiring external assistance for food, 27 are LDCs, and most of these countries are located in Africa.

Vulnerable countries are also where the broader economic and social implications of food insecurity are most conspicuous. Food insecurity across these countries is caused in part by limited supply of foods, which itself reflects low agricultural productivity and output and, in short, slow structural transformation. Another important issue, of course, is access to food by all.

As more than 70 percent of the population of LDCs lives in rural areas, where agriculture is the main source of income and employment, the performance of the agriculture sector is central to the lives of most people living in LDCs. Such performance also affects other economic sectors either directly through the marketing of agricultural inputs and outputs or indirectly through the provision of other services in rural markets. Therefore, there is a great opportunity before us.

Productivity in the agricultural sector has not increased much over the last three decades. Productivity stands at less than 20 percent of that of the middle-income countries. Also, the reality in most LDCs is not only a lack of significant productivity growth but also inadequate labour absorption outside of agriculture.

The double challenge before many LDCs is therefore one of boosting productivity in the agricultural and rural economy while diversifying into higher value goods outside agriculture.

These issues were at the center of discussions at yesterday's side event. The communiqué issued at this event underscored that addressing this double challenge holds the key to achieving structural transformation, strong growth, sustainable and inclusive development, and food and nutrition security.

This, in turn, will require reversing the chronic under-capitalization of agriculture, promoting sustainable agricultural production systems and practices, boosting funding for agricultural research

and technology, improving marketing and rural infrastructure and addressing the education and skill gaps, particularly in rural areas.

Among the measures proposed by participants at yesterday's side event was the growing adoption of social protection schemes, including cash-based transfers, school feeding programmes and emergency food reserves, as ways to secure access to food by vulnerable groups.

Together with a stronger national leadership, the need for strengthening and scaling up global support for LDCs in this particular sector was stressed. Besides enhanced support from the traditional development partners, there was recognition of the growing importance of South-South cooperation in agriculture, and call for increased experience-sharing and peer-learning and technical cooperation between emerging countries and LDCs, including through triangular cooperation.

This year's *FAO State of Food and Agriculture report* clearly shows that addressing hunger and malnutrition requires more than greater availability of food and vibrant agriculture sector but also adequate food systems, which enable people to have the right mix of nutritious foods and the required knowledge and information for healthy choices.

Excellencies, it is encouraging that much is now being done, as various bilateral, regional and international organizations are teaming up or operating on their own to deliver operational and technical support as well as policy advice to vulnerable countries, including LDCs. Therefore, a better targeted, comprehensive and coherent support to LDCs should be high on the agenda.

This will help build a stronger consistency in support of vulnerable countries like LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS among existing global and regional governing bodies and coordination mechanisms dealing with food security issues. The operationalization of UN Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge initiative will be an important yardstick against which progress will be measured.

It is equally important that dimensions of food security, agriculture development and structural transformation, as they relate to LDCs, feature in the discussions and outcomes of the negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals, climate change and other relevant issues.

Working together with all, LDCs' inter-agency group on agriculture, food security and rural development will pursue this agenda in the context of the UN's work of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and other related processes. Thank you for your kind attention.

Mr Ykiya AMANO (International Atomic Energy Agency)

I am very pleased to attend this FAO Conference. I am very much pleased because the relationship between FAO and IAEA has strengthened dramatically in the past several years.

Director-General José Graziano da Silva visited Vienna last year and now I am in Rome to attend your Conference. Director-General Graziano da Silva and I have just signed revised Joint Arrangements between the FAO and IAEA. Our two Organizations have one thing in common. We made an important contribution to combatting hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

Fifty years ago in 1964, we created the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, and that Joint Division has helped to unlock the potential of nuclear technology for the benefit of many hundreds of thousands of people in developing countries. Our cooperation continues to evolve.

With the support of FAO, the IAEA has proposed that it should become a member of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. The IAEA is often described in the media as the UN "nuclear watchdog", but we are more than that. By making nuclear technology available, we make a unique contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially in ending poverty and hunger as well as in child and maternal health.

I have been impressed by the impact our projects have had in improving lives in many developing countries. I went to Peru two years ago and I met farmers who grow new types of barley at high altitudes, thanks to radiation induced mutation techniques made available with our assistance.

In Ethiopia, where I went this year, I learned how the sterile insect technique is being used successfully to eradicate the tsetse fly in the Southern Rift Valley. This has the potential to save the lives of millions of cattle and protect the livelihoods of over one hundred thousand farming families. In the eradication of the deadly cattle disease and the pest the Joint Division played a major role. Our work can also have a favourable impact on the environment, resulting in less use of fertilizer and more efficient use of water.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are making a real difference to the work. The Joint Division provides scientific and technical support for over two hundred fifty national and regional IAEA technical cooperation projects in Member Nations. Some five hundred research institutions and experimental stations in Member Nations participate in coordinating research projects every year. Our eight nuclear applications laboratories in Vienna are unique within the UN system. They are doing pioneering work related to human and animal health, food security and safety, and culture and environmental monitoring. However, these laboratories are becoming obsolete by today's standards. So we are finalizing plans for an extensive modernization of the laboratories in the next few years.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Joint FAO/IAEA Division and the FAO/IAEA Agriculture and Biotechnology Laboratories are a successful example of interagency cooperation in the United Nations. In signing the Revised Arrangements today, we reconfirmed our commitment to this very effective partnership. Our work helps to reduce poverty, improve food security, and combat disease.

This brings us a step closer to the sort of world we all want to see. The IAEA greatly values our collaboration FAO. I thank you, Director-General, for your commitment to our joint endeavours, and I assure you that I remain committed to strengthening cooperation between our two Organizations in the coming years. Thank you very much.

CHAIPERSON

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. This brings us to the end of our meeting this morning. With this last speaker we have concluded our work on item 9 and hence will not need to reconvene this afternoon.

I should like to thank all the participants in the General Debate and to remind the Conference that the statements have been posted on the Conference Web site.

There will be a Plenary meeting here at 14.30 hours tomorrow afternoon given that the morning will be dedicated to a side event and the Papal Audience. With this we have concluded our work for today. The meeting has ended.

The meeting rose at 12.48 hours
La séance est levée à 12 h 48
Se levanta la sesión a las 12.48 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session
Trente-huitième session
38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA

19 June 2013

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours
Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.40
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Presidente de la Conferencia

9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
9. Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)
(C 2013/2; C 2013/2 Add.1)

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)

Rwanda, Burundi, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Netherlands, Mozambique, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Bhutan.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, I call the Eighth Plenary Meeting to order.

We will now continue with Item 9, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. I give the floor to Rwanda.

M. Jacques KABALE NYANGEZI (Rwanda)

C'est pour moi un grand honneur et un plaisir de prendre la parole, au nom de mon pays le Rwanda, à l'occasion de la 38ème session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier et féliciter Monsieur le Directeur général, José Graziano da Silva, et toute son équipe pour tous les efforts déployés afin de faire parvenir notre Organisation à son niveau actuel.

En effet, les défis auxquels l'humanité se trouve aujourd'hui confrontée, méritent toute une planification et des stratégies en adéquation avec ceux-ci. La faim et la malnutrition constituent des fléaux à éradiquer définitivement de notre planète. Grâce à la bonne gouvernance, assurée par le Président Paul Kagame, le Rwanda a réalisé des avancées importantes dans l'atteinte des objectifs du millénaire, et plus particulièrement, l'objectif en rapport avec la réduction de la pauvreté et l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Un accent particulier a été porté sur la sécurité nutritionnelle à travers la Stratégie de développement économique et de réduction de la pauvreté. Le Programme intégré de lutte contre la malnutrition est un programme transversal, dont se sont entièrement appropriés plusieurs Ministères, en l'occurrence celui de la santé, de l'agriculture, de la gouvernance locale, de l'éducation et du genre. Le rôle de la famille reste également primordial dans la lutte contre la malnutrition et dans la promotion de la culture nutritionnelle, en passant par la sensibilisation au changement de comportement alimentaire.

C'est dans cette optique, que le Gouvernement a conçu et mis en œuvre plusieurs programmes de sécurité nutritionnelle, à savoir: le don d'une vache pour chaque famille vulnérable, la promotion de potagers familiaux, et enfin la multiplicité des cantines scolaires, pour ne citer que ceux-ci. Tous ces programmes sont appuyés par le Gouvernement et nos partenaires au développement. Avec la mise en œuvre des programmes prévus dans la Stratégie de développement économique et de réduction de la pauvreté, phase 1, la population rwandaise se trouvant en dessous du seuil de pauvreté a été réduite de plus d'un million de personnes. Dans la poursuite de ses efforts pour éradiquer de façon durable la pauvreté, le Rwanda vient de se doter, pour une période de cinq ans, de deux instruments de politique qui donnent des orientations stratégiques en matière de développement économique en général et du secteur agricole en particulier. Il s'agit:

1- du Plan stratégique de transformation de l'agriculture, et

2- de la Stratégie de développement économique et de réduction de la pauvreté, phase 2.

Les programmes prioritaires de ces deux instruments de politique s'articulent autour des activités visant la transformation économique, le développement rural, la productivité et l'emploi des jeunes, et enfin la bonne gouvernance.

L'agriculture rwandaise se doit de passer à l'agriculture industrielle et commerciale en s'appuyant sur les avantages comparatifs. C'est ainsi qu'aujourd'hui, un accent particulier est mis sur des programmes d'irrigation, de gestion de l'eau et du sol, d'intensification de l'élevage, de manutention des récoltes et de stockage, tout en ayant soin de développer des liens de partenariat entre les agriculteurs et les industries de transformation.

Je ne terminerai pas mon intervention sans remercier la FAO pour son accompagnement et son rôle combien important dans l'appui à la mise en œuvre de notre Plan stratégique pour la transformation agricole.

Je ne doute pas un seul instant que seront tenus les engagements que nous avons tous pris, au nom de nos pays, aux fins d'éradiquer définitivement la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde.

M. Renovat NDAYIRUKIYE (Burundi)

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président de la Conférence de m'accorder la parole. Je saisis cette opportunité pour joindre ma voix à celle des autres qui ont pris la parole avant moi pour vous adresser, au nom de la délégation du Burundi et en mon nom personnel, nos sincères félicitations pour votre élection méritée et pour la manière efficace dont vous dirigez nos travaux de la Conférence.

Le Burundi se trouve honoré ce jour, grâce à l'aimable invitation de Monsieur Graziano da Silva, Directeur général de la FAO, adressée au Gouvernment du Burundi à prendre part à cette 38ème session de la Conférence de la FAO. En effet, le Gouvernement avait souhaité envoyer Madame la Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'élevage, pour délivrer elle-même ce message. Ayant été empêchée au dernier moment, le Gouvernement m'a désigné pour la représenter et délivrer, en son nom, cette allocution. Je voudrais donc d'entrée de jeu, transmettre à Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO les remerciements du Gouvernement du Burundi pour cet honneur et lui réaffirmer le soutien du Burundi.

Nous examinons aujourd'hui et à juste titre la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agricuture avec le thème principal des «Systèmes alimentaires durables au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition».

En ce qui concerne le Burundi, la sécurité alimentaire est très préoccupante ces dernières années. La disponibilité alimentaire accuse un déficit grave. Aussi, la ration journalière des Burundais est dominée à plus de 90 pour cent par des apports pauvres en éléments nutritifs, en protéines, en lipides, etc. Cette situation de malnutrition est la source de beaucoup de maladies dont le Kwashiorkor, le diabète et l'anémie.

Pourqui cette situation? Qui en sont les premières victimes? Quelles sont les solutions à y apporter?

Les causes de cette situation sont multiples et les facteurs sont aussi bien endogènes qu'exogènes. Les facteurs exogènes qui causent l'insécurité alimentaire sont entre autres les conditions météorologiques très variables, les prix internationaux très fluctuants, la flambée des prix des aliments et l'inflation croissante des prix à la consommation. Ces facteurs rendent les ménages vulnérables encore plus exposés au risque de connaître la faim.

Les facteurs endogènes sont notamment le manque d'intrants agricoles, le manque de semences améliorées, le faible pouvoir d'achat de la population, les maladies phytosanitaires, la croissance démographique et l'exiguïté des terres cultivables.

Le deuxième problème concerne la non considération du secteur agricole par la jeunesse surtout. La plupart des jeunes ne cessent de clamer que l'agriculture est réservée aux paysans pauvres.

Le dernier problème concerne l'insuffisance du financement de ce secteur agricole. Au Burundi, ce secteur avait été délaissé et avait obtenu une fourchette de financement très négligeable. On peut noter qu'en 2003, à Maputo, les Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement se sont engagés à affecter au moins 10 pour cent de leurs budgets nationaux au secteur agricole. Au départ, le Burundi n'avait pas répondu favorablement à cet engagement. En 2009, ce budget était de 2 pour cent. Il a été rehaussé à 3 pour cent en 2010, puis à 7 pour cent en 2011. Actuellement, le Gouvernement du Burundi a augmenté l'enveloppe budgétaire allouée au secteur agricole à 11 pour cent.

Le Burundi est un pays où l'agriculture est le pilier de son économie. L'agriculture contribue entre 40 et 50 pour cent au Produit intérieur brut du Burundi, lui apporte 86 pour cent des recettes d'exportation, fournit 95 pour cent de l'offre alimentaire et occupe plus de 90 pour cent de la population. Plus de 80 pour cent des habitants du Burundi dépendent de l'agriculture pour leurs moyens de subsistance, si bien que les familles rurales doivent produire leurs propres aliments. Cette majorité est constituée par les jeunes et les femmes.

Par contre, les cultivateurs n'ont pas d'industries de conservation et de transformation pour vendre leur production. Faute de cet outil indispensable, c'est-à-dire l'industrie de transformation, les cultivateurs se contentent de vendre leurs récoltes à un prix très bas.

Qui en sont les victimes? Ce sont les femmes, ce sont les enfants, et c'est finalement la nation qui recourt à l'aide extérieure.

Avant de conclure notre message, nous aimerions souligner les réponses pertinentes que nous apporte la FAO dans le domaine agricole. Le Gouvernement apprécie, à leur juste valeur, les appuis et les expériences des partenaires extérieurs qui visent à combattre et à éradiquer la famine et la malnutrition.

Mr Cenio LEWIS (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

I am grateful for the opportunity to say a few words at the 38th Session of this FAO Conference.

The goals which we all set in relation to reduction and eradication of hunger have been eloquently stated by previous speakers. Therefore, I will not repeat them save to say that we must at all times keep these goals constantly in focus.

I am aware that the solution to the task of reduction and elimination of hunger requires time, but for 870 million people who are still hungry time is merely dragging on while they wait and quite often it can be too late for some.

There is, in the words of the Director-General's Medium Term Plan, paragraph 59: quote: "sufficient capacity in the world to produce enough food to feed everyone adequately." unquote.

If the capacity exists to feed everyone adequately then there is a necessity to access an urgent solution and here I believe that paragraph 60 of the Medium Term Plan provides useful direction for it suggests the need for a "coherent action" across sectors and shareholders together with other factors and agents in the search for hunger reduction and eradication.

Turning specifically to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, I wish to thank the FAO for the recognition it has given to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the efforts of the government lead by Prime Minister Ralph Gonzalves and our people in the reduction of hunger from over 20 percent in the 1990 to 4.9 percent today.

Our objective in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is to continue along the path of reducing hunger to a zero position. The road along this path will not be easy because we are a small and vulnerable state, vulnerable to climate change, vulnerable to changes in the global economy, vulnerable to all sorts of regulations. I prefer to call some of these regulations, trade restrictions which have serious effects on our economic development. One example of these regulations which comes readily to my mind is the Airport Passenger Duty Tax which has inequitably increased the costs of certain visitors to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and indeed to all Caribbean small island states where the Tourist Industry is crucial to our economic development.

I make this point only to say that there is a connection between the ability to reduce hunger and economic development. But whatever the challenge, we in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will pursue zero hunger eradication. We will do so in trying where possible to assist our small rural farmers who are the bedrock of our agricultural system. In addition, we will place emphasis on education particularly on the importance of conservation of what we have, the careful use of our resources, and improved methods of production. We will also not neglect the importance of education in our schools and generally about the nutritional values of food consumption more value of what we eat rather how much we eat.

In conclusion, I wish to complement the FAO and its Director-General for clearly setting out its strategic objectives, as contained in paragraph 13 of the Medium Term Plan. These objectives are clearly worthy of support.

Achieving objects are never easy in practice and sailing into the challenging waters of hunger reduction and eradication of food insecurity and malnutrition requires careful and sustained navigation.

I believe however that FAO has in its Director-General a competent navigator in the pursuance of the Strategic Objectives it has outlined in the Medium Term Plan.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Netherlands)

Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour to address you today at this FAO Conference. The Netherlands would first like to congratulate Mr Graziano da Silva on the impressive progress the FAO has made under his first year and a half in office. With its renewed strategic framework, the FAO is now able to provide new and ambitious answers, and deliver concrete results and solutions at grassroots level.

Farmers will play a key role in feeding a world of 9 billion people by 2050; key in launching a green revolution, key in increasing production and promoting sustainable change across the entire agricultural system. And they are also key in realizing the principles of fairness and environmental care.

Two years ago Kofi Annan spoke at a conference in The Hague on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change. He said: "Most of us here are not farmers. Let us give the lead to those who can really make a difference in agriculture."

This is a message the Netherlands would like to reiterate to the FAO. People see how farmers are the drivers for green change, how they innovate, how they can shape a better and more secure future for us all. We are able to invest in this change in many ways. We must be the co-pilots of this change, with farmers in the driver's seat.

The problem of food security is rooted in poverty; it is the result of an uneven distribution of money as well as food. The only remedy to this is sustainable economic growth. People need meaningful jobs and a fair income.

Investment in sustainable agriculture is the stimulus for economic growth that can achieve this. According to the World Bank, every dollar invested in agriculture has two to three times more impact on poverty than a dollar invested in another economic sector.

In our efforts to achieve sustainable agricultural development, the role of the private sector and private investment needs to be strengthened. Farmers and agribusiness must be put in the driver's seat.

This is exactly what we are doing in the Netherlands. Our agri-food and horticulture sectors are highly innovative and are already working together with the public sector and NGOs to achieve sustainable growth in agricultural productivity. Together we can contribute to sustainably feeding the world.

We have to double productivity while halving inputs, and at the same time cut greenhouse gas emissions by half. I am convinced the agricultural sector, with its technology and innovative power, can deliver the solutions we seek.

The conference in The Hague at which Kofi Annan delivered such an inspiring address, marked the starting point for increasing international support for this approach of climate-smart agriculture. Last September we organized a highly successful conference in Hanoi, Viet Nam, that resulted in concrete actions to implement this innovative approach.

We have to build on this success. The next conference will be in South Africa. I would like to congratulate South Africa on this initiative. Our goal is for 75 countries to enter into a partnership for climate-smart agriculture.

When we discuss food security, we usually focus on agriculture. However, there is also very clearly a maritime component to food security. Fifteen percent of the world population depends on fish as the primary source of protein.

The oceans are also frequently overlooked in their capacity as a climate regulating factor and as a source of life. Indeed, healthy and productive oceans are vital to mankind.

It is for that reason that the Netherlands has taken the initiative to organize the Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth. This Summit, organized with our partners, the World Bank and FAO, will be held from 9 to13 September in The Hague, and includes a High-level segment on 12 September.

This Summit is not about developing new policies or exchanging knowledge. It is about concrete action and initiatives, from all stakeholders involved: governments, civil society and the private sector. We all know what needs to be done to secure the health of the oceans. Now is the time to act. I urge the collective leadership to take the action that is needed, so people may benefit today and for generations to come. It is time for turning words into action, to reach concrete, sustainable and durable results, because we all know: if we do what we did, we get what we got.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Mozambique) (Original language Portuguese)

Allow me first to congratulate you, Mr Chairperson of the Conference, on your election and on the way in which you have been conducting the work of this 38th Conference of the FAO.

I would also like to say how grateful we are to the FAO Director-General for the support he has always linked to our country. Particularly for Mozambique, he has helped us to develop and implement our master plan for agricultural statistics, the implementation of the food security and resilience project for vulnerable families with regard to an increase in productivity and production.

These actions highlight the importance of FAO's Programmes in guaranteeing a food security of its Member Nations. The Government of Mozambique supports the Medium-Term Plan 2014-2017 and the Programme of Work proposed by the Director-General.

This Conference is a step forward in the process to eradicate hunger and to reduce the effects of poverty through the formulation of guidelines which demonstrate to governments the conviction and the involvement of this Organization. The importance of food sovereignty in the world agriculture is a fundamental pillar for economic and social development on a sustainable basis in our countries.

The Government is placing its hopes in increasing agricultural productivity and production through the creation and transfer of agricultural technologies to create the conditions for market access and training, promotion of sustainable management of natural resources and strengthening of good governance and democracy, as well as intelligent partnerships and dialogue among the different stakeholders in the production and value chain.

In this context, and as part of regional integration in the Southern African development community, we are involved in the formulation of a regional agricultural policy, an instrument which will provide all Member Nations with the unique opportunity to strengthen solid, regional integration, as well as allowing for better coordination of policies, economic and social coordination and public actions for food and interest in security in Mozambique in our region.

The meeting of Ministers responsible for agriculture and food security, which was held in June in Maputo, adopted the regional agricultural policy as a whole, recommending that states launch an internal consultation process in order to implement this.

In this context, the Government of Mozambique will implement mechanisms for consultation involving all partners in agricultural sector by December this year, including the adoption of a binding mechanism. Furthermore, as part of the Portuguese-speaking community, Mozambique is implementing the Food Security and Nutrition strategy, mobilizing politicians around a comprehensive vision with regard to the matter. This also includes the training of managers.

The Government is also committed to fighting hunger and poverty within the framework of the comprehensive Africa Agricultural Plan. We have adopted a ten-year Strategic Plan to this purpose with four pillars, namely: increasing productivity and production as well as competitiveness in agriculture, services, infrastructure for better market access, sustainable and integrated use of natural resources and strengthening of agricultural institutions.

This plan is a guiding framework and an instrument for harmonization that mobilizes synergies to stimulate agricultural development. In order to implement the Strategic Plan, we developed the National Investment Plan that responds to our firm belief that an increase in productivity is essential in order to stimulate the agricultural sector.

Our aim is to make family-subsistence farmers into competitive players on the market, to create an investment-favourable environment that also provides agricultural services.

I would like to conclude by stating that agricultural production is our safeguard. We have the right to produce, to have access to food in appropriate quantity and quality for a healthy life. That is why we are all participating to the transformation of subsistence farmers into farmers who are open and market-oriented.

Mr Nicos KOUYALIS (Cyprus)

I would like first of all to thank the FAO Secretariat for documents C 2013/2 and Add.1, which provide important evidence of the State of Food and Agriculture.

The number of chronically undernourished people around the world remains unacceptably high. The proportion of the world's population suffering from undernourishment isa round 12.5 percent or one in eight people. It is clear that progress in reducing the prevalence of undernourishment has slowed considerably since 2007, as a result of economic crisis and higher food prices. Many regions are unlikely to achieve the MDG hunger target without early resumption of progress, requiring inclusive economic recovery as well as food stability.

The persistence of high levels of undernourishment worldwide and recent trends in agricultural prices, production and consumption confirm the major challenges facing world agriculture over the coming decades, notably meeting increasing demand from a growing world population, contributing to eradicating hunger and malnutrition and preserving the natural resources, upon which agriculture and we all depend.

To meet these challenges we need to improve agricultural productivity, while conserving and enhancing natural resources, allowing farmers to increase global food suppliles – as well as their own incomes and food security – on a sustainable basis.

The persistence of undernourishment in many countries, the recognition of micronutrient deficiencies as a form of "hidden hunger", and the emercency of overweight and obesity as a global concern lend ever greater urgency and complexity to the malnutrition challenge.

For all individuals to be food secure and well-nourished, the food system must provide food that is available, accesible, safe, diverse and nutritious, and people must make healthy choices. The contribution that agriculture makes to nutritional outcomes through ptoduction, prices and incomes is fundamental, but the broader food system including post-harvest processing technologies, distribution and marketing can contribute much more. Food systems as a whole, from production through consumption, can be made more nutrition-enhancing and more environmentally sustainable through a number of specific actions.

Analyses and actions to shape food systems for better nutrition must take into account the fact that there is no single food system but rather a multiplicity of systems with characteristics that vary, for example, with incomes, livelihoods and urbanization. Creating a strong nutrition-enhancing food and agricultural system is arguably the most practical, convenient and sustainable way to address malnutrition, as food choices and consumption patterns ultimately become integrated into the lifestyle of the individual.

Nutritious interventions in agriculture generally focus on increasing the abundance, diversity and affordability of food. The most fundamental intervention to enhance the productivity of the agricultural sector is through research and development and agricultural policies and services. Efforts to boost agricultural productivity must also consider the impacts on time use, especially of women, who bear a greater responsibility for food preparation and child care. Gender sensitive interventions can improve nutritional outcomes by recognizing women's role in nutrition and as efficient managers of limited household resources by promoting gender equality throughout the system.

Agricultural products reach consumers through food supply chains. Each link in a food supply chain affects the availability, affordability, diversity and nutritional quality of food. Increasing efficiency, reducing losses and waste, both of food and of the nutrients the food contains, and improving nutritional content through fortification are key interventions that influence availability, affordability and diversity of food and in turn shapes consumer choices, dietary patterns and nutritional outcomes.

Other interventions focus on behavious change through a variety of instruments, including nutrition education, public information campaigns, nutrition labelling, taxation, subsidies and food assistance programmes.

The important role of agriculture in managing natural resources and the environment for the health of the ecosystem is well established. Most of the focus has been on the production side where the emphasis i son sustainable intensification that can close yield and productive gaps in under-performing systems. This continues to be of great importance. Efforts to improve nutrition through sustainable food systems, then, are a win-win both for society and for agriculture.

Cyprus ia a Member of FAO since 1960 and, ever since, strongly supports the Organization as the irreplaceable international centre on food security, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development. As you know, we presented our candidatura to the FAO Council for the period July 2013 to June 2016. It has passed a decade since the last time Cyprus was a Member of the Coucil. The moment has finally arrived for Cyprus, according to the seat rotation of the European Regional Group and, therefore, we would highly appreciate your support during the elections.

CHAIRPERSON

There are requests from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Bhutan for their statements to be included in the Verbatim Records of this session. Their statements will be included in the Verbatim Records of this Session.

Mr Chun Guk KIM (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)[1]

Allow me to extend congratulations on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to you, Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi, upon your election as the chairperson of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference. I am sure that this session will prove successful under your leadership.

I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the staff of the Secretariat of FAO, including Mr Jose Graziano da Silva, the Director-General, and the Italian Government for the sincere efforts to ensure the success of this session.

To eradicate hunger and poverty across the world and to ensure global food security are priority issues in the efforts to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

Over the past two years, FAO played an important role as a leading international organization whose mandate is to increase agricultural production and successfully discharged its responsibility.

As a result of the recent policy of decentralization, FAO's regional and country offices have strengthened the functioning of technical cooperation; technical cooperation with prioritized projects have also been strengthened in line with the Country Programming Framework; these are results of positive measures that FAO took to enhance the effectiveness of its assistance.

[1] *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.*

FAO decided to refocus on the world free of hunger and malnutrition as the strategic direction and objectives on the basis of comprehensive analysis of the global food and agricultural situation and development trends and encourages active involvement of the member states and social organizations. It is a good example illustrating the determination and efforts of FAO to put an end to the world food crisis at an early date.

We recognize that the programme of work and budget for 2014-15 are well formulated to provide greater assistance to the efforts of the member states aimed at ensuring food security and agricultural development. We, thus, support them.

The new biennium PWB, representing a one percent real increase over PWB 2012-13, allocated most of the resources to the eradication of hunger, strengthening of agricultural productivity, effective use of natural resources, prevention of damages by pests and agricultural technical cooperation, all of which are matters of priority. We believe it is a practical step.

Despite the international efforts, the global food shortage and hunger continue to haunt the world.

It is the belief of my delegation that the following issues deserve attention in order to ensure food security by increasing global agricultural production in keeping with the MDGs.

First, it is important for each country to formulate correct agricultural policy to suit its specific conditions and increase agricultural production on one's own.

Member Nations should increase government's spending on agricultural and rural development and take practical steps to enhance scientific capabilities in areas including seed improvement, effective use of land and water resources, proper management of crops, prevention of damages by pests, reduction of post-harvest losses, etc.

Second, it is necessary to create the right political atmosphere and socio-economic conditions that will help the developing countries increase agricultural output and ensure food security.

Member Nations should established a new international economic order on the basis of the principle of equality and mutual benefits. At the same time, the international community should make efforts to adjust the unfair international trade system of agricultural products that has negative impact on agricultural production in developing countries. It is also important to take measures to prevent the expansion of grain-based bio-fuel production-a root cause of food shortage.

Developed countries should not turn a blind eye to the grim reality of developing countries and faithfully implement their commitment to assist developing countries and increase agricultural assistance, true to relevant UN General Assembly resolutions. Developing countries on the other hand, should expand the scope of south-south cooperation and learn each other from good experience and technical advances.

Third, FAO should play a decisive role in the efforts to eradicate hunger and ensure food security.

FAO should continue to improve its working system so as to achieve the revised strategic objectives and ensure effective provision of technical assistance to developing countries in such areas as agriculture, fishery and forestry on the basis of the new programme and budget.

The DPRK is engaged in dynamic campaign to build a strong economy under the wise leadership of the respected Marshal Kim Jon UN.

It is true that we are faced with manifold challenges and difficulties on our way forward. However, the Government of the DPRK is channelling great efforts to improve people's livelihood by pushing ahead with economic construction.

The Government of the DPRK has identified agriculture as a key sector in the efforts to build a strong economy and concentrates all its resources on the development of agriculture while taking measures to increase agricultural output on the basis of enhanced scientific capabilities and intensified foundations.

In order to ensure food security, the Government of the DPRK currently focuses on seed revolution, double-cropping, potato farming and soybean farming, the benefits of which had already been demonstrated. At the same time, it is strengthening the material and technical assistance to the rural area.

At the same time, we are focusing on the development of animal husbandry. We are now working on the gigantic animal farm project on Sepo Plateau and also the project to expand the area of arable land by realigning the fields and reclaiming tidelands.

The efforts of the DPRK aimed at building a strong economy will contribute to the development of global economy and food security as well as the international efforts to achieve the MDGs and Action Plan adopted in the World Food Summit.

The Government of the DPRK will continue to strengthen cooperation with FAO and its member states on the basis of its foreign policy-the principles of independence, peace, and friendship – and make positive contribution to international efforts for global food security.

Mr Lyonpo Pema GYAMTSHO (Bhutan)[2]

I am pleased to state that the first five years of democracy, with all their attendant tests, hurdles, and learning experiences on the path to establishing a resilient, vibrant democracy, have successfully completed. Through the political stability provided by our new governance system of democracy, we have been fortunate to be able to pursue a consistent and coherent development agenda.

Furthermore, Tenth Five-year Plan (FYP) of Bhutan is in the last stage of completion and we are in the process of finalizing the 11FYP with the national objective of achieving self-resilience through inclusive green socio-economic development. I am pleased to report that Bhutan has maintained rapid growth which on average has exeeded 8 percent since 2005 without undermining our social, cultural or political values and without deleting our natural resource base.

As of now, many remote villages that had no access to electricity, roads and basic services now enjoy some eddential conforts that we take for granted. The expanding networks of rural roads have given innumerable rural communities across the country greater access to essential services while providing market access and enhancing the economic and livelihood prospects. From this, you may surmise that Bhutan is well on track to achieve most of the MDG targets, including that of reducing poverty by half.

The main thrust of the Tenth Five-year Plan (2008-2013) was poverty alleviation, including a substantial investment in the infrastructure, social and productive sectors. Furthermore, to strenghten these efforts, policies and legislation have been put in place in support of poverty alleviation, including a broad-based poverty reduction strategy, a national food security policy, disaster management plans, and legislation governing land and other resources.

I am happy to report that the "Poverty Analysis Report 2012" estimates that the National Poverty Rate has been drastically reduced to 12 percent from 23.2 percent. What is particularly heartening is that the percentage of rural population living below the poverty line has come down significantly from a high of 30.9 percent in 2007 to 16.7 percent in 2012. The significant progress has been possible primarily due to the direct result of benefits of higher income from farm produce, including agriculture and diary; convenient and efficient market access provided by the many roads completed in time for the last harvest season, and the many other poverty alleviation measures implemented.

However, poverty continues to be a serious concern for Bhutan despite strong pro-poor development policies and interventions. Hence, poverty reduction will still remain as one of the main development priorities for the 11th Plan, with particular emphasis on addressing multi-dimensional poverty, income inequalities, malnutrition and growing urban poverty.

Our efforts in eliminating hunger and malnutrition have made tremendous progress in the last couple of decades, with a wide range of government policies and programmes in place to improve the

[2] *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.*

availability and access to food. Towards this, the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy has been drafted and is in its final stage of approval from the Government. The Policy identifies measures to ensure availability of, accessibility to and enablicg proper utilization of safe and adequate varieties of food to meet food requirements of the population at all times.

A constant challenge to land use in the ecologically fragile Himalayas is to balance production with environmental preservation. While Bhutan is well known for its pristine environment, large areas under protected status, and healthy populations of many internationally threatened species of flora and fauna, we must also aknowledge that renewed efforts are needed to secure the sustainable use of agricultural land. Hence, agricultural intensification, mechanization, and commercialization create new demands for sustainable land management.

The Government is also making concerted efforts to boost farm incomes by assisting farmers in increased market orientation, by creating market outlets, and by developing new marketing strategies and products. Bhutan will not be able to compete internationally in the production of bulk crops, given the limited land resources, the transportation costs and other reasons. However, we are targeting production of high value and low volume products and at taking advantage of our special ecological conditions.

Bhutan pursues environmental management as an integral part of its development plan. The National Forest Policy and the Constitution of the country require that at least 60 percent of the country remain forested at all times. Currently, over 16 396.4 square kilometres of Bhutan's land has been set aside as protected areas in the form of parks and biological corridors. Diversity in flora and fauna is one of the highest in Asia. Bhutan is also one of the few countries in the world with net greenhouse gas sequestration capacity largely due to its vast forest cover and widespread use of clean energy.

Further, the policy reform for agriculture and biodiversity clearly states that Organic Farming will be a major focus area for Bhutan to promote as an Organic Brand. Among the agricultural sector development, organic farming will be promoted through use of viable alternative methods and imputs with a gradual phasing out of use of harmful chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Although small and scattered efforts at organic promotion have only managed to make a start in growth, having an integrated approach to strategy development and planning is felt necessary. While promoting commercial production targeted towards export or major domestic markets will be the focus, production in remote natural by default organic production will form significant part of the rural food supply for nutrition and household food basket. This aspect, while economically not so important, contributes towards the GNH philosophy of cleaner and greener Bhutan.

However, agriculture is seen as a major contributor to the climate change problem rather tan an agent of mitigation/adaptation. Agriculture sector has been blamed as a significant producer of greenhouse gases, frequent trigger to deforestation and major user of fresh water. The concept of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) that the Ministry is embarking on during the 11FYP seeks to reverse that pattern. Climate Smart Agriculture is not new to Bhutan; the practices of climate smart agriculture existed even before the planned development processes began. However, these practices will be enforced with more impetus and importance to achieve our goal of green socio-economic development and food security.

I am pleased to update here that, with the Royal Government of Bhutan-FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) soon to be finalized, we have been able to identify key priority areas for collaboration for the next five years. The areas of focus has been identified base don the comparative advantages of FAO, while ensuring maximum synergy and complementarity with the 11th Five-year Plan and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Bhutan.

The CPF document is a result of extensive consultations held with a wide range od stakeholders and partners within the country as well as with FAO's relevant technical units of the Regional Office in Bangkok and its Headquarters.

By endorsing the CPF, the Royal Government of Bhutan is committed to working in close collaboration with FAO to facilitate the achievement of the objectives and actions proposed in this

document. The CPF will be pursued in partnerships as broad as possible and in alignment with the joint efforts of the Royal Government of Bhutan and FAO for enhanced coordination and aid effectiveness.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to convey our appreciation and gratitute to FAO for its continued assistance and fruitful collaboration as we pursue our goal of Gross National Happiness.

Allow me to conclude by wishing a successful 38th Session of the FAO Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. This brings us to the end of Item 9. There will be no plenary meeting tomorrow morning. We will reconvene tomorrow afternoon at 14:30 sharp with an address to the Conference by His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

I wish you all a good evening and look forward to seeing you here at 14.30 hours tomorrow.

The meeting rose at 15.23 hours
La séance est levée à 15 h 23
Se levanta la sesión a las 15.23 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session
Trente-huitième session
38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA

20 June 2013

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.43 hours
Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 43
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 14.43
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Ninth Plenary Meeting to order.

I have the privilege to welcome His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, who wishes to address the Conference.

Sr. Obian Nguema MBASOGO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

En primer lugar deseo expresar nuestro profundo agradecimiento al Excelentísimo Señor Don José Graziano da Silva, Director General de la FAO, por haberme invitado a participar en los trabajos del 38° período de sesiones de la FAO para evaluar la crítica situación del hambre en el mundo.
El 38° período de sesiones de la FAO constituye una ocasión para invocar la solidaridad de nuestros Estados, el diálogo abierto y sincero y la adopción de un compromiso de todas las naciones a fin de adoptar estrategias que abran horizontes de esperanza a la humanidad para encontrar soluciones definitivas a la problemática secular del hambre en el mundo.

El análisis de la situación actual del hambre en el mundo revela que unos 870 millones de personas padecen de la crisis alimentaria, particularmente África es la región del mundo más afectada, con 239 millones de personas que viven en la extrema pobreza, incrementada con las consecuencias de los conflictos armados, la sequía y los desastres naturales. Sin embargo, mi gobierno cree que la situación del hambre en África no es una fatalidad, por cuanto que existen grandes recursos disponibles, una tecnología avanzada; así como capacidad y el ingenio humano son suficientes para superar las causas y adversidades que provocan el hambre en nuestro continente. Por tanto, la situación del hambre en el mundo no deja de ser un reto que nos afecta e interpela a todos los Estados y que exige una respuesta global de todos.

Particularmente el análisis de la situación del hambre en África se sintetiza en los siguientes aspectos coyunturales, socioeconómicos e internacionales difíciles para el continente:

A) las consecuencias de la crisis económica de las potencias mundiales no deja de repercutir en las economías de los Estados africanos;

B) la imposición de un código de intercambios evidentemente en detrimento de las posibilidades de crecimiento económico para el continente africano;

C) la falta de una tecnología adecuada para promover el crecimiento económico;

D) la insuficiencia del flujo de capital y otras, que dificultan el crecimiento económico de África.

Todas estas causas, que son retos que no debemos dejar pasar desapercibidos, deben constituir el objetivo primordial de nuestra lucha para superar el hambre en África.
El continente africano forma parte muy importante del conjunto de la humanidad y un desequilibrio en su desarrollo económico tendría consecuencias evidentemente negativas, no solo para el continente, sino también para el desarrollo global del mundo.

Por tanto la situación global de la problemática que nos ocupa se ha convertido por razones intrínsecas en una asunción de responsabilidades solidariamente compartida de una manera práctica y eficaz para todos los Estados. Esta es la razón que justifica el acuerdo que se exija a los países desarrollados; o sea, dispensar al menos el 0,7 por ciento de su producto interno bruto para apoyar a los países en vías de desarrollo, acuerdo que desgraciadamente pocos Estados han cumplido.

Sin rechazar el apoyo que se pueden brindar a otros países, África está determinada a asumir la responsabilidad de sus problemas, tanto políticos como socioeconómicos ante la evidencia de esta falta de contribución, por tanto, lejos de continuar con un protagonismo pasivo de nuestros gobiernos, África debe estar dispuesta a jugar un papel más activo y determinante para enfrentarse a las contingencias que afectan a sus pueblos. Todo esto es posible si existe una voluntad política y determinación de nuestros gobiernos. Nuestros Estados, unidos solidariamente por una misma causa, han dado prueba de esta capacidad con una contribución muy positiva para asistir a los países del Cuerno de África durante una conferencia extraordinaria, que se desarrolló en Addis Abeba, víctimas

de la sequía y de la hambruna. Solamente así unidos, África superará los desafíos que obstaculizan su desarrollo.

La envergadura del problema alimentario a nivel mundial en general, y a nivel africano en particular, no admite discursos demagógicos ni compromisos incumplidos, sin embargo es importante destacar el papel de cada país, secundado por las recomendaciones de las Naciones Unidas y de sus Organizaciones especializadas, para erradicar no sólo la pobreza, sino también las causas y consecuencias indisociables al hombre. Afortunadamente, los informes evaluados revelan que África está experimentando un crecimiento económico considerable en el último decenio, con lo cual incrementa también las posibilidades para emprender una lucha solidaria. Es necesario que los Estados respeten y prioricen las políticas de sus instituciones económicas subregionales, a fin de que los convenios y alianzas establecidas en materia de intercambios económicos y de seguridad para sus pueblos produzcan resultados satisfactorios y divulgativos en todas sus comunidades.

En este sentido, la República de Guinea Ecuatorial siempre está comprometida en apoyar todas las iniciativas que, en concertación, luchan para erradicar el subdesarrollo, la pobreza y el hambre en nuestro continente. En efecto, creemos que todo esfuerzo en este sentido debe concebirse dentro de una solidaridad sistemática, lejos de todo hegemonismo y preponderancia, pues las relaciones económicas entre países deben ser fomentadas exclusivamente por la capacidad productiva de cada uno, lo cual garantiza la calidad de los recursos humanos y la autosuficiencia alimentaria básica para todos. Guinea Ecuatorial expresa su más firme compromiso de apoyar con la urgencia que exige la gravedad de la problemática del hambre, poniendo a disposición de esta causa humana, los medios que moral y materialmente fuesen necesarios para resolver definitivamente el problema del hambre en el mundo y sus consecuencias en el crecimiento integral para nuestros países.

Este es el objetivo del Fondo fiduciario de solidaridad para África, que en un evento paralelo a esto periodo de sesiones la FAO está lanzando, cuya finalidad es coadyuvar los esfuerzos de los países africanos y promover una cooperación solidaria en su lucha contra el hambre. En concordancia con las recomendaciones de la FAO y lo demás órganos de la cooperación bilateral, mi país y su Gobierno reiteran una vez más su firme apoyo a la creación de este Fondo fiduciario para la lucha contra el hambre en África.

Nuestra presencia en esto periodo de sesiones es de hacer efectiva la promesa hecha ante la última Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidasde aportar una contribución al Fondo Fiduciario para la lucha contra el hambre en África, equivalente en 30 millones de dólares USD. Esta donación, como muchas otras que mi país hace por solidaridad a la causa de la humanidad, es la mejor manera que entendemos de contribuir al bienestar del género humano. En la República de Guinea Ecuatorial no existe la extrema pobreza como tal y mucho menos el hambre, tampoco el desempleo; solamente podemos hablar de una falta de producción masiva de alimentos que genere excedentes para la transformación por falta de la tecnológica necesaria. Existe una fuerte demanda de mano de obra cualificada, lo cual provoca una emigración masiva de poblaciones de otros países en busca de empleos. La pobreza se reduce a la penuria en el medio rural para acumular capitales importantes.

El plan de Guinea Ecuatorial es crear grandes polos de producción agrícola para absorber la población rural con fines de conservación e industrialización. En fin, Guinea Ecuatorial está cumpliendo con los Objetivos del Milenio 4, 5 y 6. Las estadísticas muestran que el país ocupa el cuarto lugar en África subsahariana en la prevención de la mortalidad infantil y materna. La inversión per cápita en el servicio sanitario es de 600 dólares, superior en África. En 2011, Guinea Ecuatorial obtuvo una tasa de escolarización de 94,2 por ciento, igualmente superior en África. Sin embargo, observamos con pesar que algunos nostálgicos obstaculan el desarrollo de Guinea Ecuatorial sin ninguna autoridad política y moral para cuestionar el desarrollo de mi país, al querer reconocer esta realidad, se obstinan en criticar tendenciosamente a mi gobierno con informaciones de fuentes no fiables. En este sentido nosotros rechazamos las declaraciones hechas por el Primer Ministro británico, de dar una tasa que no corresponden a Guinea Ecuatorial. Esa declaración la calificamos como una tendencia a la desestabilización de nuestro país.

Antes fue una campaña contra las empresas que deseaban explotar el petróleo en Guinea Ecuatorial,con el pretexto de que estarían apoyando a una supuesta dictadura, pero ahora es la

campaña de una supuesta corrupción, sin ninguna auditoría de las instituciones internacionales competentes que lo certifiquen. Claro está que entendemos su nostalgia y decepciónporque son incapaces de comprender que los países evolucionan. Hace poco Guinea Ecuatorial era calificada como uno de los países más atrasados del mundo y ahora tiene una de las rentas per cápita más alta y es capaz de hacer importantes ofertas para el bienestar de la humanidad.

Guinea Ecuatorial alberga la esperanza de que el Fondo fiduciario para la lucha contra el hambre en África, si bien su fin inmediato es combatir el hambre, su objetivo remoto es ayudar a los países afectados para restringir las causas generadoras del hambre. Entendemos que es un proyecto ambicioso y humanitario, que exige enormes recursos financieros, razón de más para que insistamos en la necesidad de una voluntad y determinación de los gobiernos africanos y de toda la comunidad internacional con una cohesión solidaria y multilateral en estrecha relación con la FAO para movilizar los recursos en apoyo a este programa.

En conclusión, el Fondo fiduciario debe superar un plan verde para África en el que los países africanos y los organismos de cooperación bilateral recauden fondos específicos considerables para el desarrollo de la agricultura, la ganadería y la pesca. Una estrategia que consiga sus propios beneficios y garantice la estabilidad alimenticia del continente, a fin de afrontar los retos de la industrialización de África desde sus propias fuentes de producción.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

27. Audited Accounts 2010-11 (Draft Resolution)
27. Comptes vérifiés pour l'exercice 2010–2011 (projet de résolution)
27. Cuentas comprobadas de 2010-11 (proyecto de resolución)
(C 2013/5 A; C 2013/5 B; C 2013/LIM/4)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to agenda Item 27, Audited Accounts. The relevant documents are C 2013/5 A, C 2013/5 B and C 2013/LIM/4.

I invite Mr Aitken, Assistant Director-General ad interim of the Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department to introduce the item.

Mr Denis AITKEN (Assistant Director-General ad interim of the Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

The document C 2013/5 Part A contains the official Financial Statements of the Organization for the 2010-11 biennium with the opinion of the External Auditor on the Financial Statements. Part B is the Report of the External Auditor, typically referred to as the Long Form Report. I am pleased to inform Conference that, as in previous biennia, the External Auditor has expressed an unqualified opinion on the 2010-11 Financial Statements of the Organization.

The results and official accounts of the 2010-11 biennium were examined by the Finance Committee at its 147th Session in November 2012 and by the Council at its 145th Session in December 2012. The Audited Accounts of the previous biennium are now before you for adoption, by approval of the draft resolution submitted by Council in document C 2013/LIM/4.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that Conference wishes to approve the Audited Accounts for 2010-11?

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

We are pleased to note that the external auditor has given an unqualified opinion. I just had one brief comment. The audited accounts do not contain a statement by Management on the effectiveness of the internal controls in the Organization. If you see the accounts of World Food Programme and IFAD their Managements supply a statement of internal control and in fact even the external auditor has a brief comment on the statement provided by Managements.

We would recommend that the Organization consider producing such a system and appending it to future audited accounts. That is one comment.

The second comment is again speaking about internal controls. The business model of FAO was always separation of duties from the programmatic with the fiduciary. And over the years somehow that got turned upside down, but I note from the documentation for this Conference that FAO is re-establishing the function of the Outposted Finance Officer which means they are re-establishing the segregation between programmatic and fiduciary for the finance function.

But, a similar situation exists for HR functions and we would like FAO to consider re-instating the outposting function and the HR function as well because that would strengthen internal control in the Organization.

Denis AITKEN (Assistant Director-General ad interim, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

I think the distinguished delegate of Pakistan makes a series of valid points. Firstly on the internal control statement by the Management of the Organization, this is a pattern that has grown over the years in a number of organizations related to the introduction IPSAS, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and we shall certainly, as he says, consider that for the next set of accounts from FAO.

In terms of the internal control mechanisms and the out-posting of various offices, indeed a case that the finance officers are now outposted, and at the moment I believe the process of outposting Human Resources offices is well underway with four in place at present. So his points are well covered and we are taking them into account.

CHAIRPERSON

I take it that Conference wishes to adopt the audited accounts for 2010-11. It is so decided. This concludes Item 27.

28. Scale of Contributions 2014-15 (Draft Resolution)
28. Barème des contributions pour 2014–2015 (projet de résolution)
28. Escala de cuotas para 2014-15 (proyecto de resolución)
(C 2013/INF/12; C 2013/INF/12 Corr.1; C 2013/LIM/10 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Aitken will remain with us for the next item, which is Item 28, Scale of Contributions 2014-15. The relevant documents are C 2013/INF/12, C 2013/INF/12 Corr.1 in English only, and C 2013/LIM/10 Rev.1. I call upon Mr Aitken to introduce this item.

Mr Denis AITKEN (Assistant Director-General ad interim of the Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

The paper before you sets out the proposed FAO Scale of Contributions for the years 2014-15. This has been derived from the United Nations Scale of Assessments approved for the years 2013 through 2015, as established by General Assembly Resolution 67/238 which was adopted in December 2012. The previous 2012-13 Scale is also set out for comparison purposes.

The Finance Committee reviewed the proposed 2014-15 Scale of Contributions for FAO at its 148th Session in March 2013, and submitted it to the 146th Session of Council in April 2013 for endorsement.

The Conference is invited to approve the Draft Resolution as submitted by the Council on the Scale of Contributions for 2014-15 as revised in document C 2013/LIM/10 Rev.1 to reflect the admission of new Members, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and South Sudan.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that Conference wishes to adopt the resolution concerning the Scale of Contributions for 2014-15 set out in document C 2013/LIM/10 Rev.1? It is so decided and Item 28 is closed.

Third Report of the General Committee
Troisième rapport du Bureau de la Conférence
Tercero informe del Comité General
(C 2013/LIM/24)

CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to propose that we proceed to the adoption of the report of the Third Meeting of the General Committee. The report is set out in document C 2013/LIM/24. I will now proceed to read the title of each section

A. Voting Rights. Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare this section, including the two resolutions in Appendices C and D, adopted.

We move on to the next section: B. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. Obviously the name of the Independent Chairperson will be added after the election to be held in the Plenary Hall tomorrow morning. As I understand it, there will be a secret ballot. Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section, including the Resolution, adopted.

CHAIRPERSON

We move on to the next and last section: C. Payment by the European Union to Cover Administrative and other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization

Are there any comments on this section? I don't see anybody. If there are none, I declare the section adopted. Thank you.

With this I take it that Conference endorses the third report of the General Committee in its entirety.

29. Payment by the European Union to Cover Administrative and other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization
29. Paiement par l'Union européenne des dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut de Membre de l'Organisation
29. Pago de la Unión Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otro tipo derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización
(C 2013/LIM/14)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with Item 29, Payment by the European Union to Cover Administrative and Other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization.

The Third Report of the General Committee, which Conference has just adopted, has dealt with this matter.

Third Report of the Credentials Committee
Troisième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs
Tercero informe del Comité de Credenciales
(C 2013/LIM/23)

CHAIRPERSON

I therefore propose that we move on to an additional item before Item 30, that is the Report of the Credentials Committee.

That is the third report of the Credentials Committee that we should report now. You can find the report set out in document C 2013/LIM/23, and I shall give the floor to Mr Balaz Hamar, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, to present the Report.

Mr Balaz HAMAR (Chairperson, Credential Committee)

The Credentials Committee held meetings on the 7th, 14th, 15th, and 19th of June. List A includes 140 Members that had submitted credentials in original form. List B includes 76 Members which have

submitted credentials or information on the composition of Delegations informed *inter alia a*n electronic copy or a facsimile or photocopies of original credentials.

The Committee recommended to the Conference that the credentials or information on the composition of delegations on both lists be accepted as recommended, that all delegations be authorized to participate in the session.

The third report of the Credentials Committee is available as document C 2013/LIM/23. I would invite the Conference to approve the report.

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Hamar. Are there any comments on the report? I don't see anybody so I declare the report adopted.

30. Other Administrative and Financial Matters
30. Autres questions administratives et financières
30. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros

CHAIRPERSON

We continue now with Item 30. I would like to give the floor to the Secretary-General, who will give a brief report on documentation for this session.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For this 38th Session of the Conference 46 main documents have been produced: 29 documents were published on the Conference webpage more than two months ahead of the beginning of the session and a total of 39 documents were online by the publication deadline of 3 May. Another five documents were issued during the following week and the remaining three documents were online two weeks before the start of the session.

8. Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee
8. Nomination de représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel
8. Nombramiento de los representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal
(C 2013/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We move on to the next item which is Item 8, Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee. I will now pass the floor to Ms Monika Altmaier, Director of the Office of Human Resources, to inform the Conference of the candidatures.

Ms Monika ALTMAIER (Director, Office of Human Resources)

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides retirement, death, disability and related benefits for the staff of the United Nations Organizations, such as FAO. It is administered by the UN Joint Staff Pension Board and Staff Pension Committees in each of the member Organizations. The Board's membership is drawn from these Committees, whose members and alternate members are chosen by the governing bodies, the Executive Heads of the Organizations and the participating staff of each Organization.

In the case of FAO, the Conference appoints three of the nine Members and three of the nine Alternate Members to the FAO Staff Pension Committee. Only the Conference has the authority to appoint members and alternate members to the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

Mr Chairperson, the Secretariat has been informed that the following candidates have been proposed to serve as Members and Alternate Members representing the FAO Conference on the Staff Pension Committee:

Mr Juan Manuel Cammarano, Alternate Permanent Representative of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations Agencies in Rome, as member from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2016;

Mr Mafizur Rahman, Economic Counsellor and Alternate Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to FAO, as member from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2017;

Mr Vladimir Navara, Counselor, Head of Administration of the Russian Permanent Mission to FAO and other international organizations in Rome, as alternate member from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2016;

Sra. Lorena Patiño, Alternate Permanent Representative of Paraguay to FAO, as alternate member from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2017.

CHAIRPERSON

The Conference is requested to consider these candidatures and, if it finds them acceptable, to proceed with the appointment of the persons just named to become Members and Alternate Members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee. Can I take it that the Conference has no objection to the list of candidates that has just been read out?

32. Any Other Matters
32. Autres questions
32. Asuntos varios

32.7 Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies
32.7 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO
32.7 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

Although it is not foreseen in the rules of the Conference, it has been a tradition for some time that the Staff Representative Bodies make a statement to the Conference. This is a statement that is made to the Conference without any debate. I was just informed that the prepared statement by the Staff Representative Bodies, of which the Administration was informed this morning, contains strong disproportionate terms which are not in line with the spirit and the letter of past statements and includes direct criticism of the Senior Management of the Director-General.

The tone and content of this statement, especially in these times of budgetary constraint and of restrictions in the many national administrations is regretted.

FAO Staff Representative

Today, we have once again been afforded the opportunity to address the Conference, for which we are grateful. In our address to you now, as in our dealings with our counterparts in management, we generally aim to strike a positive note. However, this time, in all honesty, it is rather difficult for us to do that. We trust that, given the circumstances in which we now find ourselves, you will understand that the message we deliver is a message that needs to be heard.

In the interest of brevity and clarity, we would begin by emphasising what we consider to be three essential components for FAO success.

First, as a modern, knowledge-based institution, FAO's most valuable asset is its staff. Maintaining the quality, experience, productivity and high morale of the staff must be of paramount importance to the Organization.

Second, a healthy relationship between management and staff starts with communications and ends in trust. Anything that works against this, works against the Organization.

Third, management-staff relations are a two-way street. If management wants dedication, honesty, respect, and trust from staff, they must give it in turn. Rather than seek to avoid consultation with staff representatives, management should encourage a continuous dialogue. Rather than seek to reduce head count and dilute benefits, management should be fighting for staff welfare, growth and continuity.

In our opinion, the current administration is seriously deficient on all three counts. To put it quite simply, staff are saddened and demoralized – even appalled. To many staff it seems that the strenuous and often painful efforts of reform over the past several years have come to naught.

With very few exceptions, the last 12 months have been a "lost year" in terms of staff/management relations. Some in the staff representative bodies would even say that staff/management relations are at a historically low level. It would be an understatement to say that we are very disappointed that the principles of dialogue and consultation that are embedded in FAO's rules and regulations - as well as our Recognition Agreements - are no longer respected as they once were.

So what are the circumstances we now find ourselves in? After several months of temporary/stopgap solutions regarding the identification of competent and long-term interlocutors for the Staff Representative bodies, 2013 began on the wrong foot. Staff members sat through what they later described as a litany of disparaging remarks directed at them from the Director-General. While the remarks may have been intended to apprise staff of the difficulties facing the Organization, they were nevertheless delivered in a manner which left little doubt that the staff were seen less as a priceless resource than a financial burden. These remarks – and other direct or indirect comments regarding our presumably privileged status as international civil servants - a status, by the way, that most senior managers share with us -set the tone for the precipitous decline in staff-management relations we see now.

Characterizing staff as a financial burden and attempting to damage staff conditions of employment - the most recent example being the proposal to save on the temporary staff through the non-payment of their pension contributions - is, in our opinion, unethical cold-hearted and exploitative. It runs counter to the letter and the spirit of the founding principles of the United Nations itself. It is, in a word, unacceptable.

Nor does it stand up to the strictly business arguments of efficiency and effectiveness. Efforts to slash fully compensated long-term staff, coupled with the indiscriminate proliferation of non-staff resources, is leading to a lack of continuity and the loss of invaluable knowledge and competencies from the Organization. In the long term, the work will suffer. This is clearly not in the interests of the Organization.

This year has also brought a concerted effort by management to dismantle the Professional Staff Selection Committee, the PSSC, under the guise of streamlining the Organization's working procedures. The PSSC has always lent legitimacy and transparency to the selection processes of the Organization through the inclusion of staff representatives, and we take issue with any attempt to disavow it, as we feel that this will jeopardize the fair selection and employment of qualified individuals to work in the Organization.

Meanwhile, the General Service staff in the field are still not covered by any recognized staff representative body, notwithstanding the efforts of the Union of General Service Staff to bring them in. A referendum carried out to assess whether the GS field staff wanted the opportunity to join UGSS yielded a majority in favour. Nevertheless, the outcome of the referendum was rejected by management.

Staff representation is a necessary corporate function and a recognized human right. Attempts to eschew the contribution and participation of staff representatives and to thwart freedom of association, denotes a trend towards autocracy. Is this what FAO renewal was intended to achieve? If so, we cannot concur. On the contrary, we must object.

One of our hopes this year was the much-requested recruitment of an Ombudsman. However, in the recently issued vacancy announcement, we now see that the functions of the Ombudsman have been merged with those of the Ethics Officer – a post which is encumbered. This raises concerns about the transparency and objectivity of the selection process in this case. Even more troubling is the total disregard for the conflicting functions of these two positions. Will anything be done? We will not meekly allow another *fait accompli*.

More importantly, however, we wish to appraise the Conference of recent personal attacks on the leadership of the Association of Professionals in FAO, resulting in both their professional and personal detriment. These attacks are in direct contravention to the tenets of the Standards of Conduct of the International Civil Service and, indeed, to the principles embedded in our Recognition Agreements with the Organization.

We feel that an attack on a staff representative is, by extension, an attack on all FAO staff members. We, can only urge that the trend toward negative staff/management relations be reversed and that no manager be allowed to unilaterally undertake with impunity decisions or positions that would negatively impact the Staff Representative Bodies.

In conclusion, while you may feel disappointed and saddened by our address – as do we – there comes a moment when things must be said as they are. We remain hopeful that the staff representative bodies will be given the opportunity to act as competent and constructive partners with management to achieve the noble and challenging goals of our Organization.

On behalf of the staff of the Organization worldwide, I thank you for your attention**.**

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes Sub-item 32.7 and we move on to Sub-item 32.8.

32.8 In Memoriam
32.8 In Memoriam
32.8 In memoriam

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Conference has traditionally paid tribute to staff members who passed away while in service since the preceding session.

May I ask the Secretary-General to read the names of the staff members who we shall honour with a minute of silence.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Since the last session of Conference, the following staff members died while in service: Mr David Nzonzi Yamba, Mr Shinya Abe, Mr Muhammad Zahid Iqbal, Ms Michaela Naa Afi Wellington, Ms Achta Mad-Toingue, Ms Myriam Mohamed Cherif, Mr Ross Mataipule, Mr Guido Braca, Ms Selamawit Kebede Dagne, Ms Irene Forbiyi, Mr A.K.M. Sayedur Rahman, Mr Brendan Lynch, Ms Michelle Gauthier, Mr Fortune Teddy Mukuna.

CHAIRPERSON

Under the item "Any Other Matters" Delegates are offered the opportunity to speak on two information documents: Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Director-General (C 2013/INF/5) and Status of Contributions (C 2013/INF/12).

Does any Delegate wish to take the floor on these documents? With this we will close Item 32.

31. Date and Place of the 39th Session of the Conference
31. Date et lieu de la trente-neuvième session de la Conférence
31. Fecha y lugar del 39.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the last item on our Agenda for today, Item 31, Date and Place of the 39th Session of the Conference, which requires the Conference to set dates for its next session. May I ask the Secretary-General to let us have a proposal?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The dates proposed for the next session of Conference are from Saturday 6 to Saturday 13 June 2015.

CHAIRPERSON

Does the Conference agree to this proposal? I don't see any objection. It is so decided. We have come to the end of our work for this afternoon. We will reconvene tomorrow at 09.30 with the Adoption of the Commission II Report on Item 23, the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014–15.

Delegates are reminded of the need to ensure high levels of attendance throughout the Tenth plenary meeting of the Conference, which opens at 9.30 hours tomorrow, Friday 21 June, as a series of votes requiring a quorum are scheduled throughout the morning.

With this we have come to the end of our work in Plenary for today. I wish you all a good evening and look forward to seeing you here at 9.30 hours tomorrow.

The meeting rose at 15.36 hours
La séance est levée à 15 h 36
Se levanta la sesión a las 15.36 horas

Annex I
Annexe I
Anexo I

Address by His Holiness Pope Francis
Allocution de Sa Sainteté le Pape François
Discurso de Su Santidad el Papa Francisco

Señor Presidente,
Señores Ministros,
Señor Director General,
Ilustres Señoras y señores,

En continuidad con una larga y significativa tradición, que comenzó hace ya sesenta años, me alegra recibirles hoy en el Vaticano a todos ustedes, participantes en la 38 Conferencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Doy las gracias al Señor Presidente Mohammad Asef Rahimi, y a los Representantes de muchos países y culturas diversas, unidos en la búsqueda de respuestas adecuadas a necesidades primarias de tantos hermanos y hermanas nuestros: tener el pan de cada día y sentarse dignamente a la mesa.

Saludo al Director General, el profesor José Graziano da Silva, a quien he tenido ocasión de encontrar al comienzo de mi ministerio como Obispo de Roma. En aquella ocasión me manifestó que la situación mundial es especialmente difícil, no sólo a causa de la crisis económica, sino también por los problemas ligados a la seguridad, a demasiados conflictos abiertos, al cambio climático, a la conservación de la diversidad biológica. Todas estas son situaciones que requieren un compromiso renovado de la FAO para hacer frente a los múltiples problemas del mundo agrícola y de cuantos viven y trabajan en zonas rurales.

Las iniciativas y las soluciones posibles son muchas y, no se limitan al aumento de la producción. Es bien sabido que la producción actual es suficiente y, sin embargo, hay millones de personas que sufren y mueren de hambre: esto, queridos amigos, constituye un verdadero escándalo. Es necesario, pues, encontrar la manera de que todos puedan beneficiarse de los frutos de la tierra, no sólo para evitar que aumente la diferencia entre los que más tienen y los que tienen que conformarse con las migajas, sino también, y sobre todo, por una exigencia de justicia, equidad y respeto a todo ser humano.

Creo que el sentido de nuestro encuentro es el de compartir la idea de que se puede y se debe hacer algo más para dar vigor a la acción internacional en favor de los pobres, no sólo armados de buena voluntad o, lo que es peor, de promesas que a menudo no se han mantenido. Tampoco se puede seguir aduciendo como coartada, la crisis global actual, de la que, por otro lado, no se podrá salir completamente hasta que no se consideren las situaciones y condiciones de vida a la luz de la dimensión de la persona humana y de su dignidad.

La persona y la dignidad humana corren el riesgo de convertirse en una abstracción ante cuestiones como el uso de la fuerza, la guerra, la desnutrición, la marginación, la violación de las libertades fundamentales o la especulación financiera, que en este momento condiciona el precio de los alimentos, tratándolos como cualquier otra mercancía y olvidando su destino primario. Nuestro cometido consiste en proponer de nuevo, en el contexto internacional actual, la persona y la dignidad humana no como un simple reclamo, sino más bien como los pilares sobre los cuales construir reglas compartidas y estructuras que, superando el pragmatismo o el mero dato técnico, sean capaces de eliminar las divisiones y colmar las diferencias existentes. En este sentido, es necesario contraponerse a los intereses económicos miopes y a la lógica del poder de unos pocos, que excluyen a la mayoría de la población mundial y generan pobreza y marginación, causando disgregación en la sociedad, así como combatir esa corrupción que produce privilegios para algunos e injusticias para muchos.

La situación que estamos viviendo, aunque esté directamente relacionada con factores financieros y económicos, es también consecuencia de una crisis de convicciones y valores, incluidos los que son el fundamento de la vida internacional. Este es un marco que requiere emprender una consciente y seria obra de reconstrucción, que incumbe también a la FAO. Quiero evidenciar, quiero señalar, la palabra:

obra de reconstrucción. Pienso en la reforma iniciada para garantizar una gestión más funcional, transparente y ecuánime. Es un hecho ciertamente positivo, pero toda auténtica reforma consiste en tomar mayor conciencia de la responsabilidad de cada uno, reconociendo que el propio destino está ligado al de los otros. Los hombres no son islas, somos comunidad. Pienso en aquel episodio del Evangelio, por todos conocido, en el que un samaritano socorre a quien está necesitado. No lo hace como un gesto de caridad o porque dispone de dinero, sino para hacerse uno con aquel a quien ayuda: quiere compartir su suerte. En efecto, tras haber dejado dinero para curar al herido, anuncia que volverá a visitarlo para cerciorarse de su curación. No se trata de mera compasión o tal vez de una invitación a compartir o a favorecer una reconciliación que supere las adversidades y las contraposiciones. Significa más bien estar dispuestos a compartirlo todo y a decidirse a ser buenos samaritanos, en vez de personas indiferentes ante las necesidades de los demás.

A la FAO, a sus Estados Miembros, así como a toda institución de la comunidad internacional, se les pide una apertura del corazón. Es preciso superar el desinterés o el impulso a mirar hacia otro lado, y prestar atención con urgencia a las necesidades inmediatas, confiando al mismo tiempo que maduren en el futuro los resultados de la acción de hoy. No podemos soñar con planes asépticos. Hoy no sirven. Todo plan propuesto nos debe involucrar a todos. Ir adelante de manera constructiva y fecunda en las diversas funciones y responsabilidades significa capacidad de analizar, comprender y entregar, abandonando cualquier tentación de poder, o de poseer más y más, o buscar el propio interés en lugar de servir a la familia humana y, en ella, especialmente y sobre todo a los indigentes y los que aún sufren por hambre y desnutrición.

Somos conscientes de que uno de los primeros efectos de las graves crisis alimentarias, y no sólo las causadas por desastres naturales o por conflictos sangrientos, es la erradicación de su ambiente de personas, familias y comunidades. Es una dolorosa separación que no se limita a la tierra natal, sino que se extiende al ámbito existencial y espiritual, amenazando y a veces derrumbando las pocas certezas que se tenían. Este proceso, que ya se ha hecho global, requiere que las relaciones internacionales restablezcan esa referencia a los principios éticos que las regulan y redescubran el espíritu auténtico de solidaridad que puede hacer incisiva toda la actividad de cooperación.

A este respecto, es sumamente expresiva la decisión de dedicar el próximo año a la familia rural. Más allá de un motivo de celebración, se ha de reforzar la convicción de que la familia es el lugar principal del crecimiento de cada uno, pues a través de ella el ser humano se abre a la vida y a esa exigencia natural de relacionarse con los otros. Podemos constatar tantas veces cómo los lazos familiares son esenciales para la estabilidad de las relaciones sociales, para la función educativa y para un desarrollo integral, puesto que están animados por el amor, la solidaridad responsable entre las generaciones y la confianza recíproca. Estos son los elementos capaces de hacer menos gravosas hasta las situaciones más negativas, y llevar a una verdadera fraternidad a toda la humanidad, haciendo que se sienta una sola familia, en la que la mayor atención se pone en los más débiles.

Reconocer que la lucha contra el hambre pasa por la búsqueda del diálogo y la fraternidad comporta para la FAO el que su contribución en las negociaciones entre los Estados, dando un nuevo impulso a los procesos de toma de decisiones, se caracterice por la promoción de la cultura del encuentro; promocionar la cultura del encuentro y la cultura de la solidaridad. Pero esto requiere la disponibilidad de los Estados miembros, el pleno conocimiento de las situaciones, una preparación adecuada, e ideas capaces de incluir a toda persona y toda comunidad. Sólo así será posible conjugar el afán de justicia de miles de millones de personas con las situaciones concretas que presenta la vida real.

La Iglesia Católica, con sus estructuras e instituciones, les acompaña en este esfuerzo, que busca lograr una solidaridad concreta, y la Santa Sede sigue con interés las iniciativas que la FAO emprende, alentando todas sus actividades. Les agradezco este momento de encuentro, y bendigo el trabajo que desempeñan a diario al servicio de los últimos.

Annex II
Annexe II
Anexo II

Address by His Holiness Pope Francis to Participants to the 38th Session of the FAO Conference, Sala Celementina, Vatican City, 20 June 2013 (Non official translation)

Mr President,
Your Excellencies,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Continuing a long and meaningful tradition which began 60 years ago, I am pleased to receive you, the participants in the 38th Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I thank President Mohammad Asef Rahimi and the representatives of many countries and different cultures who are working together to respond in a fitting way to the primary needs of so many of our brothers and sisters: those of receiving their daily bread and finding a dignified place at the table.

I greet the Director-General, Professor José Graziano da Silva, whom I had occasion to meet at the beginning of my ministry as Bishop of Rome. On that occasion he made it clear to me that the situation worldwide is particularly difficult, not only because of the economic crisis but also due to problems associated with security, the great number of continuing conflicts, climate change and the preservation of biological diversity. All these situations demand of FAO a renewed commitment to tackling the many problems of the agricultural sector and of all those living and working in rural areas.

The initiatives and possible solutions are many, nor are they limited to increasing production. It is a well-known fact that current levels of production are sufficient, yet millions of people are still suffering and dying of starvation. This is truly scandalous. A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table, but above all to satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being.

This, I believe, is the significance of our meeting today: to share the idea that something more can and must be done in order to provide a new stimulus to international activity on behalf of the poor, inspired by something more than mere goodwill or, worse, promises which all too often have not been kept. Nor can the current global crisis continue to be used as an alibi. The crisis will not be completely over until situations and living conditions are examined in terms of the human person and human dignity.

The human person and human dignity risk turning into vague abstractions in the face of issues like the use of force, war, malnutrition, marginalization, the violation of basic liberties, and financial speculation, which presently affects the price of food, treating it like any other merchandise and overlooking its primary function. Our duty is to continue to insist, in the present international context, that the human person and human dignity are not simply catchwords, but pillars for creating shared rules and structures capable of passing beyond purely pragmatc or technical approaches in order to eliminate divisions and to bridge existing differences. In this regard, there is a need to oppose the shortsighted economic interests and the mentality of power of a relative few who exclude the majority of the world's peoples, generating poverty and marginalization and causing a breakdown in society. There is likewise a need to combat the corruption which creates privileges for some and injustices for many others.

Our present situation, while directly linked to financial and economic factors, is also a consequence of a crisis of convictions and values, including those which are the basis of international life. This is a larger framework which demands the undertaking of a conscious and sober work of rebuilding, one which also affects FAO. Here I am thinking of the reform the Organization has initiated to ensure a more functional, transparent and impartial operation. This is certainly something positive, yet every authentic reform involves an increased sense of responsibility on the part of everyone, in the

realization that our individual fate is linked to that of others. My thoughts turn to the well-known parable in the Gospel where a Samaritan helps someone in need. He is not prompted by philanthropy or the fact that he has money at his disposal, but by a desire to identify with the person he helps: he wants to share his lot. Indeed, after providing for the man's care, he announces that he will return to inquire after his health. What is involved here is more than mere compassion or perhaps a desire to share or to promote a reconciliation which can overcome differences and disagreements. It is a willingness to share everything and to decide to be Good Samaritans, instead of people who are indifferent to the needs of others.

What is demanded of FAO, its member States, and every institution of the international community, is openness of heart. There is a need to move beyond indifference or a tendency to look the other way, and urgently to attend to immediate needs, confident that the fruits of today's work will mature in the future. To move forward constructively and fruitfully in the different functions and responsibilities involves the ability to analyze, understand, and engage, leaving behind the temptations of power, wealth or self-interest and instead serving the human family, especially the needy and those suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

We are all aware that one of the first effects of grave food crises – and not simply those caused by natural disasters or violent conflicts – is the uprooting of individuals, families and communities. The separation is a painful one; it is not limited to their lands, but extends to their entire existential and spiritual environment, threatening and at times shattering their few certainties in life. This process, which is now taking place worldwide, demands that international relations once more be regulated by their underlying ethical principles and recover the authentic spirit of solidarity which can guarantee the effectiveness of every cooperative undertaking.

This is clearly seen in the decision to dedicate the coming year to the rural family. Apart from the celebrations themselves, it is necessary to reaffirm the conviction that every family is the principal setting for the growth of each individual, since it is through the family that human beings become open to life and the natural need for relationships with others. Over and over again we see that family bonds are essential for the stability of relationships in society, for the work of education and for integral human development, for they are inspired by love, responsible inter-generational solidarity and mutual trust. These are factors which can make even the most adverse situations more bearable, and bring a spirit of true fraternity to our world, enabling it to feel as a single family, where the greatest attention is paid to those most in need.

Acknowledging that the fight against hunger entails the pursuit of dialogue and fraternity means for FAO that its contribution to negotiations between States, giving new impulse to the decision-making processes, must be marked by the promotion of the culture of encounter and of solidarity. But this also calls for willingness on the part of the member States, a complete knowledge of particular situations, suitable preparation, and ideas which take into account every individual and every community. Only thus will it be possible to combine the thirst for justice experienced by billions of people with the concrete realities of today's world.

The Catholic Church, with all her structures and institutions, is at your side in this effort, which is aimed at building concrete solidarity, and the Holy See follows with interest and encourages the initiatives and activities undertaken by FAO. I thank you for this opportunity to meet you, and I bless the work which you carry out daily in the service of the least of our brothers and sisters.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session
Trente-huitième session
38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA

21 June 2013

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.51 hours
Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 51
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 9.51
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Presidente de la Conferencia

23. Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 (Draft Resolution on budget level)
23. Plan à moyen terme 2014–2017 et Programme de travail et budget 2014–2015 (projet de résolution sur le montant du budget)
23. Plan a plazo medio para 2014-17 y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2014-15 (proyecto de resolución sobre la cuantía del presupuesto)
(C 2013/3; C 2013/LIM/8)

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. I declare open the Tenth Plenary Meeting of the FAO Conference. Before starting our work on the adoption of the Commission II Report on Item 23, the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, I should like to inform the Conference that the Organization has received a payment from the Government of Niger which is sufficient to settle its arrears to the extent that it may vote at this session of Conference.

In keeping with a practice that has been followed at recent sessions of Conference, I would like to propose that this assembly deliberate on the Commission II Report on Item 23 first as Commission II, and secondly as a Plenary meeting of the Conference.

As you know, Commission II completed its work yesterday and we will shortly proceed to a nominal call vote on the proposed level of the budget for the 2014-15 biennium as set out in document C 2013/II/REP/23, which has been distributed to all delegates.

In accordance with the procedures followed by the Conference to consider this agenda item, I should like to invite the Chairperson of Commission II, Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to FAO, to take the Chair of this meeting as Commission II to make a few explanatory remarks on the way the proposed budget level was arrived at, and to adopt the draft proposal as Chairperson of Commission II.

So the Plenary would, under the chairmanship of Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, act as Commission II for the consideration of the report of that Commission II.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Chairperson, Commission II)

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to report on the work that has been done by Commission II. We started on Monday in the Red Room and we had a first round in a very constructive atmosphere that was here with the Commission II during all four days that were needed to reach a consensus.

After the first meeting in the Red Room, we decided to create a group Friends of the Chair and that group met several times during the last four days. And besides the group of Friends of the Chair, we had a lot of very interested and very helpful silent observers who were able and willing to advise their Members in the group Friends of the Chair.

Besides the meetings of the group Friends of the Chair, we also had bilateral in two rounds and that brought us together until yesterday in the afternoon when we reconvened as a group Friends of the Chair. We had a proposal that came out of deliberations until that moment from the Commission II itself and we had received a proposal from the Director-General who I met on behalf of the Commission II on Wednesday evening.

And after that meeting the commission created a new group which might be called the group of Best Friends of the Chair. So we were very creative but all in the atmosphere, in the spirit of reaching consensus because Commission II was convinced that it was of immense importance of the FAO that it had in the Programme of Work to decide upon a budget in which the work and new priorities, the five Strategic Objectives, the extra Strategic Objective number six, the decentralization, the TCP, as well as the gender, governance and all the other very important issues can be implemented in a very effective, efficient and fruitful way.

I think that we found a solution in a very good atmosphere and we proposed in Commission II to set the budget for the next biennium at the level of USD 1,028,100,000.

And besides that, we also decided, the commission agreed to have a special remark on the carry-over of the last biennium which is approximately three million. The decision is that it will be a special decision upon how to invest this amount of carryover in a very constructive and result oriented way as well.

Then I would like to ask you to give the floor to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee because after decision making its of immense importance to write everything down in a constructive but also in a very concise way so if you would be so kind to give the floor to the Chair of the Drafting Committee then we can proceed further.

Ms Hedwig WOGERBAUER (Chairperson, Drafting Committee of Commission II)

It was an honour for me to Chair the Drafting Committee of Commission II of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference. The Members of the Drafting Committee consisted of distinguished personalities of Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Congo, Ecuador, Germany, Japan, Ireland, the Russian Federation, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Yemen.

We had two meetings of the Drafting Committee; one on Wednesday for approximately one hour where we went through four agenda points. Yesterday we had our second meeting after the Friends of the Chair group on the agenda of the budget and we finished our work after 12:00 in the evening. The atmosphere at the meeting was cordially open, very engaging and with good spirit on the part of the Members of the Drafting Committee.

The first four agenda items were approved very quickly yet the approval of the budget item took more time. Thanks to the cooperative spirit of the Members and the clarification provided by the Secretariat, we were able to reach agreement on all agenda items of the Draft Report.

Last but not least, I have been authorized by Members of the Drafting Committee to request you to propose that the distinguished Members of the Conference Commission II to approve the Report of Commission II *en bloc*. The document before you is the document C 2013/II/REP/20.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Chairperson, Commission II)

I would like to thank all Members of Commission II. I would like to thank all Members of the group Friends of the Chair and all their advisors, all the silent observers as well as the group Best Friends of the Chair.

But besides that and I am really happy to ask you, I would like to ask you to give a big applause for my team, Rakesh Muthoo and David McSherry, and also Sylvia DeBenedetti. Sylvia was able to manage and manoeuvre to get all of you on time in the group Friends of the Chair to get all of you in the room where the bilateral meetings were held. She took care of all the drinks and food we needed.

And beside her, I would like to also express my gratitude to the Secretariat who provided us with all the information and all these people that were silent there to support the process and the work of Commission II. For me it's impossible to mention their names, but I am fully aware that without their support and help, we were unable to find this excellent result in the Commission II.

So thanks to all of you, and thank you very much to my little team of the Secretariat and of all the people always around to serve the process to make the best out of it.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Chairperson, Commission II)

If you allow me, Mr Chairperson, the work that has been done by Commission II as well as by the Drafting Committee of Commission II allows me and makes me very comfortable to request the Conference to accept this Report of Commission II *en bloc*.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

If there are no requests to speak from delegates, I wish to recall that the Conference is statutorily required to approve this Resolution through a vote. I would like to ask the Secretary-General to explain how the Conference is going to vote on the Budgetary Appropriations Resolution set out in document C 2013/II/REP/23.

SECRETARY GENERAL

Under Article XVIII, paragraph 5 of the Constitution, decisions on the level of the budget shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Under Rule XII, paragraphs 7 (a) and 8 of the General Rules of the Organization a nominal vote – that is a vote which records the names of Member Nations – shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. "Votes cast" means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions.

When a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes must be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for or against should be at least 98 as FAO now has 194 Member Nations. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

Before proceeding to a vote, it is necessary to check whether there is a quorum.

Could I ask the delegates to press the green button on their desk? This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of delegates present.

Thank you very much. I will now close the voting system.

CHAIRPERSON

I am advised that there are at least 130 delegations present in the Plenary Hall.

We shall now proceed to vote on the draft resolution set out in document C 2013/II/REP/23. Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them, green if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against, and yellow if they wish to abstain.

Have all the delegates present here voted?

SECRETARY GENERAL

We have the results but in the meantime we have been informed by at least two delegations that their stations had not been activated with the result that their vote did not register. So I will ask you to be kind enough to press it again in order to make sure that we have a perfect record of the votes that would have been cast.

As you know, this is a nominal vote and the record will show which countries have voted for, against or abstained so for the sake of accuracy, I would ask delegates to be requested to proceed again to the vote.

As explained before, delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them. Green if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against and yellow if they wish to abstain.

We will check whether there is a quorum.

SECRETARY GENERAL

Could I ask the delegates to press the green button on their desk? This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of Delegates present. Have all of the Delegates pressed the green button? Thank you very much. I will now close the voting system.

CHAIRPERSON

We have at least one 138 Delegations present in the Plenary Hall. We will repeat again. We shall now proceed to vote on the Draft Resolution set out in document C 2013/II/REP/23. Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them, green if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against, and yellow if they wish to abstain.

I will now ask the Secretary-General to read the results. The result sheet itself will be included in the verbatim record of this meeting.

SECRETARY GENERAL

Vote on the adoption of the Commission II Report on item 23, Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015.

Votes for, 135; votes against, 0; abstentions, 2; votes cast, 135; majority required 98.

The Resolution is adopted.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

FOOD AND AGRICOLTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS | ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE | ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA ALIMENTACION Y LA AGRICULTURA

21/06/2013
10:21:01

Vote on: Budgetary Appropriations 2014-15
Vote sur: Projets d'ouvertures de crédits budgétaires 2014-15
Votaction para: Proyecto de consignaciones presupuestarias para 2014-15

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	135
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	98
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	135
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	2

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:
AFGANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BHUTAN, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHAD, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COMOROS, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REP., DEM. REP. CONGO, DENMARK, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUYANA, HAITI, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAMAICA, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRIBATI, KYRGYZSTAN, LAO PDR, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LIBERIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MEXICO, MONACO, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, PERÙ, PHILIPPINES, PORTUGAL, QATAR, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAN MARINO, SENEGAL, SERBIA, SINGAPORE, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH SUDAN, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, ST VINCENT & GRENADINES, ST.KITTS & NEVIS, SUDAN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TFY REP.OF MACEDONIA, THAILAND, TIMOR LESTE, TOGO, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, TURKEY, UAE, UGANDA, UK, UR TANZANIA, URUGUAY, USA, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU, VENEZUELA, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:
ARMENIA, POLAND

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:
AZERBAIJAN, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BELIZE, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, CAMBODIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., COOK ISLANDS, CROATIA, DPR KOREA, EQ. GUINEA, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, ISRAEL, KENYA, KUWAIT, LATVIA, LIBYA, MALDIVES, MALTA, MAURITANIA, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, MYANMAR, RWANDA, SAMOA, SAUDI ARABIA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SOLOMON, SOMALIA, TAJIKISTAN, TONGA, TUNISIA, UKRAINE, VIETNAM, YEMEN

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones
Stephen Dowd. 21 June 2013
Stephen Dowd

CHAIRPERSON

Do any of the Delegates would like to take the floor?

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Sri Lanka)

We have just concluded a very crucial moment in our deliberations of this Conference. I, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, would like to say a few words with your permission, Mr Chair.

I think this Resolution, through its adoption with a vast majority, signifies the cooperation and the support that the Membership have given to the vision of the Director-General as well as his commitment to implement the Programme of Work 2014–15. I think it was not an easy passage for us to arrive at this very memorable moment because we had to work hard to achieve this consensus. I think that the Director-General, from the very outset, has been telling the Members that he needs a consensual budget. I think in arriving at that target, we really had to make a lot of sacrifices both by the OECD countries, as well as the Group of 77 and China.

I dedicate this achievement to all of us, all of the Members. I think we had a lot of doubts as to whether we would be able to achieve that. I think that everyone participating in a more constructive and accommodating fashion actually resulted in this memorable achievement. I would like to thank the Chairperson of Commission II. I think I have stated this in the Friends of the Chair meeting. Her approach was very fair and transparent, and she always wanted to arrive at a consensual figure. And the Director-General, from his standpoint, also came forward and made a lot of compromises.

We know this budget has created a lot of pressure, the figure. What we got has actually given a lot of strict conditions and guidelines to the Secretariat to implement the Programme of Work. But we know that, with the assurances given by the Director-General, we, the Members, along with the Membership's association and participation, that the Director-General will be able to deliver that Programme of Work, that we want to really preserve in high esteem. I would also like to acknowledge the support we got from the Secretariat. They were always very willing to give us any clarification at any moment. I think that was commendable. I think they were under a lot of pressure, but they actually put their heads straight and then accommodated all of our requests. Thank you so much to the Secretariat.

Finally, I would like to really acknowledge the contributions and also the support we got from the big donors. I think we thank them for giving us this figure and then agreeing to this figure. I think we feel that it is a collective achievement.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr David J. LANE (United States of America)

The United States would first like to thank the hard work of the Secretariat, Mr Boyd Haight, Director of OSP, Mr Rakesh Muthoo from the Programme Committee, David McSherry from the Finance Committee, and of course the Chairperson, Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, for facilitating the Friends of the Chair, the Super-Friends of the Chair, and leading the Members through a productive process and highly collegial process to reach this mutual decision.

The United States is pleased to join consensus on this budget resolution. We firmly believe FAO's mission is vital to ensure global food security and it is in the best interest of all members that FAO has the necessary resources to fulfil its important mission.

The United States is grateful to the Secretariat for completing the difficult task of finding additional efficiency savings, but would also like to express its appreciation to the community of Member Nations for coming to agreement on a budget that recognizes the unique challenges of the global economic situation. We commend FAO for its willingness to find creative solutions that work within the constraints of global fiscal realities while at the same time enabling the execution of the Director-General's decentralization plan and the implementation of the programmatic priorities laid out in the PWB.

The United States also applauds FAO's decision to mainstream gender as a crosscutting theme of the new Strategic Framework. We strongly support FAO's core Programme of Work, including but not limited to its normative work and the excellent work of the standard setting bodies such as CODEX and IPPC.

Now that the budget level has been agreed, we urge all of you to join us in recommitting ourselves to the important work of FAO, reducing hunger, and fostering sustainability and food security for people the world over.

Finally, in addition to praising the substantive outcome, the content of the budget resolution, we would like to thank all involved for the highly collegial approach to reaching agreement. From the US perspective, the mutual respect and constructive engagement demonstrated by all participants offer a model for how the FAO should move forward to fulfil its ambitious vision in a unified and collaborative way.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Hassan JANABI (Iraq) (Original Language Arabic)

I just wanted to intervene to be very accurate and to show accuracy when it comes to the minutes of the meeting. The number of Members present was 138. The number of those who cast their votes for was 135. The number of those who abstained was two, and the number of votes cast was 137 and not 135 as the Secretary-General has just mentioned.

Mr Yo OSUMI (Japan)

We are very pleased today with the outcome. We are very satisfied with the figure because all sides had to sacrifice a bit, but we appreciate the outcome. The outcome is to be able to demonstrate the unity of all Members and with the Director-General and the DG's vision.

We very much appreciate the DG's presence in Tokyo two weeks ago for the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development. He met with our Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Agricultural Minister, and got assurances of Japanese support for FAO.

We are grateful for his team's support and the support for us, the Member Nations, coming to this conclusion and this vote today.

Finally, I would like to express our deep appreciation to Madame Chair of Commission II as well as the Chair of the Friends of the Chair. We feel today as warm, as bright, as your beautiful outfits today and we very much appreciate that.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Sr. Miguel RUIZ-CABAÑAS (Mexico)

Solamente para manifestar nuestra felicitación a la Presidenta de la Comisión por su extraordinario trabajo, y agradecer el liderazgo del Director-General, que nos permitió arribar a un consenso con la fórmula que propuso al final. Creo que en base a ese liderazgo se alcanzó el consenso que todos deseábamos. Estoy seguro de que las dos Delegaciones que se abstuvieron podrán, en las próximas horas, manifestar al Secretariado que se han unidos totalmente al consenso.

Mr Patrick HENNESSY (Ireland)

On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, I want to express appreciation for the exemplary spirit of cooperation between the Regional groups which characterized the work on this item. It was only because of that exemplary spirit and that commitment to work together for the good of FAO and the work which this Organization undertakes that made it possible to reach an outcome which was a challenge for all, but a challenge well worth pursuing to a successful conclusion.

So I think it is important to underline that the extent to which the Member Nations from the various Regional Groups pulled together on this was a very good signal not just for our outcome on the budget, but for the ongoing work of this Organization.

I want to join with others in expression our appreciation also to the Director-General and to the staff of the Organization for their contribution, which was so essential in ensuring a successful outcome to the work which we have undertaken together.

I also, of course, wish to join with others in our deep and warm appreciation of the work of the Chairperson of Commission II whose open, transparent, hands-on approach was absolutely instrumental in allowing us to create the atmosphere and to achieve the outcome which we have. All of this, I think, bodes well from the point of view of the European Union and its Member States as an entity and as a group which has already long since demonstrated its deep commitment to the FAO. We have a basis for continuing to grow and strengthen in that relationship to the benefit of those whom we seek to serve in this Organization.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr XIA Jingyuan (China) (Original language Chinese)

At the outset, I wish to thank very warmly Commission II for its work, the Secretariat, the Friends of the Chair, the Chairperson of Commission II for all of the work that has been carried out.

We have been putting a huge amount of work and effort into the outcome of this Commission. At a time of global and climate crisis, the outcome we have achieved today attests to the huge efforts that everybody has put in. China is pleased with and is in favour of this outcome. As is well known, starting from next year, China will increase its contribution by 66 percent.

China will continue to support the work of the FAO. We hope that FAO will provide services for its Member Nations in accordance with the strategies that we have already formulated. It is our hope that FAO will continue its cooperation with China. As is well known, the Director-General made another visit to China and reached lots of consensus in many areas. We hope the cooperation continues between a big international organization and a big agricultural country.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Heads of Delegation, Ministers, Permanent Representatives, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Conference has not ended yet but this is a very important moment and a very important step ahead. Looking back to what we did this week, I believe that we can already say that our wish for a successful and constructive Conference has been fulfilled. I want to thank you all for making this happen. Let me also acknowledge the support that you have provided for the Programme on Work and Budget and the budget level that you have just agreed on. I believe that building consensus takes some time, but it is the best way to move ahead quickly. And I believe that we achieved this.

The budget level is set at a slightly higher level than in the current biennium, more or less, two percent higher. It does not completely offset the projected cost increases, but nevertheless I know that this was the possible budget. That's what consensus is about.

The consensus showed the willingness to overcome our differences. It showed trust. And it showed commitment to work together towards the hunger-free and sustainable future we all want.

So I thank and applaud all of you for your efforts to approve our Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. In doing so you showed a clear sign of commitment to this Organization and its goals, to *your* Organization and to *your* goals.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I understand that we are in a far corner and it is difficult to see us. However, we did ask for the floor from the very outset. The Russian Federation welcomes the work that is being carried out, commends the work, and we welcome the decision on the adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget. We believe that we have made a major step forward.

The Resolution was quite difficult to negotiate. However, it is very important that it was negotiated through consensus as it will enable the Organization fully to implement its tasks. The budget adopted by us displays the difficult financial situation facing the world which has placed limits on resources of Member Nations and called upon us to make savings.

On the other hand, it has enabled Member Nations to offer support to the Director-General and to enable him to implement his strategic vision. We believe that the Director-General has been wise and displayed political will by meeting us halfway, by proposing savings and by ensuring that key areas of work will be covered financially.

The Russian Federation is satisfied with the Resolution that has been adopted and we would like to thank all of our partners within the group of Friends of the Chair, our colleagues who have enabled us to find a solution, and also to thank the Members of the Secretariat and Ambassador Verburg of the Netherlands.

Mr Leslie RAMSAMMY (Guyana)

Guyana had asked for the floor earlier, and I'm glad that we get an opportunity to speak. I speak on behalf of Guyana and also have a CARICOM voice on this very important vote.

I think at a time of many differences among us, we have demonstrated global solidarity in the fight against hunger and the fight against poverty. We want to congratulate the members of Commission II for their hard work and to bring us to this stage where we could demonstrate solidarity.

We must continue the work we undertook on the road to the Millennium Development Goals and we must also accept the work continues post-2015. We have achieved much in the work that we have done towards the MDGs and we must all be comforted by the fact that today we have reduced poverty, we have reduced hunger but we must also accept the uncomfortable situation that 872 million people are still living in a food insecure state.

Mr President, with climate change, energy insecurities and other insecurities, we also now have the insecurity of non-communicable chronic diseases. The work of FAO is critical in this regard. As we work post-2015 for zero hunger, zero malnutrition, zero micro-deficiency, zero child death from preventable causes, we must support the work of FAO and FAO must be prepared to work in partnership with our countries.

Guyana is, therefore, pleased to associate ourselves with this vote and to continue providing support for the work of FAO.

25. Amendments to the Basic Texts
25. Amendements des Textes fondamentaux
25. Enmiendas a los Textos Fundamentales

25.1 Proposed Amendments to Rules XXXVII and XL of the General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution)
25.1 Propositions d'amendements des Articles XXXVII et XL du Règlement général de l'Organisation (projet de résolution)
25.1 Propuestas de enmiendas a los artículos XXXVII y XL del Reglamento General de la Organización (proyecto de resolución)
(C 2013/LIM/5)

CHAIRPERSON

Under this item we are going to deal with three Sub-items, all related to proposed amendments to the General Rules of the Organization contained in the Basic Texts.

When we come to vote on the first draft resolution under this item 25, the Secretary-General will explain the procedure only once as it is the same for all three sub-items and we shall be using the electronic voting system for each vote.

We shall begin with Sub-item 25.1 on a proposal to amend Rules XXXVII and XL of the General Rules of the Organization. The proposal is set out in document C 2013/LIM/5.

I give the floor to Mr Tavares, the Legal Counsel, to introduce

LEGAL COUNSEL

Document C2013/LIM/5 is an extract of the Report of the 145th Session of the Council of December 2012 and contains a draft Conference Resolution on amendments to Rules XXVII and XL of the General Rules of the Organization.

As you can see from the Preamble of this Resolution, the proposed amendments were closely and extensively reviewed by the Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters of March and October 2012 and by the Sessions of the Finance Committee of May and November 2012.

Both Committees endorsed the Conference Resolution and transmitted it to the Council. The Council, as delegates may recall, at its Sessions of June 2012 and December 2012, also endorsed the Draft Resolution, and the Council transmitted the Draft Resolution to the Conference for approval.

The Conference Resolution reflects a commitment on the part of the Director-General to propose a set of rules designed to facilitate the transition between two Directors-General, drawing on the recent experience of FAO.

Under one of the amendments, an outgoing Director-General is required to ensure that, as far as possible prior to taking office, a Director-General Elect is duly informed of the policies, programmes, staffing and activities of the Organization. An outgoing Director-General is required to make arrangements to ensure that the new Director-General elect shall have the benefit of technical and administrative support during that period.

Another amendment establishes restrictions to the authority of an outgoing Director-General to make appointments to senior positions at the grade D-2 and above during the last six months of a term of office.

The Draft Conference Resolution also deals with some adjustments to the nomination period for the office of Director-General.

The Draft Resolution amending the General Rules of the Organization is to be adopted through a nominal vote by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, in accordance with the procedures applicable for the amendment of the General Rules. As I understand, you and the Secretary-General will still provide some information on the procedures for the adoption of this Resolution.

CHAIRPERON

The draft Resolution is before the Conference.

Are there any delegations which wish to intervene on this matter?

Mr Patrick HENNESSY (Ireland)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, the acceding country to the European Union, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the European Union, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

Regarding Rule XXXVII.1(a) and 6 of the General Rules of the Organization, we agree that the nomination period for candidates for the post of Director-General should be reduced from 12 to 3 months and that the Director-General Elect be provided with sufficient support to facilitate the handover from the incumbent.

Regarding Rule XL, we agree that the Director-General should have the discretion to appoint his or her own senior management staff upon taking up the appointment.

We can support the proposed amendments to Rule XXIX.2, Rule XXX.2, Rule XXXI.2, and Rule XXXII.2 of the General Rules of the Organization for by notice from Membership of Committees must be made not later than 10 days before the opening date of a session.

We can support the proposed amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization relating to the CFS.

CHAIRPERSON

I would ask the Secretary-General to provide an explanation of the voting procedure.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

This is a draft Resolution amending the General Rules of the Organization.

Under Rule XLIX, paragraph 2 of the General Rules of the Organization, amendments to the rules are approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Under Rule XII, paragraphs 7(a) and 8 of the General Rules of the Organization a nominal vote – that is a vote which records the names of Member Nations – shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. "Votes cast" means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions.

When a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes must be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number for or against should be at least 98. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

We have 139 delegations that have pressed their green button, so we have a quorum.

CHAIRPERSON

If there are no questions from the floor, we will proceed with vote on the draft conference resolution contained in document C 2013/LIM/5. Delegates are invited to press one of the voting buttons on the desk in front of them. Green, if they wish to vote in favour, red, if they wish to vote against and yellow if they wish to abstain.

I will ask the Secretary-General to read the results. The result sheet will be included in the verbatim record of this meeting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Vote on the proposed amendments to Rules XXXVII and XL of the General Rules of the Organization.

Votes for, 129; votes against, 0; abstentions, 1; votes cast, 129; majority required, 98.

The Resolution is adopted.

FOOD AND AGRICOLTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS | ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE | ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA ALIMENTACION Y LA AGRICULTURA

21/06/2013
10:59:10

Vote on: Proposed Amendments to Rules XXXVII and XL of the General Rules of the Organization
Vote sur: Propositions d'amendement aux articles XXXVII et XL du Règlement général de l'Organisation
Votaction para: Propuestas de enmiendas a los artículos XXXVII y XL del Reglamento General de la Organización

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	**129**
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	**98**
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	**129**
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	**0**
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	**1**

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:
AFGANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAPE VERDE, CHAD, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COMOROS, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REP., DEM. REP. CONGO, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUYANA, HAITI, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, IRELAND, JAMAICA, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRIBATI, KYRGYZSTAN, LAO PDR, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LIBERIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, MEXICO, MONACO, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, PERÚ, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SINGAPORE, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH SUDAN, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, ST VINCENT & GRENADINES, ST.KITTS & NEVIS, SUDAN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TFY REP.OF MACEDONIA, THAILAND, TIMOR LESTE, TOGO, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, TURKEY, UAE, UGANDA, UK, UR TANZANIA, URUGUAY, USA, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU, VENEZUELA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:
DJIBOUTI

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:
AZERBAIJAN, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BELIZE, BENIN, BHUTAN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, BOTSWANA, BULGARIA, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., CHILE, COOK ISLANDS, CROATIA, DPR KOREA, EQ. GUINEA, GAMBIA, ISRAEL, ITALY, KENYA, KUWAIT, LATVIA, LIBYA, MALDIVES, MALTA, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, MYANMAR, NAMIBIA, OMAN, QATAR, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, RWANDA, SAMOA, SERBIA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SOLOMON, TAJIKISTAN, TONGA, TUNISIA, UKRAINE, VIETNAM, YEMEN, ZAMBIA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd

Stephen Dowd

25.2 Proposed Amendments to Rule XXIX.2, Rule XXX.2, Rule XXXI.2 and Rule XXXII.2 of the General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution)
25.2 Propositions d'amendement aux articles XXIX.2, XXX.2, XXXI.2 et XXXII.2 du Règlement général de l'Organisation (projet de résolution)
25.2 Propuestas de enmiendas a los artículos XXIX.2, XXX.2, XXXI.2 y XXXII.2 del Reglamento General de la Organización (proyecto de resolución)
(C 2013/LIM/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move on to Sub-item 25.2, that is proposed Amendments to Rule XXIX. Rule XXX.2, Rule XXXI.2 and Rule XXXII.2 of the General Rules of the Organization. The relevant document is C 2013/LIM/6 and contains the text of a draft resolution.

I shall ask again Mr Tavares, Legal Counsel, to introduce this item.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Document C 2013/LIM/6 is an extract of the Report of the 145th Session of the Council of December 2012 and it also contains a Draft Conference Resolution entitled "Amendment to Rules XXIX.2, XXX.2, XXXI.2, and XXX.2 of the General Rules of the Organization".

These rules established conditions under which Members may submit notifications of membership on the Committee of Commodity Problems, the Committee on Fisheries, the Committee on Forestry, and Committee on Agriculture. Under current rules, notification of membership may be made by FAO members at any time.

There are practical inconveniences in this rule, since notifications of membership may be made even after a session of a Committee has already started and, in a few cases, it has not been possible to establish the precise composition of that Committee prior to a Session.

In addition, actual membership of a Committee has changed throughout the same session and at times it was not possible to ascertain a quorum. Under the proposed amendments to the rules of the Organization, notification of membership may be made at any time, but no later than ten days before the beginning of a session.

The proposed amendments were reviewed by the CCLM at its Session of October 2012 and were endorsed by the Council at the session of December 2012 and, as we understand, are fully consensual.

The Draft Resolution amending the General Rules of the Organization which is now before the Conference is also to be adopted through a nominal vote, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that the Conference may proceed to adopt this Conference Resolution? I now give the floor to the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Draft Resolution is to be approved by a two thirds majority of the votes cast in the same procedure as mentioned under Sub-item 25.1 applies.

CHAIRPERSON

We can now proceed to the vote on the Draft Conference Resolution contained in document C 2013/LIM/6. Delegates are invited to press one of the voting buttons on the desk in front of them. Green to vote in favour, red to vote against, and yellow to vote abstain.

I will now ask the Secretary-General to read the results sheet which will be included in the verbatim record of this meeting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Vote on proposed Amendments to Rule XXIX.2, Rule XXX.2, Rule XXXI.2 and Rule XXXII.2 of the General Rules of the Organization.

Votes for, 138; votes against, 1; abstentions, 0; votes cast, 139; majority required, 98. The resolution is adopted.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

FOOD AND AGRICOLTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS | ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE | ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA ALIMENTACION Y LA AGRICULTURA

21/06/2013 11:05:47

Vote on: Proposed Amendments to Rules XXIX.2, XXX.2, XXXI.2 and XXXII.2 of the General Rules of the Organization
Vote sur: Propositions d'amendement aux articles XXIX.2, XXX.2, XXXI.2 et XXXII.2 du Réglement général de l'Organisation
Votaction para: Propuestas de enmiendas a los artículos XXIX.2, XXX.2, XXXI.2 y XXXII.2 del Reglamento General de la Organización

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	139
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	98
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	138
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	1
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:
AFGANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHAD, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COMOROS, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REP., DEM. REP. CONGO, DENMARK, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUYANA, HAITI, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAMAICA, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRIBATI, KYRGYZSTAN, LAO PDR, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, MEXICO, MONACO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, PERÚ, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SINGAPORE, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOLOMON, SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH SUDAN, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, ST VINCENT & GRENADINES, ST.KITTS & NEVIS, SUDAN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TFY REP.OF MACEDONIA, THAILAND, TIMOR LESTE, TOGO, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, TURKEY, UAE, UGANDA, UK, UR TANZANIA, URUGUAY, USA, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU, VENEZUELA, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:
BENIN

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:
AZERBAIJAN, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BELIZE, BHUTAN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., COOK ISLANDS, CROATIA, DPR KOREA, EQ. GUINEA, GAMBIA, ISRAEL, KENYA, KUWAIT, LATVIA, LIBERIA, LIBYA, MALDIVES, MALTA, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, MYANMAR, QATAR, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, RWANDA, SAMOA, SERBIA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, TAJIKISTAN, TONGA, TUNISIA, UKRAINE, VIETNAM

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd

Stephen Dowd

25.3 Proposed Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution)
25.3 Propositions d'amendement à l'Article XXXIII du Règlement général de l'Organisation (projet de résolution)
25.3 Propuestas de enmiendas al artículo XXXIII del Reglamento General de la Organización (proyecto de resolución)
(C 2013/LIM/21)

CHAIRPERSON

We now take up Sub-item 25.3 regarding proposed Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution). The relevant document is C 2013/LIM/21.

I invite Mr Tavares to introduce this item.

LEGAL COUNSEL

This Draft Resolution is also set out in an extract of report of the Council of the session of this last April and contains amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization on the Committee on World Food Security.

At the CFS Session of October 2011, so already almost two years ago, the Committee on World Food Security adopted revised rules of procedure and requested its bureau to recommend and update and proposal new proposals for the update of Rule XXXIII on the General Rules of the Organization on the CFS.

These amendments were examined throughout 2012 and were reviewed and endorsed by the CFS at its session of last year. They were subsequently reviewed by the CCLM in March of this year and were recently endorsed by the Council in April.

The purpose of the amendments is to clarify a number of matters and ensure consistency and better distribution of the various provisions regarding the status of the CFS among the General Rules of the Organization, the CFS reform document and the Rules of Procedure of the Committee. These amendments are also, as I understand it, consensual insofar as they are the result of a long process of review by the various concerned parties, the CFS, the bureau, the CCLM, and the Council.

The Draft Resolution amending the General Rules of the Organization which is now before the Conference is also to be adopted through a nominal vote at a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that the Conference may proceed to adopt this Conference Resolution?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The same procedure described before applies for this Draft Resolution which is to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the vote cast.

CHAIRPERSON

We shall now vote on the draft Conference Resolution contained in document C 2013/LIM/21. Delegates are invited to press one of the voting buttons on the desk in front of them, green if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against, and yellow if they wish to abstain.

I shall now invite the Secretary-General to read the results sheet which will be included in the verbatim record of this meeting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The vote on the proposed amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization. Votes for, 139; votes against, 0; abstentions, 0; votes cast 139; majority required, 98. The resolution is adopted.

Item 25 is closed.

FOOD AND AGRICOLTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS | ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE | ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA ALIMENTACION Y LA AGRICULTURA

21/06/2013
11:11:38

Vote on: Proposed Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization
Vote sur: Propositions d'amendement à l'article XXXIII du Règlement général de l'Organisation
Votaction para: Propuestas de enmiendas al artículo XXXIII del Reglamento General de la Organización

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	139
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	98
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	139
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:

AFGANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHAD, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COMOROS, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REP., DEM. REP. CONGO, DENMARK, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EGYPT, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GAMBIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUYANA, HAITI, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAMAICA, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRIBATI, KYRGYZSTAN, LAO PDR, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LIBERIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, MEXICO, MONACO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NIGERIA, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, PERÚ, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SINGAPORE, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOLOMON, SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH SUDAN, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, ST VINCENT & GRENADINES, ST.KITTS & NEVIS, SUDAN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TFY REP.OF MACEDONIA, THAILAND, TIMOR LESTE, TOGO, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, TURKEY, UAE, UGANDA, UK, UR TANZANIA, URUGUAY, USA, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU, VENEZUELA, VIETNAM, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:

AZERBAIJAN, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BELIZE, BHUTAN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., COOK ISLANDS, CROATIA, DPR KOREA, EL SALVADOR, EQ. GUINEA, GEORGIA, ISRAEL, KENYA, KUWAIT, LATVIA, LIBYA, MALDIVES, MALTA, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, MYANMAR, NORWAY, QATAR, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, RWANDA, SAMOA, SERBIA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, TAJIKISTAN, TONGA, TUNISIA, UKRAINE

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd

Stephen Dowd.

26. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters
26. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
26. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

CHAIRPERSON

There are no matters to be considered under Item 26. With this, we have concluded our work for this morning. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 11.14 hours
La séance est levée à 11 h 14
Se levanta la sesión a las 11.14 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session
Trente-huitième session
38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
11ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

21 June 2013

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.01 hours
Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 01
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 15.01
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Presidente de la Conferencia

7. Election of Council Members
7. Élection des membres du Conseil
7. Elección de miembros del Consejo
(C 2013/11)

CHAIRPERSON

I declare open the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the FAO Conference.

We shall proceed with item 7 of the agenda: Election of Council Members.

You have before you document C 2013/11 and the Daily Journal, which includes a chart of countries nominated by region and by electoral period.

Given that paragraph 10(a) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization allows for the election of Council Members by clear general consent when the number of candidates is not more than the number of vacancies to be filled, I suggest we carry out the election of the candidates by clear general consent when there are no more candidates than vacant seats for a region.

If no delegation wishes to make a comment or request clarification, we shall now proceed. I call on the Secretary-General to read the list of candidates for Africa.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As indicated in today's Journal, the candidates for Africa are as follows: For the period from the end of this 38th Conference to 30 June 2016, there are 5 seats and the candidates are Angola, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco and South Africa.

For the period 1 July 2014 to the end of the 40th Conference, there are 4 seats to be filled, and the four candidates are: Algeria, Cameroon, Mali and Zimbabwe.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Africa?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is so decided.

We now move on to Asia. Mr Secretary-General, kindly proceed.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For Asia, with regard to the period 1 July 2014 to the end of the 40th Conference, there are 3 seats to be filled, and the three candidates are: India, Malaysia and Pakistan.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Asia?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Is it so decided.

We now move on to Europe.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The candidates for Europe are as follows: For the period from the end of this 38th Conference to 30 June 2016, there are 3 seats and 4 candidates: Cyprus, Hungary, Russian Federation and Turkey, since Luxembourg withdrew its candidature.

CHAIRPERSON

I should like to ask if one of the candidates wishes to withdraw. If not, we shall proceed to conduct a vote by secret ballot.

Given that none of the candidates is willing to withdraw, we shall proceed to a secret ballot. The Secretary-General will provide the relevant information.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

This vote is carried according to the provisions of Rule XII.12 of the General Rules of the Organization.

Delegates will be called one at a time to go to the voting area where they will receive a ballot paper indicating the names of the candidates. The elector, unless they wholly abstain, shall cast a vote by marking a cross X in the box beside the three candidates they wish to elect.

Each elector must cast three votes, I repeat, no more and no less than three votes.

In accordance with Rule XII.4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, any ballot paper left blank will be recorded as an abstention. In accordance with paragraph 4(d) of the same Rule, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark other than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.

Any ballot paper carrying votes for more or less than the vacancies to be filled shall be declared defective.

In accordance with Rule XII.10(f) of the General Rules of the Organization, any delegate who makes an error in completing the ballot paper may request a clean one from the Elections Officer. The clean ballot paper will be delivered on the surrender of the invalidated ballot paper.

CHAIRPERSON

Voting will now commence. I invite the delegates of Australia and Colombia to act as tellers and to proceed to the voting area, after which the Secretary-General will begin calling the countries.

Finally, may I draw your attention to paragraph 15 of Rule XII, which specifies that once voting has commenced, no delegate or Representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Before proceeding to the vote, it is necessary to check whether there is a quorum. The quorum is 98.

Could I ask the delegates to press the green button on their desk? This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of delegates present.

Have all delegates pressed the green button?

Thank you very much. I will now close the voting system.

CHAIRPERSON

I am advised that there are at least 159 delegations present in the plenary hall.

M. Oumar TAHA (Chad)

Nous avons bien écouté ce que vous avez dit mais peut être que nous n'avons pas très bien compris. C'est pourquoi je voudrais un éclaircissement avant de passer dans la cabine.

Alors, en ce qui concerne l'Europe nous avons quatre candidats pour trois sièges, faut-il cocher un pays de son choix ou bien le groupe de trois qui devraient passer en fonction de vos choix? C'est cet éclaircissement que je voudrais.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Dans ce premier tour de scrutin il y aura 3 sièges à pourvoir et il y a 4 pays candidats. Les délégués, en remplissant le bulletin de vote doivent choisir 3candidats. S'ils choisissent 4 ou moins de 3, le bulletin est déclaré nul.

Vote
Vote
Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Okay, voting has concluded. I will ask the tellers to depart and count the ballots. I will adjourn the meeting for approximately 30 minutes, after which we will reconvene.

The meeting was suspended from 15.44 to 17.03 hours
La séance est suspendue de 15 h 44 à 17 h 03
Se suspende la sesión de las 15.44 a las 17.03

CHAIRPERSON

I call the meeting to order. The Secretary-General will read the results of the ballot.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of ballot number one, election of Council Members for the European Region for the term 2013-2016: ballot papers deposited, 162; abstentions, 0; defective ballots, 2; valid ballot papers, 160; seats to be filled, 3; votes cast, 480; required majority, 121.

Elected: Russian Federation, 142.

Not elected: Turkey with 120 votes; Hungary with 113 votes; and Cyprus with 105 votes.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	no. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS – Europe (2013-2016) ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL - Europe (2013-2016) ELECCIÓN DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO- Europa (2013-2016)

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	162	4. Valid ballot papers Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	160
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puesto a cubrir	3
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	2	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	480

5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	121

Elected – Élus – Elegidos		Not elected – Pas élus – No elegidos		Eliminated – Eliminé – Eliminado	
Russian Federation	142	Turkey	120		
		Hungary	113		
		Cyprus	105		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Mr James Bullock (Australia)
Signature
Firma ..... James Bullock .....

Mr Felipe Steiner (Colombia)
Signature
Firma .....

Date
Fecha 21/06/2013

Stephen Dowd ..... Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

We now have three candidates for two seats. May I ask if any candidate wishes to withdraw?

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Sri Lanka)

Not to disrupt the election but you were not very clear of the two statements. Can you please repeat what you stated because I don't think that I understood it correctly.

CHAIRPERSON

Do you want the result to be repeated, or do you need some clarification from the Legal Counsel?

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Sri Lanka)

Maybe with the repetition of the results as well as the process before us and to how we should be proceeding with electing the other Members from Europe. How are we going to proceed? My understanding is that one Member who will not be elected for the first term field will automatically be eligible to be elected or to be considered for election in the second slot. So can you please slowly explain to us because I think everybody is tired so we have a bit of a lack of memory capacity.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will read again the report of ballot number one. This is set for the first period: 2013-2016.

Ballot papers deposited, 162; abstentions, 0; defective ballots, 2; valid ballot papers, 160; seats to be filled, 3; votes cast, 480; required majority, 121.

Elected: Russian Federation, 142.

Not elected: Turkey with 120 votes; Hungary with 113 votes; and Cyprus with 105 votes.

So the Chairperson has mentioned that we now have three candidates for two seats.

Mr Wylbur Chisiya SIMUUSA (Zambia)

Following the explanation from the Secretary-General, I think there is a misunderstanding.

The instructions we were given was that we vote for three candidates for the four seats. So I believe only one candidate is the one which was supposed not to be elected.

Do I understand that Russian Federation, Hungary, and Turkey are the three countries elected? Since Cyprus received the lowest number of votes, they fall away.

That was my understanding before it went to votes and that is why I voted for three candidates for three seats. Maybe I will need some clarification.

Mr Hassan JANABY (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

We totally agree with the intervention made by the previous speaker. In other words, we have three seats that are vacant and we have four candidates to choose from.

Now, since three countries did not get the required majority, we are going to pick one of these three countries that are left. I guess that the country that received the lowest number of votes might be considered as having been eliminated from the voting process.

So why is it that you said that we need 121 votes? We have 160 Nations represented here that have voted, and I think that for the required majority we need less than 121 votes.

LEGAL COUNSEL

To explain exactly the situation, let me say that we have already had a similar situation in 2009.

We are in the presence of a situation where the Conference is electing simultaneously a number of countries for a number of seats. We are not holding an election for one seat, we are holding an election for several seats. In this case, the required majority is not a simple majority of more than one half of the Members voting. Even if we have had 160 countries which cast ballot papers, the majority is not 81.

The majority needs to take into account all the countries that were candidates, and we have a number of votes spread among these countries. And the formula that we apply for the determination of the required majority in this case gives 121 votes.

We had 480 votes cast for all seats, because each country votes for three candidates. In total, we had 480 votes cast and the required majority for one country to be declared elected is 121 according to the formula that we have in our rules of the Organization. We have had many situations of this nature in the past where we need to go through a process of gradual elimination of the candidates unless candidates that were not elected wished to withdraw. We have had this situation in the recent past, in 2009, with the elections for the Near East.

So, for the time being, the Russian Federation has reached 142 votes. The required majority is 121, according to the formula that we have in our General Rules. Turkey, Hungary, and Cyprus would need to go for another ballot unless one of these countries decides to withdraw.

This is the procedure that we have in our Basic Texts for this type of elections.

CHAIRPERSON

Again, may I ask if any candidate wishes to withdraw? If this is not the case, we will proceed to a second ballot and the Secretariat requires another five minutes to prepare the ballot papers. There will be a short recess.

The meeting was suspended from 17.15 to 17.23 hours
La séance est suspendue de 17 h 15 à 17 h 23
Se suspende la sesión de las 17.15 a las 17.23

CHAIRPERSON

Voting will now commence. I invite the Delegates of Australia and Colombia to act as tellers or continue to act as tellers please and to proceed to the voting area, after which the Secretary-General will begin calling the countries. Finally, may I draw your attention to Rule XII.15 which specifies that once voting has commenced, not Delegate or Representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Before proceeding to the vote, we will check whether we have a quorum. Again, the quorum is 98. Could I ask the Delegates to press the green button on their desks? This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of Delegates present.

Please press the green button on your desk. Thank you very much. The system is closed.

CHAIRPERSON

I am advised that there are at least 145 Delegations present in the Plenary Hall.

Vote
Vote
Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Voting has concluded. I will ask the tellers to depart and count the ballots. I will adjourn the meeting for approximately 30 minutes, after which we will reconvene.

The meeting was suspended from 17.44 to 18.34 hours
La séance est suspendue de 17 h 44 à 18 h 34
Se suspende la sesión de las 17.44 a las 18.34

CHAIRPERSON

I call the meeting to order. Before announcing the results the Secretary-General has an announcement to make.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wanted to inform the delegates that the reception that had been planned for 18.00 hours this evening will be postponed until we have finished the votes in this room this afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to ask Mr Gagnon to read the results.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The results Report of ballot number two, election of Council Members for the Europe Region 2013-2016: ballot papers deposited, 157; abstentions, 0; defective ballots, 2; valid ballot papers, 155; seats to be filled, 2; votes cast, 310; required majority, 104.

The candidates elected are: Turkey with 116 votes and Hungary with 109 votes.

Not elected: Cyprus with 85 votes.

So we have now completed the votes for the first term, Russian Federation, Turkey, and Hungary having been elected.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	no. 2	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS – Europe (2013-2016) ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL - Europe (2013-2016) ELECCIÓN DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO- Europa (2013-2016)

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	157	4. Valid ballot papers Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	155
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puesto a cubrir	2
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	2	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	310

5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	104

Elected – Élus – Elegidos		Not elected – Pas élus – No elegidos		Eliminated – Eliminé – Eliminado	
Turkey	116	Cyprus	85		
Hungary	109				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Mr James Bullock (Australia)
Signature
Firma .....

Mr Felipe Steiner (Colombia)
Signature
Firma .....

Date
Fecha 21/06/2013

Stephen Dowd .....

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to congratulate the three countries which have been elected. May I ask whether Cyprus wishes to stand for the second electoral period or withdraw?

Mr George POULIDES (Cyprus)

Cyprus wishes to withdraw.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

For the second term for the Europe Region, from 1 July 2014 to the end of the 40th Conference, we have four seats with four candidates. The candidates are Czech Republic, France, Iceland and Italy.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to congratulate them for their election to the Council. We now move on to Latin America and the Caribbean Region. Mr Secretary-General you may proceed.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The candidates for Latin America and the Caribbean are as follows: for the period from the end of this 38th Conference to 30 June 2016 there are five seats, and the candidates are Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago.

For the period 1 July 2014 to the end of the 40th Conference there is one seat to be filled and the candidate is Ecuador.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Latin America and the Caribbean?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is so decided.

We now move on to the Near East. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The candidates for the Near East are as follows: for the period from the end of this 38th Conference to 30 June 2016, there are two seats and the two candidates are Iran and Iraq.

For the period 1 July 2014 to the end of the 40th Conference there are three seats to be filled and the three candidates are Afghanistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

May I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Near East?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is so decided. We now move on to North America.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Regarding North America, for the period from the end of this 38th Conference to 30 June 2016 there are two seats and the two candidates are Canada and the United States of America.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

The Conference approves the proposed candidates for North America. It is so decided.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For Southwest Pacific for the period 1 July 2014 to the end of the 40th Conference there is one seat to be filled and the candidate is Australia.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is so decided.

May I congratulate the countries which have just been elected to Membership of the Council and take the opportunity to remind you that the 147th Session of Council will open on Monday 24 June at 9:30 hours in the Red Room.

6. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council
6. Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil
6. Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo
(C 2013/9)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 6, the Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. Under Article V, paragraph 2 of the Constitution, the Conference appoints the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

We have one candidate for the post as mentioned in document C 2013/9, namely Mr Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa (United Republic of Tanzania).

We will now proceed with the vote by secret ballot for the election of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. In accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 98 Member Nations must be represented at this time.

The Secretary-General will give details of the voting procedure and ascertain the number of delegates present.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates will receive a ballot paper, with the name of the candidate and three boxes with the words "in favour"; "against"; and "abstention". Delegates are invited to mark the boxes as they so desire. In accordance with Rule XII, ballot papers shall carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote. Ballot papers deposited in the ballot box as blank ballots shall be recorded as abstentions.

Under the same Rule, should any delegate invalidate his or her ballot paper, he or she may request a new blank ballot paper from the elections officer before leaving the voting area. The invalidated ballot paper shall remain in the custody of the elections officer.

We will now calculate the number of Member Nations present. Please press the green button; located at the front of your desk, so that the electronic voting system can verify the number of delegations present.

The electronic system indicates that there are 145 Delegations present in the room. We can thus proceed to vote.

CHAIRPERSON

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

Also in accordance with Rule XII, the Chairperson of the Conference appoints two tellers from the delegates or representatives. May I therefore ask the delegates of Australia and Colombia to proceed to the voting area?

Vote
Vote
Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Voting has now been completed. The tellers will leave the room and with the assistance of the officers in charge of the election will count the votes. We will have a short interval for counting of votes.

The meeting was suspended from 19.07 to 17.29 hours
La séance est suspendue de 19 h 07 à 19 h 29
Se suspende la sesión de las 19.07 a las 19.29

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to call the meeting to order. We now return to Item 6, Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of Council. The votes have been counted and the Secretary-General will now read the result.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Report of ballot number one for the nomination of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, 2013-2015: ballot papers deposited, 154; abstentions, 7; defective ballots, 0; votes for, 146; votes against, 1; votes cast, 147; majority, 74.

Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa from the United Republic of Tanzania is accordingly appointed Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	Nomination of the Independent Chairperson of the Council 2013-2015 Designation du Président indépendant du Conseil 2013-2015 Designación del Presidente independiente del Consejo 2013-2015

1.	Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	154	
2.	Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	7	
3.	Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	
4.	Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	146	
5.	Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1	
6.	Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	147	

7.	Majority Majorité Mayoría	74

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

is accordingly appointed Independent Chairperson of the Council
est nommé Président indépendant du Conseil
ha sido nombrado Presidente independiente del Consejo

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Emily Collins (Australia)
Signature
Firma

Date 21/06/2013
Fecha

Felipe Steiner (Colombia)
Signature
Firma

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

May I be the first to congratulate Mr Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa on his election to the post of Independent Chairperson of the Council.

I wish him well as he takes on this very demanding role. I will now call upon the Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Christopher Chiza to come to the podium and speak.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Christopher K. CHIZA (United Republic of Tanzania)

On behalf of the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and on my own behalf, Engineer Christopher Chiza, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Security Cooperatives, I have the honour to extend my sincere vote of thanks and appreciation to all of you for electing His Excellency Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa to the position of Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council for the period 2013-2015.

Chairperson, this is an honor also to the United Republic of Tanzania and an expression of trust and confidence the Member Nations have to Ambassador Ngirwa. In this regard, I congratulate Ambassador Ngirwa and I think he deserves another clap.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Chairperson, it is my government's belief and in particular the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete that given Ambassador Ngirwa's technical, managerial and diplomatic experience, he will effectively and efficiently lead the Council in its work.

Therefore, my call is to all Members of FAO to extend their requisite support to Ambassador Ngirwa to enable him to discharge his responsibilities effectively, diligently and objectively as an Independent Chairperson of the Council.

May I conclude by reiterating my earlier expression of gratitude to the outgoing Independent Chairperson of the Council Mr Luc Guyau for his dedicated services to the Council and for the job well done. I think he also deserves a clap.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Finally, with your permission and the permission of delegates, I request all Members, all delegates in here to give a loud roar to the outgoing and the incoming Chair by saying "urrr". Please try it. "Urrr". Thank you very much.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

M. Luc Guyau (ancien Président indépendant du Conseil)

Il y a quatre ans j'avais pris la parole en fin d'élections. J'étais ému, mais je le suis tout autant maintenant.

Je dois vous dire dans un premier temps que je suis très satisfait, en quittant ma présidence, de voir que la FAO est vraiment en état de marche. Nous avons voté de façon satisfaisante, après des débats, longs certes, le budget; les objectifs stratégiques sont réadaptés; les missions de partenariat sont engagées, de même que la décentralisation.

Alors ce soir, je veux remercier, en particulier pour le Conseil, tous les sortants, mais aussi tous les « entrants », tous ceux qui ont été élus tout à l'heure. Et puis bien sûr, féliciter particulièrement mon successeur, le Président indépendant du Conseil qui le sera à partir de lundi matin puisqu'il devra présider son premier Conseil. J'ai eu l'occasion de travailler avec le Président Ngirwa pendant trois ans puisqu'il a été mon Vice-président dans deux commissions qui suivaient la réforme, le COC-IEE et l'« Open Working Group », où nous avons travaillé pour faire avancer les choses. Et puis pendant près d'un an, il a été Président du groupe Afrique, et je dois dire que j'ai apprécié sa façon de travailler dans le cadre du groupe informel, qui réuni les présidents de groupes régionaux pour servir de bureau au Président, parce qu'il a toujours été pragmatique. Et durant sa Présidence le fonctionnement du groupe Afrique a gravi des échelons, car il était très structuré, très partagé. Je l'en félicite. C'est pourquoi je suis tout à fait confiant quant à sa présidence du Conseil pour les deux ans qui viennent, dans le cadre d'une gouvernance rénovée où, comme je l'ai déjà dit à plusieurs reprises, les membres doivent être des acteurs permanents.

Permettez moi aussi de remercier tous ceux qui ont contribué avec nous au développement de cette Institution, en particulier le Directeur général et tous les membres du Secrétariat. Permettez moi, quand même, une mention spéciale pour ceux qui m'étaient les plus proches, avec qui je travaillais le plus, plus particulièrement Ali Mekouar dans un premier temps et Louis Gagnon depuis maintenant un an, et tous ceux qui l'entourent, vous m'excuserez de ne citer que quelques prénoms, Stéphane, Elaine, Bernadette et tous les autres qui m'ont permis de travailler de façon satisfaisante, je les en remercie. Mais je ne voudrais pas non plus oublier tous ceux qui, comme membres, ont concouru au bon fonctionnement de cette maison; ceux qui ont accepté et animé par leur présidence les différents groupes ou les différents comités. Je veux les remercier parce qu'ils m'ont aussi facilité la tâche.

Et puis une grande maison comme celle-ci ne peut pas fonctionner sans qu'il y ait beaucoup de monde. Je veux remercier l'ensemble du personnel, quel qu'il soit. Bien sûr le personnel du secrétariat, mais aussi tous ceux qui travaillent dans l'ombre ou un peu moins dans l'ombre: les messagères, les personnes du protocole, de la sécurité et bien sûr aussi les interprètes.

Vous me permettrez de dire un petit merci particulier, vous pouvez l'applaudir, à Jean Jacques Soula, qui a été mon conseiller pendant ces quatre ans et qui a beaucoup donné. Merci Jean Jacques.

Vous me permettrez aussi de donner un merci à celle que vous connaissez moins, à mon épouse qui est là aujourd'hui, et à ma famille qui a accepté, qui ont tous accepté que pendant ces quatre ans, même s'ils y étaient habitués un peu avant, à ce que je ne sois pas souvent à la maison. Merci Annie.

Alors, au bout de quatre ans je considère cette mission accomplie, même s'il y a encore du travail à faire. Durant ces quatre années passées à la Présidence du Conseil de la FAO, j'ai beaucoup récolté, pour ma part, du travail engagé par les membres de la FAO lors de longues et fructueuses réunions de préparation pour la réforme et la mise en place du PAI. Je le rappelle, cette réforme, acceptée à l'unanimité des membres, est la base du renouveau de la FAO, et en particulier de sa gouvernance.

J'ai aussi, avec tous ceux qui m'ont accompagné, beaucoup semé pour l'avenir. La gouvernance des États Membres par leurs représentants permanents ne peut être que plus dynamique, donc plus efficace, efficiente et porteuse d'engagements plus forts. Cette réforme facilite et dynamise le travail du Secrétariat et de son Directeur général, en facilitant le changement de culture de la FAO. Beaucoup de travail a été réalisé, mais le chemin est encore long pour répondre pleinement et au mieux aux défis du développement et de l'éradication de la faim.

Permettez-moi de broder quelques mots autour de trois citations que vous pouvez retrouver dans cette maison, *Fiat Panis*, du pain pour tous, c'est la mission de la FAO. Nous devons tous y concourir, États Membres et leurs représentations, Secrétariat, société civile, entreprises, en favorisant la coordination et les actions communes, et ainsi relever le défi qui est le nôtre.

La deuxième citation, qui est à l'entrée du Centre Cheik Zayed, *Donnez-moi une agriculture, je vous garantis une civilisation*. L'engagement des gouvernants du monde est tout aussi essentiel pour mettre en place de véritables politiques agricoles et alimentaires pour assurer partout dans le monde un équilibre entre les hommes, les produits et les territoires.

Et la troisième citation, qui est en bas de mon portrait dans la Salle rouge, qui était une de mes citations en 2000, *le défi paysan est simple, la société de demain ne se fera pas sans nous*. Je formule le vœu que tous les paysans du monde partagent cette affirmation. Un bon paysan, que j'ai essayé d'être, sait qu'il faut semer et parfois ressemer pour récolter. L'optimisme qui me guide me permet de penser que la récolte sera bonne ou tout du moins je l'espère. Pour répondre au souhait d'un meilleur équilibre alimentaire mondial, il n'y a pas de petites actions pour éradiquer la faim et merci à tous ceux qui y concourent.

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Guyau. I wish you all the best. Just to let you know that the cocktail is still on for those of you who wish to attend.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I would like to welcome and thank newly elected Independent Chairperson of the Council Ambassador Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa of United Republic of Tanzania.

We also thank the outgoing Chairperson Mr Luc Guyau for his successful accomplishment of his office. We hope that under the newly elected Independent Chair of the Council of Mr Ngirwa FAO will be more efficient and will contribute to the benefit of the poor and poorest in different perspectives. We look forward to that to make this Organization into a model organization under the UN System.

Bangladesh also welcomes all 33 new elected FAO Council Members and expects that FAO will continue even stronger in power. We also welcome the three new Members, namely Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and South Sudan in the FAO family.

Mr Chairperson I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Member Nations for approving the budget level for consensus. We look forward to see that FAO - particularly under the leadership of the Director-General who will lead this Organization from the frontlines - will perform outstandingly in the forthcoming biennium through achieving the target of the Strategic Objectives under the budget level that was approved today.

Finally, we thank you Mr Chairperson very much and all of the delegates present here for a successful Conference.

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Sri Lanka)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Group 77 and China. We are pleased with the outcome of the election of Mr Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa of the United Republic of Tanzania, a country that comes from the Group 77 and China, as Independent Chair of the FAO Council.

Before this election he was ours. Now he belongs to all Members of the FAO. We believe that Mr Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa will be committed to facilitating the Organization's management in the context of changing food security policy and international governance architecture.

The FAO Council has embarked on a new era after going through a series of reforms. It warrants a constant need for more effective and transparent working methods. The role of the Independent Chairperson of the Council is therefore an important one in trying to maintain a balanced dialogue with all FAO Council Members, as well as the Regional Groups.

There is also a pressing need for the continuation of implementation of the FAO reform. The FAO Council plays a crucial role in the outset of this process. We know that judging from his experience and his past association with FAO, Mr Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa is nicely posed to hold this position because he is well aware of these expectations and challenges ahead of him which are to be achieved working together by consensus, through productive dialogue in the context of ongoing reform.

We hope to be able to work alongside with him in the future with positive input and enthusiasm, especially in light of the need for reform. We are sure he will discharge his tasks to the best of his ability.

While passing to him our warm and sincere congratulations, we would like to mention that in this task, he may count on the support of the Group 77 and China and our advice.

In similar fashion, I take this opportunity to place on record our sincere appreciation to the outgoing Chairperson, Mr Luc Guyau, for the last four years. His best endeavors during these four years have been extremely fruitful. Since I'm not conversant in French, I'm sorry that I cannot make this statement in French, but I would like to use the most pertinent words in English though it is a very cold language compared to French and seize this opportunity to recognize his contributions towards achieving the results in relation to the reform process and his eagerness in resolving the challenges and obstacles that are in our way.

The Group of 77 and China worked very closely with him during his tenure, and the cooperation we received from him in many situations is commendable.

He has the trust to look for consensus by demonstrating his ability to be accommodating. It is somewhat a difficult and challenging role but he managed it well. It would therefore be difficult for his successor to be in his shoes.

We know that on the governing bodies, on the maintaining of priorities, this helped to do a lot. We are convinced that with the spirit of openness such by Mr Luc Guyau, his successor, Mr Wilfred Ngirwa will soon be able to achieve the desired results by following in his predecessor's footsteps.

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to wish Mr Luc Guyau the very best in his future endeavours and success in his new role to be played in his next assignment. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Members who were elected to the Council for 2013-16 and 2014-17 and wish them well. We also welcome the new Members, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, and South Sudan.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Thi Thu QUYNH NGUYEN (Viet Nam)

Viet Nam is speaking on behalf of the Asia Group. The Asia Group would like to join the previous colleague in congratulating Mr Wilfred Ngirwa for appointment as the Independent Chair of the Council. Mr Wilfred Ngirwa has a solid, major, and vast experience in agricultural sectors. He has for a long time been participating in the activities of the FAO. Representing his country, Tanzania, as well as serving in position in the governing body of the UN Rome-based agency, we are confident that with his great experience, knowledge, and capability, Mr Ngirwa is suitable for the Independent Chair of the Council Mandate.

We commit to extend the Asia Group's full support to him in enforcing this mandate. We believe that Mr Ngirwa as an Independent Chair will work towards the interests and concerns of all Member States. He will further promote and facilitate the proposed consultation and dialog between the FAO management boards and the FAO Members, contributing to be an efficient and effective FAO to create a synergy for the FAO to better achieve its Strategic Goals and Objectives in the time to come.

We also would like to express our gratitude to the outgoing Independent Chairperson, Mr Luc Guyau, for his excellent involvement over the past four years, especially in the preparation for this conference. We would like to wish him every success in his new endeavors

Mr Antonio MARQUES PORTO (Brazil)

The Brazilian Delegation wishes to welcome the election of Ambassador Ngirwa for the function of Independent Chairperson of the Council. As we all know, Ambassador Ngirwa has a large experience in FAO issues in his own country and at FAO. During the last three years, we had the privilege of working very close with him and we were able to witness his qualities in leadership and as an acute diplomat and observer. We wish him success and we assure our full support.

Suite en français

D'autre part M. le Président, nous voulons remercier les efforts qu'a faits M. Luc Guyau pour conduire à bien les activités du Conseil de la FAO. Ce sont quatre années de travail lourd et pourquoi pas de sacrifices personnels. Nous vous remercions et vous exprimons nos meilleurs vœux, à vous et à votre famille.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

On behalf of my government and also, as Chair of the Near East Group, on behalf of the Near East Group, I wish to welcome and congratulate Mr Wilfred Ngirwa on his election as Independent Chairperson of the Council. I am sure that from the capacity which he has, he will lead the Council of FAO very well. I wish him all the success.

I also would like to thank Mr Guyau, the previous Chairperson of the Council. We never forget his patience, leading all of the meetings which we had with him. I wish all of the best for him and his family.

We also wish to welcome the three new Members, Brunei Darussalam, South Sudan and Singapore.

Ms Ann DERWIN (Ireland)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States; the acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The FAO Council is in constant need for more effective and transparent working methods. The role of the Independent Chair of the Council is also to maintain balanced, constructive, and peaceful dialog with all FAO Council Members as well as with Regional Groups and between the Membership and the Secretariat.

We welcome the appointment of Mr Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa as Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council. Mr Ngirwa's experience as an agriculturalist and diplomat will serve all of us well and help the Council to be even more efficient, as well as to maintain the good spirit of trust and confidence within our Organization.

We know that Mr Ngirwa is well aware of these expectations and challenges. We again congratulate Wilfred and please know that you can count on our support.

We also take this opportunity to thank Mr Luc Guyau for the hard work he has performed during his two mandates as Independent Chair of the Council in order to preserve the unity of the Membership.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Mozambique)

I would like to congratulate Ambassador Wilfred Ngirwa on his brilliant election to the position of Independent Chair of the Council. The Africa Group thanks all Delegates for the overwhelming support shown for Ambassador Ngirwa's candidature as Independent Chair of the Council, which clearly demonstrates our confidence in his abilities.

Ambassador Ngirwa's journey started at the Regional Conference in Congo, Brazzaville, where he received the support of the African Ministers as a candidate for the Independent Chair. Actually, we were even reminded of this circumstance, this afternoon, by our colleagues from the US, with a very interesting picture that we really cherish. We are thus gratified to see so many Ministers and Delegates from the region present to witness this important occasion.

In this regard, we would like to convey through the Honourable Minister of Agriculture of the United Republic of Tanzania, present here, our profound gratitude to the Government of Tanzania for having provided such an excellent candidate.

Ambassador Ngirwa received overwhelming support from his own region and the regional groups were quick to let us know that Ambassador Ngirwa was not just a candidate of the African Group; he was strongly supported by the G77 and all regional groups because of his consensus building skills, knowledge of the Organization, and the humility which he displayed on many occasions during the time when he was the Tanzanian Permanent Representative to the three UN Rome-based agencies.

The Africa Group is proud that an African of Ambassador Ngirwa's calibre will have a key role in ensuring policy coherence and unity of purpose of Member Countries in assisting the Director-General and the Secretariat to meet the Strategic Objectives of the Organization.

We are confident that Ambassador Ngirwa will approach his role as Independent Chair of the Council with professionalism, impartiality, a listening ear and a pleasant smile. The Africa Regional Group would also like to pay special tribute to Mr Luc Guyau who performed his duties as Independent Chair for the last four years with professionalism and responsibility.

Under his leadership, the Council carried out its work in ensuring that the Membership oversight role was supported and enhanced. We are assured that this work will be continued by Ambassador Ngirwa. The Africa Group wishes Mr Luc Guyau and his family all the best in their future endeavours. We would also like to welcome the new Members of the Council elected today and wish them all the best. In conclusion, I would like to call on all Regional Groups and the Secretariat to assist the newly-elected Independent Chair of the Council to fulfil his mandate by ensuring that he is provided with the necessary tools to accomplish the mission ahead of him

Sra. Lorena PATIÑO (Paraguay)

Tomo la palabra como Vicepresidenta del grupo de países de América Latina y el Caribe. El GRULAC felicita al Sr. Joseph Ngirwa y se compromete a coadyuvar en todos sus esfuerzos en beneficio de esta Organización y en la lucha contra el hambre.

Así mismo agradecemos los esfuerzos realizados por el Presidente Guyau por la excelente labor que ha realizado durante su mandato.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela, Rebública Bolivariana de)

En primer lugar, quisiera sumarme a las palabras que han expresado los colegas y representaciones de grupos regionales y de países. En esta oportunidad, a nombre de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, pero igualmente a nombre del G 77, que me correspondió presidir durante el año 2012 cuando iniciamos el trabajo tendiente a que el embajador Wilfred Ngirwa asumiera esta responsabilidad. Desde ese momento, y hasta el día de hoy, se hizo un trabajo excelente para que el embajador Wilfred Ngirwa recibiera un apoyo total que, probablemente, va a permitirle desarrollar en los próximos dos años una labor con función de proseguir en el proceso de reforma que hemos venido encausando en esta Organización, y que a él le tocó presidir en los grupos de trabajo de ese proceso, precisamente. Creo que el embajador Wilfred Ngirwatiene todas las cualidades personales, profesionales y el rango diplomático que le permitirán hacer de este trabajo, un trabajo que enorgullezca a toda la Organización que hoy le ha dado este gran respaldo.

Igualmente, quiero agradecerle al Presidente saliente Guyau por su esfuerzo, su trabajo, su desempeño; y le deseo el mejor de los éxitos en sus futuras actividades así como felicitaciones a su familia quien le ayudó a concluir esta valiosa gestión a favor de esta Organización.

Mr Gregory S. GROTH (United States of America)

The United States would like to add its voice to those who have praised the incoming and outgoing Independent Chairs of Council. We congratulate Ambassador Ngirwa on his election as Independent Chair of Council and we have followed his march to the chairmanship with interest as our colleague from Mozambique has said, for over one year now since our attendance at the Regional Conference for Africa.

We would also like, of course, to say a word about the outgoing Chairperson of the Council, Mr Luc Guyau, and I would like to do so in French.

Suite en français

Nous voulons nous aussi remercier le Président indépendant du Conseil pour tout son travail. Merci Monsieur et au revoir.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Quisiera agradecer al presidente saliente todo su esfuerzo y dedicación brindados entre los últimos años, en los cuales hubo que tratar temas de mucha importancia para la Organización; y los resultados alcanzados nos hacen sentir que tenemos una Organización más fuerte. Me alegra mucho que pueda disponer más tiempo para su familia pero estamos seguros también que va a seguir trabajando e interesado por los temas que tenemos aquí en la FAO.

De la misma manera, quiero hacer extensivo nuestro reconocimiento y satisfacción por la elección del embajador Ngirwa como nuevo Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Desde el comienzo hemos respaldado su candidatura en la convicción de que tiene todas las capacidades para seguir trabajando en pos del avance de los objetivos de la Organización. Ese compromiso lo renovamos en este momento. Argentina está dispuesta a colaborar y lo hará con toda intensidad para que su gestión sea exitosa.

Ms Libby BIE (Australia)

Australia, on behalf of the Southwest Pacific Region, congratulates and welcomes Ambassador Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa as Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council. He is well qualified to undertake this important and challenging role and we look forward to working with the Ambassador and with all Members of Council.

We also wish Monsieur Luc Guyau well in his future endeavours and thank him for his hard work and his dedication on behalf of the Council and of FAO.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

We had almost the full quorum this afternoon so I would like to thank you very much. This brings us to the end of the eleventh meeting of the 38th Conference. I look forward to seeing you tomorrow afternoon at 14:30 hours for the adoption of the reports of the Commission I, Commission II and that of the Plenary.

I wish you all a good evening and the meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 20:11
La séance est levée à 20 h 11
Se levanta la sesión a las 20.11 horas

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session
Trente-huitième session
38.º período de sesiones

Rome, 15-22 June 2013
Rome, 15-22 juin 2013
Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
12ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

22 June 2013

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.53 hours
Mr Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 53
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 14.53
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Twelfth Plenary meeting to order. This afternoon we will adopt the reports of the Commissions and the Plenary meetings.

Before we start, I should like to propose that we listen to a brief presentation on "Achieving goals together: Mobilizing Resources to Achieve Results under the Strategic Framework".

I give the floor to Mr Jong-jin Kim, Director of the South-South and Resource Mobilization Division who will make a brief presentation.

Mr Jong-Jin KIM (Director, South-South and Resource Mobilization Division)

It is an honour for me to address you. FAO's work together with its partners is producing many important results in the drive to end hunger. A number of them are described here: Partnering for results, a collection of stories recounting the results of some of our global, regional in-country collaborations.

It is my pleasure to invite each of you to pick up your copy of this folder outside the plenary hall if you have not already done so. Please turn to the screens so we can show you some highlights of what you can find in this folder.

Indeed we have much more to share with you about how we can work together to increase results on the road to ending hunger, supporting sustainable production, reducing poverty, enabling more inclusive food systems, and increasing resilience to threats and crisis.

At the October meeting, FAO will present its concrete plans to achieve results under each of its five Strategic Objectives, transforming FAO into a Knowledge Organization with its feet planted on the ground as our Director-General recently declared.

You will hear about the various ways of partnering with FAO. The reason for partnering with FAO is to strengthen results at country level through knowledge into action, to tackle hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and tackle resilience.

Partnering for Results on 17 October 2013 will be a one day meeting at which the various partnerships will be illustrated. We will showcase the real results we have been able to achieve together, focusing on how we can build on these results and do more and do better in the future.

All of this will be discussed in the context of achieving the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge. The October meeting is not merely an occasion for us to share with you but for you to share with us your priorities, ideas and concerns as we work together to achieve food security in a Post Millennium Development Goals Agenda. So please save the date for 17 October 2013. I look forward to seeing you there. Thank you very much for your attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Adoption of the Report
Adoption du Rapport
Aprobación del informe

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to the Adoption of the Report. Please ensure that you have before you the three reports to be adopted: C 2013/REP contains items discussed in Plenary meetings; C 2013/REP/I contains Commission I items; and C 2013/REP/II contains Commission II items, including Item 23, with the resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 2014-15 adopted by the Conference yesterday.

The breakdown of the items is given in today's Journal.

I would like to remind the Conference that suggestions for editorial changes in the different languages can be passed on to the Secretariat after the meeting.

Adoption of the Report of Commission I
Adoption du Rapport de la Commission I
Aprobación del informe de la Comisión I
(C 2013/I/REP/10; C 2013/I/REP/11.1; C 2013/I/REP/11.2; C 2013/I/REP/11.3; C 2013/I/REP/11.4; C 2013/I/REP/11.5; C 2013/I/REP/11.6; C 2013/I/REP/12; C 2013/I/REP/13; C 2013/I/REP/14; C 2013/I/REP/15; C 2013/I/REP/16; C 2013/I/REP/17; C 2013/I/REP/18.1; C 2013/I/REP/18.2; C 2013/I/REP/18.3; C 2013/I/REP/18.4; C 2013/I/REP/18.5; C 2013/I/REP/18.6; C 2013/I/REP/18.7; C 2013/I/REP/19)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now begin with the adoption of the Report of Commission I. Please ensure you have the Report C 2013/REP concerning items taken in Commission I before you.

You will note that a corrigendum has been issued for Item 18.7, International Year of Pulses. The Corrigendum includes a sentence which was approved by the 146th Session of Council but was omitted from the draft resolution annexed to the Council Report.

I would like now to invite Her Excellency the Ambassador Nomatemba Tambo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to FAO, who chaired the Commission, to be kind enough to introduce the Report.

Ms Nomatemba TAMBO (Chairperson, Commission I)

I would like to thank the two Vice-Chairs in Commission I, Mr Francois Pythoud from Switzerland and Ms Gladys Francisca Urbaneja Durán from Venezuela. A special acknowledgement goes to the Secretariat of Commission I, Ms Ilaria Sista as Secretary, Ms Makiko Taguchi as Vice-Secretary, and Ms Britta Killerman as Assistant to the Secretary for their strong support and dedication.

The Chairperson of the Drafting Committee who is on the podium to my right is Ms Lorena Patiño from Paraguay, and Mr Darryl Nearing from Canada served as Vice-Chairperson. They were able to successfully lead the discussions of the drafting committee to reach consensus on all items of Commission I. I extend my thanks to all those involved in making this a success.

Commission I met five times and the Drafting Committee met once. Commission I adopted its Report which is now before the Conference in document C 2013/REP/I.

We believe that this is a very balanced Report and an accurate summary of the proceedings of Commission I for which I thank all Members of the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Ambassador Tambo. You heard the proposal made by the Ambassador. I therefore propose that we adopt the Report of Commission I in block. Please note that editorial amendments may be communicated to the Secretariat later.

Are there any comments on this proposal?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for your approval.

This concludes the adoption of the Report of items taken in Commission I. I wish to thank Ambassador Tambo, Chairperson of the Commission for guiding the work of the Commission and also Ms Lorena Patino from Paraguay who was the Chair of the Drafting Committee. My thanks go to the Members of the Drafting Committee too.

Adoption of the Report of Commission II
Adoption du Rapport de la Commission II
Aprobación del informe de la Comisión II
(C 2013/II/REP/20; C 2013/II/REP/21; C 2013/II/REP/22; C 2013/II/REP/23; C 2013/II/REP/24)

CHAIRPERSON

As regards to the Report of Commission II, I should like to remind you that the Conference endorsed this session of the Report at our 9th Plenary Meeting yesterday morning just before the vote on Budgetary Appropriations for 2014-15. Hence, I would like to propose that Conference adopt this section of the Report in block.

Are there any comments on this proposal?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

That concludes the adoption of the Report of Commission II. I wish to thank Ambassador Verburg for her work as Chairperson of the Commission. I am sure the Conference also wishes to express its appreciation to Ms Hedwig Wögerbauer from Austria, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, along with all the Members.

Adoption of the Report of Plenary
Adoption du Rapport de la Plenière
Aprobación del Informe de la Plenaria
(C 2013/REP/1; C 2013/REP/2; C 2013/REP/3; C 2013/REP/4; C 2013/REP/5;
C 2013/REP/6; C 2013/REP/7; C 2013/REP/8; C 2013/REP/9; C 2013/REP/25; C 2013/REP/27;
C 2013/REP/28; C 2013/REP/29; C 2013/REP/31; C 2013/REP/32; C 2013/REP/32.7;
C 2013/REP/32.8)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, finally we come to the adoption of the Reports on those items examined in Plenary contained in C 2013/REP.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I just wanted to underline the fact that an oversight has slipped in at paragraph two of Item 32. This is Sub-item 32.2 on the presentation of the B.R. Sen Awards.

If you go to the text you will see that the nationalities of the two awardees have been inverted so just for the record to make it clear, Mr David Doolan is from Ireland and Mr Patrick Durst is from the United States. Thank you for the distinguished delegate from New Zealand who has kindly mentioned this change to us.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela, Rebública Bolivariana de)

Quisiera hacer una intervención para dejar constancia de una posición que la República Bolivariana de Venezuela tiene respecto a la actividad que fue realizada y que esta Conferencia denominó "Actividad Especial" para hacer el reconocimiento a los países que han tenido progresos extraordinarios en la lucha contra el hambre, el cual se realizó el pasado domingo 16 de junio de 2013.

Quisiera indicarles que en el diario de la Conferencia apareció: domingo, 16 de junio. Acto Especial. Reconocimiento de progresos extraordinarios en la lucha contra el hambre, indicando la hora, indicando que se realizaría en la Sala Plenaria. El texto de esa convocatoria señalaba: "*En consonancia con la visión y el mandato de la FAO de trabajar por un mundo libre del hambre y la malnutrición, la Organización honrará los logros en la lucha contra el hambre y tributará un reconocimiento a los países que han hecho progresos extraordinarios con vistas a mejor la seguridad*

alimentaria de sus ciudadanos. Todos los miembros están invitados." Ya en anterior oportunidad, antes del inicio de la Conferencia, también en la página respectiva ya se hacía el anuncio de esta actividad.

Quisiera con su venia, Señor Presidente, indicarle que la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, en primer lugar, felicita el momento en el que estamos concluyendo esta Conferencia, la cual ha sido una Conferencia exitosa. Ha sido una semana intensa de trabajo, de la cual creo que esta Organización está saliendo fortalecida, y que con el esfuerzo mancomunado de todos los Estados Miembros, del personal de la FAO, del Director General, vamos a seguir trabajando para su consolidación, para su reforma y para que prosiga cumpliendo su mandato tal como esperamos todos los países que la integramos.

Sin embargo, creemos que debería quedar constancia de que la Organización y sus Miembros han tenidos grandes progresos al cumplir las metas de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación de 1996, y los Objetivos Desarrollo del Milenio. Por tanto, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela desearía que en el tema 32 "Asuntos varios", se le confiriera a este evento especial en el cual participaron dignatarios, jefes de estado, primeros ministros, vicepresidentes y representaciones de los países que fueron honrados con este reconocimiento, alguna mención en esta 38.ª Conferencia.

Nosotros creemos que un texto pudiera ser: "La Conferencia celebró un acto especial con la participación de 10 jefes de estado, en reconocimiento a países que lograron progresos extraordinarios en la lucha contra el hambre, con vistas a mejorar la seguridad alimentaria de sus ciudadanos. En dicho acto se confirió reconocimiento Literal A: a los países que ya han alcanzado la meta de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación al haber reducido a la mitad o más el número de personas subnutridas que se calculaba había en 1990-1992. Fueron 18 países, la lista todos la conocemos y no la voy a leer en este momento; Literal B: a los países que ya han alcanzado el Objetivo 1 de Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM1) al haber reducido la prevalencia de la subnutrición bien en un 50 por ciento o más con respecto al nivel 1990-1992, bien a menos del 5 por ciento.

Nosotros vamos a entregarle copia a la Secretaría y solicitamos especialmente el apoyo de los Miembros para que busquemos la forma de que en este Informe se deje constancia de este evento que está teniendo una gran repercusión, que está motivando a los países que han cumplido estas metas a proseguir su trabajo para que sean sostenibles estos logros, y que está estimulando a otros países a la posibilidad de que antes del 2015 alcancen más logros y más avances en el tema de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria en sus pueblos.

CHAIRPERSON

The Secretariat will consider your suggestions. Does any delegation wish to take the floor on the Report on items taken in plenary?

Before we take additional comments from the floor, I would like to ask the Members if they would like to agree with the suggestion made by Venezuela.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

No additional comments? Following the approach adopted for the Reports of the Commissions, I propose that the sections of the Report on items taken in plenary be adopted *en bloc.* Are there any comments on this proposal?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for your approval. Distinguished delegates, you have adopted the Report of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference and that brings to an end our substantive work.

I should now invite the Director-General to address the Conference.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Your Excellency Mohammad Asif Rahimi, President of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference and Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan, Ms Nomatemba Tambo, Permanent Representative of South Africa and Chair of Commission I, Ms Gerda Verburg, Permanent Representative of The Netherlands and Chair of Commission II, Mr Louis Gagnon Secretary-General of the Conference, I want to thank all of you for conducting this Conference and its commissions this week. Let me also thank FAO staff that supported the work.

Mr Luc Guyau, outgoing Independent Chair of the Council, I want to thank you again for your valuable contribution to FAO during the past four years. In particular, those efforts leading to this Conference.

Mister Wilfred Ngirwa, incoming Independent Chairperson of the Council. You previously played an important role as Vice-Chairperson of the CoC-IEE. Now let me congratulate you for your new role. I look forward to working closely with you. But starting Monday. All of us deserve a Sunday of rest.

I want to thank all of you for making this 38th Session of Conference a real success. This has been a long but constructive week. We are all tired, but also happy.

And I want to thank the strong support that you have given to what is now, clearly, our shared vision for FAO.

The approved Reviewed Strategic Framework sharpens the focus of our work for the years to come. And the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15 lays out how we will transform our words into concrete action.

Approving them by consensus, with the committed support of all of FAO's Members, is of great political importance.

As encouraged by the Report of this Conference, I also call on you to support with voluntary contributions the full achievement of the Strategic Objectives and the full implementation of our programme of work, which have received unanimous and vigorous backing by this Conference.

In the 18 months I have been in office, we have been able to do many things, together.

Now, our focus will shift from preparation to implementation.
Ladies and gentlemen,

We started the week with an inspiring McDougall Lecture by Professor Amartya Sen. He reminded us that increasing food production is not enough to put an end hunger, which is why FAO will strengthen its work in social protection.

Thursday, in the audience conceded to us, Pope Francis also addressed this issue. He called it scandalous that people starve in a world that produces enough food for everybody.

The words of Sen and of the Pope call for our reflection.
And when we look at the policy decisions taken by the countries that have made greater advances in the fight against hunger, we see that they tackle this problem.

They have a combination of actions that increase food production and strengthen social protection. This improves access to food by those that did not have the income to buy it or the means to produce it for themselves.

This is a new vision that we have to apply.

And it is part of the reason that explains the success of the 38 countries that we recognized this week for reaching the 2015 hunger targets three years before the deadline.

Their experiences show that by acting on strong political commitment and leadership we can win the war against hunger.

And this is the war that is worth fighting, because the right to food is the foundation of life itself.

We now have 922 days left to the Millennium Development Goals deadline.

We need to ride this momentum forward towards the complete eradication of hunger, in line with the new global goal of FAO, changed from the reduction to the elimination of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

We are stepping up our efforts around the world, including in Africa.

On 30 June and 1 July many of us will meet again, in Addis Ababa, for a high level meeting of African and international leaders to help push the anti-hunger efforts forward in the region.

I welcome you to join this partnership that already counts with the participation of the African Union, FAO and the Lula Institute and other actors, including IFAD and WFP, our UN sister agencies in Rome.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are the first generation that can end hunger. This is our privilege. Let us seize this opportunity.

To end, I want to thank you for your support. I want to thank you for your trust. And I want to thank you for your commitment to FAO and to working together to achieve consensus on what is most important for the organization: the work that FAO needs to do to contribute to the total eradication of hunger and malnutrition.

I look forward to seeing you all again in 2015, at the next session of the Conference.

To those travelling, I wish you a safe journey home. Thank you very much.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished Delegates, you have adopted the Report of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference and that brings to an end our substantive work. Please allow me to make a short statement at the end of our substantive work.

I wish to thank every delegation in this hall for the spirit of cooperation throughout the past eight days and for the transparent and harmonious way in which you conducted the work of the Conference. I hope you will agree with me that we come out of this Session well and can be proud of the tangible results we collectively achieved, thanks to your teamwork approach, clear sense of purpose, pragmatism, patience and respect for one another. Your open and constructive attitude on various agenda items made my job easier. I am grateful for this as well as the support you gave me.

Among our achievements, I wish to underscore your approval of the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15. With an open and constructive debate in Commission II, the Plenary adopted the Budget Resolution by consensus, and as you know more than I do, consensus is the hallmark of international cooperation and solidarity. We can all take pride in this as it enables the FAO led by Mr Graziano da Silva to deliver the programmes that you approved during this Session of the Conference.

Distinguished Delegates, what has come before the Plenary is the product of hard work by Commission I and Commission II of the Conference. I, therefore, wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairpersons of the two Commissions and to the Chairpersons and members of their respective

Drafting Committees. Can we have applause from the floor as a mark of appreciation for their valuable contribution to the success of this session?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to say a special word of thanks to the three Vice-Chairpersons and other members of the General Committee for their diligence in examining sensitive governance issues that allowed for the smooth functioning of the Conference. I also want to thank the Chairpersons and members of the Credential Committee and the Resolutions Committee for their valuable contributions.

I thank the Director-General for attending the Plenary sessions despite his busy schedule and wish to express gratitude to the Senior Managers of FAO and other staff of the Secretariat for the preparation and timely distribution of the Conference documents, for their brief presentations and for making the necessary logistic arrangements to facilitate our work. In particular, I am thankful to the Conference Secretariat for the support it has given me and the Chairpersons of the two Commissions and the advice that I received from the Secretary-General of the Conference.

I wish to thank Professor Sen for delivering the key note McDougall lecture at the start of this session and acknowledge the contribution of representatives of the UN and Non-UN organizations, civil society representatives and other non-governmental organizations and the private sector for their participation in the 38th Session of the FAO Conference. I am also grateful to the media for informing the general public about the deliberations and decisions of the Conference

Our appreciation also goes to the interpreters, translators, the report writers, the FAO staff who worked behind the scenes, the room messengers and the security personnel. We wish to thank them for their valuable services.

Before I close this last meeting of the 38th Session of the FAO Conference, does anyone wish to take the floor?

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

On behalf of the Near East Group, I wish to congratulate you on the excellent job which you have done, Mr Chairperson. You have shown your ability to us and I would also like to convey appreciation to the Government of Afghanistan for supporting you to dedicate your time for this very important Conference. I also wish to thank the FAO Secretariat and the Members of FAO for helping you to proceed forward.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Ropate LIGAIRI (Fiji)

Fiji would like to speak on behalf of the Southwest Pacific Region. We have come a long distance to be here and while not all of us in the region are here, we are pleased to have this opportunity to reinforce our engagement with FAO. This Conference has helped strengthen those links.

This afternoon, I would like to thank the Chairperson of the meeting. We congratulate you on your fair and friendly conduct of this Conference and I believe you deserve another big applause.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

To the Director-General, Graziano da Silva, thank you and congratulations. We are pleased to have hosted you in our region this year, in Apia. We look forward to seeing you in the region again as you implement the Programme of Work and Budget as agreed on at this Conference. We wish you and

your Organization and team great progress in this coming biennium and in achieving the three global goals of the Organization and the implementation of the Strategic Objectives.

I would also like to take this time to thank my fellow colleagues for their cooperation and their collegiate atmosphere which has helped us reach a successful conclusion to this 38th Session of the Conference.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Sra. Maria Victoria SALCEDO BOLIVAR (Colombia)

Colombia hace esta declaración en nombre de los estados que conforman el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe. Antes que nada, quiero felicitarle por la forma en que usted ha conducido esta Conferencia que iniciamos hace una semana y que gracias a su certero manejo hoy nos presenta unos resultados concretos, que además de dotar a la Organización de herramientas y condiciones para llevar a feliz término los objetivos estratégicos y el plan de trabajo propuesto, otorga a nuestro Director General un voto de confianza.

Y me refiero a la confianza, Señor Presidente, porque sin esta condición un organismo intergubernamental se paralizaría. Los niños, las mujeres, los hombres, los campesinos, los pequeños agricultores y los pescadores de cada rincón del mundo, confían en usted, en mí, en cada uno de los que pasamos horas enteras detrás de una placa con el nombre del país y la bandera del mundo entero en la consciencia. Confían en la FAO, en que cada día de trabajo nuestro en estas salas se traduzca en soluciones concretas, tangibles y palpables que les devuelvan su dignidad.

Hemos estado a la altura de esa confianza depositada en nuestras manos por "Los últimos", como su Santidad Francisco ha llamado a los más necesitados en su homilía de este jueves; "El escándalo del hambre", como dijo el profesor Graziano seguirá siendo enfrentado bajo su liderazgo. Tenemos que hacer, presidente, que esto sea posible. Que este Programa de trabajo y presupuesto aprobado tiene que ser la plataforma de trasformación hacía la erradicación definitiva del hambre y la malnutrición. Contamos, desde ya, con una ejecución impecable de lo que hemos acordado como bitácora y queremos evidencias inmediatas del compromiso adquirido en alivianar la innecesaria burocracia de esta Organización que, a veces, la hace paquidérmica e inabordable.

En la FAO no pueden existir excesos y derroches de espaldas al mandato que nos convoca ni de espaldas a los esfuerzos globales que hacen nuestros estados para ser austeros. El Director General ha mostrado que es posible reorientar el timón haciendo los ajustes que se tengan que hacer para fortalecer la cooperación técnica y lograr las metas transversales acordadas en los tiempos propuestos, y con los resultados medibles que nuestros gobiernos esperan y que los pobres del mundo demandan con urgencia.

Señor Presidente, el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe agradece a las presidencias de las comisiones I y II, a los comités de la Conferencia, y a todos los que con su trabajo y compromiso nos han llevado a este resultado. Estamos a portas de una agenda post 2015 que en breve trazará en todos los frentes metas más ambiciosas e integrales que esperamos incorporen los impulsores económicos y ambientales necesarios para lograr cambios profundos y estructurales.

No podemos, Señor Presidente, resignarnos a una agenda de mínimos. Mi país en estos dos años, desde que propusimos los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible, hemos querido invitar a la comunidad internacional a ser ambiciosos en las nuevas metas para crear condiciones y sistemas que garanticen una vida plena y digna para todos, permitiendo la supervivencia tanto del planeta como la nuestra.

En este contexto, Colombia ha llamado a que la nueva agenda genere las condiciones para logros irreversibles en la erradicación de la pobreza y del hambre. Desde el inicio hemos considerado que la seguridad alimentaria debe ser un objetivo esencial dentro de la nueva agenda post 2015. Es un tema con hondos vínculos, con otros aspectos claves que incluyen energía, agua, océanos, infraestructura, patrones de consumo y producción, salud, educación y empleo digno.

Hay creciente consenso en que la agenda 2015 debe ser universal. Erradicar el hambre de los pobres de hoy y dotar de bienestar a las clases medias del mañana significa que todos tenemos que actuar con metas comunes, conscientes de nuestras propias responsabilidades. Este proceso nos debe permitir entender el desarrollo como lo es en una práctica, en un continuo, en un mundo de desarrollo que enfrenta retos globales, en el cual todos los países debemos actuar, teniendo en cuenta nuestras respectivas capacidades.

Insistimos en que los logros deben ser irreversibles y de largo aliento.

El hambre que eliminamos un día reaparece a menos que diseñemos políticas estructurales y duraderas. No se trata simplemente de eliminar la pobreza y el hambre, sino de asegurar que los logros que alcancemos sean el fundamento de un bienestar que no retroceda. Para lograr un bienestar global a largo plazo, el eje de la nueva agenda debe ser el desarrollo sostenible a lo largo de la cadena de valor. Hay hondas responsabilidades para países desarrollados y para países en desarrollo. Ello implica un eje transversal de la agenda que logre patrones de consumo y producción más sostenibles.

Estamos pues frente a esta coyuntura de desafíos y también de oportunidades. Lo invito a que nos acerquemos a este propósito con una óptica visionaria. Preguntémonos qué condiciones, qué inversiones, qué políticas debemos construir para lograr un bienestar irreversible para nosotros y las generaciones futuras, en el que una alimentación segura y buena se entienda como pieza clave de la salud, de la estabilidad y del crecimiento de nuestras sociedades. Pensemos de manera integral y actuemos para que la erradicación del hambre y de la pobreza sean posibles con sostenibilidad en el largo plazo. Hoy acogemos los resultados de esta conferencia con la esperanza de que en medio de tanto sufrimiento seamos capaces de hacer la diferencia.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

Mr Chairperson, I would like to add my voice to congratulate you on the excellent leadership with which you have conducted this important Conference and brought it to its successful conclusion.

Also, I would like to congratulate the Director-General on the flexibility he has shown to accommodate the interests of all Member Nations so he will be prepared to work on the hardship with a limited budget with a lot of programmes. That shows his dedication and how he is prepared to do his job. That shows he was very interested to bring a consensus and we are very glad that he did it that way.

Having said this, what I notice, and what we have been fighting for from 2009 up to last night, is the weakness of the governance of the Membership of the Council. Instead to be taught from so-called civilized countries, the Europeans, we found them to be the worst example. I am sorry to say that.

Instead of being an example, they have been the worst for not following the rotation which even Africa, Asia, GRULAC and all Regional Groups are following. They should have been the teachers that teach us everything: governance, human rights, and others. They claim they are the custodians of such principles but when it comes to FAO and the rotation, they are not demonstrating what they advocate to be the custodians of.

There are so many small countries who joined them since they are a community, but instead of giving them a chance to be Members of the Council, they do not allow them to become Members. It is not fair and we have been sitting there for how many hours? My appeal is that you should follow the rotation as all the other regions are following. You should not be bad examples. We were frustrated, this is an open secret.

Had Cyprus not withdrawn, we would not have concluded the vote. Although we don't have a say in the setup of the Multi-year Programme of the Committee of Constitutional and Legal Matters, I will ask you to review the election procedures.

When there are more than two countries for voting four seats, how is the majority formula identified? A simple majority vote would satisfy us, but this should be studied and reviewed, so that is the homework to you, to one of your Multi-year Programme. If you say that I cannot set a proposal, it should come from the Director-General or from any Member Nations.

As a Member Nations, I have the right and I am prepared to propose alternative procedures, if you request me. Just give me the guidance and I will submit a proposal or ask the Director-General to review that one instead of wasting all the resources while we are engaged in savings. That was a time that we should have savings. How much we should have saved last night?

During the last four years of governance, we offered the European Countries – 48 countries - to bring the number of their countries in the Council equal to that of African countries. Africa has 12 Members in the Council. The Europeans, they have only nine or ten and we said we are prepared to accept all of the regions. They are welcome. They can increase their number up to three but they refused. They want to reduce it and they want to manage their seats as Executive Board of the other organizations. In no way should it be acceptable. But if they want, as a solution, even today we can accept if they increase up to 12 instead of nine. In the future at an appropriate time, we can accommodate them instead of facing again what we saw yesterday; it is unfair that small countries like Cyprus do not have a chance, to sit and become a Member and that big countries are always re-elected in the Council. So excuse me if my words are not very polite, but it is out of frustration for four years of observation and what we faced last night. Because of that, we also missed the reception generously offered by the Director-General.

Mr Long Nguyen HOANG (Viet Nam)

On behalf of the Asia Group we would like to express our thanks and our congratulations to you for the excellent job done chairing this Conference. We think it has been one of the most successful Conferences so far with many outcomes and concrete results.

We also would like to express our thanks to the Secretary-General and our Independent Chairperson of the Council, Mr Guyau. In particular, the Asia Group wants to commend the Director-General José Graziano da Silva for preparing this Conference has had such a very appreciative approach, a constructive dialogue with all the groups and that was very represented, in particular by the Asia group.

I think the consensus reached on the budget shows a great result. That will pave the way to we think a very effective implementation of the programme in the future.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Oreeditse Sola MOLEBATSI (Botswana)

I also wish to join the delegates in thanking you very much for having conducted this Conference very well.

But I just want to derail a little bit and say from what happened when we voted for the Independent Chairperson Wilfred Ngirwa. I want to say some word of wisdom to him and that is he should remember that from the little brochure that he distributed to everybody, his background is such that he is from a small holder farmer family. He comes from there.

In the holy book, the Bible, Isaiah 51:1 says, I'm not actually translating word by word, but it reads that you should not forget where you come from. "Remember that I've put you here and I've brought you from nothing there". I'm appealing to you Sir sitting behind that you remember your job is to look after the small holder farmers. Remember every man and woman in terms of them in the world. Poor people are starving. Me and you sit around the table and eat.

Whatever decisions you are going to take, you should remember your background. Remember where you come from. Remember Africa. The whole world yesterday united, wholly united and chose you

and perhaps it was because we went to the vote again and you got a blessing from the pope. That is why. Some did not even realize they were voting with their Holy Spirit that was given to them.

So to the united Board sitting here, remember when we were uniting here behind this man, we should unite to make him succeed, not to make him fail. We should remember what you are sitting here for, we paid lots of money flying in here and staying in luxurious hotels. Remember that people in your countries are starving. Remember that people in the streets are begging for food.

What are your contribution, fellow Delegates? What have you done? Remember, it is hunger. It is food. It is the food you have just had over lunch that we should be working to us. We should really work hard like saying in our country "pula". It's a slogan we use to say let there be rain when we say "pula" and Mr Ngirwa, we say "pula" to you. Work hard and remember again that it is your family that will make you or break you, so don't think we are your friends. The world is behind you, right equator and karma, we are behind you.

Your next trip if you are to travel outside this world, please remember Botswana will be ready to welcome you with open arms. I thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Yo OSUMI (Japan)

I was not lucky enough to be blessed by the Pope, but nevertheless I am going to speak.

We would like to thank very much, distinguished Chairperson, Your Excellency Mohammad Rahimi and Director-General Dr. Graziano and all the others who have prepared for this Conference. It was a contentious and worldly meeting and exemplary for international sovereignty. We commend it.

As several interventions have already done during the course of the week, we would like to talk about the future expectation in two years' time, what we want FAO to look like. We would like to see FAO with sharpened priorities. We would like to see FAO with more efficient operations. We would like to see FAO with more resilience.

In particular, during the period of austerity and belt-tightening, every penny is sought after, domestically and internationally. Not to mention the fact that Japan is still in the process of recovering from the big earthquake of two years ago.

We know FAO is a unique Organization. That's why we are investing, but be reminded that every cent, every lire, every Euro is from the toil and tears of our people and all people around the world, women and men in agriculture and other sectors. So in one word we therefore seek a unique added value for money.

We trust the leadership of Dr. Graziano and we extend strong support for him and his Secretariat. We have been long supporting FAO's programmes in Afghanistan, in Africa, in Asia and elsewhere. We are confident that, with his leadership, he will implement fully the Programme of Work, realize his shared Vision, and propel FAO to a new height.

That is our hope and we are sure what we will succeed.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Roger CLARKE (Jamaica)

On behalf of CARICOM, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on the able manner in which you have conducted the meetings. Congratulations to the Director-General for the leadership provided and we pledge our continuous support.

FAO is a trusted friend, as far as CARICOM is concerned. Congratulations to those countries which have achieved the Millennium Development Goals. This is an inspiration to the rest of us to redouble our efforts, to achieve those goals, as we struggle to achieve a hunger-free world.

As a son of Africa, let me also congratulate the new Independent Chairperson of the Council. I am sure that *Mwalimu* Nyerere is smiling at that appointment.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Jarlath O'CONNOR (Ireland)

Thank you. I take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

A lot of words have been spoken here during the course of this week and we intend to be very brief. We would like to reiterate our satisfaction at the cooperation and spirit that was followed this week by all in the pursuit of our various shared goals and all of the governance procedures followed. We would particularly like to acknowledge the cooperation between regional groups in finding consensus on difficult issues. We'd also like to thank the Secretariat who has assisted us during the course of this week.

This bodes well for this Organization and for the direction that the FAO is going under Director-General Graziano Da Silva. If we continue to address the challenges of food insecurity in this manner, we are one step closer to helping those people that we are committed to assisting.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Netherlands)

First of all, I would like to thank you and all people who have made this Conference possible, in the preparation here, the messengers, the Secretariat, and all people that are working almost day and night to provide us on time with the information that we needed for good decision-making because that is what we did. We made good decisions on which FAO can work and make progress in a very good way.

Having said this, on behalf of the European Regional Group, I would like to say it is now time, after this Conference, for implementation of the new Strategic Objectives, of gender, of the TCP, of decentralization, etc., because after the talks, we have to work hard for implementation, action, and results, for people at grassroots level, smallholder farmers, women farmers. And we all know if we could provide women with access to several things, inputs, budget, and all access to land, for instance, we already would have 150 million less hungry people. Let us keep this in mind while implementing and turning words into actions. This coming years let us work together in the atmosphere we have worked together right now.

But most important is, and I would like to paraphrase what Botswana has said, not only hard talk but hard work, to make the difference. Because we all know that if you do what you did, you get what you got.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Me sumo a las felicitaciones que le han sido dadas por la conducción que ha tenido durante la Conferencia, y también hacemos extensivas esas felicitaciones a todo el *staff* de la FAO que contribuyó para que este éxito sea posible.

Simplemente quiero hacer una reflexión teniendo en cuenta dos conferencias. En la Conferencia anterior tuvimos una elección, tuvimos los resultados y muchos tenían dudas. En esta Conferencia tenemos una visión de la FAO renovada y compartida, un plan de trabajo y un presupuesto adoptado por consenso, un Presidente Independiente del Consejo elegido por aclamación. Señor Director General, solo nos queda trabajo por hacer y estoy seguro de que usted cuenta con el apoyo y la decisión de todos los miembros de la FAO para llevarlo a cabo.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI (Zimbabwe)

I would also want to join my colleagues in thanking you for being an excellent Chairperson. Your calmness in the midst of everything going on around you has been impressive. I would also like to thank the Chairpersons of Commission I and Commission II for the work they have done. Of course, the Secretariat and those are behind the scenes that we don't often see, the interpreters, we would certainly want to thank you because it was very smooth and we were very well looked after. The documents were there on time.

To the Director-General I would like to say that I think the greatest gift that we gave to you this week was the fact that as a Membership, we are united behind you because in divided Membership, it would have been difficult for you to move on. You have received the endorsement, the building blocks for going and as others have said, to implement. We look forward to that. Our continent particularly needs the work of FAO. We need our offices, the decentralized offices and technical staff to be in place.

When we elected you, we elected the vision of Zero Hunger. We would like to see that in our lifetime and I think it is possible. FAO has the knowledge and the technical staff to make it happen, and our governments are ready and willing to partner. I would also like to say that one of the most interesting things that I listened to was from many of those from Africa who participated in the event to recognize the progress they have made.

One of the key things that came out very clearly is political will, but also recognizing and for us it is historical coming from the African continent, that they recognized the smallholder farmers and women. So Director-General, I would like you to lead, to be an example, particularly in this area, because if you can do that then you will have revolutionized not only agriculture and food production, but other sectors of our society. So I wish you the very best of luck and we are certainly behind you because your Vision is our Vision.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

May I remind the Delegations that the 147th Session of the FAO Council will begin on Monday 24 June in the Red Room at 09:30 hours, under the Chairmanship of the newly elected Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, His Excellency Wilfred Ngirwa, whom you elected yesterday. I wish him well in his new duties.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I declare the 38th Session of the FAO Conference closed. To those who travelled long distances to come to this beautiful city of Rome, I wish a safe and pleasant journey home.

The meeting rose at 16.07 hours
La séance est levée à 16 h 07
Se levanta la sesión a las 16:07 horas