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REQUESTS FOR ADVICE AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Communication received from the Food and Agriculture Organization

Report of the Secretary-General

At the thirty-fifth session of the Committee on Contributions in 1975, the Committee was informed of a request of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) that the Finance Committee study the basis for the FAO scale of assessments and, inter alia, the assessment criteria used by the United Nations Committee on Contributions and whether or not the FAO scale should continue to be derived from prevailing scales of the United Nations. The Conference requested the Finance Committee to submit its conclusions to the Council with a view to the matter's being considered by the Conference at its eighteenth session.

In its report, 1/ the Finance Committee of FAO considered detailed information relating to economic factors and the ways in which scales of contributions are influenced by changes in these factors, the role and responsibilities of FAO in terms of developing countries, the cost implications of developing its own scale and "full information relating to the UN scale on which the FAO scale is presently based, and proceeded, by a process of elimination, to what appeared to be the best practical approach". The Committee noted that each triennial United Nations scale was based on the principle of relative capacity to pay of Member States, with each scale taking into account more up-to-date information on economic and other factors than preceding scales. The Committee further reviewed the practice of other agencies, the advantages and disadvantages of each agency having its own scale of assessments and recognized that the larger organizations differed little in membership.

1/ Extract from the report of the sixty-sixth Council session, June 1975
(C 75/LIM/10).

In addition, during its review the Committee bore in mind that FAO was a broad-based agency with functions directed to the development of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, the production, processing, trade and marketing of the resulting products, the improvement of nutritional standards and in the well-being of agricultural communities.

As a result of its review the Committee concluded that no single agricultural indicator would suffice as a basis for developing an alternative scale of contributions for FAO. Furthermore, although, in the Committee's view, it would be possible, in a purely technical sense, to use a combination of several indicators to devise an alternative scale, the choice of such indicators would be highly arbitrary. Moreover the Committee felt that the special role and responsibilities of FAO in relation to the developing countries, especially those which were least able to contribute financially, were recognized in the application of the capacity to pay principle.

Following the consideration of this item at the eighteenth session of the Conference of FAO, which Conference had decided to continue to derive the FAO scale from that of the United Nations, the Director General addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, the relevant paragraphs of which follow:

"The Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference (November 1973), when adopting a Scale of Contributions for the 1974-75 biennium based on the UN Scale of Assessments for 1974-76, requested the Finance Committee to prepare a Report for submission through the Council to the next Session of the Conference which could serve as a basis for discussing whether or not FAO's Scale should continue to be derived from the prevailing Scale of the United Nations.

"I take pleasure in including herewith a copy of the Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference (November 1975) which, at paragraphs 388 to 394, includes the comments of the Conference on the study undertaken by the Finance Committee on the Basis of the FAO Scale of Contributions.

"You will note from paragraph 393 that 'notwithstanding various reservations regarding the criteria established for the development of the UN Scale of Assessments and their application, the Conference concurred that it would be appropriate to continue to derive the FAO Scale from that of the United Nations'. (Paragraphs 395 to 401 deal with the FAO Scale adopted for 1976-77 which accordingly was again based on that of the United Nations.) In paragraph 394, it is stated that:

'In order that the views expressed during its discussion might be taken into consideration in the appropriate body, and thus contribute to the application of the most equitable criteria, the Conference requested the Director-General to transmit the Verbatim Record of the debate on this important matter to the Chairman of the UN Committee on Contributions.'

"...

/...

"In conclusion I should like to express my appreciation of the important work undertaken by your Committee and trust that the material herewith submitted will assist you and your Committee in its difficult task of assessing all the factors entering into the computation of the most equitable scale of Contributions."

The text of paragraphs 388 to 394 of the report of the Conference is annexed to the present document as annex I.

The verbatim record of the debate on the FAO scale of assessments is available in the original language of the speaker only. Accordingly, and for the convenience of the members of the Committee, a summary of the debate has been prepared by the United Nations Conference Services and is provided as annex II. The original text of the verbatim record, as transmitted by FAO, is provided as annex III.

Annex I

Extract from the report of the eighteenth session of the Conference
of FAO held in Rome 8-27 November 1975
(C 75/REP)

Scale of contributions

Study on the basis of the FAO Scale of Contributions 1/

388. The Conference reviewed the study, undertaken by the Finance Committee at the request of the seventeenth session of the Conference on the basis of the FAO Scale of Contributions. It noted that the Council had generally concurred with the Committee's findings that the United Nations Scale of Assessments should govern the FAO Scale of Contributions. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the very thorough and detailed study made by the Committee. 2/

389. The Conference considered the criteria on which the United Nations scale was based and noted that these were founded on the principle that expenses should be apportioned amongst Member States broadly according to their relative capacity to pay. This was determined on the basis of various indicators which included national income per head of population, the ability of individual Members to secure foreign exchange and the proportion of their foreign earnings devoted to the servicing of external debts, as well as the adverse effects of catastrophic national disasters. The United Nations scale also incorporated systematic downward adjustments which afforded relief to those Members with per capita income below \$US 1,500 per annum, with the greatest proportional relief, up to 60 per cent, being given to those countries with the lowest per capita income. Further downward adjustments were also made as appropriate, in the case of the less developed of the developing countries.

390. In this connexion, it was recognized that the United Nations Committee on Contributions, in developing the scale for submission to the General Assembly, followed specific directives of the General Assembly which the Assembly amended from time to time as found appropriate.

391. A number of delegates reaffirmed the decision of the Eighth Conference Session (1955) that "the United Nations Committee on Contributions is the most qualified body for assessing Member Governments' ability to pay as well as all the other factors entering into the computation of an equitable scale of contributions". 3/ Moreover, they stressed that the harmonization of scales of assessments of organizations with the United Nations system, as was about to be achieved by all

1/ C 75/LIM/10, C 75/LIM/21, C 75/LIM/24, C 75/LIM/32, C 75/III/PV/3, C 75/III/PV/6.

2/ C 75/LIM/10.

3/ Resolution 42/55 of the Eighth Conference (1955).

the major agencies, was desirable in order to avoid, inter alia, the duplication of the work, of the United Nations Committee on Contributions as well as the various secretariats. This policy of harmonization had been urged by the United Nations General Assembly on several occasions and any breakaway from it by FAO would have undesirable repercussions throughout the United Nations system.

392. Other delegates, however, pointed to the special role and responsibilities of FAO in relation to developing countries and suggested that the FAO Scale of Contributions should reflect this. They also maintained that individual member nations might experience serious financial difficulties which made special consideration desirable in order to facilitate their participation in the organization's activities. In this connexion various suggestions were made including the possibility of reducing the rates of assessment of those developing countries least able to meet the costs of their membership in FAO.

393. Notwithstanding various reservations regarding the criteria established for the development of the United Nations Scale of Assessments and their application, the Conference concurred that it would be appropriate to continue to derive the FAO Scale from that of the United Nations.

394. In order that the views expressed during its discussion might be taken into consideration in the appropriate body, and thus contribute to the application of the most equitable criteria, the Conference requested the Director-General to transmit the verbatim record of the debate on this important matter to the Chairman of the United Nations Committee on Contributions.

Annex II

Summary of the discussion in the FAO Conference
relating to the scale of contributions

(The following is a summary prepared by the United Nations Secretariat of the official verbatim record of FAO, which was prepared in the original language only.)

Mr. W. A. Smith (FAO staff) introduced a study by the Finance Committee, which had recommended that the FAO scale of contributions should continue to be based on the United Nations scale. He then explained the principles underlying the United Nations scale, including recent changes, particularly with regard to the lowering of the minimum rate of assessment and to the abolition of the per capita ceiling principle. Naturally the criteria used must be adapted to a changing world. The Conference might wish to reaffirm its previous conclusion that:

"The UN Committee on Contributions is the most qualified body for assessing Member Governments' ability to pay as well as all the factors entering into the computation of an equitable scale of contributions."

Mr. Camara (Guinea) said that the minimum quota of 0.02 per cent set by the United Nations General Assembly was so onerous that a number of very small countries might be prevented from further participation in the activities of international organizations, unless the scale was revised.

Mr. Rodriguez (Mexico) felt that FAO should make a concrete recommendation for the review of current criteria and scales and expressed the view that some countries should contribute more while other countries like South Viet-Nam should contribute less.

Mr. Stambouli (Algeria) considered that FAO should adopt an effectively independent position in arriving at a just solution of the problem of quotas, all the more so because it was an organization of particular interest to States which had struggled for their liberation. It need not necessarily have the same scale as other international organizations and should in any case inform the United Nations of its preoccupations.

Mr. Fiori (Canada) supported the recommendations of the Finance Committee that the United Nations scale should continue to be used and hoped that in future reviews of that scale, capacity to pay would be a principal indicator.

Mr. Rodriguez Cruz (Cuba) believed that FAO, which dealt with the basic economy of developing countries, was in a better position than other organizations to adopt its own scale of contributions. He regarded it as incompatible with the principle of basing contributions on GNP that the General Assembly of the United Nations had reduced the contribution of the principal contributor to 25 per cent, when its GNP was 40 per cent of all States Members; FAO should not associate itself with that situation. The Finance Committee should prepare a study to establish a scale for FAO based on the GNP of each State.

The President said that there was need for continued evaluation of the system. However the Conference lacked the detailed elements of appreciation to make an immediate evaluation.

Mrs. Phan Thi Minh (Republic of South Viet-Nam) associated herself with the view that FAO was the most competent organization to decide on its scale of contributions. She asked that the quota of 0.08 per cent assigned to the former régime, which had received billions of dollars in aid from the United States, should be reduced to 0.02 per cent for her country, which in its present economic circumstances was short of foreign exchange.

Mr. Messaudi (Libyan Arab Republic) considered that the present scale, though it might not be ideal, should be adopted.

Mr. Tu Nan (China) considered that FAO should try to solve the problem of some countries having difficulty in paying their contributions, in particular Laos.

Mr. Hakim (India) agreed that while assessments might be somewhat arbitrary in the ultimate analysis, the criteria adopted by the United Nations Committee on Contributions, including the capacity to pay, should be followed. However special cases, such as those mentioned by Guinea and South Viet-Nam should not be ignored.

Mr. Juma'a (Jordan) expressed support for adopting the draft resolution presented by the Finance Committee, but proposed that the Conference should ask the Committee to keep the matter under constant review, taking into account the views expressed.

Mr. Stampach (Czechoslovakia) supported by Mr. Orzeszko (Poland), while agreeing that the scale of contributions should be examined, stressed the importance of not increasing the total contributions paid by States Members.

Mr. Hars (Hungary) agreed that United Nations scale could not automatically be applied to FAO. There were always exceptions based on actual circumstances; such a case was the Republic of South Viet-Nam, whose contribution should be reduced to the minimum.

Mr. Soegeng Amat (Indonesia) supported the use of the United Nations scale by FAO. To adopt a separate scale would require a separate effort of collection and analysis of statistics and would lead to undesirable deviations from the common system. FAO had indeed applied the new minimum of 0.02 per cent earlier than other organizations. He supported the proposal of the Finance Committee that FAO should adopt for the 1976-1977 biennium the United Nations scale adopted in 1975. FAO should however consider proposing to the United Nations that the special cases mentioned in the debate should be taken into special consideration by the Committee on Contributions in proposing a new scale.

Mr. Rodriguez Cruz (Cuba) reiterated his position and expressed support for assignment of a minimum quota to the Republic of South Viet-Nam.

Mr. Olsen (Denmark) considered that FAO should not make its own scale, though the special cases of Laos, Bangladesh and South Viet-Nam would be discussed later.

Mr. Lieber (Federal Republic of Germany) supported the resolution on the scale of contributions.

Mr. Stambouli (Algeria) supported the reduction to 0.02 per cent of the contribution of the Republic of South Viet-Nam and reiterated his previous remarks.

Mr. Carroll (Australia) expressed the view that the FAO scale should continue to be based on the United Nations scale.

Mr. Ashton (United Kingdom) considered that the Conference should adopt the draft resolution before it, while recording the various views that had been expressed.

Mr. Çoban (Turkey) associated himself with the views of Indonesia.

Mr. Smith (FAO staff) gave an explanation of the circumstances in which the rate of the largest contributor was reduced to 25 per cent both at the United Nations and at FAO. He pointed out that the United Nations scale was also followed by ILO, UNESCO and WHO.

Mr. Zapeta (Mexico) reiterated that the Conference should adopt the scale of contributions in the document before it, but should propose to the United Nations that the scale should be reviewed.

The President proposed that the Conference should adopt the proposal in the document before it on the general aspect of the question, noting however, for the consideration of interested bodies, all the arguments advanced for a revision of the scale of contributions.

It was so decided.

Annex III

Extract from the provisional verbatim record of the discussion
of the FAO scale of contributions held on 21 November 1975 in
the Third Commission of the eighteenth session of the Conference
of the Food and Agriculture Organization (C 75/III/PV/3)

- 24. Scale of Contributions
- 24. Barème des contributions
- 24. Escala de cuotas

El PRESIDENTE: Regresamos ya a lo establecido dentro del Orden del Día y vamos al tema 24: "Escala de cuotas", "Petición del Gobierno de Laos", "Tipo de cuota de Bangladesh" y "Petición del Gobierno de Viet-Nam del Sur".

Tienen ustedes a la vista el conjunto de documentos que deben ser tratados y considerados. De modo que les pido que me eximan de la lectura de esa larga lista de números.

W.A. SMITH (FAO Staff): I intend to be brief on this rather complicated subject which is divided into two parts. Part 1 is the study made by the Finance Committee, and requested by the last Session of the Conference, on the basis of determining future FAO Scales of Contributions. Part 2 is the FAO Scale of Contributions for 1976-77.

The comments and recommendations of the Sixty-Sixth Session of the Council made in June of this year on these two matters are to be found in Document C 75/LIM/10, to which is appended the Report of the Finance Committee on its "Study" of the basis of the FAO Scale.

With regard to Part 1, the Committee's very thorough and detailed Study, as it is referred to in the Council's report, led the Committee to the conclusion that the FAO Scale of Contributions should, in future, continue to be determined directly from the United Nations Scale of Assessments. This has been the practice in FAO for twenty years, since the Conference so decided in 1955.

The Finance Committee examined in detail the criteria on which the UN Scale is based. These criteria are founded on the principle that expenses should be apportioned among Member States broadly according to their capacity to pay. With your permission, I will summarize them very quickly:

1. The basic indicator of capacity to pay is provided by comparative estimates of national incomes, expressed in US dollars, using appropriate exchange rates.
2. Comparative income per head of population.
3. The ability of Member States to secure foreign exchange.

In applying the "capacity to pay" principle, the United Nations Committee on Contributions applies a systematic formula affording relief to those States with per capita income below \$1 500 per annum, the

greatest proportional downward adjustment - up to 60 percent- being given to those countries with the lowest per capita income. This present formula was devised at the request of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the General Assembly in 1972, that the low per capita income allowance be changed so as to adjust it to the changing world economic conditions. The Contributions Committee makes further small downward adjustments, as it considers appropriate, for the less developed of the developing countries.

The UN Scale for 1974-76 also reflects the decision of the General Assembly in 1972 that the minimum rate of assessment should be 0.02 percent, compared to 0.04 percent which applied before that time. At the same time it decided that the maximum contribution should, as a matter of principle, not exceed 25 percent compared to 30 percent established in 1957.

Finally, the General Assembly decided last year to abolish the per capita ceiling principle, commencing with the UN Scale for 1977-79. This particular principle specified that the per capita contribution of any Member should not exceed that of the maximum contributor.

In considering whether an alternative scale of contributions for FAO could be devised, the Committee noted that most developing countries depend mainly on agriculture. Because FAO is a broad-based agency, however, the Committee concluded that no single agriculture indicator could be used as a basis. If used in combination, the choices of such indicators would be highly arbitrary.

The Committee also noted that all major UN Agencies were now basing and harmonizing their scales with that of the United Nations. I should mention here that the General Assembly has, on several occasions, called for harmonization of scales.

If FAO were to develop its own Scale of Contributions in future, or modify the UN Scale in any way for its own use, it is apparent that this could have implications for other Agencies in the UN system, and, of course, additional costs would be involved.

The criteria applied by the Committee on Contributions and their interpretation are, perhaps, the crux of the matter before this Commission. Clearly, they cannot remain static if they are to be appropriate to a changing world. As indicated in what I have already said, the General Assembly does in fact keep this under review and amends its instructions to the Committee on Contributions as considered appropriate. This is a continuing process in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

With this in mind the Conference might wish to request the Director-General to forward the verbatim record of its discussion on this part of the agenda item to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, so that views expressed here may be noted.

Seen in this light, the Conference may wish to reaffirm the conclusion of the Eighth Session of the Conference, that:

“The UN Committee on Contributions is the most qualified body for assessing Member Governments’ ability to pay as well as all the factors entering into the computation of an equitable scale of contributions”. This would be the recommendation of the Director-General.

I would only add that I and my colleague, Mr. Perkins, Senior Econometrician of the Commodities and Trade Division, will attempt to supply any information which the Commission may require.

El PRESIDENTE: Está en consideración el tema 24, con la exposición hecha por la Secretaría. En la escala de cuotas hay tres partes que considerar, por lo cual vamos a hacerlo parcialmente con cada una. En primer lugar, vamos a considerar la petición del Gobierno de Laos. Así es que está en consideración esa parte: la petición del Gobierno de Laos.

S. AHMED (Bangladesh): My request for the floor was with regard to the item concerning Bangladesh, so I prefer to wait until then.

SOENG AMAT (Indonesia): I would like to have some clarification from you, Mr. Chairman, concerning the sequence in which we are going to deal with the various sub-items under Item 24. I thought that the first one with which we were to deal was the general subject of the Scale of Contributions for FAO, on which Mr. Smith of the Secretariat has read out part of the report of the Finance Committee dealing with this subject, and on which the Commission is also expected to express itself. After we had agreed on that report, I thought we should then continue with the next sub-item and then the request from Bangladesh, etc. This is my understanding and I stand to be corrected.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias al delegado de Indonesia. Yo creo que efectivamente es la mejor solución: ver el aspecto general de la escala de cuotas y posteriormente ver cada una de las partes presentadas. Entonces, está en consideración el aspecto general de la escala de cuotas.

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): Je veux faire la même proposition que le délégué de l'Indonésie, proposition qui a été approuvée; je ferai ensuite une déclaration d'ensemble sur le problème des contributions. Je comprends très bien, ainsi que le secrétariat vient de le dire, que très souvent ce sujet ne relève pas uniquement de cette Organisation, parce que la FAO fait partie d'un système d'institutions toutes liées les unes aux autres et qui sont également liées à l'Organisation mère. Mais, je rappelle que cette Organisation mère, il y a deux ou trois ans, a déjà fait adopter par l'Assemblée générale certains critères qui vont à l'encontre des difficultés que traversent certains Etats dans la situation présente.

Dans le document que nous avons sous les yeux, il est question du Laos et du Viet-Nam du Sud, mais il faudrait aussi tenir compte que certains Etats, tout spécialement en Afrique, connaissent aussi des difficultés. Je ne sais pas si le secrétariat a été informé, mais la délégation de la Guinée-Bissau a dû partir, ses moyens financiers ne lui permettant pas de rester pendant toute la période de la Conférence. Elle a donc déjà posé ce problème, et la délégation du Cap-Vert semble se trouver dans la même situation.

En évoquant ces deux exemples nous avons voulu attirer l'attention de notre Commission et au-delà de la Conférence pour que le critère qui était intervenu en vue de l'établissement du quota de contribution de 0,02 à l'égard de nombreux pays soit revu pour qu'il y ait un quota encore inférieur à ce 0,02 s'agissant d'autres pays se trouvant dans de semblables difficultés. Si le quota actuel était retenu, beaucoup d'Etats Membres seraient obligés soit de ne plus participer aux activités des Organisations internationales, soit de ne pas pouvoir payer même en étant Membres de l'Organisation.

En Afrique, nous avons beaucoup de petits pays dans cette situation, et ce n'est pas eux qui ont créé de telles conditions, ils en ont hérité. Nous devons en tenir compte pour évaluer et fixer de nouveaux quotas.

De toute façon, j'appuie fermement la proposition que la délégation du Viet-Nam du Sud entend présenter à cette Commission en ce qui concerne sa contribution à l'Organisation. Il n'échappe à aucun d'entre nous la situation que connaît ce pays, l'histoire douloureuse qu'il a vécue ces dernières années, et les difficultés économiques qu'il traverse.

Je voudrais demander au secrétariat tout spécialement de nous donner de plus amples informations sur les procédures et les méthodes A SUIVRE pour que le quota fixé soit révisé dans les meilleurs délais de manière qu'un certain nombre de pays, d'ailleurs peu nombreux - il s'agit peut-être d'une dizaine de pays - puissent participer efficacement aux travaux de toutes les Organisations internationales.

X. RODRIGUEZ C. (México): En el 66^o período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO se presentó un resumen del estudio que en el 17^o período de sesiones de la Conferencia se había encargado a la misma para poder determinar la escala de cuotas de la FAO. En el resumen y en las decisiones, digamos, del Comité de Finanzas, se decidió seguir adoptando y seguir basándose en la escala de cuotas actual de las Naciones Unidas. Nosotros en esa votación hicimos notar que tal vez habría que revisar completamente el sistema de cuotas, bien para establecer uno propio para la FAO o incluso para recomendar a las Naciones Unidas que se revisaran los criterios con los cuales se determinan las cuotas.

Nosotros estamos dispuestos a aprobar que para este bienio se continúe pagando sobre el Sistema de Escala de Cuotas de las Naciones Unidas, pero también queremos hacer notar que, en nuestro criterio, hay muchos países que incluso de acuerdo con los criterios de las Naciones Unidas están pagando menos de lo que deberían pagar. En esa ocasión en el Consejo hicimos notar también que había que tener en cuenta que había aquí unos países muy importantes que estaban ausentes, como es el caso de la Unión Soviética y que hasta cierto punto esto repercutía en las cuotas concretas de los diversos países. También hacíamos notar en esa misma ocasión que si los criterios están determinados en las Naciones Unidas, no deben las naciones decretar por una ley cuánto es lo que ellos van a cooperar en estas cuotas, sino que debían atenerse a las reglas del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas o de la FAO misma.

Quisiéramos comentar en este período de la Conferencia, que tal vez sea necesario que la FAO haga una recomendación concreta para que se revisen los criterios y las cuotas mismas de los países según los criterios de las Naciones Unidas, ya que seguimos creyendo que hay varios países que deberían contribuir más.

Queremos hacer notar, por otra parte, la situación de algunos países, como el caso de Viet-Nam del Sur, en que tal vez haya necesidad de adoptar criterios dado el momento económico actual después de la situación que todos conocemos. Le pido por tanto, señor Presidente, que en principio, por razones de operatividad y por razones prácticas aprobemos que se siga pasando a la FAO por el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas una revisión, sea de la misma Organización o del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, que sea más equitativa y más justa para todos los países.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señor delegado de México, creo que su aporte es bueno y vamos a ver cómo buscamos una fórmula para recogerlo dentro de la Comisión.

Y. STAMBOULI (Algérie): Nous remercions le Secrétariat de nous avoir mis sur la voie à l'occasion de la présentation de cette question et, en appuyant les déclarations des délégués qui m'ont précédé sur l'intérêt que nous devons porter à cette question, je voudrais dire que le Secrétariat nous a mis effectivement sur la voie pour changer cet état de choses, du fait tout d'abord qu'il nous a dit qu'il s'agissait d'une pratique utilisée depuis vingt ans. Ceci nous conduit par la force des choses à pouvoir aisément sortir de cette situation, même s'il s'agit d'une pratique de vingt ans.

Deuxièmement, il nous a fait ressentir que les Nations Unies elles-mêmes se penchaient de plus en plus sur ce problème en y faisant figurer par exemple des clauses d'ajustement pour les pays moins développés, de même que des mesures ont été prises au niveau du revenu par tête d'habitant ou bien pour les minima et maxima. De même, nous a-t-il dit qu'il est possible au Directeur général de saisir le Président du Comité des contributions. Nous désirons donc dire que tous ces éléments nous permettent très positivement de demander à notre Commission et à la Conférence de souscrire à entrer dans une voie de réforme pour donner à ce problème le règlement juste qu'il appelle. La FAO doit se donner un pouvoir d'appréciation d'autant plus indépendant, mais efficace, qu'il s'agit d'une organisation particulièrement intéressante pour les pays qui sortent des dures luttes de libération nationale.

Si nous devons faire des propositions pour présenter quelques réformes à ce système, les premiers éléments nous venant à l'esprit seraient que nous ne devrions pas avoir obligatoirement un même taux de contribution vis-à-vis de toutes les organisations internationales. Effectivement, autant des pays peuvent uniformément se faire représenter et uniformément apporter leurs contributions, autant telle et telle jeunes nations au fur et à mesure de son propre développement doit avoir la faculté d'adhérer d'une façon ou d'une autre à certaines organisations dans l'ordre des priorités qui lui est le plus favorable.

Nous pensons que c'est déjà un des points d'attaque du profond système de refonte des structures des Nations Unies et du moment que ces réformes des Nations Unies entrent progressivement dans les faits à la lumière des débats tel que celui-ci aujourd'hui, mais tel qu'il existe dans d'autres organisations, nous pensons qu'il est du devoir de notre Conférence de présenter un rapport aux Nations Unies de façon à leur dire ce que nous pensons quant à la solution de ce problème.

Pour ce qui est des problèmes particuliers des pays en question, nous pensons qu'il y a lieu également de tenir compte que, conformément à la procédure de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, les quotes-parts des Etats Membres doivent faire l'objet de consultations avec les gouvernements,

P.F. FIORI (Canada): First I would like to thank Mr. Smith for what I consider to be a very succinct and useful outline of a very complex problem. We are in full agreement with the conclusion of the Finance Committee and the recommendation of Council on this matter. The United Nations General Assembly and its expert committee, the United Nations Committee on Contributions, have the expertise in the field of assessments and should continue to play the leading rôle in this field. Not only would it be costly for FAO to duplicate the work of that group, but it is doubtful, as the Finance Committee reported, if the FAO could produce a scale more applicable to the FAO.

Certainly, as Mr. Smith pointed out, it would be no easy task to settle on one indicator or even a mix of indicators which would or could be used to draw up a new scale. In any event there would be no certainty that any unique FAO scale would be more acceptable than the present one which is derived from the United Nations scale and based on capacity to pay. Capacity to pay has been found equitable by the Member States of the United Nations system as a whole in that it recognizes that the developing countries who generally benefit most from the work of the Organization, are least able to contribute financially.

We fully support that continued capacity to pay and we would hope that if any decision is taken to revise the United Nations system, this indicator would continue to play an important part.

H. RODRIGUEZ CRUZ (Cuba): Con respecto a la cuestión de la Escala de Cuotas de la FAO, quisiera, en primer lugar, respaldar el criterio señalado por la delegación de Canadá en el sentido de que la Escala de Cuotas debe estar basada en la capacidad de pago de cada uno de los Estados Miembros de la Organización.

En este sentido quisiera señalar a la consideración de los Estados Miembros que el documento LIM/10, en su párrafo 3.324, expresa lo siguiente: "La solvencia es, sin embargo, el principio fundamental utilizado en la elaboración de la Escala de Cuotas de las Naciones Unidas".

Por otra parte, el propio documento en su párrafo 3.311, en su tercera línea, expresa lo siguiente: la Escala de Cuotas será determinada según la capacidad relativa de pago de los Estados Miembros.

Precisamente estos criterios llevaron a la pasada Asamblea de la FAO a solicitar del Comité de Finanzas que elaborara un estudio sobre las posibilidades de contribución de los Estados Miembros a la Escala de Cuotas de la Organización de la FAO. Sin embargo, el resultado del estudio del Comité de Finanzas, el cual, en nuestra opinión, es un esfuerzo extraordinario por parte del Comité en el sentido de darnos una respuesta con relación a la proposición de la pasada Conferencia, establece que la Organización se basaría en los principios acordados por la Comisión de Cuotas de las Naciones Unidas. En aquella ocasión, si mal no recuerdo, los Estados Miembros partían del criterio de que de acuerdo con las características de nuestra Organización, Organización que estaba destinada fundamentalmente a ofrecer concurso a los países en desarrollo, podrían contemplar un baremo de contribuciones diferentes o determinado por diferentes baremos que es en este momento lo que sostiene la Comisión de la Escala de Cuotas de las Naciones Unidas. Esto no sería de extrañar, pues si contemplamos el documento LIM/10 veremos que hay otros organismos de las Naciones Unidas como la OACI, como la OIT, como la Unesco, o la OMS, que tienen su propia Escala de Cuotas tomando en cuenta las características concretas de cada uno de estos organismos.

Creíamos, en aquella ocasión que con más razón aún esta Organización, que está dedicada al examen de los problemas de producción alimentaria y agrícola, que no es otra que la economía básica de los países en desarrollo, se vería en mejores condiciones que cualquier otra Organización del sistema para aplicar su propia Escala, teniendo en cuenta los intereses de los países en desarrollo.

Sin embargo, en este informe, si bien por un lado se nos dice que el elemento fundamental para establecer la Escala de Cuotas no es otro que la solvencia de los Estados, es decir, el Producto Nacional Bruto de los Estados, por otra parte se nos expresa que no hacemos otra cosa que adoptar el Sistema de Cuotas de la Organización.

Realmente entre estos dos conceptos, en nuestra opinión existe determinada contradicción, y no es otra que la siguiente. En esta Escala de Cuotas se establece una cuota máxima de un 25 por ciento para el mayor contribuyente de la Organización; sin embargo ese mayor contribuyente de la Organización tiene un Producto Nacional Bruto de un 40 por ciento con relación a todos los demás Estados Miembros de la Organización. Es decir, que si la solvencia, que si el producto nacional es el parámetro fundamental, ese Estado, que es el mayor contribuyente debía contribuir en el 40 por ciento del presupuesto de la Organización. Sin embargo, se ha adoptado la decisión que expresa la Resolución 29/61 del 27^o período de sesiones de la Asamblea General, donde se establece una contribución máxima para el mayor contribuyente de la Organización.

Quisiera recordar a los delegados que esta Resolución expresa concretamente que sería aplicada en las Naciones Unidas en aquel momento en que no perjudicaría la contribución de ninguno de los Estados Miembros de la Organización. Puede ser, señor Presidente, que en aquella ocasión, por determinados factores, como el ingreso de la República Democrática Alemana en la Organización y otros, hubiesen facilitado el que esta decisión fuese implementada en las Naciones Unidas.

Quisiera conocer, por problemas de curiosidad, cómo es que se ha logrado disminuir esta contribución en la Escala de Cuotas de nuestra Organización sin haber afectado la contribución de ninguno de los otros Estados Miembros de la Organización, toda vez que en el caso de la FAO, no se han llevado a cabo los mismos elementos y coyunturas que en la Asamblea General.

Quisiera, señor Presidente, que tuviera a bien aclararnos estas cuestiones. Si éste no fuera el caso, estimamos que la disminución de estas cuotas debía en este caso mantenerse no aplicable hasta tanto otros Estados Miembros no subieran su contribución como producto de esta disminución.

Por otra parte, quisiera agregar que si aceptamos el principio de que la contribución de los Países Miembros está basada en el Producto Nacional Bruto de los Estados, y nuestra delegación considera que ése es el verdadero parámetro, no es correcto que un Estado pueda contribuir a la Organización con un porcentaje inferior al resultado de su Producto Nacional Bruto. Esto en el caso de las Naciones Unidas

fue una violación de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y estimamos que nuestra Organización no tiene por qué aceptar ni hacerse cómplice de esta situación en la Asamblea General.

De todas maneras después de la aclaración oportuna por parte de la Mesa, nuestra delegación se reserva el derecho de intervenir nuevamente con relación al tema.

EL PRESIDENTE: Evidentemente todos los sistemas en el mundo entero requieren constantemente una evaluación. Hay la tendencia de dejar estáticas las cosas por comodidad, por no querer meterse dentro de complicaciones. Ahora bien, fórmulas de aplicación de modificación son infinitas. Creo que el mundo entero está constantemente a la búsqueda de los métodos más justos, que es lo más difícil, y todos los días la justicia cambia; lo que es justo hoy puede que no lo sea mañana.

De tal manera que el mecanismo tendría que ser un mecanismo de constante evaluación del sistema, de éste y de otros, dentro de los sistemas nacionales y dentro de los sistemas internacionales. Por eso, yo les ruego a los señores delegados que evitemos entrar dentro de presentar fórmulas actuales antes de hacer una evaluación del sistema, y vamos a los mecanismos. Yo creo que hay un consenso general en el principio de que es injusto el sistema; es injusto porque fue establecido como una fórmula de prueba, pero yo creo que casi todas estas cosas tienen que estar en constante cambio, en constante evaluación ante las propias evoluciones y cambios de los propios países, y más en unas cuestiones económicas, donde tenemos tantas situaciones cambiantes.

De tal manera que vamos a proponer a los señores delegados que hagan sus propuestas sin que intentemos llegar al detalle de proponer mecanismos actuales de cuotas que sabemos; sabemos que tenemos un sistema defectuoso pero tampoco en una Asamblea de esta naturaleza, sin documentos previos, podemos llegar a conclusiones reales y justas. Les ruego excusen esta incursión, pero creo que aporta a la aclaración y eficiencia dentro de lo que el debate se propone.

Mme PHAN THI MINH (République du Sud Viet-Nam): Je voudrais me joindre aux délégués qui ont pris la parole avant moi pour dire que nous pensons que la FAO est l'Organisation la plus compétente pour pouvoir émettre ses opinions sur le barème des taux de contributions, surtout pour les pays en voie de développement, parce que ces pays, pour la plupart, sont des pays essentiellement agricoles.

Dans le cas du Sud Viet-Nam qui n'est pas encore membre de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, mais qui est membre de la FAO, je pense que plus que tout autre et plus que l'Organisation des Nations Unies, la FAO peut émettre son avis sur le taux de contribution qu'elle juge convenable. Sur le taux des contributions du Sud Viet-Nam, j'ai lu que le barème dérivait directement des barèmes de répartitions en vigueur aux Nations Unies en 1975. Or, en 1975, vous le savez tous, le Sud Viet-Nam n'est pas encore admis aux Nations Unies, c'est pourquoi, il n'a pas fait entendre sa voix dans cette Organisation, surtout sur sa situation économique. Or, c'est la première fois qu'une délégation du Sud Viet-Nam vient à la tribune de la FAO pour parler de la situation économique de son pays et c'est pourquoi, je pense que la FAO peut elle-même décider du taux de contributions du Sud Viet-Nam sans tenir compte du barème institué par l'ONU.

J'ai sous les yeux le supplément 11 du Rapport du Comité des contributions qui est passé à la trentième session des Nations Unies et je me permets de faire quelques remarques. Les taux de contributions attribués au Sud Viet-Nam dans ce supplément sont les mêmes que ceux qui ont été acceptés par l'ancien régime du Sud Viet-Nam, tandis que dans ce même document, le paragraphe 23 de l'Article V stipule clairement que conformément à la procédure établie par l'Assemblée générale, les quotes-parts des Etats non membres doivent faire l'objet de consultations avec les gouvernements intéressés. Or, le gouvernement révolutionnaire provisoire de la République du Sud Viet-Nam n'a été nullement consulté quand on a fixé ces quote-parts de contributions. Il y a dans ce problème certains points sur lesquels je me permets de dire quelques mots.

Premièrement, sur le côté financier du problème, nous savons que la quote-part des contributions est proportionnelle au niveau de production et du revenu national du pays et aussi de sa capacité en devises étrangères. Or, nous pensons que le taux de 0,08 a été accepté par l'ancien régime qui recevait des milliards de dollars déversés par les Etats-Unies dans son budget. Cette situation n'existe plus. Le Viet-Nam aujourd'hui mériterait qu'on le dispense de contributions pendant quelques années, mais comme nous savons qu'il n'y a pas de précédents en la matière, nous ne l'avons pas demandé. Nous ne vous cachons pas que nous manquons de devises étrangères et le peu dont nous disposons suffit à peine pour nos premiers pas dans les relations avec les pays occidentaux, comme dans nos relations avec les organisations internationales.

Nous sommes dans les mêmes difficultés dont a parlé tout à l'heure le délégué de Guinée. Le deuxième côté du problème est celui du droit du Sud Viet-Nam. Nous voudrions aussi mettre au point la participation du Sud Viet-Nam à la FAO. Après la libération du Sud Viet-Nam la FAO nous a acceptés comme membres de droit à la place de l'ancien régime de Saïgon. Pour faciliter les choses, pour simplifier les formalités, nous sommes venus ici sur convocation du Directeur général de la FAO à l'adresse du Gouvernement révolutionnaire de la République du Sud Viet-Nam et non pas à l'adresse de l'ancienne République du Sud Viet-Nam de M. van Thieu. Cela veut dire que la FAO a bien vu le grand changement intervenu au Sud Viet-Nam et ici même dans l'Organisation de la FAO: L'attitude de compréhension, voire de sympathie particulière, que notre délégation a trouvée de la part des Institutions de la FAO, comme de la part de plusieurs délégations, nous prouve que tout le monde a bien compris que nous sommes un Gouvernement tout à fait différent de l'ancien Gouvernement qui siégeait à notre place.

C'est pourquoi nous voudrions demander au Président et à la Commission de bien examiner ce changement même avec tous les projets que la FAO, comme les autres Organisations internationales émanant de l'ONU, ont exécutés et continuent d'exécuter au Sud Viet-Nam. On nous laisse le droit de tout revoir, de choisir si nous voulons poursuivre ou non ces projets. Dans ces conditions, pourquoi nous obliger à accepter le taux de contribution convenu entre l'Organisations internationale et l'ancien régime?

Le troisième côté du problème est celui de la compréhension et de la solidarité internationales avec notre pays. Nous insistons surtout sur ce point car nous sentons effectivement cette compréhension de la part de la Conférence. Dans ces conditions, nous pensons que la moindre des choses pour commencer, c'est de prouver que la Conférence est au courant, a pris conscience de la situation très difficile de notre pays en acceptant d'abaisser le taux de contribution minimum à 0,02.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hemos oído atentamente su fresca y sincera manifestación y le solicitamos a la Comisión que tenga en cuenta su argumentación para cuando consideremos el tercer punto de la Agenda del tema 24 que es cuando vamos a considerar la solicitud de Viet-Nam del Sur.

M.B. MESSAUDI (Libyan Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): Regardless of the opportunity which has been granted and which was stressed by my colleague from Jordan this morning I would like to point out that this Committee is now examining quite a number of Draft Resolutions. Is it to be adopted without change or to be adopted with amendments or to be rejected, or again to be adopted with some additions? I think the proposal from our colleague from Jordan should be considered as the actual basis of our discussions. We do not have to discuss it in great length because we would not really have enough time to do it no matter how important the discussions might be nor how important the points raised might be. Although the discussion on this subject is of great importance in connexion with the scale of contributions and even though this table might not be ideal - will never reach perfection no matter how much we discuss it here - I think that what we have worked out so far in the light of the studies made by many members of the Council and of the various Committees, I think that all of this should be considered as a good basis which could be ratified by the Committee. There are a great many other drafts no doubt that will come before us which will enable us to amend this one, but I think that at this stage we should ratify it - we should adopt it and I would strongly recommend to the Committee that we do so.

TU NAN (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation supports the proposal by Guinea concerning the contributions by Laos. I hope that FAO will try its best to solve the problem of some countries having difficulties in paying their contribution so as to enable them to continue working in FAO.

A. HAKIM (India): I agree with our distinguished friends who have spoken about the inequity in various assistance, but we recognize, as did the Finance Committee and this document LIM /10, that assessments will have to be somewhat arbitrary in the ultimate analysis. We generally feel that the criteria adopted by the UN Committee on Contributions which includes the capacity to pay by various members, are really criteria and that we should try to follow them up. In the process however there might be cases where there would be serious difficulties which would no doubt be taken into account by the UN Committee on Contributions also, and I believe this is quite clearly mentioned in this document when it says in paragraph 3.314 that the UN Committee takes into account other factors also in compliance with the directive of the General Assembly. We feel that the process of harmonization which has been

mentioned in paragraph 3.308 is an important process which should not be disturbed. Generally my delegation and my country have been supporting the idea that the various contributions in the UN family should be based on the determination made by the UN Committee on Contributions, but as I said earlier this does not and I want to repeat it, this does not mean that special cases like the ones which have been mentioned by our distinguished friends from Guinea and South Viet-Nam should be ignored. But within that limitation we would accept that the UN Committee on Contributions is the most reasonable forum for determination of assistance and we will go along with that.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I have just a proposal to make so that we can try to finish our discussion a little earlier than expected. In principle we are in favour of adopting the draft resolution as it is presented to us. This will be the outcome of a very lengthy study by the Finance Committee and then by the Council. Nevertheless there are many views here expressed in this hall which do not see that this system should continue forever without being reviewed and changed. Therefore I would like to see in our report of this Commission the following paragraph: "The United Nations Committee which deals with this matter should take into consideration the desirability of keeping this issue under constant review taking into consideration the views which have been expressed in this Commission." By doing this I think we ask that this matter should be always reviewed by the concerned Committee in the United Nations and of course it will take into consideration when it considers this issue in the future the various views which have been expressed in this Commission.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias al señor delegado de Jordania y estoy seguro de que a través del desarrollo de esta Comisión constantemente hemos estado de acuerdo en sus intervenciones.

S. STAMPACH (Tchécoslovaquie): L'exposé de la représentante de la République du Sud Viet-Nam est tout à fait logique, mais vous avez bien voulu suggérer que l'on vous présente des propositions concrètes. Notre proposition concrète, après ce que nous venons d'entendre de la part de la délégation du Sud Viet-Nam, est de réviser la contribution de ce jeune Etat Membre de notre Organisation. Mais en même temps, la représentante de la République du Sud Viet-Nam, en posant ce problème concret visant son pays, a soulevé un point de principe. La deuxième suggestion de ma délégation, après ce que nous venons d'entendre en discutant le problème de l'approbation de la résolution, est qu'on devrait étudier le barème, étant donné la complexité de ce problème qui vise maintenant une autre organisation. Cela veut dire qu'il s'agit de s'opposer à chaque augmentation de contribution des Etats Membres et de prévoir des mesures. En effet, l'augmentation des contributions ne conduirait à rien d'autre que d'alourdir l'administration bureaucratique. Cela veut dire qu'il ne s'agit pas de considérer le barème. Pourquoi discuter de ce barème au sein de cette Conférence? Parce que, à mon avis, ce sont des problèmes étroitement liés.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias al señor delegado. Quiero hacer la advertencia de que estamos tratando el punto general de la escala de cuotas y ya hemos hecho también la advertencia de que después estudiaremos cada uno de los dos puntos del mismo tema 24. Hemos señalado asimismo la necesidad de una revisión de tipo general.

J. ORZESZKO (Poland): My delegation would like to support the opinion expressed by the delegate of Czechoslovakia.

E. HARS (Hungary): The Hungarian delegation fully agrees with those former speakers who said that the U.N. scale of contribution cannot automatically be applied on the members of FAO. There are always exceptions motivated by the actual circumstances which can arise with any country. Such an exception is, without any doubt, the Republic of South Vietnam. My delegation therefore fully supports the request of South Vietnam to reduce its contribution to the minimum, 0.02, with due regard to the arguments which have also been enumerated here by the delegation of the Republic of South Vietnam.

SOEGENG AMAT (Indonesia): As you have suggested at the beginning of our debate, and also repeated just now, I wish to address myself to the general subject of the scale of contributions on which this Commission is asked to express an opinion, and I refer in this respect to the introduction given by the Secretariat, which we found very useful and lucid. Even though it may appear to be somewhat repetitive, I would very much like to outline the main points which my delegation would like to raise regarding the report that is presented to us in document C 75/LIM/10.

We found that the United Nations Committee on Contributions, in determining the scale of contributions for United Nations member nations, 'has been, and is, using adequately all relevant and possible criteria - criteria which in our opinion are also generally applicable for FAO. In addition, we agree that if FAO wanted its own scale or its own basis or criteria for determining the scale of contributions it would appear to be very difficult to devise any new criteria which are applicable at this stage. As is also emphasized in the report, if FAO were to appear to use its own scale, that would mean that this organization would require a special unit to collect and analyse all the necessary data, which would also give rise to overlapping or duplication of efforts within the United Nations system - and that in the opinion of my delegation should be avoided as far as possible.

Then, the use of a separate scale in FAO would of course be different to that applied in the United Nations, and that would lead to deviations from common systems which in this particular case would not, in the opinion of my delegation, seem desirable or justified.

I would also draw the Commission's attention to Table D which is contained in page 5 of the document where FAO for the year 1974, in comparison with other United Nations organizations, was using a minimum scale which is lower than those applied by the other organizations. This is because FAO is applying the United Nations scale for 1974/76, whereas many of the other United Nations organizations are applying for 1974 the scale of the United Nations for 1971/73. So, we notice that in 1974 FAO used a minimum scale of 0.02 percent, while many of the other organizations used a minimum scale of contributions of 0.04, or even higher.

Bearing all this in mind, my delegation would support the suggestion that was expressed earlier by the delegate of Mexico, that this Commission should endorse the draft resolution which appears on page 2 of document C 75/LIM/10, which adoption be used for the coming biennium, 1976-77 - the scale of contributions derived directly from the United Nations scale of assessment as imposed in 1975.

Having said this, my delegation recognizes the particular and extraordinary problems which may face several countries in paying their contributions because of undue circumstances - for instance, the case of Vietnam, and other countries - and because of this I agree that we should look for ways and means in which we can help those particular countries in exceptional circumstances to facilitate their payment of the contribution to the organization. And I would also go along with the suggestion that this Conference perhaps move to the United Nations that the cases of these particular countries should be taken into special consideration, if and when the United Nations Committee on Contributions is proposing a new scale - perhaps they have already done so but if not, for the coming three-year period.

H. RODRIGUEZ CRUZ (Cuba): Le agradezco que me haya dado la palabra nuevamente y le prometo que voy a ser muy breve en nuestra exposición.

En primer lugar, Sr. Presidente, quisiera aprovechar esta oportunidad para respaldar la declaración formulada por la distinguida delegada de la República de Viet-Nam del Sur, en el sentido de que la escala de cuotas de su país debe ser reducida al 0,02 por ciento del Presupuesto de la Organización. Creo, Sr. Presidente, que existe un consenso en la Sala en el sentido de que ésta sería una actuación justa por parte de la Conferencia, frente a la situación económica que vive en este momento el pueblo de Viet-Nam. Entiendo que para nadie es una duda que este país se encuentra en un proceso de reconstrucción de toda su economía y verdaderamente creo que los Estados Miembros de la Organización harían honor a la actitud de este pueblo favoreciendo una disminución de su escala de cuotas en el Presupuesto de la Organización.

Por lo tanto, Sr. Presidente, creo que debemos proponer que el Comité de Finanzas explore el procedimiento adecuado para reducir la cuota del Gobierno de Viet-Nam al 0,02 por ciento y que la diferencia sea prorrateada entre todos los Estados Miembros de la Organización, o se busque otro procedimiento para darle solución a esta situación.

Por otra parte, Sr. Presidente, creo que precisamente esta situación nos ha llevado al criterio de que no podemos aplicar mecánicamente la escala de cuotas de las Naciones Unidas. Si, por una parte, en el caso de la República de Viet-Nam se ha utilizado este procedimiento, sin embargo, en el caso de otros Estados - incluyendo mi país - no se ha tenido en cuenta la escala de cuotas de las Naciones Unidas, puesto que nuestro tanto por ciento de contribución es diferente al que aparece en la escala de cuotas de la Asamblea General.

Es decir, Sr. Presidente, que tengo alguna confusión en cuanto a que en qué momento utilizamos la escala de cuotas de las Naciones Unidas para un Estado y en qué momento no hacemos utilización de esta escala de cuotas. Creo, pues, que precisamente teniendo en cuenta las características propias de nuestra Organización y al mismo tiempo reconociendo lo expresado en el párrafo 3.306 del documento LIM/10, en cuanto a que en principio los gastos de las Naciones Unidas deben prorratearse entre todos los Estados Miembros, estimamos que ése es el procedimiento que debe ser aplicado en la Organización. Por lo tanto, el Comité de Finanzas debería elaborar un estudio para establecer, de acuerdo con el Producto Nacional Bruto de cada Estado, cuál es el tanto por ciento de contribución que les correspondería de acuerdo con la Organización, porque la Organización, Sr. Presidente, tiene sus características propias y no puede ser enmarcada dentro del prorrateo de los gastos del Presupuesto administrativo de la Asamblea General.

Si bien la Asamblea General, por determinadas circunstancias, permitió que se estableciese una cuota máxima de un 25 por ciento, respondía a determinadas circunstancias en la Asamblea General, que no se dan en nuestra Organización, por lo que entendemos que precisamente para poder refrendar los criterios de establecimiento de la cuota en el caso de la FAO, se debe establecer como contribución, como elemento fundamental, el Producto Nacional Bruto de cada uno de los Estados.

En el caso de la incorporación de la República de Viet-Nam no nos hubiese dado nunca un 0,08 por ciento del Presupuesto de la Organización. Lógicamente, nos hubiese dado menos, puesto que en este momento nos encontramos frente a un país que pasa en estos momentos por un proceso de reconstrucción económica; es decir, que en la primera intervención que hice, le pedí que se nos indicara cómo era que se había podido aplicar este principio del 25 por ciento como cuota máxima sin alterar la contribución de los demás Estados Miembros de la Organización, puesto que tenemos dudas en cuanto a que en algunos casos se utilice el Producto Nacional Bruto de los Estados para establecer su contribución y en otros casos no.

Por eso, le agradecería, tuviera a bien explicarnos cómo se ha podido proceder a esta escala máxima en el Presupuesto de la Organización para un Estado Miembro sin alterar la cuota de los demás Estados.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a solicitar de la Comisión que se registre la explicación del argumento en el punto 3 que estamos discutiendo y pediremos a la Secretaría que nos informe y aclare sus dudas.

K.G. OLSEN (Denmark): I think there is some confusion in this debate this afternoon. Mr. Chairman, as you pointed out so clearly, we are now talking about the Scale of Contributions in general, and afterwards we will come back to the problem of Laos, Bangladesh and South Vietnam. But as regards the Scale of Contributions in general, my delegation is of the opinion that it is not up to the FAO to make its own scale; it is up to the United Nations to make this contribution, and I think in this respect I am not very far away from what was said by the delegates of India, Indonesia and Canada.

G. LIEBER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (interpretation from German): As usual, the delegate of Indonesia has analysed the problem we are discussing in a very clear way. My delegation fully associates itself with what he had to say. For this reason we are also very glad to hear the statement of the delegate of Denmark and we would like to propose that we take the resolution on the Scale of Contribution

Y. STAMBOULI (Algérie): Je saisis l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour concrétiser notre première intervention. Nous voudrions appuyer la proposition de ramener à 0,02 la contribution de la République du Sud Viet-Nam pour confirmer qu'effectivement nous estimons, dans notre intervention générale, qu'il y avait lieu de tenir compte de la consultation du Gouvernement intéressé, surtout quand il s'agit d'un Etat qui n'est pas encore membre des Nations Unies.

D'autre part, comme élément pouvant être pris en considération dans un rapport, nous suggérons qu'il n'y ait pas d'automatisme dans une réduction infinitésimale chaque fois qu'il y a une nouvelle admission, et il y en aura d'autres au fur et à mesure que les jeunes nations accéderont à la scène internationale. Nous suggérons également que l'ensemble des contributions ne vienne pas réduire, comme je l'ai dit, de façon infime les pays riches ou qui sont en voie de l'être, alors que le maintien des contributions pour tous ces pays, qui sont plus de la moitié, pourrait faire que nous sortions très rapidement des complications dans lesquelles se trouve plongé notre débat d'aujourd'hui.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le ruego a la Comisión que registre los argumentos del delegado para cuando estemos considerando el punto 3.

N.C. CARROLL (Australia): I shall be very brief and simply for the sake of the record say that the attitude of my delegation on this question is that the FAO scale should continue to be based on the UN Scale of Contributions for the UN Regular Budget.

K.G. ASHTON (United Kingdom): I too shall be very brief. Mr. Chairman, I wish to support you in your efforts to bring this discussion on the general issue to a close, since it has now continued for something like an hour and a half, and I do not think anything new has been said for the last hour, and now delegates are speaking for the second time.

I find myself very much in agreement on the general issue with the representative of Indonesia and others who have spoken in the same sense. I think it would be reasonable to conclude the discussion by accepting the draft resolution while, of course, recording in the report of this meeting the various opinions which have been expressed.

As for the other three parts of this item, I take it we will still be considering those separately, and personally I would find it helpful if we had some little introduction from the representative of the Director-General on each of those items, especially as we have not of course heard the points of view of Laos or Bangladesh on the sub-items of interest to them.

A. ÇOBAN (Turkey): On behalf of my delegation, I associate myself with the delegate of Indonesia who logically and sensibly put forward arguments for following the same pattern which has been followed up to now. This pattern will raise confusion in future Conferences and Council sessions to determine the scales for FAO, because if FAO starts to arrange the Scale of Contributions, each Conference may face difficulties. In the case of other States, and the readjustment of their contributions, this of course can be decided upon in the light of their capabilities and capacities.

W.A. SMITH (FAO Staff): I think it was the delegate of Cuba who asked the question as to how in the current scale of assessments the rate for the maximum contributor came to be 25 percent in that, in the United Nations, the Federal Republic of Germany had joined the UN, but that was not the instance in FAO, as that State had been a Member of FAO for some years. I have before me Appendix G of the Report of the last Session of the Conference which gives in comparative form the scales for 1974-75 and the scales for 1972-73. However, I would first refer to the principle adopted in the United Nations in 1972, when it was agreed that the percentage for the largest contributor should be reduced to 25 percent. That reduction was to be achieved through applying the percentage contribution of any newly admitted Members immediately upon their admission; and, secondly, if that was not sufficient, to apply the normal triennial increase in the percentage contributions of Member Nations resulting from increases in their national incomes.

Therefore, the United Nations General Assembly agreed that the rate of the largest contributor should be brought down to the 25 percent level firstly because of the admission of new Member Nations, and they achieved the reduction entirely on the basis of the new admissions that they had at that Session of the General Assembly.

The same principle was adopted in FAO by the Conference at its last Session, and for that reason I refer back to this comparative scale. The differences are as follows. In the scale adopted for 1972-73 there was no assessment for Albania: there was in the current scale (i.e. 1974-75). Bangladesh also became a Member. There was no assessment rate for China in the scale adopted for 1972-73: there was a rate of 7.01 percent in the 1974-75 Scale of Contributions. Additionally, there were new rates for Guinea-Bissau, Mongolia and the United Arab Emirates. The sum of the points assessed on new members was sufficient, and the Conference agreed therefore to reduce the maximum contribution to 25 percent in FAO. That is how that arose.

I think I understood one of the speakers - perhaps the delegate of Cuba - referring to the scales of other agencies, to say that the ILO, Unesco and WHO have special scales. I think there is a misunderstanding. WHO, the ILO and Unesco follow the FAO practice of basing their scales on the United Nations. Perhaps I did not hear the intervention correctly. I do not believe there were any other outstanding questions. We have taken note of the comments made, and I do not think there is anything else to add.

E.F. ZAPETA (México): Solamente deseo hacer presente que deseamos se apruebe la Escala de Cuotas como se encuentra presentada, pero que la FAO proponga en consideración a las Naciones Unidas el reestudio de la cuota como ya queda indicado en nuestra primera intervención.

EL PRESIDENTE: Considerando que ha sido suficientemente debatido el aspecto general de la Escala de Cuotas, vamos a dar por aprobado el documento propuesto, registrando, para su consideración, por los Organismos y los mecanismos de que disponga la FAO, todos los argumentos dados en favor de una revisión de Escala de Cuotas.

Queda aprobado el punto 1 del tema 24 de la Escala de Cuotas.
