

PA-ABH-757

1983

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

NINTH SESSION OF THE
CO-ORDINATING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE AGRHYMET PROGRAMME

Geneva, 19 - 21 April 1983

Report

- 1 -

The ninth session of the Co-ordinating and Advisory Committee for the AGRHYMET Programme was held in Geneva from 19 to 21 April 1983, and was chaired by Mr. A. Bisaz. The list of participants is given in Annex I to the present report.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING (Agenda item 1)

1.1 The session was opened by the Secretary-General of WMO, Prof. Wiin-Nielsen who welcomed the participants. In his opening address, Prof. Winn-Nielsen stressed the intense activity of the past year related to the preparation for the operational phase of the Programme. He complimented the Planning Mission on its work, and referred to his participation in the recent technical meeting at Niamey which had the objective of preparing an operational plan for the Programme and which was a direct consequence of a Mission recommendation.

He indicated that implementation of this operational phase would not only present problems of a technical nature, but also of a financial nature: the Sahel countries, donor countries and agencies, as well as CILSS, are facing problems of financial restrictions. One effect has been a general diminution of all UNDP project allocations, particularly from 1984.

He noted that whilst WMO was not in a position to announce new financial support to the Programme, it was nevertheless encouraging that two new potential donor countries, Sweden and Italy, were represented at the meeting.

Prof. Wiin-Nielsen then underlined the fact that, on the basis of the report of the Planning Mission, the Committee would have to establish priority objectives, taking account of available financing, and which must aim to improve self sufficiency in food production. He mentioned particularly the Mali agrometeorological pilot project where encouraging results in this regard have been noted, and expressed the hope that the methodologies applied in this project can be extended throughout all the countries. He concluded his address by assuring the Committee of full WMO support in this Programme of international collaboration for aid to less developed countries.

1.2 In response to this opening address, Mr. Bisaz, Chairman of the Co-ordinating and Advisory Committee, thanked the Secretary-General for his participation in the opening of the meeting, and for the support given by WMO in the arrangements for the meeting. He welcomed to the Committee Mr. A. Gologo, the newly elected Chairman of the Executive Committee for the AGRHYMET Programme, and also General Nania, and Mr. Dahlström representing Italy and Sweden respectively.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 2)

2.1 The Committee adopted the Agenda without modification, it is given in Annex II.

3. REVIEW OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAST CO-ORDINATING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Agenda item 3)

3.1 A review of the actions taken on the recommendations of the eighth session of the Committee was presented by the WMO representative. This presentation was very brief since most of these recommendations were taken into account in the planning mission report which is the subject of Agenda Item 6.

3.2 The WMO representative informed the meeting of the contacts he and/or the Director of the AGRHYMET Centre had made with some countries and organizations to enlarge the donor community: Sweden, Italy, the European Development Fund, the Club du Sahel and the "Agence Culturelle de Coopération technique, Paris", this last agency being especially interested in the information-communication component of the Programme.

He also referred to visits made with the Director of the AGRHYMET Centre to Mauritania and with Prof. Bernard to Cape Verde, countries where in each case the future of the AGRHYMET projects had caused concern and where the situation is now improving.

3.3 Finally, the WMO representative presented the view of the Organization on the specific recommendation of CAC-VIII and Recommendation 20 of the WMO/CAC Planning Mission which both recommended that the Sahel Office in the Technical Co-operation Department, WMO, be reinforced. He indicated that the first step was, in his opinion, to have in that Office a team of three persons assisted for specific tasks by reinforcement of inter-departmental collaboration. He also suggested the possibility of using the services of a part-time agronomist who could work both for the AGRHYMET Programme and for other agronomy projects. This suggestion was supported by Prof. Bernard.

4. REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE (Agenda item 4)

4.1 The Director of the Centre presented his report, stressing the achievements in the implementation of the Programme, both at national and regional levels. He confirmed that the training activities were continuing smoothly with the help of new instructors but that the Centre was facing certain functional problems. He mentioned particularly the present insufficiency of staff in the Operational Activities Directorate and the need for its reinforcement. He requested also that the post of Technical Advisor be filled in order to assure a better co-ordination between the Regional Centre and national projects.

4.2 Commenting upon the report, the representative of France informed the meeting that, in relation to the WMO/Belgium data bank project mentioned by the Director of the Centre, his country is presently working on the transfer on magnetic tape of all historic meteorological data available in France on the Sahelian countries; this work will be terminated by the end of 1983. Data will then be checked and it is expected that they will be put at the disposal of the countries concerned and of the AGRHYMET Centre by the end of 1984.

4.3 The representative of the Netherlands noted with interest the progress made, particularly in the training programme. He raised the question of data transmission and requested what telecommunication system was used at present by AGRHYMET and particularly whether the Centre receives GTS data. The Director of Operational Activities confirmed that at present the AGRHYMET Centre is connected in receive and transmit modes to the telecommunication network operated by ASECNA on the "A" channel, which is for the transmission of aeronautical and administrative information. On the other hand, the Centre has not been able to be connected to the GTS which uses the "B" channel, reserved for the transmission of meteorological data, because of saturation of the ATC of ASECNA, both in channel B line connexions and in message storage capacity. Awaiting a definitive solution, the AGRHYMET Centre has a listen facility on the Dakar-Niamey liaison of the GTS. Consequently, the Centre receives some meteorological information which is useful for its activities but has extremely limited facilities for broadcasting information.

4.4. In further comment on the report, the US representative considered that future reports could be formulated in a manner which clearly indicates progress in the various components of the Programme according to a time schedule. He also requested information on the status of recruitment of CILSS personnel. The Director of the Centre indicated that the CILSS Council of Ministers had agreed to the recruitment of a hydrologist, an agrostronomist, a computer-programmer and an accounts officer. The hydrologist and the agrostronomist have been recruited, the latter on donor funding. Due to present CILSS financial difficulties, other recruitments have been deferred.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PROGRAMME (Agenda item 5)

5.1 Before presentation of the report of the seventh session of the Executive Committee of the Programme, the Chairman of that Committee expressed his gratitude for the continued interest of the donors in the problems encountered by the Sahelian countries, where drought continues to persist. He made a plea to the donors for continuation of their invaluable support to the CILSS countries and for additional support through enlargement of the donor community. The Director of the Centre then presented the report.

5.2 The UNSO representative raised the problem of financial support to the Programme mentioned under paragraph 6.1 of the report, and in the two recommendations attached to it. The Director of the Centre informed the meeting that during its session in Rome, the CILSS Council of Ministers had indicated in regard to Recommendation 1, that each country is responsible for the allocation of the national IPF. In regard to Recommendation 2, the CILSS Secretariat had been asked to pursue its effort to find new financial resources and to this end discussions had been held with the Government of Italy on the occasion of the Rome Council of Ministers' meeting, November 1982.

5.3 In discussion the Club du Sahel representative noted that according to the CILSS Council of Ministers, national development plans rather than UNDP country programmes reflect national priorities. The WMO representative pointed out that the Governments of the Sahelian countries must be persuaded of the importance of the AGRHYMET Programme and that efforts to convince them will have more success if positive results can be shown.

X

6. REVIEW OF REPORTS OF CAC/WMO PLANNING MISSION AND TECHNICAL MEETING, NIAMEY, MARCH 1983 (Agenda item 6)

6.1 In introducing the report of the CAC/WMO Planning Mission, the Mission Leader, Prof. Bernard, recapitulated the different stages of the preparation of the mission, its implementation and its concluding work. He expressed his thanks particularly to the members of the mission and, stressing the effective assistance received from the WMO Technical Co-operation Department, he thanked Mr. Gosset, Mr. Owen and Mrs. Colicchio for their total commitment to the success of the mission. He then commented on the specific recommendations formulated by the Mission, explaining their reason or their aim.

6.2 The Director of Operational Activities at the AGRHYMET Centre, Mr. Lambergeon, then presented the report of the technical meeting which was held in Niamey from 9 to 16 March. He explained the purpose of that meeting and made a summary of its conclusions.

6.3 The Committee congratulated Prof. Bernard and his team for the quality of the report of the Planning Mission and raised questions of a general nature, particularly on financial implications and obligations of donors if recommendations were approved by the Committee. It was decided that the Committee would comment upon and/or approve the recommendations, and that WMO would then be responsible to examine with present donors or potential new donors the implementation of these recommendations.

6.4 The WMO representative then introduced each recommendation. He particularly commented on Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 for which WMO had requested action approval of the Committee before the present meeting, in view of the desirability of their early implementation. He noted that the results of Recommendation 1, for the convening of a Technical Meeting, had already been presented. He then explained that the consultant mission to Cape Verde (Recommendation 2) had been partly completed and that a final report will be prepared by the consultant for transmission to the Committee, following completion of the second part of the mission in mid-May. The results of discussions between ASECNA, AGRHYMET Centre and WMO representatives with a view to preparing new working arrangements for the data transmission through the Sahel region were presented.

6.5 The recommendations included in the report and for which no prior action approval had been sought, were then reviewed by the Committee.

6.5.1 Recommendation 3: Construction of buildings for the national Meteorological Services

The USAID representative considered that capital costs such as these, as well as operational costs, were in principle the responsibility of the individual countries. It was agreed that WMO would make contacts with individual members of the donor community in order to seek the necessary financing.

6.5.2 Recommendation 5: Research in meteorology and climatology

In introducing this recommendation, the WMO representative informed the Committee that this proposal was discussed with Scientific Departments concerned within WMO and that a proposal will be submitted to the forthcoming ninth Congress of WMO for a meeting to be organized at end-1984 or early 1985, at the AGRHYMET Centre.

The Committee, commenting on this proposal, pointed out that a meeting on the co-ordination of research activities in the Sahel had been organized by the Club du Sahel and the Sahel Institute, and that the latter is the responsible organization for research co-ordination.

It was decided that the report on the meeting should be made available to WMO and the AGRHYMET Centre for their information. The Committee was assured that WMO would not fail to keep the Sahel Institute informed of the arrangements for a further meeting, if approved by WMO Congress.

6.5.3 Recommendation 6: Expert mission in telecommunication

In presenting this recommendation, the WMO representative underlined its importance for the Programme and referred to explanations he had given on Recommendation 2 concerning the ASECNA/AGRHYMET Programme co-operation.

The US representative indicated that his country had decided to seek and fund a suitable consultant.

The UNDP representative recommended that this mission be implemented in close collaboration with ITU. In this connexion, the UNSO representative drew attention to the ITU study "Appropriate modern telecommunications technology applied to rural development".

The Netherlands' representative stressed the need to find a solution within the framework of the Global Telecommunication System and referred to the existing responsibilities of ASECNA for operation of parts of the GTS. The Committee was also informed in this connexion of availability of a report prepared by the WMO Commission for Basic Systems, which will be submitted for review by the ninth WMO Congress.

The Committee requested WMO to take the remarks formulated into account when preparing the terms of reference for that expert.

6.5.4. Recommendation 7: Continued strengthening of the Hydrological Services

The US representative indicated that while recognizing the need to continue to strengthen these Services, he had to repeat here again that the running costs should be supported by the individual countries. Following clarifications given by Prof. Bernard, he then admitted that in some particular cases, such as field missions, these costs could be supported by the donors.

6.5.5. Recommendation 8: Structure of Hydrological Services

The Director of the AGRHYMET Centre pointed out the insufficient number of hydrology works engineers. The representative of Switzerland indicated that his country could examine the possibility of supporting the organization of a hydrology course at this level in the near future.

6.5.6 Recommandation 9: Co-ordination between the AGRHYMET Programme and other regional organizations

The Committee recommended that close liaison be established, and maintained if it already exists, with organizations responsible for river basin development, not only with those mentioned (OMVS, OMVG, CBLT, ABN) but also with other organizations in the region (CIEH, ADRAO, etc.).

The Committee noted with interest the declaration of the representative of France who mentioned two important projects implemented by OMVS for the construction of two barrages and which will result particularly in a considerable extension to irrigated areas.

6.5.7 Recommendation 10: Review of hydrological networks

No specific comments were formulated regarding this recommendation, which appeared to present logical proposals for rationalization of hydrological networks.

6.5.8 Recommendation 11: Training and instruction in agrometeorology in the service of agriculture

The Director of the Centre insisted on the importance of that recommendation and stated that a proposal for a special course in agrometeorology will be submitted for approval to the next Executive Committee meeting.

The UNDP representative indicated in that connexion that UNDP and UNSO were financing an integrated course on pasture development, organized by the Sahel Institute and the Inter-State Veterinary School at Dakar, in collaboration with Unesco and FAO, and suggested that contacts between AGRHYMET and this course could usefully be established.

Prof. Bernard pointed out the urgent need for the preparation of manuals and publications for training of agronomists at all levels in tropical agrometeorology and especially for the needs of West Africa and the Sahelian zone. Considering the lack of such manuals, particularly in the French language, he urged WMO to do everything possible to make good this regrettable deficiency, in collaboration with FAO and the AGRHYMET Centre.

The representative of Italy indicated that a training course in agrometeorology is in preparation, sponsored by FAO and WMO and to be held in October 1984 at Erice in Sicily, at the International School of Meteorology for the Mediterranean.

6.5.9 Recommendation 12: Co-ordination with agronomic research

The representative of the WMO World Climate Programme referred to a request formulated by several representatives during the eighth session of Regional Association for Africa in Cairo in November 1982 and supported by the eighth session of the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology, that regional and sub-regional meetings should be held to define the use of meteorological information and data in operational crop protection measures. Such meetings will be held, subject to approval by WMO Congress, in the course of 1984 and 1985 for each of the agroclimatic zones in Africa.

*Note revision
to Walden's file.*

In further discussion, reference was made to the activities of ICRISAT, and the Director of the AGRHYMET Centre confirmed that an ICRISAT Centre had now been established in Niamey and that the two Centres worked in close liaison.

6.5.10 Recommendation 13: Strengthening of FAO participation in the Programme

The FAO representative referred to the limited opportunity to recruit associate experts, and suggested that at least two associate experts in agronomy be assigned to the Programme as a first step. This proposal was supported by the Committee.

6.5.11 Recommendation 14: Co-ordination of the AGRHYMET Programme at the national level

The Director of the Centre suggested that the experts assigned to the national projects could contribute to informing potential users of the existence of the Programme and of the information it can provide. This proposal was supported by the Committee.

6.5.12 Recommendation 15: Establishment and introduction of an information and communication component

The WMO representative suggested that if possible a consultant be appointed during the forthcoming rain season to examine the existing potential for dissemination of information in the countries, and to permit review of the proposals submitted by the Planning Mission.

This proposal was supported by the Committee and WMO was requested to recruit such an expert and to seek its financing. This expert should be requested to report on necessary actions in regard to this component and to prepare a revised budget accordingly.

6.5.13 Recommendation 16: Strengthening of the Executive Committee of the Programme

Prof. Bernard indicated that this specific recommendation was approved by the Executive Committee itself at its last session. No further comments were formulated.

6.5.14 Recommendation 17: Creation of a Scientific Advisory Group of the CAC

Some discussions had taken place regarding this recommendation, which presented a proposal which had already been examined by the Committee at its last two sessions. It was felt that this group could be composed of scientists who could accept to give their advice on the scientific orientation of the Programme and be compensated only for travel and subsistence expenses when requested by the CAC to participate in its meetings. The Chairman of the Executive Committee recalled that his Committee had suggested that this group should include at least one Sahelian.

The Committee requested WMO to prepare the terms of reference of this Group which, on the suggestion of the representative of France, should be called "Scientific and Technical Advisory Group", and submit them to the CAC members for approval as well as proposing names of potential experts.

6.5.15 Recommendation 18: Designation of an international expert for the post of Technical Advisor to the Director-General of the Centre

It was generally agreed that the CILSS/WMO Agreement should be revised in the sense that this Advisor will be financially supported by the donors since CILSS is not in a position to meet the required costs.

6.5.16 Recommendation 19: International specialist assistance to the eight countries

There was extensive discussions of this recommendation for redistribution of expertise, and particularly of the financial implications. The Committee was assured that this proposal was aimed only at a better utilization of international expertise and reduction of costs. It would depend however on the expressed needs of the countries and the advice of the Executive Committee. It was possible that some degree of flexibility would be necessary in its implementation.

It was concluded that the present proposal would perhaps need some adjustments and that ways and means of implementation of the recommendation can be examined carefully at the next Executive Committee meeting, with a view to implementation in 1984.

6.5.17 Recommendation 20: Strengthening the administration of the Programme at the level of Executing Agency

No further comments were formulated on that recommendation which had been referred to by the WMO representative under Agenda Item 3.

6.5.18 Recommendation 21: Review of the Agreement between the CILSS and WMO to adapt it to the new needs of the Programme

The Committee agreed that the Agreement should be adapted to the present situation of the Programme and that WMO would contact CILSS in that respect.

6.5.19 Recommendation 22: Financial support for the AGRHYMET Programme and consolidation of its international framework during the period 1983-1986

The Committee stressed again the need to enlarge the donor community to assure a smooth continuation of activities. Some ideas were formulated on how to draw the attention of potential donors to the Programme.

WMO was requested to prepare a factual document describing concrete, existing achievements as well as those sought in the future, describing also where possible the cost/benefit aspects, and that this document be presented at the forthcoming Brussels meeting of the Club du Sahel, 25-27 October, which will be hosted by the EEC. The question was also raised whether the AGRHYMET situation could be presented at the forthcoming ninth WMO Congress.

I want a copy!

Donors expressed their continued support to the Programme and confirmed the contributions pledged at the seventh session of the Committee. The representative of the European Development Fund indicated that EEC is very conscious of the importance of the Programme and could evidently agree to finance some specific actions. Furthermore, the representative of France indicated that the French contribution will continue not only as in the past but that he had good hope to be able to provide one or two additional experts, either at high level or as National Service Volunteer.

The problems of recurrent costs were also raised, particularly by the US representative who asked whether the Committee might benefit from the experience of the Club du Sahel and CILSS in that context. WMO was requested to formulate a study on current costs and the representative of the Club du Sahel confirmed that the Club is certainly willing to assist in such a study.

The Committee also approved the suggestion of the representative of the Netherlands to interchange paragraphs 1. and 2.

6.5.20 Recommendation 23: Eventual incorporation of the planned needs of Chad in the present report

Since formulation of that recommendation, Chad has been visited by the Mission which prepared a complementary document to its main report evaluating the situation in that country. Three specific recommendations were formulated (Recommendations 26, 27 and 28) which were reviewed and approved by the Committee.

6.5.21 Recommendation 24: Strengthening the resources of Departments of Agriculture for effective co-operation by them in the operational phase of the Programme

No specific comments were formulated on that recommendation.

6.5.22 Recommendation 25: Strengthening of the national AGRHYMET Programme in Mauritania

The FAO representative requested that "agriculture" be included in paragraph 2.

6.6 The Committee adopted the report and recommendations, subject to the remarks formulated during the discussion.

6.7 In discussion of the report on the Niamey technical meeting, it was noted that the Manual of Operations was not yet complete and that the remaining work would be undertaken immediately at the Centre. It was confirmed also that recommendations contained in the report are addressed to the Executive Committee for the Programme, in order to formalize a decision on the required actions. The Chairman of that Committee had already given agreement to certain proposals which would be taken into account in 1983 operational activities. Courses on codes had already been arranged, to be held sub-regionally at Dakar and Niamey during May. Further definitions will be required concerning transmission programmes, and the products to be furnished. In this latter connexion, the attention of the Committee was drawn to a document presented to the eighth session of the WMO Commission for Agrometeorology, February-March 1983, which gives information on AGRHYMET products with particular reference to proposals formulated for Mali.

7. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES AND PROPOSED CENTRE BUDGET FOR 1983 (Agenda Item 7)

The representative of WMO referred first to the statements of expenditures contained in Appendix A of CAC/Doc. 4 and confirmed that the proposed total cash contributions in 1983 of all donor countries were in line with definitive indications of support already given, proposed 1983 expenditures on the Netherlands contribution were relatively high, to meet various operational costs at the AGRHYMET Centre no longer within the capacity of the UNDP budget. The UNDP contribution to the Regional Centre and to all national projects, except that of Mali, were also of a definitive nature, as was the US contribution in kind, the latter being derived from the Grant Agreement, as revised.

Reference was then made to Appendix B of the same document which presented a proposed 1983 budget for the AGRHYMET Centre totaling \$4.742.700, and to the proposed donor contributions to meet this requirement. These latter proposals had been formulated with respect to presently pledged contributions, and in total fell short of the estimated requirements by \$1,6 million approximately. It was noted that \$1.45 million, or 90% of this deficit was accounted for in personnel and building construction requirements.

There was unfortunately no detailed presentation of 1982 expenditures, for comparison with the 1983 estimated expenditures. This would be rectified for 1983 on the basis of a generalized budgetary presentation which would include estimates for both the current and following year. Overall 1982 expenditures for the AGRHYMET Centre totalled to \$2.665 million, inclusive of the proposed CILSS contribution and of estimates of the value of contributions in kind.

In discussion of the budgetary proposals, it was confirmed that differences in the totals of proposed utilization of donor contribution presented in the Appendices A and B resulted from inclusion in the former of certain extra-Centre expenditures, and of WMO administrative charges.

It was noted that the deficit in the personnel provision would affect particularly the Directorate of Operational Activities, in the implementation of the newly formulated operational plan, notably in relation to hydrological activities. The delegate of France considered that it might be possible to provide a third National Service Volunteer to the Centre, which should define the specialization required. In further discussion, the possibility of employment of UN Volunteers was mentioned.

Concluding this discussion, the Committee accepted the proposed budget, noting that nevertheless, given no present assurance of increase on presently pledged contributions, economies should be effected whenever this is practically possible. A degree of flexibility in budget management could be introduced by including perhaps 10% of the estimated requirement as a contingency item.

8. REVIEW OF STATUS OF COUNTRY PROJECTS 1983-1986 (Agenda Item 8)

CAC/Doc. 6 was presented for information of the Committee. The representative of WMO confirmed receipt of notification from the Resident Representative of The Gambia that the Government authorities had decided to markedly reduce the AGRHYMET project allocation in that country for the period 1984-1986, thereby effectively terminating the project at end-1983. It was confirmed also that WMO had responded by requesting a re-opening of discussions on this allocation. In discussion of this case, disquiet was felt that allocations to other national AGRHYMET projects might be similarly reduced. The representative of UNDP assured the Committee however, that this should not be expected with regard to approved projects and that UNDP would collaborate closely with WMO in order to heighten the awareness of Resident Representatives and through them of national authorities in CILSS countries of the linkage between the national and regional components of the AGRHYMET Programme and thus of the need to maintain national activities at comparable levels in all CILSS countries.

9. OTHER MATTERS (Agenda item 9)

9.1 The WMO World Climate Programme representative referred to the planned training course at Erice, Sicily in October 1984, and presented a preliminary document "WMO/FAO Seminar/Training Course on Operational Application of Agro-meteorology in Semi-Arid Zones". In discussion, it was considered that WMO should inform Congress of this important training proposal, which would accommodate 60-65 participants, in order to facilitate budgetary provisions for fellowships. The VCP might also be able to assist in this regard. The course was so far planned to be given only in the English language, but the representative of Italy confirmed that if WMO could meet all related expenses, it could be possible for the course to be given at the same time in French also.

9.2 The representative of WMO introduced the Executive Secretary of CILSS, requesting that he present an account of the current budgetary situation of that Committee.

The Executive Secretary mentioned first the importance accorded by CILSS to the AGRHYMET Programme. This priority project was affected, as were all other CILSS projects, by the present budgetary situation which has its origin not in a lack of good intention on the part of the member countries, but in the financial difficulties which the countries continue to face with persistence of the drought conditions in the Sahel.

During a recent visit to Ouagadougou, the President of CILSS had been appraised of the budgetary situation, and had consequently sent his ambassador on a mission to each country to discuss the national contributions. He also intends to visit the countries in this connexion. A basic problem is that national budgets presented in December are approved only in April. Cape Verde had paid all of its contributions, Mali had deposited all outstanding contributions and was about to deposit that for 1983, Senegal was also about to make the 1983 contribution and Upper Volta had already made a one-half payment, Gambia had paid all contributions to and including 1983 and Chad had announced that it will make a token contribution, Mauritania was the only country which had so far given no response.

Referring to advances made on certain donor contributions for payment of CILSS personnel at the AGRHYMET Centre, he gave assurance that these would be reimbursed by end-June, and perhaps by end-May. He also assured the Director of the Centre that 9 million FCFA would be made immediately available to the Centre, and a further 6 million FCFA shortly. He thanked Mr. Sciarone, now with the Club du Sahel, for the help which he had given in the past, and WMO for the help recently given. With the possibility of assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), one could look forward to a lasting solution to this problem.

The Executive Secretary confirmed that AGRHYMET will be a first priority in application of the \$500 million Italian contribution to CILSS. The Rome meeting of the CILSS Council of Ministers had examined the global aspect of this assistance, 85/90% of which will be attributed to national projects and 10/15% to regional projects. Priority will be given to the execution of national projects which had already commenced. Two missions would be made to each country, first an identification mission to define priority needs and then, one month later, a mission to formulate identified projects for their commencement. After only 5 months, Upper Volta has already obtained an allocation of \$41 million; the two missions had been completed and a project Director had been nominated. Niger and Mali had received the identification mission and the second mission was awaited. The mission will visit five other countries before next June.

Concerning regional projects, CILSS had retained three priorities: the AGRHYMET Programme, the Sahel Institute, and the Plan Protection project. The date for discussions on regional projects would be fixed with the Italian Government on 22 April. CILSS would meet with the Director, AGRHYMET Centre and with WMO to establish a dossier on assistance to the Programme.

The representative of WMO reviewed the steps taken by WMO to provide interim assistance to CILSS and referred to the letter which the WMO Secretary-General had addressed to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in which a proposal had been made for long-term assistance to CILSS. Following contacts made in Rome during the recent WMO/FAO Seminar on the AGRHYMET Programme, it was learned that a reply to this letter could be expected by end-May.

10. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (Agenda item 10)

The Chairman referred to the decision taken at CAC VII, September 1981, that chairmanship should be held for a term of two years, and to the fact that it should be necessary therefore at the present meeting to elect a new Chairman, possibly representing one of the principal donor countries or agencies. In discussion a proposal was nevertheless made and universally supported, that the representative of Switzerland retain the Chair for one further year. This proposal was accepted by the Chairman.

11. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda item 11)

11.1 Taking account of the programme of forthcoming statutory meetings of the AGRHYMET Programme and of CILSS, terminating with the CILSS Heads of States meeting in January-February 1984, it was agreed that the tenth session of the Co-ordinating and Advisory Committee would be held during the week commencing 5 March 1984.

11.2 It was agreed also that the tenth session should be held at FAO, Rome, and that WMO would take contact with FAO in this regard.

List of participants

- BELGIUM : E. Bernard, "Météorologiste honoraire, Institut royal météorologique de Belgique" and Team Leader, AGRHYMET Programme Planning Mission
- FRANCE : A. Durget, "Direction de la Météorologie nationale", Paris
S. Schirié, "Ministère des Relations extérieures (Coopération et Développement)", Paris
- NETHERLANDS : W. Knijnenburg, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague
B. Kamp, Royal Meteorological Institute, De Bilt
- SWITZERLAND : A. Bisaz, "Coopération au développement et aide humanitaire", Berne
- U.S.A. : J. Snyder, USAID, Niamey
G. Slocum, USAID, Washington
D. Foster, NOAA, Washington
R. Crouthamel, NOAA, Washington
M. Dwyre, USAID, Geneva
G. Cartwright, US Mission, Geneva
- UNDP : Ms. A.M. Demmer, Regional Bureau for Africa, New York
- UNSO : Z. Seiner, New York
- CILSS : Seck Mame Ndiack, Executive Secretary, Ouagadougou
- E C P : A. Gologo, Chairman, Executive Committee, Director of the national Meteorological Service, Mali
- EDF : J. Hecq,
- Club du Sahel : P. Sciarone, Paris
- FAO : M. Frère, Rome
- WMO : B. Gosset, Director, Technical Co-operation Department
W. Owen, Sahel Office, Technical Co-operation Department
B. Coly, Director General, AGRHYMET Centre, Niamey
D. Lambergeon, Director, Operational Activities, AGRHYMET Centre, Niamey
D. Rijks, World Climate Programme Department
A. Askew, Hydrology and Water Resources Department
- OBSERVERS
- ITALY : A. Nania, Permanent Representative of Italy with WMO and Director, Meteorological Service, Rome
- SWEDEN : B. Dahlström, Swedish Meteorological Institute, Stockholm,

AGENDA

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING
 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
 3. REVIEW OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAST CO-ORDINATING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 4. REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE
 5. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PROGRAMME
 6. REVIEW OF REPORTS OF CAC/WMO PLANNING MISSION AND TECHNICAL MEETING, NIAMEY, MARCH 1983
 7. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES AND PROPOSED CENTRE BUDGET FOR 1983
 8. REVIEW OF STATUS OF COUNTRY PROJECTS 1983-1986
 9. OTHER MATTERS
 10. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN
 11. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING
-