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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
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Organización de las  
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

## TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

**Rome, 16 - 20 July 2018**

### DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE

#### SECRETARIAT NOTE

## I. FAO CONFERENCE

1. At its 40<sup>th</sup> session, held in Rome on 3-8 July 2017, the FAO Conference<sup>1</sup> endorsed the Report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and encouraged Members to:

- a) improve coordination between policies on forests, agriculture, food, land use and rural development for more effective regulation of land use change; promote integrated land use planning; strengthen tenure rights; and use adequate policy instruments to increase sustainable agricultural production and sustainable forest management;
- b) promote sustainability for agriculture, forestry and fisheries; strengthen dialogue on joining efforts for transformative change towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG); review and adapt existing mechanisms and tools, such as National Forest Programmes (NFPs) and Criteria and Indicators (C&Is), for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) to inform and support decision-making for sustainability across sectors; and promote coherent and effective actions in sustainable forest management in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- c) strengthen forest data collection to support monitoring progress towards SDG targets at global, regional and national levels;
- d) strengthen institutional frameworks and processes to ensure sound forestry, and integrated, cross-sectoral approaches to climate change including considering integrating forests into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and/or their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), as appropriate;

<sup>1</sup> C2017/REP

- e) strengthen investments and partnerships and enhance access to financial resources to improve financing for SFM and to address climate change;
- f) disseminate and implement the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring;
- g) mainstream the important role of forests and trees outside forests for food security and nutrition in policies and programmes and across all four dimensions of food security; and
- h) consider strengthening the mobilization of innovative and enhanced financing for the restoration of degraded lands; and support actions to contribute to a more efficient and successful achievement of the Bonn Challenge and the related global initiatives.

2. At the same time, the Conference requested FAO to strengthen its work in the area of boreal and temperate forests, taking into account their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including combating climate change and enhancing food security and nutrition.

**The Committee may wish to consider the outcome of the Conference's deliberations in particular when addressing item 4, 5.1-5.4, 6.4, 6.5 and 7.1-7.2 of its agenda.**

## II. FAO COUNCIL

3. At its 155<sup>th</sup> session, held in December 2016, the FAO Council<sup>2</sup> endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (18-22 July 2016) and welcomed the State of the World's Forests 2016.

In particular, the Council:

- a) welcomed the publication of State of the World's Forests 2016 and its key messages and recognized that the sustainable management of both forests and agriculture, and their integration in land-use plans, contributed strongly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- b) supported the use of the five interconnected principles developed by FAO as a framework for policy dialogue on sustainability;
- c) requested FAO to align the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) strategy with the requirements for monitoring of SDGs, as well as with other global forests processes and work with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to improve and streamline global reporting on forests and enhance support to countries on National Forest Monitoring;
- d) highlighted the importance of forests in the draft Strategy for FAO's work on climate change and the continued dialogue and information exchange among the different sectors, such as environment, forestry, fisheries and agriculture, including livestock at national, regional and international levels, with a view to strengthening synergies and avoiding duplications;
- e) welcomed the establishment of a Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems and agreed that its work would be financed through extra-budgetary resources;
- f) underlined the importance of FAO enhancing its work on boreal and temperate forests;
- g) welcomed the main outcome document of the XIV World Forestry Congress;

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<sup>2</sup> CL 155/REP

h) reiterated the importance of FAO's contribution to the International Arrangement of Forests (IAF) and encouraged FAO to continue its leadership role in the CPF;

i) encouraged FAO to review the FRA strategy, including its financing strategy, in consultation with FAO Members, members of the CPF and other relevant international organizations; and

j) welcomed the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring.

4. At the same session, the Council endorsed the offer of the Republic of Korea to host the XV World Forestry Congress in 2021, and noted with appreciation the gesture of Italy of withdrawing its bid.

5. At its 158<sup>th</sup> session, held in December 2017, the FAO Council<sup>3</sup> endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 44th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and, in particular:

- welcomed the policy recommendations on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition; encouraged all stakeholders to use them; and asked that they be discussed in the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and forwarded to other relevant bodies.

**The Committee may wish to consider the outcome of the Council's deliberations in particular when addressing item 4, 5.1-5.4, 6.4, 6.5 and 7.1-7.2 of its agenda.**

### III. COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

6. At its 43<sup>rd</sup> Session, held in October 2016, the Committee on World Food Security<sup>4</sup> elaborated the following recommendations, building upon the main findings of the CFS High Level Panel of Expert's report on Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock?

a) Promote integrated agricultural systems making better use of natural resources, halting deforestation, restoring degraded lands, improving soil quality, and fostering the sustainable management of water resources;

b) Strengthen the security of tenure rights in line with the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, including in all cases of conflict;

c) Restore degraded land and reduce deforestation by promoting sustainable grazing management, such as agro-silvopastoral systems, aiming at improved soil quality, carbon storage, pasture productivity, and conservation and storage of forages;

d) Strengthen integration of livestock with crops, including by more integration of legumes in crop rotation and inter-cropping, and forests – agro-silvopastoral systems - at different scales, including on farm, across watersheds and ecosystems, and provide benefits in terms of addressing input and energy needs in a sustainable manner, including through the use of draught power and the use of manure as fertilizer.

**The Committee may wish to consider the requests as contained in 6.a), b), c) and d) when addressing Agenda item 5.1;**

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<sup>3</sup> CL 158/REP

<sup>4</sup> CFS 2016/43 REPORT

7. At its 44<sup>th</sup> Session, held in October 2017, the Committee<sup>5</sup> acknowledged with appreciation the HLPE report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition. and the presentation made by Mr Terence Sunderland, HLPE Project Team Leader, on the main policy relevant evidence included in the report. H.E. Akram Chehayeb, Chairperson of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO), presented views on how the work and policy recommendations developed by CFS can be used in the context of COFO, and lead to greater coordination, noting the outcomes of CFS will be considered by COFO in its 2018 session. H.E. François Pythoud (Switzerland), Rapporteur of the CFS policy convergence process, presented the proposed policy recommendations resulting from the discussions between CFS Members and other stakeholders. The policy recommendations are presented in document COFO/2018/5.4.

In its recommendations the Committee:

a) Encouraged all stakeholders to disseminate the recommendations at the local, national, regional and global levels, and make use of and support their application when formulating strategies, policies and programmes, as appropriate;

b) Noted the importance for CFS stakeholders to implement existing global policy instruments on forests, particularly the UN strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 and relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

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e) Encouraged these policy recommendations to be forwarded to relevant policy bodies including the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF), the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

**The Committee may wish to consider the recommendations of CFS in particular when addressing item 5.4 of the agenda.**

#### IV. COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (COAG)

8. At its 25<sup>th</sup> Session, held in September 2016, the Committee on Agriculture<sup>6</sup> (26-30 September 2016) discussed Agriculture and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In particular, the Committee:

a) Recognized the key role agriculture plays in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stressed the need to promote actions that balance the three dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental – and that are more integrated across agriculture, forestry and fisheries;

b) Invited the other FAO Technical Committees, the Rome-based Agencies, and other stakeholders, to continue enhancing collaboration and coordination towards a stronger and more effective contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to the 2030 Agenda.

9. The Committee also approved the International Year of Plant Health Draft Conference Resolution, recognizing that sustaining plant health protects the environment, forests and biodiversity from plant pests, issues of climate change and supports efforts to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

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<sup>5</sup> CFS 2017/44/Report

<sup>6</sup> C 2017/21

**The Committee may wish to consider these outcomes in particular when addressing Agenda items 4, 5.1-5.4, 6.5 and 7.1**

## **V. COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CGRFA)**

10. At its 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>7</sup> (30 January – 3 February 2017) invited countries to strengthen the link between breed conservation, sustainable agricultural production and nature conservation, and the collaboration of the agriculture/livestock sector with the environment/wildlife/forest sector, ensuring full participation of all livestock producers, with special consideration to small-scale livestock keepers and pastoralists. It encouraged countries to investigate the feasibility of results-based incentive systems supporting the continued provision of ecosystem services, with special consideration to locally adapted breeds, in compliance with international trade regulations, and called on FAO to develop guidelines in this regard.

11. The Commission considered the documents Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources<sup>8</sup> and Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.<sup>9</sup> It called upon countries to continue implementing the Global Plan of Action to contribute to sustainable forest management, the 2030 Agenda and other relevant international commitments on forests, including the Cancun Declaration. The Commission encouraged countries to support, as appropriate, the regional networks on forest genetic resources and contribute to the activities of these networks, to strengthen regional collaboration on forest genetic resources. It also recommended that countries pay attention to the regional networks on forest invasive species and encouraged the various networks to exchange information relevant to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

12. The Commission requested FAO to continue coordinating and supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, in collaboration with the regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations, bodies and processes. It further requested FAO to prepare draft voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources in line with the proposed outline<sup>10</sup> and taking into account existing guidelines for the preparation of national forest programmes and for the formulation of forest policy to avoid duplication of work. Moreover, the Commission requested FAO to continue pursuing extra-budgetary funds, developing the funding strategy to assist countries in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and encouraging donors to provide support.

13. The Commission adopted the proposed targets, indicators and verifiers for forest genetic resources to be used as assessment tools to monitor the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.<sup>11</sup> It also adopted the proposed schedule for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.<sup>12</sup>

14. The Commission requested FAO to prepare draft guidelines for the preparation of country progress reports and reporting guidelines for regional networks and international organizations. It also requested FAO to consult the Working Group and the NFPs nominated for the preparation of country reports for The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, by electronic means, on the draft

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<sup>7</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1

<sup>8</sup> CGRFA-16/17/19.

<sup>9</sup> CGRFA-16/17/20.

<sup>10</sup> CGRFA-16/17/19, Appendix A

<sup>11</sup> CGRFA-16/17/20, Appendices A & B

<sup>12</sup> CGRFA-16/17/20, Appendix C

guidelines for the preparation of country progress reports prior to their finalization by 31 March 2017, taking into account the need to clarify in detail the reporting requirements and to include a glossary of technical terms. The Commission encouraged countries to prepare themselves for the collection of information and data, as appropriate, to facilitate timely submission of the first country progress reports. The Commission requested FAO to consider the interface between the reporting systems for plant and forest genetic resources to avoid any duplication of efforts.

15. The Commission requested FAO to pursue extra-budgetary funds to support developing countries, in particular least-developed countries, in the preparation of country progress reports. It also requested FAO to invite regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations to report on their contributions to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Furthermore, the Commission requested FAO to collaborate with other relevant assessments and data providers in monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

**The Committee may wish to consider these outcomes in particular when addressing Agenda item 5.4.**

## **VI. REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

16. No report has been available at the time of writing. Outcome of the Conferences will be brought to the attention of the Committee through amendments to this document as appropriate.