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منظمة
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COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

Rome, 16 - 20 July 2018

DIALOGUE WITH STATUTORY BODIES IN FORESTRY

1. The Committee held, at its 23rd session, an interactive dialogue with chairpersons of the Regional Forestry Commissions and received a progress report from other statutory bodies in forestry. In addition to welcoming this opportunity, the Committee provided guidance and encouragement for these bodies, and suggested that further opportunities be explored to strengthen the interactions in particular between the Committee and the regional forestry commissions.
2. While substantive contribution was provided in particular by the regional forestry commissions to the agenda of the 24th session of COFO, all statutory bodies made recommendations for FAO's programme in forestry. These recommendations served as a major input to document COFO/2018/7.1.
3. Progress Reports from forestry statutory bodies are presented for the Committee's consideration in Annex 1-3 of this document on:
 - Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*
 - Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI)
 - International Poplar Commission (IPC).
4. The Committee may wish to engage in a dialogue with chairpersons of the statutory bodies and provide further advice or guidance, as appropriate.

Annex 1

**I. COMMITTEE ON MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY QUESTIONS -
*Silva Mediterranea*****A. Twenty-second Session of *Silva Mediterranea***

1. The Committee held its 22nd session on 22 March 2017 in Agadir, Morocco, during the 5th Mediterranean Forest Week (MFW). The Committee:
 - a) took note of the progress in the implementation of the decisions taken by the Committee during its extraordinary meetings from 2012 to 2017;
 - b) recognized the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests adopted in 2013, as a voluntary tool to prioritize forestry questions in the region and monitor progress on the key forestry questions;
 - c) recommended to give impetus to the establishment of a specific strategy for *Silva Mediterranea*;
 - d) took note that the MFWs have replaced the technical content of the former sessions of the Committee;
 - e) adopted the overall organization process of the 6th MFW to be held in 2019;
 - f) validated the concept for a Mediterranean Agro-silvo-pastoral Memento as a complementary book to the State of Mediterranean Forests 2018;
 - g) recommended to suppress the working group on sustainable financing mechanisms, and to reconsider the existence of the working group on climate change;
 - h) adopted the working plans for the biennium 2017-2019 of the other working groups; and
 - i) gave its support to the ongoing regional dynamics on Forest and Landscape Restoration in the Mediterranean.

B. Working groups

2. Working group on forest genetic resources implemented activities within the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action on “Strengthening conservation: a key issue for adaptation of marginal/peripheral populations of forest trees to climate change in Europe (MaP-FGR)”. A policy brief on “Marginal and peripheral forests: a key genetic resource for enhancing the resilience of European forests to global change” has been published. The final conference of the COST Action was organized on 26-29 September 2016.

3. Working group on climate change implemented activities within the regional project “Maximize the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes”. A series of eleven documents were published, two digital products (a data base and a series of digital maps) and an 11-minute video were produced. A two-day workshop was organized in October 2016 to review the REDD+ activities in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Lebanon and the role of the forest sectors in the Nationally Determined Contributions of these countries.

4. Working group on urban and peri-urban forestry has prepared a policy brief on urban and peri-urban forestry in the Mediterranean, and has established a data base of case studies and a set of indicators for the assessment of urban and peri-urban forestry and green infrastructure in the Mediterranean.

C. Forest and landscape restoration in the Mediterranean

5. As part of the working plan of the working group on desertification and restoration of Mediterranean drylands and in connection with the 5th MFW, a Mediterranean regional initiative on forest and landscape restoration in the context of the Bonn Challenge has been proposed.

6. At the high-level segment of the 5th MFW on 24 March 2017, nine Mediterranean countries – Algeria, France, Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey – endorsed the Agadir Commitment to improve Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR), Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity conservation efforts in the Mediterranean region. The Agadir Commitment proposes to establish a new regional Mediterranean initiative on FLR to support the achievement of the Bonn Challenge and Sustainable Development Goal 15.

7. This regional Mediterranean initiative also encourages political and administrative authorities at the national level, as well as stakeholders involved in the management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems and other wooded lands, to strengthen their respective FLR efforts in the context of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and in line with the global FLR objectives of the Rio Conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. This regional Mediterranean initiative, which aims to restore at least 8 million hectares by 2030, is focused on the four main components: (1) Assess the ongoing national efforts on FLR; (2) Reinforce regional cooperation on FLR and LDN; (3) Cooperate, among interested partners, to develop a consensual and diversified strategy for the financing of FLR efforts and reinforce national capacities; (4) Assess the respective efforts of countries through the establishment of a voluntary monitoring and notification system for FLR and LDN efforts in the Mediterranean context.

D. Young entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean

9. Young entrepreneurship in the bioeconomy was addressed in a project idea called Blue Forest developed with the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), the Mediterranean Office of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM). Blue Forest aims at developing an incubator to turn ideas of forest-based projects in the Mediterranean green economy into implementable business plans.

E. Advocacy and sharing knowledge

10. The Committee co-organized with partners the 5th MFW on 20-24 March 2017 in Agadir, Morocco, on the topic of the restoration of Mediterranean forests and landscapes. The 5th MFW was attended by more than 280 participants from 31 countries. The main outcome of the 5th MFW was the adoption of the Agadir Commitment. The 6th MFW will be hosted by Lebanon on 1-5 April 2019 on the topic of Mediterranean forests and the Paris agreement: challenges and opportunities.

11. The new edition of the State of Mediterranean Forest (SoMF) has been prepared to address the question of how Mediterranean forests contribute to reach the goals of international commitments on forests.

12. A chapter on Mediterranean forests has been published in the CIHEAM flagship report *Mediterra* 2016.

F. Points for consideration

13. The Committee may wish to encourage Member Countries of *Silva Mediterranea* to:

- Develop activities related to youth and women entrepreneurship in the bioeconomy as a way to address the challenges faced by Mediterranean forests in the context of global changes.
- Develop projects/programmes on forest and landscape restoration and to request FAO's support in this regard.
- Contribute to the preparation and commit to high-level participation in the 6th Mediterranean Forest Week, to be held in April 2019 in Lebanon.

Annex 2

II. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES

A. Introduction

1. This note provides an overview of recent activities of the FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI) and the recommendations from its 58th and 59th sessions for FAO's work in the 2018-19 biennium.

2. ACSFI serves as FAO's main body for private sector collaboration in forestry and advises FAO in the area of forest-based value chains. ACSFI works in close interaction with the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA) including aligned agendas, mutual objectives and collaborative activities.

B. Outcomes of recent meetings of ACSFI

3. At its 58th session in Berlin, Germany in May 2017 the Committee provided guidance to FAO's work streams in the fields of bio-based packaging, biotechnology in forestry, bio-economy strategies and policies, promotion of the use of wood in construction, communication networks for the forest sector, the zero-deforestation initiative and collection and dissemination of good examples of developed value chains. ACSFI also provided guidance on the forthcoming initiative "Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World", which was to be introduced at the related global meeting on 31 October – 1 November 2017 in FAO headquarters.

4. More specifically, the Committee recommended to:

- Ensure that the forest work programme is adequately resourced given the role of the forestry sector in climate change, poverty alleviation, biodiversity and the SDG's.
- Continue to mutually reinforce the role of the private sector through improved communications.
- Establish links between FAO and ICFPA communicators' networks and identify key messages for two-way distribution to the regional networks.
- Maintain FAO's present definition of forests.
- Include ACSFI in the organization of October 2017 Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World conference.
- Include forestry biotechnology applications in the FAO Biotechnology regional dialogue meetings.
- Conclude a video on bio-based packaging and a report on zero-deforestation, taking ACSFI's recommendations into account.

5. ACSFI had its 59th session in FAO headquarters in April 2018 in Rome. The meeting was informed about, among other issues, the Medium Term Plan 2018-2021, and relevant activities contributing to the FAO Forestry Programme's deliverables under Strategic Objectives 2 - 5 of the 2018-19 Programme of Work and Budget.

6. Based on technical presentations by the secretariat, the Committee reviewed progress in implementing its prior decisions and provided guidance and input to those and additional areas, including forest sector workers safety, FAO definition of forests, the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) Initiative, biotechnology initiatives, bio-based packaging and others.

7. ACSFI made the following key recommendations:

- Secure efficient staffing on wood-based products, including in the secretariat of ACSFI.

- Continue the initiative on communication in collaboration with ICFPA and consider forming a communication subcommittee.
- Continue to seek new ways of communicating (considering new audiences, new messages, new technologies, and different regions' perspectives). The focus should be not only on forests, but also on wood products and innovation, to demonstrate that this is a dynamic industry, able to adapt to the needs of the world, and develop positive messages accordingly. One specific important area for future collaboration in communication could be bio-based packaging.
- Continue to develop the SW4SW Initiative and, in doing so, to take into account specific conditions and interests in the different regions of the world.
- Continue the work on promoting the use of wood in construction.
- Continue FAO's important task of collecting and publishing statistics on forest products and on forest resources, and make more efforts to promote the importance of this work for policy-makers and international processes.
- Continue the work to show best practices through the case study on developed wood-based value chains.
- Continue collaboration with ICFPA, ACSFI and FAO on bio-economy.
- Consider strengthening work on workers' education – including through stressing the need in international meetings and collaborate with governments.
- Consider promoting the forest sector to young people in developed countries. The collaboration with the International Forestry Student Association could provide new opportunities in this regard.

C. Points for consideration

8. The Committee may wish to:

- Support the recommendations of ACSFI 58th and 59th sessions.
- Recognize ACSFI's important role in representing private interests in the SW4SW Initiative and invite countries to provide inputs to activities within SW4SW as recommended by ACSFI.
- Request FAO to provide adequate attention to forestry in its work on biotechnology and bioeconomy and invite ACSFI to continue to provide advice to FAO in this regard.

Annex 3

III. INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION

A. Introduction

1. The International Poplar Commission (IPC) was created 1947 and later placed within the framework of FAO under Article XIV of its Constitution. It comprises 38 member countries. IPC aims to promote the cultivation, conservation and utilization of poplars and willows of the *Salicaceae* family. Since September 2012, the Commission is undergoing a comprehensive institutional reform to expand its geographic, biological and technical scope by including a wider range of fast-growing genera/species with similar attributes for industrial and energy uses and environmental applications, while maintaining the existing mandate on poplars and willows.

B. The Reform Process

2. The IPC and its Executive Committee pursued the reform process and regularly informed COFO about the progress during the last three sessions since 2012. The IPC also benefitted from the encouragement of COFO and the proposal was presented for decision at the 25th IPC Session in September 2016.

3. Participants of the 25th Session held a by secret ballot, involving all 23 members attending the Session and authorized to vote. Although members present and voting unanimously supported the IPC reform, the Session did not achieve the 25 votes required for the two-third decision of the 38 IPC members. Because of support expressed to the reform, the out-going and the in-coming Executive Committee agreed to remain committed to continuing the IPC reform process. The IPC recommended to convene the 49th Executive Committee Meeting to coincide with COFO in 2018 at FAO, Rome, Italy where FAO member states attend, to allow IPC member states to repeat the voting procedures with hopefully broader participation.¹

4. The IPC also considered reorganizing its Working Parties. Based on the recommendations of the 47th Executive Committee Meeting in 2014, did not require modification of the Convention, the 48th Executive Committee Meeting in 2016 was successfully agreed on new Working Party themes and scopes as follows:

- a) Taxonomy, nomenclature and registration;
- b) Domestication and conservation of genetic resources;
- c) Plant health, resilience to threats and climate change;
- d) Sustainable livelihoods, land-use, products and bio-energy;
- e) Environmental and ecosystem services;
- f) Policy, communication and outreach.

C. Points for consideration

5. The Committee may wish to:

- take note with appreciation of the achievements of the reform process and encourage to take the agreed actions;
- consider the outcomes of the work of the IPC over the last two years and advise the IPC Executive Committee on possible further actions, including the consideration of potential new species in support of tropical countries.

¹ FO:IPC/17/REP paragraph 42. d) and 48