

***REPORT***

**Campeche,  
Mexico**

**11-14 January  
2016**

**North  
American  
Forest  
Commission**

**Twenty-eighth Session**



**Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations**

## PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

First session	Mexico, D.F., Mexico	24-29 July 1961
Second session	Ottawa, Canada	17-22 July 1963
Third session	Washington, D.C., USA	18-22 October 1965
Fourth session	Mexico, D.F., Mexico	2-7 October 1967
Fifth session	Ottawa, Canada	15-20 September 1969
Sixth session	Washington, D.C., USA	27-31 March 1972
Seventh session	Mexico, D.F., Mexico	4-8 February 1974
Eighth session	Ottawa, Canada	23-27 February 1976
Ninth session	San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA	13-17 February 1978
Tenth session	Pátzcuaro, Mich., Mexico	18-22 February 1980
Eleventh session	Victoria, B.C., Canada	16-19 February 1982
Twelfth session	El Paso, Texas, USA	21-24 February 1984
Thirteenth session	Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico	3-7 February 1986
Fourteenth session	Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada	14-17 October 1987
Fifteenth session	San Diego, California, USA	6-9 February 1990
Sixteenth session	Cancun, Mexico	10-14 February 1992
Seventeenth session	Jasper (Alberta), Canada	26-30 September 1994
Eighteenth session	Asheville (North Carolina), USA	18-22 November 1996
Nineteenth session	Villahermosa, Mexico	16-20 November 1998
Twentieth session	St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada	12-16 June 2000
Twenty-first session	Kailua-Kona, Hawai, USA	22-26 October 2002
Twenty-second session	Veracruz, Mexico	25-28 October 2004
Twenty-third session	Vancouver, Canada	23-24 October 2006
Twenty-fourth session	San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA	9-13 June 2008
Twenty-fifth session	Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico	3-7 May 2010
Twenty-sixth session	Quebec City, Quebec, Canada	8-9 May 2012
Twenty-seventh session	Madison, Wisconsin, USA	11-13 June 2014

**REPORT**

**of the**

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

**of the**

**NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION**

**Campeche**

**Mexico**

**11 – 14 January 2016**



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## **OPENING OF THE SESSION (Item 1)**

1. The Twenty-eighth Session of the North American Forest Commission (NAFC) was held in Campeche, Mexico, from 11 to 14 January 2016, at the invitation of the Government of Mexico. The session was attended by participants from the three member countries of the Commission and observers. The agenda of the session is attached as *Annex A*, the list of participants as *Annex B*, and the list of documents submitted for consideration by the Commission as *Annex C*.

2. Mr Jorge Rescala Pérez, Director General of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) and Chairperson of the Commission, welcomed participants on behalf of the Government of Mexico and explained his proposal for the conduct of the session. Bureau of Alternates (BoA) Chair Francisco Quiroz presented the session logistics.

3. During the opening ceremony Chair Rescala, informed that relevant regional and global developments in forestry would be discussed during this meeting, including recent global political processes occurred recently, such as the COP21 Paris Agreement, adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and decisions for strengthening the International Arrangement on Forests and the United Nations Forum on Forests. He also informed that Commissioners would witness the signature of the Operating Plan for the Exchange of Wild Fire Management Resources between Canadian and Mexican participants.

4. In her opening address, Eva Muller, Director, Forest Policy and Management Division, welcomed participants on behalf of FAO and recalled major global processes, notably the UN Sustainable Development Summit, the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris, and their implications for forests and forestry. She further noted that FAO has recently realigned of its strategic framework and stands ready to receive guidance of its members and support their work in a truly cross-sectoral manner. She added that NAFC had a unique opportunity to review major global developments together with the outcome of the XIV World Forestry Congress and develop its programme of work accordingly, and also to give guidance to FAO including through shaping the agenda of the next session of the Committee on Forestry.

5. Ms. Martha Garciarivas Palmeros, Undersecretary of Management for Environment Protection, on behalf of H.E. Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, welcomed participants and underscored the importance of the NAFC session, in which agreements for enriching forest policy in the North American region would be adopted. Acknowledging that climate change was a reality and also the greatest challenge faced by humanity, she informed that the Government of Mexico, under the guidance of President Enrique Peña Nieto, was reducing its emissions without compromising Mexico's economic development. She recognized the efforts of the NAFC member countries materialized in better forestry practices for the benefit of the environment and society.

6. Mr. Alejandro Moreno Cárdenas, Governor of the State of Campeche, also welcomed participants and thanked them for choosing Campeche as the venue for the 28<sup>th</sup> NAFC session. He expressed that his Government was committed to the environment and forest sectors and encouraged everyone promoting a culture of forest protection among children and youth; he also encouraged participants to further strengthen collaboration in order to better protect the environment and natural resources and move towards sustainable development. Finally, Mr. Alejandro Cárdenas declared the 28<sup>th</sup> NAFC session formally open.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 2)**

7. The Agenda (*Annex A*) was adopted as presented.

## **COUNTRY REPORTS (Item 3)**

### **Mexico**

8. Commissioner Rescala presented an overview of the progress in the implementation of the National Forestry Program (PRONAFOR) as the main policy and financing instrument of Mexico, underscoring that the average annual federal budget allocated for this program has had a 17-fold increase compared to that in 2001 when CONAFOR was established. He stated that, as a component of the PRONAFOR, the National Strategy for Increasing Forest Production and Productivity through Sustainable Forest Management was implemented with the aim to boost forest production by increasing forest area under production, promoting commercial forest plantations, intensification of silviculture, inclusion of biodiversity conservation criteria in forestry and modernization of harvesting operations.

9. He also highlighted that the private sector had invested \$412 million USD in order to establish three new MDF board factories in Mexico, which would require an additional 1.1 million cubic meters of round wood; it is expected that 35 percent of the total demand of round wood will come from commercial plantations.

10. Commissioner Rescala described the changes in wildfire management policy in Mexico with the implementation of the Incident Command System all over the country, creation of 6 Regional and 32 State Fire Management Centers, and improvement in training and equipment of firefighters and crews. He underscored that fire management policy in Mexico was focused on strengthening the capabilities of fire crews rather than increasing the use of specialized equipment, such as aircrafts, for combating wildfires. Such actions have led to a 29 percent reduction in the number of forest fires and a 43 percent reduction in area affected by wildfires in the last years; furthermore, the annual affected tree-forested area was 79 percent less than the average of the last 16 years.

11. He further informed that Mexico was developing a National Monitoring System for assessing the impact of actions and improving planning in the forest sector. This monitoring system encompassed the National Forest and Soil Inventory, 32 State Forest and Soil Inventories, the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System for forest emissions and the Reference Emissions Level (presented at Climate Change COP20 in Perú). He also expressed Mexico's commitment to implement the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring.

12. Commissioner Rescala informed about the recent developments regarding the National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+), emphasizing the wide and inclusive consultation process among relevant stakeholders all over the country carried out in 2015. ENAREDD+ would be ready for its implementation starting from 2016.

13. He informed that Government of Mexico is implementing the Open Data Program in which information about forest sector was identified as one of the most relevant. This program allows users all over the country to use forest relevant data from the National Forest and Soils Inventory for monitoring progress of programs and actions implemented in the forest sector.

14. Finally, Commissioner Rescala informed about CONAFOR's efforts and progress regarding forest restoration, focused on improvement of plant production and combination of activities of soils conservation and reforestation to increase plant survival rate in reforested areas.

### **Canada**

15. Commissioner Glenn Mason, Assistant Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service (CFS), began his presentation by highlighting the pressures,

stresses and opportunities of managing a geographically dispersed science-based organization in an increasingly complex operating environment. He then shared an approach to priority setting and resource mobilization developed by the Canadian Forest Service entitled “Top Commitments”. By identifying a nationally relevant strategic area where a product or products must be delivered in 12 to 18 months, the CFS had been able to signal urgency to its staff and stakeholders, reinforce focus, enhance innovative capacity, instill confidence with new stakeholders and ensure clarity concerning specific desired outcomes of benefit to the whole organization.

16. During 2013 to 2015, four Top Commitments were identified out of fourteen proposals. After this period of more intensive focus, several were then where some of these short term results were subsequently mainstreamed into the CFS portfolio for medium and longer term advancement.

17. Commissioner Mason indicated that in only two years the Top Commitment approach had already contributed to a better understanding of our priorities and improved our capacity to adapt and be nimble. Four major trends driving the CFS to change its business environment – were outlined:

- (i) Issues are becoming more complex, more interdisciplinary and accelerating faster;
- (ii) Science and innovation is becoming an increasingly “open” enterprise;
- (iii) Growing public expectations for rapid access to information, transparency, and accountability;
- (iv) Shifts toward “big data” and “big science” which require new tools, frameworks and investments.

18. In 2015, Commissioner Mason noted five Top Commitments were selected for the next 12-18 months with plans to evolve this process into a biennial cycle. The current five Top Commitments within the CFS are:

- (i) Safeguarding CFS Science IT;
- (ii) Regional Cumulative Effects;
- (iii) Environmental Reputation;
- (iv) Forest and Oil Sector Research Collaboration (FOR-C);
- (v) Enhanced Forest Inventory.

19. Commissioner Mason shared a few important elements that were deemed key to continued success, including: strong leadership; a commitment from all senior executives to engage throughout the process; a willingness to make collective choices and shift resources quickly; and having a small dedicated team (one or two people with an accountable senior executive) to act as a secretariat.

20. In closing, Commissioner Mason suggested that North America’s forestry organizations share similarities and yet have unique challenges, noting the Top Commitment approach may or may not work for every organization and welcomed the opportunity to exchange experiences with his fellow Commissioners during the session.

### **United States of America**

21. Commissioner Tom Tidwell, Chief of the US Forest Service, outlined three general trends with respect to forests and forest management that are occurring across the United States. First, forested landscapes are at risk of losing their ability to take up and store carbon. In the next 50 years, the United States is expected to lose up to 12 million hectares of forest

land due to conversion to development, especially as urban areas expand. This is placing pressure on the survival of thousands of species of forest associated plants and animals. Due to climate change, there have been rising disturbances from insects, diseases, and wildfires. In addition, many forests in the eastern United States are reaching maturity. This and the aforementioned forest disturbances are affecting carbon uptake and storage. Overall, US forests are losing their ability to take up and store carbon; subsequently, more greenhouse gases remain in the atmosphere.

22. Another trend that Commissioner Tidwell highlighted is the growing urban population and the need to look at urban and community forests as a valuable resource. Urban areas make up about 3percent of the land area but contain 3.8 billion trees (40 million ha). The benefits of urban and community forests include energy savings from cooling costs, improved air quality, carbon storage, storm water runoff, noise reduction, community and human well-being and an increase in green jobs. For every dollar invested in urban forest management, the returns range from \$1.37 to \$3.09 USD. It is therefore important to engage in urban and community forest management and environmental programs.

23. Lastly, Commissioner Tidwell discussed ecological restoration. The US Forest Service is working with multiple partners across shared landscapes to protect forests from land use conversion and help them adapt to climate-related stresses and disturbances highlighted above. Examples of projects include the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, the Watershed Condition Framework, the Forest Legacy Program, etc.

### **Reaction to country presentations**

24. In response to the presentations Director Muller noted the achievements of Mexico in the area of community forestry and sought further information on its recent progress. She recalled FAO's earlier work on the evolution of forest institutions and noted the importance of the engagement of staff in the institutional changes. She underlined the importance of urban forestry and of forest restoration and noted that successful restoration requires a landscape approach.

25. In response to the country presentations, Commissioner Tidwell noted the importance Mexico has placed on forests. The increase in budget in this sector, the country's leadership in forest inventory and monitoring and its active management of forests are to be commended. Commissioner Tidwell acknowledged the challenges that Canada faces and commended Commissioner Mason in his efforts to make his organization more resilient and nimble to change through flexible budget allocations, an integrated and nimble workforce and anticipation of emerging issues that the country's forest and forest management may face. He also agreed that investment in IT data security was essential in the face of increasing data security risks.

26. In response to the country presentations, Commissioner Mason commended Commissioner Tidwell for highlighting the relevance of urban forests as an important resource. He also acknowledged the leadership and capacity of the US in the area of urban forestry and expressed interest in using the NAFC as a forum for advancing shared capacity in urban and community forests within North America. He applauded Mexico for their investments in industry innovation, indicating that in Canada, such investments have had multiple benefits to the forest sector. In addition, Commissioner Mason underlined the importance of Mexico's focus on climate change, wildland fires and restoration, noting that these are key areas of work that have relevance within North America.

### **FAO**

27. Director Muller reported on recent developments in FAO, including the outcomes of the most recent sessions of the FAO Conference and Council. She informed about FAO's

work related to the Sustainable Development Goals, noting that 14 of the 17 Goals are of high relevance to the work of FAO and supporting their implementation through the five Strategic Objectives is a key priority. She recalled that other priorities included: Climate change, nutrition, and statistics – all relevant to forestry. She further informed about the new structure of the Forestry Department and the appointment of the new ADG for Forestry. The secretary gave a brief account of the actions taken in response to the recommendations of the last session of the Commission and thanked Commission members for their support to the work of FAO.

28. Barbara Tavora-Jainchill of the UNFF Secretariat recalled the growing importance of the regional cooperation in the context of UNFF and noted that RFCs were seen as an important channel to help convey regional messages to the Forum and as key partners in enhancing regional work.

29. Commissioners welcomed the information on the progress made in implementing previous decisions of the Commission. They also welcomed FAO's support to the work of the Working Groups.

30. Commissioner Tidwell thanked FAO for all their hard work in accomplishing a heavy work load in the past year and half, in particular in the midst of considerable internal changes within FAO. He reiterated the US concerns expressed during FAO Council. As forests play a critical role in reaching the goals of the SDGs, UNFF, and the Paris climate agreement, he stressed the need to maintain the technical capacity of FAO on forests. He underscored the importance of the decision taken by FAO Council for an independent “assessment” in order to fully understand the impact of the recent organizational and budgetary changes.

31. Commissioner Mason acknowledged and congratulated the efforts of FAO in advancing the recommendations from the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the NAFC, in particular, the work relating to the Forest Resources Assessment, the financial support for selected working group activities, the overall cooperation with the regional forestry commissions and the SFM Toolbox. He also indicated that Canada would like to see a change in the definition of primary forest by FAO for the 2020 Global Forest Resources Assessment, noting that it was not possible for countries to report consistently on primary forests using the current definition as it did not translate into a measurable property or set of properties that could be evaluated consistently across global forest types. He noted that FAO has important convening and leadership capacity in this area and as well as FAO, through the FRA, Canada planned to take this issue up in the weeks and months ahead.

32. Commissioner Rescala welcomed the endorsement, by the FAO Council and Conference, of the FAO Strategic Framework. In this regard, recognizing that forestry was a cross cutting issue in the FAO Strategic Framework and its potential to contribute to achieve its Strategic Objectives, he recommended strengthening collaboration with other sectors in order to promote sustainable rural development.

33. Noting the recent changes in the structure of the FAO Forest Department, Commissioner Rescala reiterated the decision of the Council on carrying out a medium term assessment of the impact of this reorganization in achieving the Strategic Objectives of the Organization.

34. While commending FAO for its work towards increasing the recognition of the forest sector in different international fora, he requested FAO to continue doing so, taking into consideration new developments in the global policy influencing the forest sector, such as the Paris Agreement, the Agenda 2030 and the process for developing the Strategic Plan of the International Arrangement on Forests.

35. Commissioner Rescala supported the work of FAO on the Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox and the recommendation for continuing with its development and promoting its use, encouraging relevant stakeholders to contribute with information on successful cases and available tools. Particularly, Mexico would review how to contribute further with relevant information to this toolbox.
36. Regarding the Global Action Plan for Conservation, Use and Development of Genetic Resources, Commissioner Rescala supported FAO's recommendation to encourage country members to implement it as well as to support their efforts by providing technical assistance according to their national circumstances.
37. Commissioner Rescala welcomed the appointment of Mr. René Castro Salazar as the new Assistant Director-General for the FAO Forestry Department and suggested to send, on behalf of the Commission, a congratulatory letter to the new ADG.

#### **REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATES (Item 4)**

38. The presentation is available on the website.
39. Alternate Val Mezainis, Director of the International Programs of the US Forest Service, congratulated Mexico on having chaired the Bureau of Alternates for the past two years. During CONAFOR's strong leadership, many activities have been successfully completed.
40. Commissioner Rescala recognized the work of Rick Scott as liaison for the Working Groups and thanked the United States for supporting his participation. He also emphasized that in the case of Mexico, the appointment of a national liaison for the Working Groups helped to improve communication and following up of recommended actions. He also commended the work of the Bureau of Alternates as a means for facilitating consultation among the three countries in support of the North American representative at the COFO Steering Committee and recommended the Bureau of Alternates to continue to provide such support the NAFC Chair. Finally, he encouraged the Bureau of Alternates and working group members to increase their communication efforts in the period between their face-to-face meetings.

#### **REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUPS (Item 5)**

##### **5.1 Atmospheric Change**

41. The presentation of the Working Group is available on the website.
42. Commissioner Tidwell and Alternate Mezainis both congratulated Richard Birdsey on the work that this Working Group has done and Birdsey's leadership over the past few years. They both recommended that the Working Group allow the Bureau of Alternates time to review the proposal to amend their charter and recommend new members.
43. Commissioner Mason acknowledged the importance the Working Group had placed on developing a new strategic plan. He also recommended the Bureau of Alternates to follow-up with the Working Group to ensure membership was active and expertise aligned with the revised strategic direction.
44. Commissioner Rescala also congratulated Richard Birdsey on his work and recognized the effort of this Working Group to engage with other regional initiatives with similar objectives. He recommended including climate change adaptation in the new WG Strategic and Work Plans, and to identify, in consultation with the Bureau of Alternates, relevant working group members.

45. Commissioner Rescala informed about the designation of Enrique Serrano as the new Working Group chair on behalf of Mexico.

46. The secretariat pledged FAO's further involvement in the working group's development of a Strategic Plan. It suggested that the working group take stock of the climate change-related work under way in other working groups, take these into consideration when developing the Strategic Plan and liaise closely with these working groups to ensure coordinated and synergistic efforts in climate change by NAFC. The secretariat noted that FAO's work on methodologies to assess the trees outside forest (TOF) resource could be useful in the working group's plans to include TOF in its next forest biomass map of North America. It further noted that FAO's work on developing a programme on climate resilience in upland watershed could be relevant to the working group's activities on climate change and water stress.

## **5.2 Fire Management**

47. The presentation of the Working Group is available on the website.

### **5.2.1 Strategy for Strengthening International Cooperation on Fire Management**

48. The presentation of the Strategy is available on the website.

49. Commissioner Tidwell recognized the continued success and energy of this Working Group. On the subject of strengthening international cooperation globally, Commissioner Tidwell raised the question on who would be responsible for this effort: NAFC or FAO.

50. Commissioner Mason complemented the Working Group for the many activities that were completed since the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the NAFC as well as for the leadership the Working Group was demonstrating through the proposed Strategy. He raised the question of whether there was a financial request or requirement associated with the proposed Strategy. Kim Connors, Executive Director of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre clarified that the first phase of the strategy could be advanced without financial support as its focus was to provide a coordination role where capacities and activities within North America would be identified and shared to improve the efficiencies and effectiveness of Working Group members. Based on progress and success of this first phase, it was suggested that financial support might be sought in the future.

51. Commissioner Rescala commended the Working Group for its consistent work and for expanding the collaboration beyond the North American region. He supported the Strategy and committed CONAFOR for leading its implementation in the Latin American region with support from Canada and US; he also recommended continuing promoting participation of members of the Latin American and the Caribbean Forestry Commission at the Working Group meetings to the extent possible.

52. The secretariat reported that FAO's forest fire officer had recently moved to FAO's sub-regional office for Central America and that FAO was in the process of recruiting a wildfire expert as a consultant to lead the work of FAO on wildfires until the position could be filled. She noted that FAO's recent priority areas of work on wildfires included: community-based forest fire management; data collection, including a 10-year series of data on global burned areas amassed by FRA 2015 and published in the Journal of Ecology and Management; and participation and coordination of international efforts related to forest fires, including serving on the International Liaison Committee to support the planning of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Wildfire Conference in Brazil 2019.

### **5.3 Forest Genetic Resources**

53. The presentation of the Working Group is available on the website.
54. Commissioner Tidwell noted that the US also struggles with striking the right balance on assisted migration especially in the face of climate change. He noted that all the working groups in some form or fashion were dealing with climate change and that the BOA may need to find ways to coordinate this cross-cutting issue across the working groups. Commissioner Tidwell recognized this Working Group's efforts and the loss of membership recently. He reminded the Working Group to work with the Bureau of Alternates and the Commissioners in identifying new members.
55. Commissioner Mason expressed his appreciation for the good work plan and having the right people as members of the Working Group - two key elements that helped to address the complex work of Forest Genetic Resources. Alternate Peter Besseau, Director of International Affairs Division of the Canadian Forest Service, also raised the importance of communicating working group activities and successes to a larger audience and recommended that all working groups try to make their work more accessible to others.
56. Commissioner Rescala congratulated the Working Group on its work, recognizing, as a good practice, its approach to organize events for scientific and technical exchanges at their meetings.
57. He recommended to the Working Group to identify and include in its work program, specific actions to contribute, both nationally and regionally, to the implementation of the Global Action Plan for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources. Furthermore, he recommended to the Working Group to assist the regional network on forest genetic resources upon request.
58. The secretariat reported that FAO had recently recruited Mr. Jarkko Koskela as the forest genetic resources and biodiversity officer. During his previous position at Bioversity International, Mr. Koskela was the Coordinator of the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN). The secretariat informed the Commission that FAO will ask countries to report (in late 2017 or early 2018) on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (GPA-FGR). The results of the assessment will be presented to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 2019. As many of the WG's past and planned activities contribute, directly or indirectly, to the implementation of the GPA-FGR, it would be useful if the WG mapped its activities to the strategic priorities of the GPA-FGR and identified additional WG activities that would contribute to the implementation of the GPA-FGR. The WG has an important role to play in strengthening the North American region's work in forest genetic resources. The WG may wish to consider developing a regional conservation strategy for FGR as a contribution to the implementation of the GPA-FGR, as networks in other regions are doing.

### **5.4 Forest Insects, Diseases and Invasive Plants**

59. The presentation of the Working Group is available on the website.
60. Commissioner Tidwell appreciated the outstanding work this Working Group continues to provide. Given increased global trade, the need for this Working Group is paramount due to the potential and real diseases and insects that do not recognize borders.
61. Commissioner Mason echoed the comments of Commissioner Tidwell, indicating that as neighboring countries with close trade relationships, the work amongst working group members in the area of forest insects, disease and invasive plants was extremely important.

Commissioner Mason also appreciated the working groups' efforts to specifically follow up on several of the recommendations from the 27<sup>th</sup> Session. He also acknowledged the important work completed to revise the strategic plan and work objectives as a means of ensuring clarity around what the Working Group was trying to achieve.

62. Commissioner Rescala requested Working Group members to further advance the development and adoption of their strategic plan and work program in consultation with the Bureau of Alternates, requesting them to analyze the establishment of a forest invasive species network.

63. The secretariat informed the Commission that FAO was proposing to each regional forestry commission the establishment of a forest invasive species network. The NAFC, through its Working Group of Forest Insects and Diseases and Invasive Species, may wish to consider establishing such a network, liaising with FAO's forest health officer, Ms. Shiroma Sathyapala. The secretariat noted the working group's efforts to investigate possible collaboration with the Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN), and indicated that FAO would welcome the participation of the members of NAFC at the upcoming workshop of APFISN in Manila in February 2016.

### **5.5 Forest, Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment**

64. The presentation of the Working Group is available on the website.

65. Commissioner Tidwell congratulated the Working Group on the completion of the North American Forest Database. He recognized the importance of this database for its scalability and its ability to help other regional forestry commissions. According to the Working Group, the database also captured data on both direct and indirect jobs.

66. Commissioner Mason also congratulated the Working Group for its leadership in the development of a North American regional unified database and encouraged the Working Group to pursue future work that continued to be scalable and incorporate additional variables. Commissioner Mason also noted the draft pamphlet of the North American Forest Resources Assessment that Dr. Serrano presented was an good example of what Alternate Peter Besseau suggested earlier – a communication piece aimed at making this good work more accessible to a larger audience.

67. Commissioner Rescala thanked the Working Group for the completion of the North American Database, recognizing its value to further promote recognition of the forest sector at both regional and national level. He also encouraged Working Group members to continue their collaboration with FAO in the future development of FRA in order to adequately reflect the contribution of the forest sector to environmental and socio-economic development at national and regional levels.

68. Regarding the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring, Commissioner Rescala encouraged Working Group members to maintain their collaboration with FAO in order to support its development and dissemination.

69. The secretariat congratulated the Working Group on its accomplishments and recognized the importance of their input to the forest resources assessment both in terms of data and expertise, noting that the continued contribution of the Working Group in the new phase of FRA would be of high relevance.

### **5.6 Silviculture**

70. The presentation of the Working Group is available on the website.

71. The United States congratulated this Working Group for its renewed energy and commitment. He noted that there were silvicultural best practices that were not species specific and that it would be good if the working group could capture these overarching best practices and concepts, so that their work and knowledge could assist a broader range of practitioners. Alternate Mezainis noted the leadership and task oriented activities that have led to the success of this Working Group.

72. Commissioner Mason recalled that similar to the last session of the NAFC, the Working Group was challenged to ensure alignment of silviculture issues that were of interest to the three countries. He was pleased to see that there had been concrete and valuable advances over this past term and noted that the Working Group remained committed to delivering on this challenge. He also noted he was pleased to learn that Canadian provinces, academia and the private sector were engaged in the recent Working Group meeting and workshop hosted in New Brunswick.

73. Commissioner Rescala supported the Working Group's proposal for organizing an International Workshop on North American Silvicultural Systems: Opportunities and Challenges, to be held in Mexico, and thanked FAO for their financial support in this matter.

74. He also encouraged the Working Group to continue promoting technical exchange as well as formulation of publications relevant for the three countries, aimed to disseminate knowledge in North American silviculture. Furthermore, he recommended the Working Group to support FAO's efforts in the development and dissemination of the Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox.

75. Director Muller stressed the need for examining also the changes in silvicultural practices in the face of climate change and encouraged the Working Group to consider this for the future.

### **5.7 Resiliency (ad hoc)**

76. The presentation of the Working Group is available on the website.

77. Commissioner Tidwell expressed his interest in reading the Working Group's final report. He expressed his concern that the Working Group's focus has shifted away from its original intent of looking at strengthening institutional resiliency. Alternate Mezainis expressed his belief that foresight capacity may be important to an organization's well-being, but what is more important may be its ability to be nimble and react to unforeseen challenges.

78. Commissioner Mason expressed his interest in the area of strengthening institutional resiliency and offered to be personally involved in the ad-hoc Working Group over the next 18 months. He also noted the importance of finalizing the ad-hoc Working Group's report and added a workplan would also be helpful to address the need of a more structured approach. Alternate Besseau highlighted that the ad-hoc Working Group update presented during the Bureau of Alternates meeting in May 2015 generated more questions than answers, in particular, the need to clarify work objectives as the area of ecosystem resiliency was also being introduced as an element of work in addition to institutional resiliency. He suggested that not all resiliency tools were relevant or useable at a regional scale as such it would be important to identify the point of diminishing returns given the unique operating environments of each country organization. He also expressed the need for attention to budgets in order to maximize efficiencies given the green field nature of this work.

79. Acknowledging the progress report, Commissioner Rescala requested the Working Group to finalize the study on future scenarios as soon as possible, recommending virtual or face-to-face meetings to the extent possible, to present main results and delineate future

directions. He also requested the Working Group to discuss their mission and objectives as well as it's a work plan for the coming two years.

80. The secretariat noted that FAO had been doing similar work in the form of regional outlook studies and the experiences gained through this work could also be considered. It further noted the benefits of involving the private sector. The secretariat also noted that institutional resiliency was discussed by the regional forestry commissions and was the key topic of the COFO session in 2009. While recognizing the benefits of involving other countries and use existing platform, such as Megaflorestais, it also suggested that FAO could help coordinate such initiatives.

### **5.8 Urban Forests (ad hoc)**

81. The presentation of the Working Group is available on the website.

82. Commissioner Tidwell expressed his strong interest in this Working Group and encourages its members to meet in person. He has recommended that the US Forest Service organize and host its first meeting in New York City this spring.

83. Commissioner Mason acknowledged the US Forest Service leadership in this important area of work. He further added that while urban forestry was not a major area of strategic focus for CFS, it recognized that its science was applicable to urban forests and would continue to seek ways to make CFS science more accessible and relevant to a broader urban audience.

84. While lauding the establishment of the Working Group, Commissioner Rescala encouraged members to meet in person and supported the proposal of Commissioner Tidwell to organize and host the first meeting of this WG in New York. He also recommended the Working Group to contact FAO to identify synergies and other means of collaboration.

85. The secretariat expressed its strong interest to collaborate with this recently established working group as urban forestry is topic FAO believes to be of high importance in light of continuing urbanization trends worldwide. The secretariat welcomed the offer of the United States to host the first meeting of the Working Group and pledged its support. It informed the Commission of FAO's current work in urban forestry, including the preparation of guidelines for urban forestry (in progress); efforts to raise the profile of urban forestry at the HABITAT III conference (Quito, October 2016) by encouraging its inclusion in conference documents and by organizing a side event on urban forestry; and the convening of a meeting of Asia and Pacific countries in China in April 2016 to explore regional collaboration in this field.

### **5.9 Forest Communicators Network (proposal for initiating a possible working group)**

86. The presentation is available on the website.

87. Commissioner Mason raised the importance of communication but had some questions concerning the value added of a Forest Communicators Network within the North American Region. Commissioner Mason indicated Canada would be open to exploring further and given the US and Mexico were members of COFLAC; which had a Forest Communicators Network, Commissioner Mason expressed interest in his fellow Commissioners views on the value-added of such a network within the NAFC.

88. Commissioner Tidwell shared his fellow Commissioners' concern about the need for this Network for North America.

89. While recognizing the potential contribution of a Regional Forest Communicators Network to further advance dissemination of information and advocacy activities,

Commissioner Rescala recommended the Bureau of Alternates to analyze potential implications and commitments that could arise from establishing this network, as well as for identifying relevant information and messages, expected audiences, means for disseminating information, etc.

90. The secretariat invited careful consideration of additional benefits, including the potential of contributing to shaping global forest communication activities and messages, as well as sharing experiences and help increase capacities in other regions through the network.

91. The Commissioners agreed to mandate the BoA to review the proposal in the light of the discussion, including the potential benefits for other regions and globally, and decide on next steps.

## **FAO ITEMS (Item 6)**

### **6.1 Global Policy Processes**

92. The presentation is available on the website.

93. Commissioner Tidwell underscored the significance of the past year to forests and the vital role forests play in achieving the SDG, UNFF, and Paris Climate agreement goals. He expressed concern with the narrowing of the definition of the employment indicator in FRA 2015. He requested FAO relook at this indicator to include more than 'in the woods' harvesting jobs; as well as explore other socio economic indicators to show forests' contribution to sustainable development. Commissioner Tidwell recognized that while reporting on the relevant SDG's goals will be important, FAO should not sacrifice their role as keeper of the FRA data and that it should maintain a long term view for the FRA (i.e. data consistency, integrity, and reporting streams that make sense in the long run not just to fulfill the SDG process).

94. Commissioner Mason indicated that Canada supported the implementation of the SDGs related to forests. He added Canada would also support using the UN Forest Instrument as a framework for implementing and reporting on the forest-related SDGs, as an important part of a strengthened UNFF. Commissioner Mason highlighted that FAO had an important role both in identifying SDG indicators and efficient ways of measuring them. He also added the FAO had a central role to play in helping countries to implement the SDGs and Agenda 2030 as they relate to forests. He commented on Canada's plans to include forests in its National Determined Contribution (NDC). To that end, Canada was exploring forest-related climate change mitigation opportunities, and encouraged others to do so. For example, Canada was looking at how increasing use of wood in place of other construction products could reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As well, Canadian provinces and territories were working collaboratively with the federal government on developing approaches and information to assist the forest sector in planning for, and adapting to, a changing climate.

95. Finally, Commissioner Mason noted Canada welcomed international efforts – including those of multilateral partners like the FAO - to support the implementation of REDD+, including in the development of national forest monitoring systems. He added, Canada saw these national forest monitoring systems as not only critical to the effective implementation of REDD+, but also important in the development of the new global transparency framework, as was agreed in Paris.

96. Recognizing that recent developments in global forest policy represented a great opportunity for further increasing the recognition of the forest sector, Commissioner Rescala requested FAO to continue to provide support to country members to estimate environmental and socio-economic contribution of the forest sector and also to including SDGs in national

forest planning and in design and implementation of public policies and programs in the forest sector.

97. He also requested FAO to support country members in the discussion on identifying relevant indicators in the forest sector to assess the contributions to the achievement of the SDGs and other recently adopted goals. He called on FAO to continue developing its work to strengthen FRA and SOFO as potential means to contribute to assessing progress in achieving SDGs and other goals relevant for forest sector, in collaboration with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

98. Commissioner Rescala requested FAO to provide assistance to country members in the identification, development, implementation and assessment of climate change mitigation options in the forest sector in order to increase its contribution into the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC).

99. Finally, he recommended FAO to continue its leadership and collaboration in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on the matters abovementioned.

## **6.2 Global and Regional FRA**

100. The presentation is available on the website.

101. Commissioner Mason congratulated the FRA team in Rome for their excellent work in making FRA2015 the most comprehensive global assessment yet. He expressed encouragement to FAO to continue building on the achievements of the FRA – especially the achievements relating to streamlined reporting through collaboration with Criteria & Indicators processes around the world, including the Montreal Process. He also congratulated the Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Working Group for its outstanding contribution to the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment. Commissioner Mason also noted the work that the three countries had done to harmonize their national forest inventory information and to create a regional reporting database as an important advancement. This was an example of the Commission's leadership that other regional forestry commissions were encouraged to follow.

102. Commissioner Tidwell applauded FAO and the region's inventory groups' work on the FRA and the usefulness of looking at the data at a regional scale. He also expressed the need to look at the reasons behind the trends to truly understand the data.

103. Commissioner Rescala encouraged the Forest Inventory and Monitoring Working Group to further strengthen collaboration with FAO, in order to continue the harmonization of forest databases to allow for better comparison of information and changes of main indicators, as well as for supporting national efforts to enhance the capacities of the three countries in forest monitoring, assessment and reporting on the status of their forest resources, both nationally and regionally.

104. The secretariat noted that while FRA revealed good progress on several fields there was a need to look at the broader picture to understand the drivers for major processes. It noted that while there was a steady but slow growth in the economic contribution of the forest sector over the last 25 years, the world's GDP had grown 2.5 times leading to a gradually losing economic weight, having implications on several major developments in the sector. Future FRA's should attempt to capture these developments too.

## **6.3 Gender, Youth and Education**

105. The presentation is available on the website.

106. Commissioner Tidwell and other members of the US delegation provided examples of US work in this area, including domestic efforts to get every 4<sup>th</sup> grader out in nature and summer work programs; as well as US cooperation in the Middle East on innovative youth conservation education conducted via a retrofitted bus and boat transformed into traveling youth education centers. The US delegation also shared their cooperation in developing youth conservation corps training in Honduras to prepare youth for future jobs in the sector. A recommendation was also made by BOA Val Mezainis to encourage volunteerism and use of education systems in place to spread information and education on the value of forests.

107. Commissioner Mason acknowledged the importance of work in this area and highlighted efforts within Natural Resources Canada to promote women in science as the workforce was being renewed. He also suggested the importance of broadening this area of work to include indigenous peoples as many first nations live in forest communities.

108. Commissioner Rescala encouraged FAO to continue providing support to country members to strengthen their capacities for integrating gender and youth matters into their national forestry planning processes, including in the design and implementation of forest policies and programs.

109. In regards to forest education, Commissioner Rescala supported FAO to promote the work of the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge adopted at COFO 22, with the aim to produce recommendations for the re-design or update education and training programs of forestry professionals, taking into account national circumstances of FAO country members.

110. Director Muller recalled that major differences existed among the FAO regions and noted the achievements of the NAFC member countries. She further recalled the increasing collaboration with youth, in particular through the International Forest Students Association that resulted, among others, in a major input to the World Forestry Congress. She noted the considerable decrease in resources of forest education while challenging remained or grew. She also noted the relevance of FAO's gender policy and that gender was a cross cutting area in the work of the organization. She suggested that countries continued to give advice to FAO on all the three areas of gender, youth and education.

#### **6.4 Forest and Landscape Restoration**

111. The presentation is available on the website.

112. Commissioner Mason noted that with a close to zero deforestation rate, Canada was not viewed as a strong candidate for landscape level forest restoration pledges under the Bonn Challenge. However, at a small scale, restoration programs have been conducted and there was increasing interest in sharing CFS' science on climate modeling, wildland fire, mine reclamation, and other important areas of interest to restoration efforts elsewhere. In addition, as host to the International Model Forest Network Secretariat, Canada has had a long history of supporting integrated, landscape level approaches to natural resource management. He added, Canada would be pleased to see greater linkages and cooperation between IMFN and the FLR Mechanism on the ground. He also highlighted that Alternate Peter Besseau is Chair of GPFLR and a member of the FLR Mechanism Advisory Group – an in-kind contribution of his time and expertise Canada was pleased to provide as a way of supporting these valuable initiatives. Commissioner Mason concluded by affirming Canada supports the four recommendations to FAO as outlined in the meeting document.

113. Commissioner Tidwell appreciated the FLR mechanism work accomplished thus far. He noted that the US has restored 9 million hectares of forest since 2011 – more than half way to the US commitment under the Bonn Challenge goal. He also emphasized that it was important to stress the multiple benefits restoration can bring, not only to forest health, but also biodiversity and job creation. He noted that at the upcoming IUCN World Congress in

September 2016, IUCN has asked the US government to co-host a high level panel on the Bonn Challenge and FLR. He encouraged FAO to reach out to their relevant IUCN forestry colleagues to ensure that FAO is engaged in the event and to share the achievements of the FLR mechanism.

114. Commissioner Rescala reminded that CONAFOR would restore one million hectares by 2018 as its contribution to Mexico's commitment to 20x20 Initiative adopted at Climate Change COP20 in Lima, Peru. Furthermore, he informed that CONAFOR's progress to date was about 58 percent of its goal.

115. Commissioner Rescala supported the FAO FLR mechanism, requesting FAO to assist country members in their planning and implementation of restoration activities at national level. He further requested strengthening its collaboration with relevant international initiatives and organizations in order to increase its capacities for technical assistance and to develop financing opportunities, including with the private sector, for increasing effective restoration of forest landscapes.

116. The secretariat applauded the Commission members' efforts in forest and landscape restoration and their contributions to meeting global and regional goals. It acknowledged the outstanding work of Peter Besseau as Chair of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration and thanked him for serving on the Advisory Group of the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM). It assured the Commission that FAO is working in close collaboration with IUCN and of its intention to take the opportunity of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016 to increase the visibility of FLR and of the work of the FLRM

#### **6.5 XIV World Forestry Congress: Review of key outcomes and messages**

117. The presentation is available on the website.

118. Commissioner Tidwell expressed appreciation to FAO for all its efforts on the XIV World Forestry Congress. He underscored the importance of having opportunities like the WFC to facilitate dialogue and a common vision for the forestry community globally. In particular, he found that the three priority points outlined in the presentation allowed for a succinct understanding of what came out of the Congress. Commissioner Tidwell emphasized that FAO had a critical role in developing positive messages on the role and contributions on forests, especially on how forests contribute economically.

119. Commissioner Mason congratulated the FAO on its excellent organization of the XIV World Forestry Congress. He welcomed the outcome documents and expressed interest in continuing to work with partners in not only disseminating the outcomes of the Congress in other fora as appropriate, but also, working together to respond to the recommendations made regarding the role of forests in achieving the SDGs, and addressing the global issue of climate change. Commissioner Mason also recommended that the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry build on the good work accomplished at the World Forestry Congress.

120. Commissioner Rescala expressed his recognition to the Government of South Africa and FAO for their work in organizing the WFC. He also recognized the important role of the WFC and FAO in disseminating relevant information about contribution of the forest sector to the socio-economic well-being of forest dependent communities; exchanging scientific and technical knowledge, experiences and lessons learned; and supporting countries in their efforts to build or strengthen technical and institutional capacities.

121. Director Muller appreciated the encouragement for developing positive messages and noted that this was exactly one of the reasons why the establishment of a forest communicators network for North America was suggested.

**FORESTRY ACTIVITIES/EVENTS OF INTEREST TO THE REGION (Item 7)****A. 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Cancun, Mexico, 2016).**

122. Commissioner Rescala recalled that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological would have its next meeting in Cancun in December 2016 under the theme “Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Well-being”. He informed that a High Level Segment would be convened and organized in four thematic areas for analyzing biodiversity mainstreaming in Forestry, Fisheries, Agriculture and Tourism. He underscored the importance of this event to further increase recognition of the forest sector for biodiversity conservation and enhancement of ecosystem services for well-being. He presented the promotional video of the meeting and invited members’ participation.

123. Commissioner Mason highlighted that Canada looked forward to participating actively in the CBD COP in Mexico in December but noted that Environment Canada was the lead department and as such the Canadian Forest Service would remain engaged in a supportive role.

124. Commissioner Tidwell expressed appreciation to Mexico for hosting the next CBD and assured the commission that there would be US representation at the meeting. He also underscored the important role FAO could play at the upcoming COP to ensure forests’ contribution to conservation and biological diversity was adequately recognized.

125. The secretariat noted while the lead responsibility in FAO did not lie with the Forestry Department it would make substantive contribution to the preparations and be represented at the event.

**REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) AND PRIORITIES FOR FAO’S WORK IN FORESTRY (Item 8)**

126. The presentation is available on the website.

127. Commissioner Mason expressed appreciation for the many recommendations made by other regional forestry commissions and suggested the value added from the NAFC might be to simplify and clarify priorities rather added additional suggestions. He also highlighted Canada did not object to any of the recommendations suggested by the other RFCs, other than the LACFC suggestion (#4, Table b), for COFO to discuss a Global Forest Fund which Canada and perhaps many other countries could not support. He added that Canada would support sharing the NAFC’s recommendations with the other regional forestry commissions and that in light of recent developments such as the new FAO Strategic Framework, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change, Canada would support a recommendation that the FAO revise the Strategy for Forests and Forestry.

128. Commissioner Tidwell recognized the already extensive list of recommendations made by other regional forestry commissions. In an attempt to help further the process of prioritization, he identified from the existing list items which he felt were of higher priority. He also added a recommendation that adequate attention be given to carrying out the independent “assessment” of the recent organizational changes to FAO. He also supported the recommendation for a revised and updated FAO forestry strategy.

129. Taking into account recent developments on global forest policy, Commissioner Rescala proposed to include in COFO agenda the following items:

- a) the role of FAO and COFO in developing appropriate indicators to monitor progress towards the achievement of SDGs and other goals relevant to the forest sector, taking into account contributions of FRA and SOFO initiatives for this purpose;
- b) promoting inter-sectoral and inter-institutional coordination and collaboration under an approach of sustainable rural development to jointly address matters related to poverty alleviation, food and nutritional security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and conservation and sustainable use of forest resources; and
- c) means for an effective contribution of the forest sector to achieving the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, including the Paris Agreement.

130. The Commissioners requested the secretariat to consider the action recommendations and translate them into the respective template and attach it to the current report as Annex 1, 2 and 3.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 9)**

131. The following officers were elected by the Commission to hold office during the forthcoming biennium:

Chairperson:	Glenn Mason (Canada)
First Vice-Chairperson:	Tom Tidwell (United States of America)
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Jorge Rescala Perez (Mexico)

132. Bureau of Alternates positions were reaffirmed as follows:

Peter Besseau (Chairperson)	- Canada
Val Mezainis	- United States of America
Francisco Quiroz	- Mexico

#### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING (Item 10)**

133. Canada offered to host the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission, noting its preference for a session in Autumn 2017. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer to host the next meeting.

134. The exact dates and venue of the meeting would be determined in consultation with the host country.

135. The Commission charged the BoA and the secretariat with advising the NAFC on a precise date and location of the 29<sup>th</sup> session.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Item 11)**

136. The Commission adopted the report as amended.

#### **CLOSURE OF THE SESSION (Item 12)**

137. The Commissioners extended their thanks and sincere appreciation to Commissioner Rescala, the Government of Mexico and the authorities of the State of Campeche and, in particular, CONAFOR and its staff for their excellent hosting a successful session of NAFC. They warmly thanked Mr Rescala for his very able chairing of NAFC during the past two years and during the 28<sup>th</sup> Session.

138. Commissioner Rescala expressed his appreciation to their fellow Commissioners for their support during his chairmanship and closed the session.



**Annex 1****NAFC recommendations for the attention of COFO (issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)**

<i>Priority issues for COFO to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information/discussion/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
1. The role of FAO and COFO in developing appropriate indicators to monitor progress towards the achievement of SDGs and other goals relevant to the forest sector	Discussion/decision	Guidance for FAO and members	EFC5, NEFRC1
2. Cross-sectoral collaboration to address poverty alleviation, food and nutritional security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and conservation and sustainable use of forest resources	Discussion/decision	Guidance for FAO and members	LACFC1-3
3. Contribution of the forest sector to achieving the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, including the Paris Agreement.	Discussion/decision	Guidance for FAO and members	EFC1, EFC3, NEFRC2
4. Revision and update of the Forestry Strategy	Discussion/decision	Guidance for FAO to strengthen the contribution of forests and forestry to sustainable development	EFC7
5. Global forest fund to support countries in implementing international agreements on the issue	Objection	Should not be on the agenda of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Session	LACFC4

**Annex 2****NAFCFC recommendations for the attention of the IRC**

<i>Priority issues for the RC to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information/discussion /decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for FAO)</i>
1. Cross-sector agendas that link agriculture/livestock issues with forestry/environmental issues, taking a holistic approach	Discussion	
2. Independent “assessment” of the recent organizational changes to FAO <i>(recommended during the 153<sup>rd</sup> Session of the FAO Council)</i>	Discussion	

### Annex 3

#### NAFC recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session

<i>Area/ action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (High, Medium, Low, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued,</i>	<i>Level of action (sub-regional/ regional./global)</i>	<i>Strategic Objective (1-5)</i>
Expedite work on FRA2020 including terms and definitions		Continued	global	SO2
Continue its work towards increasing the recognition of the forest sector in different international fora		Continued	global	SO1-5
Continue the development of the SFM Toolbox		Continued	global	SO2, 4
Help countries to implement the SDGs and Agenda 2030 as they relate to forests.		New	global	SO1-5
Continue to provide support to country members to estimate environmental and socio-economic contribution of the forest sector and to including SDGs in national forest planning and in design and implementation of public policies and programs in the forest sector.		Continued	global	SO1-5
Provide assistance to country members in the identification, development, implementation and assessment of climate change mitigation options in the forest sector in order to increase its contribution into the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)		New	global	SO2
Continue its leadership and collaboration in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests		Continued	global	SO1-6
continue providing support to countries to strengthen their capacities for integrating gender and youth matters into their national forestry planning processes, including in the design and implementation of forest policies and programs		Continued	Global	SO2-3
to promote the work of the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge to produce recommendations for the re-design or update education and training programs of forestry professionals		New	Global	SO2
Assist country members in their planning and implementation of restoration activities at national level in particular through activities of the FRL Mechanism		Continued	Global	SO2
Implement the recommendations contained in FO/NAFC/2016/08		Continued	Global	SO2
Develop positive messages on the role and contributions on forests, especially on how forests contribute economically		Continued	Global	SO1-5

## AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
  - 1.1 Introductions
  - 1.2. Opening remarks
  - 1.3 Review of the agenda and logistics
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Country Reports
  - 3.1 Canada
  - 3.2 USA
  - 3.3 Mexico
  - 3.4 FAO
4. Report of the Bureau of Alternates
5. Review of the Activities of the Working Groups
  - 5.1 Atmospheric Change
  - 5.2 Fire Management
    - 5.2.1 Strategy for Strengthening International Cooperation on Fire Management
  - 5.3 Forest Genetic Resources
  - 5.4 Forest Insects and Diseases and Invasive Plants
  - 5.5 Forest Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment
  - 5.6 Silviculture
  - 5.7 Resiliency (ad hoc)
  - 5.8 Urban Forests (ad hoc)
  - 5.9 Forest Communication Network (proposal for initiating a possible working group)
6. FAO Items
  - 6.1 Global Policy Processes
  - 6.2 Global and Regional FRA
  - 6.3 Gender, Youth and Education
  - 6.4 Forest and Landscape Restoration
  - 6.5 XIV World Forestry Congress: Review of key outcomes and messages.
7. Forestry Activities / Events of Interest to the Region
  - 7.1 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Cancun, Mexico, 2016).
8. Regional Issues Identified by the Commission for the attention of COFO and FAO
9. Election of officers
10. Date and place of the next session
11. Adoption of the Report
12. Closing Ceremony

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No Non-Member Countries participated in this session.

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*ANNEX C***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

<b>FO:NAFC/2016/1</b>	Provisional Agenda
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/2</b>	Report of the Bureau of Alternates
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/3.1</b>	Report of the Atmospheric Change and Forest Working Group
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/3.2</b>	Report of the Fire Management Working Group
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/3.3</b>	Strategy for strengthening international cooperation on Fire Management
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/3.4</b>	Report of the Forest Genetic Resources Working Group
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/3.5</b>	Report of the Forest Insects and Diseases and Invasive Plants Working Group
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/3.6</b>	Report of the Forest Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Working Group
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/3.7</b>	Report of the Silviculture Working Group
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/3.8</b>	Report of the Resiliency ad hoc Working Group
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/3.9</b>	Report of the Urban Forests Working Group
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/3.10</b>	Proposal for establishing a North American Forest Communicators Network
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/4</b>	Report on progress in implementing previous decisions
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/5</b>	Global Policy Processes
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/6</b>	Analysis of results of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 for North America
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/7</b>	Gender, Youth and Education
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/8</b>	Forest and Landscape Restoration
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/9</b>	XIV World Forestry Congress: Review of key outcomes and messages
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/10</b>	Input to FAO Governance
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/Inf.1</b>	Provisional timetable
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/Inf.2</b>	List of Documents
<b>FO:NAFC/2016/Inf.3</b>	Information note for participants

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

*ANNEX D*

Canada  
Mexico  
United States of America