

15.9.2017

## **Preliminary comments from the European Union and its 28 member states on CFS Policy Convergence Process on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition to be adopted by CFS 44**

We welcome the report of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. The report as well as its summary and recommendations present the role of forests and trees for FSN in an extensive manner. We thank all the contributors for the work which provides a comprehensive view of the theme.

We support the Rapporteur's approach to agree on a limited number of key messages and support a focus on the relationship between sustainable forest management and food security and nutrition. We believe we can substantially reduce the number of recommendations or key messages by having a clearer focus and by avoiding overlaps. We are happy to provide concrete suggestions. In general, existing, previously agreed language should be used whenever possible.

A key message should certainly be the aim to increase cooperation between FSN experts and forest experts, which would create the necessary value added from the process. The target should be to generate impact to help to integrate FSN and forest policy targets.

The UN forest process after the Rio Conference 1992, i.e. UN Forum on Forests and UN Forest Instrument and UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 should be duly taken into account as a basis for all forest policy work. Also a strong link to Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT) should be acknowledged as well as other relevant work like the EU-FAO Policy Guidance Note 3 on Forestry Policy for better FSN results, REDD+ and the FAO Report on the state of global forest genetic resources. It would also be important to take into account the commitments made concerning conservation of biological diversity, inter alia, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Climate change questions and the Paris climate agreement also have a highly important connection to the theme as forests have an essential role in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and hence to climate-induced global food security.

The gender dimension should be given stronger attention in the outcome of the process. The nexus between women, agriculture, food security and nutrition and forestry deserve more visibility and emphasis. Especially the problems how women get finance and extension services, what are their ownership and user rights and how they can participate in decision making should be tackled. Moreover, the issues of how to support livelihoods for rural youth and of private sector partnerships deserve due attention.

Agroforestry is a central issue in FSN and requires appropriate attention in the messages or recommendations. This should be taken into account also in terminology, instead of forests and forestry "forests and trees" would be a more appropriate term.

Like all the other CFS processes, the general framework in which the policy recommendations are going to be developed and elaborated is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For this reason, without weighing the document down, it looks appropriate to include references to the SDGs and Targets we are addressing with the recommendations. This inclusion would enhance the CFS capacity to look into crosscutting and multidimensional issues that are characterized by interlinkages and nexus between SDG2 and other SDGs' targets.