

U.S. Comments
December 18, 2018

COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)
SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
Intersessional Event

U.S. Comments

- 1) While we do not object to the substance of the proposed event, we do not believe CFS has sufficient resources to adequately conduct this intersessional event.
- 2) Both CFS plenary and the CFS evaluation have called for a more focused workload for CFS. Given the current high number of intersessional meetings, we do not believe there are adequate resources in terms of members' time to have this event. As already highlighted at CFS45 and at the recently concluded 160th session of the FAO Council, the United States would like to reiterate the importance of prioritizing workstreams within the available budget and human resources, ensuring that CFS remains focused on activities **within its means**. The United States believes that we must decrease the intersessional meetings, which far exceed the sessions of all other FAO committees. Decreasing intersessional meetings will focus CFS on key issues and activities and allow for broader and more engaged stakeholder participation on main priorities.
- 3) The United States would like to recall that the event was always subject to the scope of available resources of CFS. We do not have specific objections on the substance and/or the main goal of the event (i.e. provide an open space to discuss issues some stakeholders felt received insufficient attention during the process). However, given the low attendance of intersessional meetings and the current CFS workload, we encourage the CFS Secretariat and its stakeholders to take a strategic approach toward planning, considering the holistic agenda and goals first.
- 4) The United States would like to recall that plenary never gave its consent to a written outcome process based on this event. This goes far beyond the scope of what was originally proposed for the event and would further add to the costs (time and budgetary) in planning the event.

5) The United States would like to encourage those members and stakeholders who consider the event's topic a priority, to include this proposal in their submission of proposals for CFS MYPOW 2020-2023. This would allow CFS stakeholders to more fully place this topic amongst the list of topics for CFS' consideration and more aptly uphold the spirit of the recent CFS evaluation.