

CFS CHAIR’S PROPOSAL ON THE MEETING ON ISSUES NOT ADDRESSED DURING THE POLICY DISCUSSIONS ON SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

At the last meeting on 23 November, Bureau and Advisory Group Members discussed the possibility to organize a meeting on issues that were not addressed during the CFS policy discussions on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition held in 2017. This follows the debate at CFS 44 in 2017, where the *“Committee encouraged the CFS Bureau to consider convening a specific meeting, inviting the Rome-based Agencies, to discuss the issues that were not sufficiently discussed during the policy convergence process, including the relation between commercial plantations and food security and nutrition, and requested the CFS Secretariat to map the recommendations with relevant SDGs and targets, subject to available resources and the workload of CFS”*.

General support at Bureau and Advisory Group level was expressed on the possibility to organize such a meeting, provided that it does not imply the use of additional human and financial resources and/or any follow-up. Many Bureau Members suggested that a written outcome of the meeting is produced, although no consensus was reached on this point. The option of holding this meeting as an event during CFS 46 was not supported given the already very busy agenda of the next plenary.

In line with the outcomes of that meeting, Bureau and Advisory Group Members were requested to send their inputs on the scope and expected outcomes of this meeting.

Most of the inputs received¹ dealt with the type of outcome of the meeting, the speakers to be invited and the need to provide interpretation while no specific inputs were provided on the content and scope of the event, with no further articulation of the generic focus on the relation between commercial plantations and food security and nutrition.

On the contrary, all the suggestions received imply the use of additional financial resources to cover travel costs of panelists and the interpretation of the event, as well as additional human resources needed to organize it, which goes against the indications previously provided by the Bureau, in both January and in November 2018, that no additional resources should be used.

Furthermore, a Bureau Member expressed their concern about the resource implications of this meeting and the number of CFS intersessional events, and suggested that a proposal regarding this meeting be submitted and discussed in the context of the preparation of the MYPoW 2020-2023. This approach would defer any decision regarding this potential meeting to CFS 46 in October 2019.

¹ All the written inputs submitted by Bureau and Advisory Group Members have been posted in the CFS Working Space: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/bag1819/en/>

As a compromise solution, the CFS Chair suggests that a proposal is sent to the COFO Chair requesting that an item concerning this matter is included in the agenda of the meetings of the FAO Forestry Regional Commissions² taking place in 2019.

The proposal could elaborate more on the scope of the event and the type of issues that need to be addressed in order to provide a clear indication on the expected content of the event. This solution would also have the advantage to strengthen the collaboration and interactions between CFS and COFO, following the 2017 adoption of the policy recommendations on sustainable forestry.

In preparation of the meeting on 28 January, the CFS Chairs warmly invites Bureau and Advisory Group Members to prepare specific suggestions on the scope of the meeting.

Following the discussion with the Advisory Group, the Bureau on 31 January is expected to take a decision on this matter.

² FAO has established six Regional Forestry Commissions that, every two years, bring together the Heads of Forestry in each major region of the world to address the most important regional forestry issues. The Commissions consider both policy and technical issues. The Commissions play a key role in the international arrangement on forests, serving as a link between global dialogue at the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), and national implementation. The Regional Forestry Commissions are also active in-between formal COFO sessions. Most of the Commissions have technical working groups or sub-regional chapters that implement projects that benefit from collaboration among countries in the region.