

25th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members (original language)

Item 8.1 Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Governing Bodies of Interest to the Committee

Member Name	Comments
Australia (25 September)	<p><u>Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia is pleased to note the request of the FAO Council that the FAO prepare technical notes on the financial and technical implications of altering the timing of an FRA. We recognise that this matter will be discussed further through item 4.2, however we have provided these early comments under 8.1 to support discussions. • We see merit in exploring the reporting of some of the indicators at a greater frequency. In particular, we see merit in increasing the frequency of voluntary reporting for data required under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) sub-indicators 15.1.1 and 15.2.1. • We would be grateful for more detailed information on the specifics of the SDG-relevant data under consideration for these more frequent updates. However, we also recognise this proposal may require further investigation with support from country technical experts, with further consider of policy benefits and financial implications. • Australia supports the continuation of the existing five-year cycle for production of a full Global Forest Resources Assessment report, and would not support undertaking the complete FRA assessment every two-years. The five-year cycle aligns with many existing domestic, regional and global reporting processes, as well as the intention of the recent recommendation by the United Nations Forum on Forests to align its reporting cycle with the FRA. <p><u>Sustainable Forest Management - Forest Fires</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia notes the request of the Programme Committee, and similarly from the FAO Regional Conference for Europe, that the FAO enhance work in the area of prevention, prediction and control of forest fires. • Recognising the challenging 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires that Australia faced, we support the intention of this request. However, we suggest it can be refined to reflect the importance of fire in some natural forest ecosystems (Para9(h)), particularly in ecological/forest succession, and turn its focus to the issue of inappropriate fire regimes. • We propose the following text:

	<p><i>... to continue to support Members to prevent, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, and to enhance FAO's work and capacity in the area of prevention, prediction and control of forest fires, dust and haze and emergency issues <u>with consideration for ecological circumstances</u>.</i></p>
Japan (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding the structural change approved at the 164th FAO Council, Japan welcomes the Director-General's ideas to break down the silos and increase efficiency through flattening the organization and enhancing flexibility of internal coordination. However, we recognize the importance of transparency and accountability in management and decision making at international organizations. Such structural change which also causes effects to technical committees including COFO should have been carried with sufficient communication with the members. We are concerning that the series of structural changes would cause inattention of normative works and weaken FAO as a specialized agency in forestry affair. Japan requests FAO to review the result and effect by the structural change on activities in FAO's forestry sector for the next COFO.
USA (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US notes the recent changes approved by Council to the organizational structure of FAO. We emphasize the need for forestry issues to remain visible and the technical capacity of FAO forestry to remain strong and effective in light of these changes, both at headquarters and in the field offices. We request that this concern be reflected in the recommendations of the COFO report.
Indonesia (26 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia appreciates the Secretariat for preparing document COFO/2020/8.1/Rev.1 that compiles decisions and recommendations of the FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee on Forestry, and suggested their relevance to certain COFO25 agenda items.
Turkey (27 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we may suggest that the increased portion of the online meeting budgets be allocated to the study of the impact of the pandemic on FAO bodies study subjects.
Mexico (1 October)	<p><u>Comentarios</u></p> <p>México apoya las recomendaciones sugeridas en el documento COFO/2020/8.1 al Comité Forestal.</p>