

## 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry

### Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members (English version)

#### Item 9.3 Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry for 2020-2023

Member Name	Comments
Japan (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>At COFO25, we do not have much discussion on timber production, which is also an important function of forests. Since the demand for timber in stable and sustainable manner will continuously increase due to the population growth at global scale, we expect that topics, such as improving forestry productivity or reducing silvicultural costs, will be discussed in the future at COFO.</li></ul>
China (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>China affirms and appreciates the work carried out by the Committee on Forestry and the FAO Forestry Department since COFO 24, and has no opposed opinions on the Multi-year Programme of Work. Here, China calls on all Members to actively support the work of the COFO and FAO Forestry Department, attach importance to the important role of forestry and forests in climate change, biodiversity and recovery post COVID-19, and consider forestry as the core of green recovery.</li></ul>
Republic of Korea (25 September)	<p><b>General comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Considering the MYPOW is regularly reviewed and adopted by the Committee, the ROK would like to propose that the MYPOW for 2020-2023 presents what differs from its last MYPOW for 2016-2019 and what the key objectives that require more focus are by analyzing the results, outputs and difficulties in implementation of its last MYPOW for 2016-2019.</li><li>The ROK is fully aware that the main objectives of the MYPOW for 2020-2023 are to review the state of forests and forestry, to make future plans for them, to identify priorities of the Committee's work and lastly to explore opportunities for increasing the efficiency of its work. In that regard, The ROK would like to propose that predicting and responding to the mid and long-term impacts of COVID-19 in forestry need to be regarded as one of priorities of its work.</li><li>Currently, a variety of research and international organizations are now predicting how forests are converted and destroyed, recognizing the severity of food insecurity facing the world. In this respect, the ROK would like to invite FAO and COFO to take the lead in coming up with appropriate measures to address the impacts of deforestation and degradation of forests at a global level.</li></ul>

Indonesia (26 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We appreciate the document that informs the Committee on progress in implementing its Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW), especially for presenting strategy and working method to achieve objectives for 2020-2023, in due consideration of the need to adjust to new realities in a post-COVID-19 world.</li> <li>• Indonesia supports the Committee to adopt the MYPOW 2020-2023 as outlined in this document.</li> <li>• Indonesia supports the adoption of the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry for 2020-2023.</li> </ul>
Brazil (26 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to improve COFO's efficiency, Brazil believes that the MYPOW 2020-2023 should emphasize the need of, and provide the means for, enhanced participation of Rome-based delegations in the inter-sessional processes, including improved interaction between Rome-based delegations and the COFO Steering Committee.</li> <li>• COFO is the only FAO technical committee that does not have a Bureau composed by Rome-based members; instead, it has a Steering Committee formed by representatives of the regional forestry commissions. We recall that the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Forestry, paragraph 4, establish that "Between sessions, the Steering Committee shall facilitate consultation with Members in relation to agendas, formats and other matters, and perform other actions relevant for ensuring preparations for the sessions." We believe this provision is not being adequately followed. An enhanced participation of Rome-based delegations in the inter-sessional processes would likely contribute to the convergence between regional debates and decisions made by Members in FAO's headquarters concerning forestry issues.</li> </ul> <p>In this regard, Brazil proposes the following additions to the MYPOW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In paragraph 8, add a new bullet to the "working methods": "Inter-sessional work of the Steering Committee periodically reported to Rome-based delegations, and consultations arranged if necessary". The reporting and/or consultations could be virtual, either by videoconference or e-mail, in order to minimize costs;</li> <li>• In paragraph 13, add a new bullet to the "working methods": "Activities periodically reported to Rome-based delegations, and inter-sessional consultations arranged if necessary";</li> <li>• In paragraph 15, on "indicators and targets", add the following at the end of the last bullet: "and reporting and/or consulting with Rome-based delegations, as needed, in order to improve inclusiveness";</li> <li>• In paragraph 16, on "outputs", add the following at the end of the last bullet: "available to all COFO Members";</li> <li>• In paragraph 18, on "working methods", add at the end of the last sentence "in consultation with COFO Members."</li> </ul>
Argentina (26 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Argentina support the proposal of the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry for 2020-2023 and in particular would like to highlight the importance of the need for the Committee to explore opportunities for increasing the efficiency of its work and to consider methods of operation that would enable it to better adjust to new realities in a post-COVID-19 world, as stated in paragraph 3.</li> </ul>

Turkey (27 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is suggested that the available resource which could not be used because of Covid pandemic should be devoted/forwarded to impact analysis and research on stimulating the forestry sector in the pandemic environment.</li> </ul>
European Union (28 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.</li> <li>• We thank FAO for the proposal for a new Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry for the years 2020 - 2023 and support it.</li> <li>• As discussed and reviewed during previous Items at this COFO session 2020 it is obvious that the sustainable management of forests play an essential role to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. We believe therefore that FAO should strengthen even more their work in this respect.</li> <li>• Consequently, the EU would also like to see a sufficient budget share of the ordinary FAO budget dedicated to this work and experienced staff in order to perform the tasks.</li> </ul>
Mexico (1 October)	<p><b><u>Comments:</u></b></p> <p>We support the recommendation that the Committee approves the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry for 2020–2023. We consider that the objectives and expected results regarding the strategy for priority setting and budget planning, advice on global policy and regulatory matters, and effective work planning are clear, objective and consistent with the work being done by FAO and the work that the Committee has been doing.</p> <p>Recognizing the simple and clear definition of the indicators, targets and activities and the proposed working methods for each outcome, we suggest that a Gantt chart be included as an annex for a quick overview of the activities that have already been scheduled and that the Committee will undertake during the period in question.</p>