

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

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

#### Item 9.4 Preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress

Member Name	Comments
Australia (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia is grateful to the Republic of Korea that, despite the global COVID-19 pandemic, they have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to hosting a successful XV World Forestry Conference. Their ongoing engagement with interested parties is to be commended.</li> <li>• We welcome the availability of online participation options, as it provides an opportunity for some Members to participate who may be currently, or historically, precluded from physical engagement. The value of incorporating a wide range of voices in the development of the WFC vision document cannot be overstated.</li> <li>• Australia welcomes the advice of the FAO, at the earliest convenience, regarding its intentions for ministerial and/or senior-official programmes at the WFC.</li> <li>• In relation to the suggested action of the Committee for members to identify potential target audiences, we suggest members to look outside of traditional forest management stakeholder groups, including other land users such as those in agriculture, who will be important partners in delivering our goals.</li> </ul>
China (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China appreciates the efforts of Korea as a host country and FAO in preparing XV Forestry Congress in the context of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and will consider sending a high-level delegation to attend the Congress. To facilitate the participation at this critical time, please provide and update information on logistic and COVID-19 prevention policies. In light of the evolving pandemic situation, China would suggest Korea and FAO exploring safe and creative options for organizing this event while ensuring concrete outcomes would be achieved. In case the Congress has to be rescheduled, please avoid scheduling conflicts with other major environmental events next year like CBD CoP15, RAMSAR CoP14 and World Conservation Congress.</li> <li>• China also acknowledges the role of forests and forestry in sustainable development and specifically in rebuilding from COVID-19. Hope this issue would be fully discussed and explored in the Congress to shed light for global green recovery.</li> </ul>
Republic of Korea (25 September)	<p><b>General comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WFC Secretariat teams from FAO and the Republic of Korea, represented by the Korea Forest Service (KFS) will give a presentation (about 7 min.) to provide logistical support and guidance for those who have interest in the Congress to be able to participate with a view to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The Secretariat team from the ROK (KFS) hopes to have fully interactive discussions on this issue by exchanging comments and feedback following the presentation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific comments for suggested actions by the Committee on Forestry</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With regard to the provision of sponsorship, the ROK strongly agrees with the need of sponsorship to be provided by members including in the form of a sponsorship program to encourage more participation.</li> <li>• The ROK would like to propose a new action that invites members to take part in the Congress and engage in special events to be held during the Congress to continue to have in-depth discussions on main agenda items of COFO 25.</li> </ul>
Switzerland (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Switzerland welcomes the efforts of FAO and thanks the Republic of Korea to organize this milestone global event on forests. We would like to emphasize the links between global COVID-19 and forests as well as the role and contributions of forests the Agenda 2030.</li> <li>• We also see the important role of WFC to establish a more effective interface between science, policy, and investment.</li> </ul>
Russian Federation (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The World Forestry Congress is traditionally one of the key events for FAO Member Countries, affording significant opportunities for discussion within the scientific community. To realise the full potential of the Congress, it is crucial to find common language between specialists. In this regard, we would ask why all official languages of FAO have not been chosen for inclusion in the working languages of the Congress, and the principles behind that selection. We would consider it worthwhile to ensure that all Congress events are translated into all official languages of FAO. We would also request information on the possibilities for virtual participation in the Congress.</li> </ul>
Indonesia (26 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indonesia appreciates the proposal for preparing the XV World Forestry Congress.</li> <li>• Indonesia will support the XV World Forestry Congress through the participation and attendance of high-level government officials, the presentation of proposals for matters of national and global interest that may be covered in the Congress deliberations and outcome documents and identification of potential target audiences of the Congress outcomes, including global forest-relevant processes and instruments.</li> <li>• Indonesia wishes that the Republic of Korea, as host country of the Congress and a party to several international instruments and processes, to provide logistical support and guidance for those who have interest in the Congress to be able to participate with a view to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.</li> <li>• Indonesia supports the draft COFO/2020/9.4 as Preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress.</li> </ul>
Argentina (26 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Argentina support the proposed measures by the Forestry Committee.</li> </ul>
Turkey (27 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise awareness it would be helpful to dedicate one or more sessions to Covid-19 and its impact on forestry. There is a QA on The impacts of COVID-19 on the forest sector - how to respond that FAO released</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turkey NEFRC will be chaired for two years and is located in the province of Antalya at the coordination center, including fires, particularly in international forestry training center platform.</li> <li>• In addition, a side event application has been made on the World Forestry Day, and we would like to invite you to the side event.</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 information provided in preparing the XV World Forestry Congress in the Republic of Korea next year. We are especially grateful to the Government of the Republic of Korea for all their efforts to enable a participation from all over the world taking into account the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic situation.</li> <li>• We encourage FAO to present the outcomes of the Congress to the next COFO session and to the Regional Forestry Commissions with a view to use these outcomes where relevant and as appropriate for the work of the organisation in forestry matters.</li> <li>• We support the development of a vision document during the Congress with the understanding that this work will be done in an inclusive and transparent way keeping in mind the character of World Forestry Congresses as a forum for experts from academia, civil society, private sector and governments to share experience and knowledge.</li> </ul>
Peru (28 September)	<p><b><u>Paragraph 14</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main activities being considered in the commitment to halt deforestation, prevent forest degradation and increase forest area through increased investment in forests and forestry-related activities? Will there be a proposal to promote the incentive? Is there a plan to promote agroforestry in areas where there are current agricultural activities as a measure to reduce deforestation? Is there a plan to promote native species and/or non-native species?</li> </ul>
Mexico (1 October)	<p><b><u>Comments:</u></b></p> <p>Mexico has widely publicized the upcoming XV World Forestry Congress through the National Forestry Commission, as well as the call for participation by presenting an overview of their work, posters, videos and holding parallel events during the Congress. We also support the recommendations made in document COFO/2020/9.4 to the Committee on Forestry.</p>