

25th Session of the Committee on Forestry – written correspondence procedure

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

Secretariat response to written questions from the Committee

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments received from Members on item 9.3 of the Agenda - *Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry for 2020-2023*. All comments are well noted.

As presented in paragraph 1 of document COFO/2020/9.3 the Secretariat regularly reported to the Committee and the Council on the implementation of the MYPOW and took into consideration the guidance received. Most notable elements of this guidance include that the Committee:

- welcomed the collaboration between the FAO Technical Committees;
- encouraged FAO and Member Nations to further mainstream the outcome of the Regional Forestry Commissions' meetings into the Regional Conferences;
- take into account the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.

Earlier the Committee also recommended to strengthen the attention to the collaboration and dialogue with the Regional Forestry Commissions.

On the basis of the guidance and the experiences presented in the reports referred to in paragraph 1, the MYPOW 2020-2023 contains a revised overall objective placing emphasis on looking into ways for increasing efficiency of its work and on becoming responsive to the developments in the post-COVID world including in strategy and priority setting, global policy advice and working methods. New elements include:

- In its *Strategy, priority setting, and budget planning* the Committee is suggested to:
 - consider also the outcomes of the XV World Forestry Congress (in spite of the long history of the World Forestry Congresses, no such provision for COFO existed in the past to systematically consider Congress outcomes);
 - take into account developments also in non-FAO bodies, such as the United Nations Forum on Forests, as appropriate;
 - address issues of high priority and emerging issues identified by the Regional Forestry Commissions and the Steering Committee, giving due recognition to issues related to postCOVID-19 recovery and building back better as they relate to forests and forestry;
 - consider the outcomes of the COFO Working Group on Drylands;
 - contribute to the formal and informal coordination mechanisms.
- In *Advise on global policy and regulatory matters* it is suggested that:
 - A revised indicator is included that recommendations of the Committee will be taken up also by relevant regional processes and instruments, as appropriate;
 - As a revised activity the Committee identify and review new and emerging issues in areas pertaining to forests and forestry, giving due recognition also to issues related to post-COVID-19 recovery and building back better;
 - As a revised working method element, regular contacts be maintained with chairpersons in particular of the FAO Technical Committees, as well as FAO senior management.
- In *Effective work planning*

- A revised indicator/target includes that the Committee reports, beyond FAO governing bodies, also to other international processes as appropriate
- A new activity includes, in addition to periodic reviews of the implementation of the MYPOW, the assessment of the impact of the recommendations of the Committee;
- In its *Working methods*:
 - The Committee will give due consideration to implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and develop working methods according to new realities, including consideration of the role and extent of virtual events;