

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

### Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members (original language)

#### Item 8.2 Report on Progress including the Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests

Member Name	Comments
Japan (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japan recognizes UNFF as a platform for policy development and dialogue on all types of forests. In order to make UNFF operate effectively, expert knowledge on forests including specific examples of efforts in forests is needed, and FAO should exert a comparative advantage as a specialized agency at the platform. We expect FAO's continuous leadership as the chair of the CPF to support UNFF on technical aspects.</li> <li>• Japan also expects activity of COFO and the Regional Forestry Committee which can generate synergistic effect and breakdown the global-level policy dialogue at UNFF into regional contexts.</li> <li>• Regarding FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme, Japan stresses importance of strengthening forest related governance, which could support legal and sustainable wood supply chain. To this end, it is important to promote sharing information at international level on countries' legal framework on logging and forest exploitation, and to contribute to improve forest policy at country level. In this regard, Japan is funding to FAO project on this issue since 2018, and also preparing to initiate a new project aiming to collect, analyze and assess information which is useful for private enterprises to check and confirm legality through funding to International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).</li> </ul>
Republic of Korea (25 September)	<p><b>General comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the aim of sharing results and achievements of FAO-led programs and initiatives, the summary reports of the programs and initiatives are submitted to the Council. Therefore, it would be a great opportunity for member countries to deeply understand each FAO's program and initiative and to learn from them.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific comments for suggested actions by the Committee on Forestry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjusting to new realities after COVID-19 pandemic and preventing another pandemic in the future require stronger solidarity and cooperation at a global level. There is need of considering ways to enhance the efficiency of main projects joined by FAO including Mountain Partnership, REDD+ Programme and Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) through strengthened cooperation, and reviewing the linkages between those projects. Therefore, the ROK would like to propose that going beyond just sharing reports submitted by each country, FAO plays a leading role in analyzing projects in a comprehensive way and establishing cooperative strategies.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ROK would also like to ask FAO to foster technical cooperation to take advantage of the Global Core Set in order to draw implications from the Voluntary National Contribution Reports (VNCRs), recognizing the value of VNCRs that are submitted to implement the Global Forests Goals (GFGs) in an efficient way.</li> </ul>
Canada (25 September)	<p><b>Canada supports the requests to FAO.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per paragraph 4, we agree with a strong leadership role for FAO at the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and for exploring new initiatives on forest education and small-holders.</li> <li>We appreciate the continued work on the Tier 2 and 3 indicators of the global core set, as well as progress under the Forest and Farm Facility and the Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism.</li> </ul>
USA (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The US congratulates FAO on their work and contributions to the UN Strategic Plan and different major programmes on Forestry. We encourage FAO's continued leadership of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and in particular, on streamlining forest related reporting.</li> <li>We also encourage FAO's active input into the development of the UNFF / Global Forest Goal Flagship publication.</li> <li>During the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the North American Forestry Commission, the commission undertook a participatory exercise mapping recent accomplishments of NAFC working groups against the Global Forest Goals. The aims of the exercise were to: 1) demonstrate how NAFC is contributing to the GFGs; 2) raise awareness of the GFGs amongst members; and 3) identify potential gaps or areas which may need more attention in our regional cooperation. It was recognized that governance frameworks was an area that needed further collaboration, and as a result the commission is exploring the creation of an illegal logging ad hoc working group. The Commission felt this exercise was a good example of promoting closer cooperation between a FAO regional forestry commission, UNFF, and contributions toward the UNSPF.</li> <li>The US recognizes the value of the Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World Initiative. However, it is important for FAO, CIFOR, and ITTO to discern which elements of that initiative are more appropriately undertaken by the private sector or are the mandate of other UN agencies/international bodies to address. In particular, we emphasize that activities under that initiative not delve into trade, procurement or market access messaging that are known to be sensitive policy matters or without consensus in other forums, as well as keep in mind that some policies are voluntary, and not mandatory in some countries.</li> <li>It is clear that there continues to be a great need for the work of Forest and Farm Facility, especially in light of the UN Decades on Forest Farming and Ecosystem Restoration. We appreciate their concentrated efforts to strengthen the role of women, youth, and agroforestry systems.</li> </ul>

<p>Russian Federation (25 September)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Параграф 4: Подчеркиваем важное значение развития лесного образования, отмечаем актуальность инициативы ФАО об акцентировании внимания на данную тему. Просим сообщить о планах ФАО в отношении развития данной тематики. Со своей стороны, Российская Федерация подтверждает готовность к обмену опытом в области развития профильного образования. Пользуясь данной возможностью, хотели бы пригласить представителей учащейся молодежи стран-участниц ФАО к участию в XVII Международном юниорском лесном конкурсе, который пройдет с 30 ноября по 4 декабря 2020 г.</li> <li>• Параграф 37: Просим актуализировать информацию о планах ФАО в отношении проведения 6-й сессии Технической рабочей группы по лесным генетическим ресурсам (перенесена с 12-14 мая 2020 г.), а также о концепции и планах в отношении разработки глобальной информационной системы по лесным генетическим ресурсам.</li> </ul>
<p>Argentina (26 September)</p>	<p><b>Comentarios generales:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La Argentina está a favor de que el Comité continúe apoyando la aplicación del Plan estratégico de las Naciones Unidas para los bosques.</li> <li>• La FAO, al presidir la Asociación para la Colaboración sobre los Bosques (CPF, por sus siglas en inglés), tiene un rol fundamental en apoyo a la labor del Foro de Naciones Unidas sobre Bosques (FNUB).</li> </ul> <p><b>Comentarios particulares:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Con relación al ítem I (Aplicación del Plan Estratégico de las Naciones Unidas para los Bosques), la Argentina considera que se debería seguir avanzando y colaborando con ONU en los temas prioritarios para nuestro país como es el de fortalecer las cadenas de valor de la madera sostenibles desde la producción hasta el consumo, aprovechando su contribución a la bioeconomía y la economía circular. Este tema es muy importante y un objetivo para nuestro país.</li> <li>• También se considera oportuno la simplificación de la presentación de informes relacionados con los bosques y en seguir avanzando en mejorar el conjunto básico mundial de indicadores forestales. Es importante, asimismo, seguir trabajando en poner en práctica la gestión sostenible de todos los tipos de bosques y aumentar la forestación y colaborar en la recuperación de los bosques degradados mediante el enriquecimiento de los mismos. Por último, se estima favorablemente la propuesta contenida en el párrafo 15, sobre invitar a las comisiones forestales regionales a que examinen los temas relacionados con el FNUB y proporcionen información útil a dicho ámbito. El FNUB es la instancia multilateral principal para el tratamiento de la temática de bosques. En aras de sostener e impulsar dicho rol, resulta necesario apuntalar sus sinergias.</li> <li>• En cuanto al ítem II del documento referido a la aplicación de las recomendaciones formuladas por el Comité Forestal en su 24.º período de sesiones, el Mecanismo para los bosques y fincas es una iniciativa que celebramos</li> </ul>

	<p>y que sería necesario profundizar a través de la promoción de políticas sectoriales a nivel nacional y regional que permitan crear y mejorar mecanismos de diálogo y alianzas público privadas. Dentro de este diálogo, una de las herramientas fundamentales es la capacitación a los productores y sus organizaciones, en el manejo sostenible de los bosques desde la preparación del suelo, las labores posteriores, el control de plagas, las asociaciones de cultivos en pos de disminuir la huella de Carbono.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• También, el mencionado programa FLEGT dirigido a combatir la explotación maderera ilegal y promover el comercio de madera de proveniencia legal y, en última instancia, contribuir a la ordenación forestal sostenible y a la reducción de la pobreza, es una excelente iniciativa que recomendamos seguir trabajando.</li> <li>• La Argentina establece férreos controles sobre la legalidad de la madera exportada a los efectos de cumplimentar las exigencias establecidas. No obstante, la Dirección Nacional de Desarrollo Foresto Industrial (DNDFI), Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca de la República Argentina, está a disposición para cooperar en un trabajo conjunto que ayude a asegurar este aspecto.</li> <li>• Con respecto al Grupo de trabajo técnico intergubernamental sobre los recursos genéticos forestales, la Argentina está trabajando en el próximo informe sobre los Recursos Genéticos Forestales de Argentina.</li> </ul>
Indonesia (26 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We appreciate the hard work to prepare doc. COFO/2020/8.2. We suggest that the document, first of all, highlight the Progress report 2018-2019, considering that this is the core business of COFO, as compared to the UNSPF.</li> <li>• On Collaboration with UNFF as described in section I.C of Document COFO/2020/8.2, Indonesia has long been a strong supporter of such collaboration at the regional level. Therefore, we welcomes the recent best practice in the Asia Pacific Forestry Week, when the UNFF played the role of a co-leader of Stream 5 “Innovating Governance and Institution”. We do not suggest any ammendment to the language in this section.</li> <li>• Our proposed amendment of document COFO/2020/8.2 are in other parts of the document, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For paragraph 34 under “FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme”, on the point of systems development for governments, Indonesia would like to have the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS), known in Indonesia as <i>Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu</i> (SVLK), be included in the text as the example of the national timber tracking and control systems to monitor timber products along the supply chain.</li> <li>○ For paragraph 46 under “REDD+ Programme”, Indonesia would like to update the information and suggested ammendment “by <b>August 2020, six countries</b> have received Results Based Payments (RBPs) under the GCF Results Based Payments Pilot Programme comprising Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Indonesia and Paraguay.”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Turkey (27 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulties in implementing the strategic plan due to the covid-19 pandemic can be addressed.</li> </ul>
China (28 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a UN Agency and Chair of the CPF, FAO has played an active leading role in promoting the implementation of UNSPF in close cooperation with the UNFF and has provided useful tools for member states to implement UNSPF with its expertise. We would like to express our appreciation to FAO’s work in this regard. We agree to request the FAO to continue playing its leading role in CPF and motivate other members of CPF to support UNFF actively. We</li> </ul>

	<p>hope FAO can continue take full its advantages of technologies and expertise, in particular to enhance its work in further developing and improving “Tier 2”, “Tier 3” and “candidate” indicators of the Global Core Set, so as to facilitate member states and relevant international organizations to report their progresses in implementing UNSPF in a more convenient and effective manner.</p>
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>• The EU commends the Secretariat for providing the progress report, as included in the document COFO/2020/8.2, and the document “Moving Forward: Selected Achievements of the FAO Forestry Programme in 2018-2019” and welcomes the progress made in the various areas, i.a. on the recommendations of the 24th session of COFO.</li> <li>• For the EU, implementing the UNSPF at all levels is vital. It offers an important opportunity to further enhance coherence, coordination and synergies, and to promote sustainable management of all types of forests worldwide and thus contribute to the achievement of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.</li> <li>• We commend FAO, including as Chair of the CPF, for its continuous support to the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and request it to continue as such, including a strengthened leadership role in CPF.</li> <li>• In this context, we request FAO to actively steer the work in developing CPF’s work plan for the period 2021-2024 in line with the UNFF Quadrennial Programme of Work 2021-2024. This could become an important building block for upscaling global joint activities in response to the UNSPF for the years to come.</li> <li>• In this context, we acknowledge the “Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World” initiative, including its contribution to the GFFFN, and invite FAO and relevant partners to utilise the initiative's potential to encourage sustainable production and consumption of wood worldwide and thus contribute to the development of the bio economy and circular economy.</li> <li>• In line with the suggested action on establishing clear links between FAO's activities and UNSPF, it appeared beneficial that recommendations for FAO's work in forestry were to be mapped against the Global Forest Goals, as it is done currently for the FAO Strategic Objectives.</li> <li>• We invite FAO member countries to ensure through UNFF that full use be made of SOFO, FRA and other analytical products of FAO and those of the CPF, as major inputs for UNFF's review work.</li> <li>• We also request FAO to actively cooperate with the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat in preparing an initial assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable forest management that will be presented at 16<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFF in 2021.</li> <li>• We wish to stress that the potential of FAO’s Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs) should be further employed in regional dialogues related to UNFF jointly with other relevant bodies and processes, such as Forest Europe and</li> </ul>

	<p>UNECE's Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry. This would enhance regional contributions to the implementation of the UNSPF.</p>
Peru (28 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• En el punto de “Principales esferas de trabajo y progresos realizados” señalados en el literal B “Mecanismo para los bosques y fincas” del ítem Informe sobre la Aplicación de las Decisiones y las Recomendaciones Formuladas por el Comité en su 24º Período de Sesiones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ La implementación de las contribuciones en el marco del Mecanismo para los bosques y fincas ¿se ha considerado la condición legal de ocupación de las áreas de los diferentes productores?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• En el punto de “Principales esferas de trabajo y progresos realizados” señalados en el literal D “Mecanismo para la restauración de bosques y paisajes” del ítem Informe sobre la Aplicación de las Decisiones y las Recomendaciones Formuladas por el Comité en su 24º Período de Sesiones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ¿Qué actividades se han considerado en el marco de los programas de restauración a gran escala?, ¿se ha considerado la condición legal de las áreas donde se impulsaron las actividades de restauración? ¿se trabajó con los pobladores locales?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Mexico	<p><b><u>Comentarios:</u></b></p> <p>México apoya la recomendación al Comité para que se fortalezca la colaboración con el Foro de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Bosques (FNUB) y que se solicite a la FAO que continúe brindando apoyo para asegurar la efectiva aplicación del Plan Estratégico de las Naciones Unidas para los bosques y de su programa de trabajo, considerando que cuenta con la capacidad y que sus actividades en el sector forestal contribuyen directamente a los seis objetivos forestales mundiales y a sus metas conexas.</p> <p>Reconocemos la importancia de solicitarle a la FAO el establecer vínculos claros y visibles entre sus actividades y dicho Plan Estratégico, así como que se generen y compartan con los países los informes correspondientes a su aplicación.</p> <p>Celebramos el papel de liderazgo que desempeña la FAO en la Asociación de Colaboración en materia de Bosques (ACB), como miembro y presidente de la misma, reconociendo sus contribuciones en las iniciativas que dirige y/o participa, como lo son la simplificación de presentación de informes relacionados con los bosques, las recomendaciones al FNUB en materia de combate a la deforestación y aumento de reforestación, las contribuciones del informe de la FAO de <i>El estado de los bosques del mundo 2018</i> presentadas en el Foro Político de Alto Nivel organizado por la Secretaría del FNUB, y la iniciativa “Madera sostenible para un mundo sostenible”.</p> <p>Asimismo, coincidimos y agradecemos que la FAO siga apoyando la labor de los principales programas en materia forestal, sobre todo REDD+ a través del Programa ONU-REDD a fin de continuar brindando soporte, herramientas y</p>

	apoyo técnico a los países en sus procesos nacionales y en el desarrollo del nivel de referencia de emisiones forestales (NREF) o del nivel de referencia forestal (NRF).
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