

25th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Items **not under** Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members

Item 7.2 UN Decades: Family Farming and Ecosystem Restoration: Building Back Better, including in response to COVID-19

Member Name	Comments
Japan (2 October)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given that subsistence agriculture is one of major drivers of deforestation in developing countries, we expect that interlinking the UN Decade of Family Farming with the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration will provide a solution to reverse deforestation.
USA (4 October)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United States is a strong supporter of ecosystem restoration both domestically and internationally through our international assistance programs. We recognize the instrumental role restoration plays in sustainability and avoiding further deforestation. Under the Bonn Challenge, the US in 2012 committed to 15 million hectares of US forest land under restoration by 2020. In 2019, we exceeded our target at 18.9 million ha restored. • The US is looking to future initiatives that are similar to the Bonn Challenge to bolster forest restoration. The One Trillion Tree initiative, which the US joined earlier year, is another example of our work to sustain and improve national forested landscapes. • The US also is supportive of efforts by FAO and others to raise the resiliency of family farmers, including small forest landowners, to weather different crises, whether it be from the current COVID-19 pandemic, financial market downturns, weather induced crises and other stressors. • We believe the role forest and farm producer organizations play is a vital one in raising their collective voice and building capacity in their respective communities and countries. We continue to applaud the good work of the Forest and Farm Facility in this regard. • The US encourages FAO to emphasize the importance of community forestry, agroforestry, and efforts which market products from both forest and agricultural production systems under the UN Decades. FAO can also play a central role in furthering technical capacity in these areas and raising awareness. • In terms of the recommendations listed under “Suggested actions by COFO” within the paper, we note that some points are redundant and can be consolidated, and some are too general. Furthermore, while understandably COVID-19 is at the forefront and the most pressing concern in front of us today, we need to recognize that these

two initiatives are UN Decades. Therefore, the actions of FAO and the language in the COFO report should present a balanced approach in reflecting this long term view. We can provide some suggested edits along with our written submission of this intervention (*see Annex below*).

ANNEX

The Committee may wish to invite countries to:

- ~~Actively engage in responses to the COVID-19 pandemic which link to and build on the implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration at national level and identify and enhance synergies between the two;~~ **This sentiment is already captured in the bullet below.**
- *Support the implementation of the two Decades in ways that address both short term impacts of COVID-19 and lead to **long term** resilience of forests and forest dependent communities and businesses, including through **national level implementation, and** voluntary contributions, as appropriate.*

The Committee may wish to request FAO to:

- ~~Continue and enhance~~ **Enhance** sharing and learning about solutions to the short and long term impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic **as it relates to forest ecosystem restoration or family farming;**
- *Ensure close coordination and collaboration between the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;*
- *Ensure that FAO's new strategic framework gives adequate recognition to FAO's leading role in ecosystem restoration – particularly with regard to productive ecosystems;*
- *Increase the engagement of the private sector, family farmers and forest and farm producer organizations **and all stakeholders as laid out in UNGA resolution A/RES/73/284** in activities related ~~to COVID-19 and~~ to the two UN Decades and scale up its support to forest and farm producer organizations through the Forest and Farm Facility;*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>In accordance with UNGA resolution A/RES/73/284, ensure the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including women, children according to their evolving capacities, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities in the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.</i> Captured in bullet above• <i>Support countries with tools, methodologies, and best practices to scale up forest and landscape restoration efforts, best practices, and monitor progress.</i>