

25th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members (English version)

Item 9.1 Food Systems Transformation and the UN Food Systems Summit

Member Name	Comments
Switzerland (25 September)	<p style="text-align: center;">Suggested text (in green)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee is invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Affirm the critical importance of Invite FAO to support to Members in taking actions and investments towards the systematic integration of forests and agroforestry into more sustainable food systems, and the added urgency for transformative change in light of the COVID-19 pandemic; – Acknowledge the importance of Invite FAO to adopting a more systemic and coordinated approach to supporting Members in the transformation of their food systems to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda; – Invite FAO to develop a Strategy together with relevant international organizations and partnerships to amplify the impact of the Food Systems Summit and support Members in their post-summit Development efforts <p>Swiss Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switzerland thanks the Secretariat for document COFO/2020/9.1 and welcomes the inclusion of the concept of sustainable food systems and the Food Systems Summit in the agenda of this session. • Today's challenges in the agriculture and food sector call for a systemic approach; • A systemic approach calls for the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the process for developing solutions and designing policies for the promotion of sustainable food systems, while taking into account all dimensions of sustainability; • In this context, multi-stakeholder partnerships are an important tool to accelerate both the achievement of sustainable development goals and the transition to more sustainable food systems; • FAO is one of the frontrunners in promoting the sustainable food systems approach. Together with UNEP, and with the support of Switzerland, it developed the Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme of the UN's 10 Year Framework for Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), which was launched in 2015 • We strongly commend FAO's work on food systems carried out through this multi-stakeholder initiative, which has been instrumental in promoting systems thinking in the food and agriculture policy area and beyond, and

	<p>recommend that FAO further builds on this long-standing experience with the 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO has a key role to play in promoting this transformational change, through the building of networks, strengthening its science and evidence-based work and the development of metrics. FAO's normative, science-based and evidence-based competence should be maintained and further strengthened. • As a knowledge organization FAO can also notably play a role in collecting evidence for successful food systems transformation. To do so, FAO should reach out across its organization to collect and make available all relevant inhouse experience. FAO should also continue to reach out actively to its Members and relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples to jointly catalyse food systems' transformation and to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. FAO should not walk alone. • Therefore, we propose that COAG stresses the continuous need for FAO to build on FAO's long-standing expertise and work on developing and promoting the sustainable food systems approach through its contribution to multi-stakeholder partnerships, in particular the 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme. • Finally, we welcome the fact that FAO is playing a leading role in the preparatory process of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. We invite FAO to develop a Strategy together with relevant international organizations and partnerships to amplify the impacts of the Summit and support Members in their post-summit Development efforts.
<p>Russian Federation (25 September)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Russian Federation supports the holding of the United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021 and is committed to actively participating in the Summit's preparations. Forests play a critical role in guaranteeing food security and the sustainability of agrifood systems, which is why we feel it is essential that, during the Summit, sufficient time should be allocated to discussion of forestry matters. We are in favour of strict adherence to the approved preparatory process, in accordance with which the modalities, substantive content, and outcomes of the event will be defined by the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy and the Summit Advisory Committee, in cooperation with the Scientific Group and the "Champions Network". We call on all parties to share their ideas on the running and content of the Summit through their representatives on the Advisory Committee, to ensure that the preparatory process is as effective and inclusive as possible. As a member of the Advisory Committee, the Russian Federation looks forward to working together in a constructive spirit in preparing for the Summit.
<p>Canada (25 September)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada agrees with the recommendations put forward, and is looking forward to contributing towards the UN Food Systems Summit. • With respect to forests and transformative food systems, more emphasis could be made to agroforestry's contribution to nutrition and sustainable food systems.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is also important to underline the importance of a “one health” approach to address the effects of deforestation and ecosystem destruction that are increasingly bringing people into contact with animals that have been displaced from their traditional habitats. • Canada supports using a food systems approach to improve how development assistance empowers women, addresses complex environmental challenges such as climate change, addresses malnutrition in all its forms, contributes to livelihoods, and supports inclusive economic growth in developing countries. This approach takes into consideration inclusion and equity, particularly for vulnerable groups. • Canada recognizes the importance of harnessing existing mechanisms and country-level experiences to scale up effective multi-stakeholder processes already in place and to share knowledge across Member States and food system stakeholders. • From a forest perspective, and also linking to agenda item 9.2, Canada’s forests contribute to food security and nutrition largely through the provision of jobs (income to purchase good food), as well as non-timber forest products such as berries and medicines. • Canada supports an inclusive engagement process leading up to the 2021 Food Systems Summit that integrates diverse views across sectors of government and society. For the Summit to achieve lasting impacts at global scale, meaningful engagement and leadership of food systems actors beyond the Rome-based agencies, including civil society and private sector organizations, will be essential.
Mexico (1 October)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los habitantes de los bosques tienen necesidades de alimentos tanto de origen vegetal como animal, que los ecosistemas forestales pueden proporcionar sin comprometer su conservación ni su productividad, y por tanto a la vez, mantener su capacidad para contribuir a la economía rural, y a los esfuerzos para el combate al cambio climático, la desertificación y degradación de tierras, y la pérdida de biodiversidad. • En ese sentido, México apoya las sugerencias puestas a consideración del Comité Forestal, a fin de que la FAO apoye a los países en la adopción de medidas para sistemas alimentarios sostenibles que consideren esquemas de manejo y aprovechamiento de los bosques con base en sistemas agroforestales y silvopastoriles, como acciones integradas de dichos sistemas, que pueden contribuir a detener y revertir la pérdida de cubierta forestal y combatir el cambio climático global, reconociendo la urgencia de estos cambios ante la afectación generada por la pandemia de la COVID-19. • Asimismo, apoyamos que se reconozca el papel que desempeñará la FAO en el proceso de preparación de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios, contribuyendo en la elaboración de marcos y herramientas que fortalezcan la colaboración y el diálogo, a fin de apoyar a los países en la construcción de capacidades para el

	<p>desarrollo de sistemas alimentarios que integren la contribución de los bosques y la agroforestería, conforme a sus capacidades nacionales; y que se brinde orientación sobre el modo en que la FAO podría apoyar a los países en las iniciativas de desarrollo posteriores a su celebración.</p>
Japan (2 October)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agriculture and forests are closely linked, and thus forests play an indispensable role in the food system. Given that the major driver of deforestation is agricultural expansion, it is necessary to increase the visibility of unnoticeable but vital roles of forests which play in watershed conservation or disaster prevention and to conserve forests for agricultural production.