

25th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Items not under Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members

Item 9.5 FAO's Programme of Work in Forestry under the Reviewed Strategic Framework

Member Name	Comments
Canada (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canada would like to thank FAO for its work in forestry since the last COFO session. Indeed, quite a bit of progress has been made in priority areas and the emerging issues are well covered.• We acknowledge FAO for its efforts to consult with, and compile, the many recommendations made by regional forestry commissions while simultaneously considering the various international forest-related agreements and commitments at play.• Canada suggests FAO keep on with already identified work such as halting deforestation, promoting cross-sectoral collaboration and forest landscape restoration (including agroforestry), providing technical assistance and leading on forest reporting, and cooperation on wildland fire, while also taking on sustainable value chains, work with smallholder farmers and forest education.
Japan (2 October)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As the global population continues to grow, the demand for wood as well as food is expected to increase in the future. To ensure the effective use of forest resources, it is essential to establish a legal and sustainable timber supply chain, and for this purpose, it is important to strengthen forest governance. To this end, Japan is funding FAO project which collects the information on forest-related laws and regulations in 50 countries across the world and establishes a database to share the information among them.• Amid the demand for transformation from the conventional social system of mass production, mass consumption and mass waste to a sustainable resource circulating society, forest and timber industry have significant roles. Based on the recognition that the cycle of growing, cutting, using, and then planting and nurturing trees leads to the maintenance of healthy forests, Japan is promoting the sustainable use of wood resources. It is substantial to increase the value of timber as a renewable resource and to further develop the forest and timber industry as a leading industry in the circulating-oriented society.
USA (4 October)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The US acknowledges the accomplishments and hard work of FAO forestry staff over the past biennium.• We encourage FAO's continued leadership and close collaboration with other CPF members, including working closely with UNFF in their development of the UNFF Clearinghouse and finding ways to utilize/leverage the information already collected under the SFM toolbox.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US supports continued FAO work in the following areas: SOFO, FRA, the Forest Farm Facility, forest pests and diseases, and forest fire, and continued emphasis on landscape based approaches and cross-sectoral cooperation. • We acknowledge FAO’s growing work on urban forestry, in particular the hosting of the Global forum on urban forests in 2018. • We request more information from FAO on how the Forestry staff interacts with the new Office for Innovation and how forestry is being incorporated into the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. • In addition, we are interested in receiving more information on FAO’s internal cross-sectoral initiative on “Transforming food systems to feed the planet without deforestation” as it becomes available. • In regards to the new Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan 2022-2025, the US is supportive of the proposal to cluster FAO’s forestry work under the three proposed key areas of work. • We request minor edits to the language of the recommendations for more appropriate language on SDGs and on actions to be taken by countries. • In bullet (a), we request to use “in support of” instead of “the alignment with,” to recognize the FAO framework is the guiding document. • <p>a) <i>Welcomed the accomplishments in FAO’s work in forestry in the 2018-19 biennium including the alignment with in support of the SDGs, the Global Forest Goals of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and the guidance provided by the 24th Session of COFO.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In bullet (c), we would like language that better respects the prerogative of countries and is realistic. To do so, the revised language would read: • <p>c) <i>Encouraged countries to ensure that integrate government priorities in forestry in post COVID-19 recovery plans and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework integrate government priorities in forestry.</i></p>