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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION****TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION****Asunción, Paraguay, 5 – 9 March 2012****FAO COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME  
OF WORK FOR THE PERIOD 2012-2015****Secretariat Note***Summary*

This document provides information on the process for the development of a Multi-Year Programme of Work for the FAO Committee on Forestry

**Background**

1. The Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA) includes the following actions:
 

“The Council, Programme and Finance Committees, CCLM, Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, they will each:

  - (a) Prepare a multi-year programme of work of at least four years duration, once per biennium which will be reviewed by the Council and/or Conference (in accordance with their respective reporting lines);
  - (b) Prepare a report of their progress against the Programme of Work once every two years also for review by the Council and/or Conference (actions 2.70, 2.71 and 2.72)”.
2. At its twentieth session the Committee on Forestry requested the secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Steering Committee, a draft multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) for the period 2012-2015 for consideration at its twenty-first session in 2012.
3. As part of the organization-wide coordination on this subject Technical Committees were advised that MYPOWs should be more than just rolling agendas. In fact they should serve as performance frameworks and they should be important tools for results-based management, by which governing bodies can specify objectives, expected results, indicators and targets for monitoring their own performance and take necessary decisions, as well as report to their parent bodies. The secretariats were provided with a generic template to support the formulation of their MYPOW in a coherent manner. The Steering Committee considered this template at its first session on 1 July 2011

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and requested the secretariat to prepare, on this basis, a draft MYPOW for being considered at its next session.

4. A unique feature and strength of FAO Forestry is the network of the six Regional Forestry Commissions, which, together with the Committee, provide the institutional fabric for regional global interactions and priority setting. The role of the RFCs was further strengthened through the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee at its 20<sup>th</sup> session.

5. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure where it was decided that “the Steering Committee shall facilitate consultation with Members in relation to agendas, formats and other matters, and perform other actions relevant for ensuring preparations for the sessions”, the Chairperson developed a recommendation for coordinating and streamlining the input of the RFCs to the Committee. The Steering Committee endorsed the proposal and recommended that it be brought to the attention of all RFCs for consideration and application. The proposal of the Chairperson is attached as Annex I.

6. The Commission may wish to consider the MYPOW and the input to COFO as two interlinked processes to increase efficiency. While the inputs will shape the agenda of the forthcoming sessions of the Committee and help in addressing emerging issues and issues of particular relevance for the regions, the MYPOW will help Member Nations to evaluate how well the Committee can exercise its mandate.

7. The Commission is invited to consider the attached document when identifying topics to be brought to the attention of the Committee on Forestry and use the suggested mechanisms to coordinate with other RFCs in this regard.

**Annex I****Providing coordinated input by the Regional Forestry Commissions to shaping the agenda of the Committee on Forestry****Non-paper by the COFO chair for the consideration of the Steering Committee****A. Introduction**

1. The report of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (IEE) issued in 2007 called for a renewed effort to formulate a Strategic Framework for the Organization. This call was echoed in the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO's Renewal (IPA) endorsed by the 35th (Special) Session of the Conference in November 2008. The IPA and the new strategic framework are striving towards improved articulation of Member needs by aligning governance structures and strengthening links between regional and global bodies. A successful reporting line from country to regional and global levels will build ownership in the work programme and thereby enhance the relevance of FAO.

2. In 2009 the Conference approved amendments to the Basic Texts governing the reporting lines of the Technical Committees: "The Council shall be assisted by:...a Committee on Commodity Problems, a Committee on Fisheries, a Committee on Forestry, a Committee on Agriculture and a Committee on World Food Security which shall report to the Council on programme and budget matters and to the Conference on policy and regulatory matters."

3. This new reporting line was practiced for the first time at the 20<sup>th</sup> session of COFO in 2010. The Committee recognized that complementary information regarding priorities was identified at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. To this end the Regional Forestry Commissions (RFC) will play an important role in bringing country and regional needs to the attention of the Regional Conferences and COFO and subsequently having them reflected in the Programme of Work.

4. The Committee acknowledged that the priority-setting process for 2012-2013 would be one of transition under the new results-based framework. The COFO Steering Committee noted the need for the timing of RFC sessions in accordance with the schedule of COFO sessions to enable COFO to take into consideration regional requests by the RFC. The Steering Committee noted further the need for stronger inter-regional coordination to identify common priorities to be forwarded to COFO.

**Approach for preparing regional input to the 21<sup>st</sup> session of COFO in 2012 and beyond**

5. As a result of the discussion in the Steering Committee the RFC sessions are now scheduled to allow for regional input to COFO 2012. The new schedule will also provide enough time to conduct an inter-regional dialogue and coordination on common priorities to put forward to COFO2012 and the Multi Year Programme of Work for the period 2012-2015. The current schedule for the RFC and COFO sessions is as follows:

<i>Commission</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Europe	10-14 Oct. 2011	Turkey (Antalya), joint with TC
Asia-Pacific	7-11 Nov. 2011	China (Beijing)
Africa	16-20 Jan. 2012	Cotonou (Benin)
Near East	29 Jan.-2 Feb. 2012	Turkey (tbc)
Latin America and Caribbean	5-9 March 2012	Paraguay (Asunción)
North America	8-9 May 2012	Canada (Quebec City)

6. When providing recommendations to COFO the RFCs are encouraged to consider country, regional and global levels with respective actions. Recommendations could call for action by COFO, FAO or both (See template 1 and Template 2 below).
7. Recommendations for a global action should preferably be shared with other RFCs to allow for enhanced coordination. For this purpose a common format for regional input could be developed in consultation with all RFCs and used as a template in every RFC session. This will provide a transparent reporting line and increase visibility of the regional input to COFO.
8. It is foreseen that the Steering Committee meet in conjunction with the North American Forest Commission session on May 12, 2012, in Quebec City, and finalize the proposal on the draft agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> session of COFO. This meeting will then provide a good opportunity to exchange views on all inputs and advise the secretariat on preparing the documentation for the respective agenda item(s).
9. It is a tradition that the bureaux of the RFCs hold a meeting on the sidelines of COFO, to discuss issues of common interest and to provide input and guidance on meeting dynamics from a regional perspective as the week progresses. When preparing the regional input to COFO RFCs may also wish to consider agenda items for this meeting and advise the secretariat accordingly.



**Template 1****RFC recommendations for the attention of COFO**

(Issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)

<i>Priority issues for COFO to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome of the considerations (information/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO (link to template 2)</i>
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**Template 2****RFC recommendations for the attention of COFO regarding FAO Programme of Work**

<i>Priorities for the FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Objectives for work on the priorities</i>	<i>Activities to accomplish the objectives, and the level at which these should be implemented (national/regional/global)</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
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