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COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Rome, 18 - 22 July 2016

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAST SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW)

1. The 22nd session of the Committee resulted in a rich set of recommendations and gave a strong guidance for FAO to support members' efforts in achieving sustainable forest management. A full account of all actions taken in response to the recommendations to COFO, the Regional Forestry Commissions as well as other FAO Governing Bodies contained in miscellaneous document: Progress Report.
2. The Committee also requested FAO to report back to the 23rd session on progress in:
 - meeting the Bonn Challenge;
 - finalizing the draft implementation strategy for the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources*;
 - the implementation of the recommendations on forest and gender equality;
 - the development of the Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox;
 - the development and the work of the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge;
 - strengthening the collaboration among the FAO Technical Committees;
3. The progress report on these activities are presented in Annex 1-6 of the current document. The Committee may wish to take note of these reports and give further guidance as appropriate.

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Annex I

THE BONN CHALLENGE AND FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION (FLR) MECHANISM

1. Significant progress has been made by countries in their commitments toward forest and landscape restoration in the context of the Bonn Challenge and other global and regional initiatives. To date, the restoration of more than 90 million hectares of degraded forest and other land has been pledged by 24 national governments and several decentralized authorities, alliances and the private sector.

2. New regional initiatives for FLR have been launched that provide opportunities for countries with similar needs and objectives to share experiences and collaborate more effectively to achieve restoration goals. In Africa, the AFR100 (African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative) was formally launched at UNFCCC-COP21 in Paris in December 2015, with 13 countries joining in a new alliance that aims to restore 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2030. So far 41 million hectares of land have been committed for restoration, with partners earmarking more than US\$1 billion in development finance and more than US\$540 million in private sector impact investment to support these efforts. In Latin America, 17 governments, alliances and organizations have so far joined Initiative 20x20, which has mobilized commitments of more than US\$830 million from private impact investors to support the restoration of 20 million hectares of degraded land by 2020. Governments began discussing an FLR regional strategy and action plan for Asia-Pacific at the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission and Forestry Week in February in the Philippines with additional discussions scheduled during COFO and the World Forestry Week in July 2016 in Rome. Mediterranean countries are also expressing strong interest in restoration and the Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week (Morocco, March 2017) will be focused on Forest and Landscape Restoration.

3. FAO support to FLR is occurring mainly through the FLR Mechanism, which, in collaboration with relevant technical units throughout FAO, is presently providing technical and financial support to Cambodia, Guatemala, Lebanon, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda and Uganda. A second group of countries will receive FLR Mechanism support once additional financial resources are available. Country support is focussed on helping to prepare and implement national plans for FLR that cover three main areas of support: governance, enabling environment and inter-sectoral coordination; access to sustainable financing for FLR (public and private); and pilot actions on the ground that provide the basis for scaling up.

4. Some key action areas supported during 2015 and 2016 include:

- Capacity development workshops for government officials jointly organized with the CBD Secretariat on FLR and ecosystem restoration in West Africa (Ghana), Latin America (Colombia) and Asia-Pacific (Thailand);
- Organization of an expert workshop on Private Sector Investments in Forest and Landscape Restoration (Rome, July 2015);
- Publication of a working paper and policy brief on Sustainable Financing for Forest and Landscape Restoration;
- Organization of the "Drylands & Forest and Landscape Restoration Monitoring Week" (Rome, April 2016) – an expert meeting to consolidate a roadmap to support countries' efforts for monitoring and reporting on FLR;

5. With available funding from Sweden and the Republic of Korea fully allocated to FLR Mechanism activities through 2017, mobilization additional resources is a priority and funding proposals have been submitted or are being prepared for new projects with the GEF (US\$54 million); France (US\$2 million); Germany (US\$4-5 million); and project concepts are being developed for the Green Climate Fund and for partnership with regional development banks.

6. The Committee may wish to invite countries to:
- consider strengthening the mobilization of innovative and enhanced levels of financing for the restoration of degraded lands, including through the GEF STAR allocations, through both adaptation and mitigation windows of the Green Climate Fund and by providing enhanced enabling conditions for increased private sector investment in forest and landscape restoration.
 - support actions towards the recently launched regional initiatives/dynamics in Latin America, Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Mediterranean in order to contribute to a more efficient and successful achievement of the Bonn Challenge and related global initiatives for forest and landscape restoration.

Annex II

THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

A. Introduction

1. In April 2013, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) agreed on the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (GPA-FGR)*¹ and in June 2013, the FAO Conference adopted the document². The GPA-FGR was developed based on the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG-FGR) and the findings of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SoW-FGR)*³. The GPA-FGR identifies four priority areas for action: 1) Improving the availability of, and access to, information regarding FGR, 2) Conservation of FGR (*in situ* and *ex situ*), 3) Sustainable use, development and management of FGR, and 4) Policies, institutions and capacity building. Under these areas, the GPA-FGR includes a total of 27 strategic priorities for action at the national, regional and international levels. The relative priority of each strategic priority and associated actions may differ significantly in different countries and regions. The implementation of the GPA-FGR will strengthen sustainable management of forests and contribute towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. At its 22nd Session in 2014, the Committee on Forestry (COFO) welcomed the SoW-FGR and the GPA-FGR, and acknowledged the importance of FAO's work in this area. COFO recommended FAO to support the implementation of the GPA-FGR, finalize the draft strategy for the implementation of the GPA-FGR for review by the CGRFA, encourage continued cooperation in addressing the global priorities of the GPA-FGR, and support countries as appropriate to address the strategic priorities of the GPA-FGR.⁴ This document presents information on follow-up to the GPA-FGR since the 22nd Session of COFO.

B. Follow-up to the Global Plan of Action

Finalization of the implementation strategy for the Global Plan of Action

3. In July 2014, the ITWG-FGR discussed the draft implementation strategy for the GPA-FGR and made several recommendations for its finalization⁵. Subsequently, the CGRFA considered the draft implementation strategy in January 2015 and adopted the document⁶. It includes seven areas of work: 1) Advocacy and international awareness on FGR, 2) Development and support of relevant global and regional networks, 3) Supporting countries in the development of national and regional strategies for the implementation of the GPA-FGR, 4) Supporting countries in securing adequate and sustainable funding for the implementation of the GPA-FGR, 5) Development of international technical standards for FGR and support to implement them, 6) Funding strategy for the implementation of the GPA-FGR, and 7) Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the GPA-FGR and the status and trends of FGR. The CGRFA stressed that the strategy is fundamental for achieving the goals of the GPA-FGR and called for the implementation of the strategy in coordination with the COFO and relevant international organizations.

¹ GPA-FGR. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3849e.pdf>

² C 2013/REP, paragraph 77. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/028/mh093e.pdf>

³ SoW-FGR. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3825e.pdf>

⁴ COFO-22/14/Report, paragraph 58. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml080e.pdf>

⁵ CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/Report, paragraphs 13-15. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml401e.pdf>

⁶ CGRFA-15/15/Report, Appendix E. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm660e.pdf>

Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action

4. In 2015, the CGRFA requested FAO to continue developing targets and indicators for forest genetic resources and prepare a draft schedule for monitoring the implementation of the GPA-FGR, as well as guidelines for preparing strategies to implement the GPA-FGR at the national and regional levels.⁷ The ITWG-FGR will discuss draft targets and indicators⁸ and a draft schedule⁹ for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action at its Fourth Session that will take place in May 2016. Furthermore, the ITWG-FGR will consider a document¹⁰ on the preparation of guidelines for the development of national strategies for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources.

Awareness raising and information sharing

5. FAO has made country reports prepared for the SoW-FGR available on its web site¹¹. The summaries and main conclusion of seven expert-led thematic studies related to the SoW-FGR were published in a special issue of *Forest Ecology and Management*¹² in December 2014. This special issue was prepared in collaboration with Bioversity International, the World Agroforestry Centre and a total of 54 experts around the world. FAO has also continued its efforts to increase international awareness of the GPA-FGR as well as the importance of forest genetic resources. Recent efforts include a side event on FGR at the XIV World Forestry Congress, held in Durban, South Africa in September 2015 and a workshop on forest policy and FGR, held in Prague, the Czech Republic in October 2015, for selected Eastern European and Central Asian countries.

Regional collaboration and networks on forest genetic resources

6. FAO has co-organized, or contributed to, several workshops with regional networks on FGR to identify regional priorities for the implementation of the GPA-FGR. The workshops have been held with the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, September 2014), the Latin America Forest Genetic Resources Network (LAFORGEN) (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, October 2014) and the Sub-Saharan Africa Forest Genetic Resources Programme (SAFORGEN) (Douala, Cameroon, April 2016). In Europe, FAO continued its collaboration with the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN).

Funding

7. Efforts need to be made at national, regional and international levels to ensure that the GPA-FGR is successfully translated into actions through existing or new programmes and projects. Securing adequate and sustainable funding, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, is crucial. FAO has explored the interest of different donors to support the implementation of the GPA-FGR. However, to date no extra-budgetary funds have been received for this purpose. When possible, countries may consider directing official development assistance, or investing their own resources, to programmes and projects that contribute to the implementation of the GPA-FGR. Countries may also seek financial support for FGR projects through the decentralized FAO Technical Cooperation Programme.

⁷ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 20 and Appendix E. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm660e.pdf>

⁸ CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/3. [link will be available shortly]

⁹ CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/4. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq163e.pdf>

¹⁰ CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/5. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq201e.pdf>

¹¹ Country Reports, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3825e/i3825e01.htm>

¹² Global Forest Genetic Resources: Taking Stock (special issue of *Forest Ecology and Management*) (open access). <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03781127/333>

Annex III**FOREST AND GENDER EQUALITY**

1. In response to the recommendations of COFO 22 on FAO support to countries¹³, FAO has undertaken the following activities to strengthen gender mainstreaming in its work.
2. A recent study on “Mainstreaming gender into forest policies in Asia and the Pacific” conducted by FAO and the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) suggests that despite noticeable overall progress, gender-sensitive forest policies alone are not enough to reduce gender inequalities in forestry. These policies must be supported by technical expertise to facilitate gender-sensitive policy implementation and practice. Moreover, clear targets, gender guidelines, strategies and action plans, supported by adequate budgets and institutional mechanisms in forestry agencies, must be in place so that gender mainstreaming becomes an achievable milestone within a set time frame.
3. FAO is conducting an assessment of the extent and effectiveness of community-based forestry (CBF) in 13 countries (7 in Africa, 3 in Asia, 3 in Latin America). Two of the indicators in the assessment framework are equity (e.g. equitable sharing of costs and benefits) and inclusiveness (e.g. engaging marginalised individuals and groups, including women and youth in decision making processes). The results of these assessments are helping governments to improve the enabling framework for CBF in particular through improved gender equality.
4. The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) supports forest and farm producer organizations in 10 countries. FFF promotes participation of women’s producer groups in partner countries and monitors women’s representation in producer organizations. Capacity building on small enterprise development benefits women in particular. Through its gender sensitive monitoring and learning framework the FFF closely monitors gender mainstreaming in all country activities. Women’s participation in knowledge exchange events among partner countries has also contributed to empowering women.
5. The UN-REDD programme is working to mainstream gender in its partner countries. A ‘Guidance Note on Gender Sensitive REDD+’, provides concrete examples of how to increase women’s engagement in participatory activities and monitoring in UN-REDD countries. In Asia-Pacific UNREDD collaborates with Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture & Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), Lowering Emissions in Asia’s Forests (LEAF) and The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) to make REDD+ activities more gender sensitive.
6. The FAO-Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme has strengthened its efforts to mainstream gender across its programmatic and project activities. In collaboration with the European Forest Institute (EFI) the Programme is creating a FLEGT gender strategy to ensure integration of gender equality objectives, including through collecting gender disaggregated data; improving women’s employment opportunities; participation in meetings and workshops; and engagement in monitoring and evaluation activities.
7. To support implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, FAO has developed a forest tenure assessment framework to help countries (i) to evaluate their forest tenure related policies, laws, institutions, and administration to identify gaps with respect to the good governance principles of the VGGT; (ii) identify actions to strengthen governance of tenure in their countries; and (iii) to prioritize areas for improvements in tenure. These include the following implementing principles that contribute to gender equality: human dignity; non-discrimination; equity and justice; gender equity. FAO is conducting the assessment of forest tenure in four countries.

¹³ COFO/2014/REP, 60.

8. Gender was a cross-cutting issue at the XIV World Forestry Congress and was discussed by all six Regional Forestry Commissions. Participants noted the importance of increased attention to gender in forestry, including through better communication, improved tenure rights and forestry-specific training opportunities for women. The regional forest communicator networks are strengthening their efforts to address gender mainstreaming.

9. In order to strengthen the capacity of FAO staff to address gender in all its dimensions a quick reference guide was developed to help staff to include gender mainstreaming in the design of forestry projects and programmes. However, more robust training materials are needed. Existing training manuals on gender in forestry are outdated (1997) and updating them would require additional resources.

Annex IV

THE SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (SFM) TOOLBOX**A. What is the SFM Toolbox**

1. The SFM Toolbox is a comprehensive technical package of knowledge tools, good practices, and examples of their application to facilitate the implementation of SFM under varied contexts. Its target audience is primarily (public and private) forest and land managers, and those who support them including extension services, civil-society organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as private sector associations.
2. The Toolbox has the following objectives: (i) increase capacities to effectively implement SFM by providing practical knowledge, tools and experiences at local and landscape levels; (ii) support forest managers and other stakeholders in progressing towards SFM with a more comprehensive approach; (iii) connect the different areas of FAO expertise related to SFM to facilitate its integration in a landscape approach to natural resources management; and (iv) identify and address knowledge and tool gaps, as well as possible incoherencies and conflicts.
3. The Toolbox is a user-friendly, interactive web-based platform, responsive to user's interests and needs. It includes:
 - modules on SFM thematic areas, comprising (i) an overview of basic knowledge; (ii) more in-depth information; (iii) links to related tools; and (iv) links to SFM cases/examples and further references;
 - a database of SFM tools and cases/examples that have been collated and arranged in an easy-to-access format; and
 - a blog
4. The Toolbox uses knowledge references, tools and cases produced by FAO, Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) members, other partners and member countries. The scope of the Toolbox is global (for all types of forests) however it will be an evolving set that will also include regional and national resources.
5. The development of the SFM Toolbox aligns with FAO's mandate and role as a knowledge organization. FAO, in collaboration with its many partners, creates, compiles and shares critical information about SFM, and facilitates a dialogue between those who possess the knowledge and those who need it, aiming at "turning knowledge into action". The Toolbox is included in the Organization's Strategic Objective 2, outcome 1 under Products & Services 5 *Knowledge management: Participatory assessment, development, and promotion of mechanisms for collating, managing and sharing knowledge on sustainable production and natural resources management practices.*
6. The SFM Toolbox website has been designed with the intention of allowing best interaction with users. It is available at <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-forest-management/toolbox/> .

B. Progress

7. In response to recommendation 66¹⁴ of COFO 22, FAO has undertaken the following activities:

- a) The SFM Toolbox team continued with the preparation of 21 additional modules, and the addition of tools and cases to the existing modules (it currently contains 785 tools and 655 cases).
- b) To respond to the diverse users' needs, the web platform has been substantially improved to simplify access and enhance interactivity. Discussions are underway for pilot testing in countries which is expected to commence later in the current biennium.
- c) There were several opportunities used for the dissemination and promotion of the Toolbox. These included the IUFRO World Congress and the WFC. At WFC more than 60 people participated in pilot testing of the Toolbox and provided feedback and suggestions for improvement. A report on the results of the WFC exercise is currently available (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/sfm/85086/en>). Information on the Toolbox was also disseminated through various FO communication tools e.g. InFO news, NWFP Update newsletter etc.). Work is ongoing to facilitate the promotion of the Toolbox with other CPF members at internationally organized fora.
- d) The Toolbox is viewed as a model for promoting SFM as well as a reference tool for several SFM thematic areas. It is being increasingly used by FAO's forestry staff during project design and implementation to ensure a comprehensive approach to SFM.

¹⁴ *Finalize the Toolbox, taking into account diverse country and user contexts, and make it available for pilot testing in countries; disseminate, promote and facilitate the use of the Toolbox by countries and institutions working on SFM, in cooperation with other CPF members; utilize the Toolbox in its own work to promote a comprehensive approach to SFM; and report on progress at the next session of the Committee.*

Annex V**ADVISORY PANEL ON FOREST KNOWLEDGE (APFK)****A. Background on the APFK**

1. In 1964, FAO established an Advisory Committee on Forest Education (ACFE) that operated until 1997, when the FAO Conference decided to reduce the number of advisory committees within FAO. The abolition of the ACFE occurred in parallel with a decline in FAO activities related to forest education.
2. However, the 2010 and 2011-2012 FAO Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs), the 1999, 2005, 2010 and 2012 sessions of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), and the XIII World Forestry Congress in 2009, called upon FAO to re-consider its forest education programme, potentially through an enlarged project portfolio.
3. In response an informal meeting of education and knowledge experts from a variety of institutions was called on the fringes of the 20th Session of COFO in 2010. General support for the concept and name, the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge (APFK), was expressed by the majority of participants. It was proposed that FAO would act as the Chair of the APFK, which would be a catalyst for forest education, knowledge management, and related research programmes, projects and other activities at the global and regional levels, building on the unique strengths, existing priorities, and comparative advantages of forest-related organizations and institutions. The 22nd Session of COFO in June 2014 welcomed the initiative and the steps taken towards the establishment of a global APFK, endorsed the draft operational guidelines of the APFK and invited countries to support this initiative.
4. The agreed goal of the APFK is to strengthen global and regional forest knowledge networks; create education and research projects and activities with added-value; and build a more capable forestry workforce in a cohesive, collaborative and informal manner to sustain the future of forest education and knowledge worldwide.
5. Based on the feedback from education experts around the globe, the following objectives of the APFK were agreed:
 - i) Working with partners, develop and conduct a forest education programme, both normative and operational, in coordination with existing regional forest faculties, networks and other institutions to ensure value-added, complementarities and long-lasting efforts. The setting should favour the establishment of joint projects, and assist the implementation of the FAO capacity development strategy.
 - ii) Establish a close relationship with regional and/or global forest research networks in order to channel the best available knowledge for FAO Forestry normative and project work, implement joint projects and contribute to defining mid- and long-term research priorities.
 - iii) Establish an efficient mechanism of dissemination of FAO's and other international institutions' vacancies in order to attract the best candidates.
 - iv) Strengthening regional and global networks in forest education, research and profession.
6. COFO requested that the APFK should be time-bound and funded from extra-budgetary resources and should have a broad scope and focus on technical, human and social issues of forest knowledge. The Committee further requested FAO to:

- continue enhancing the forestry-related knowledge base and, in collaboration with other partners, continue disseminating this knowledge by, inter alia, including education and research initiatives in FAO's regional activities under FAO's Strategic Objectives;
- report back on progress on the development and the work of the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge (APFK) at the Committee's 23rd Session.

B. Report on FAO's Regional and Global Activities in Forestry Education and on the APFK

7. In response to the request of the 20th session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission, FAO conducted a survey on forestry education and knowledge in the Near East region in Algeria, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. Main findings were discussed at a regional workshop that took place in Algiers, Algeria, February 2015. It was concluded that the current learning environment in the selected countries is not conducive to producing graduates capable to manage forest resources sustainably in a way that addresses the needs of the local and international community. The existing educational programmes focus mainly on industrial forestry with low coverage of social, economic, cultural and environmental issues. In particular, the capacity of recent graduates in conducting field operations is limited. In fact, the actual number of practice hours is in many cases lower than those stated in the curriculum. This is a consequence of inadequate training sites and logistics and of poorly prepared lecturers. The creation of regional programmes in education and research covering forestry, range and natural resources, could be of great value to the region, to pool the specific strengths of each of the countries as identified by the study. Countries with a centre of excellence in a particular area could lead others lacking this expertise.

8. Under the coordination of FAO, the Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina of Peru, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and the National Forestry and Wildlife Service of Peru, the "Regional Latin American Forestry Education Workshop", was held in December 2014, in Lima, Peru, with the participation of 15 countries and of 24 universities of the Region. The outputs of this meeting included: (i) analysis of the current status of forestry education in the Region; (ii) proposed curriculum; and (iii) recommendations for advancing forestry education in countries in the Region.

9. FAO and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) implemented in 2015 the Inception Phase of the project "Strengthening Forestry Training Centers and Wood Industries for Green Employment in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region". The main outcomes of the Assessment Reports pointed especially to the lack of institutionalized vocational training for the lower level workers and operators, whose skills were found decisive for operational efficiency and safety in the forestry and wood processing jobs. There is an urgent need to develop efficient and innovative forms of vocational training in the forest sector in the SADC region as a whole.

10. The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific launched the 'Kids to Forests' "K2F" in 2011 in celebration of the International Year of Forests in order to provide broader perspectives on forests and forest management to elementary and secondary school children. The programme seeks to build awareness and appreciation among children and the youth of the importance of forest and how they, as young citizens, can contribute in maintaining forests and promoting their sustainable management. The programme has been piloted in Cambodia, China, Fiji, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Philippines and Thailand. Teachers and students are highly appreciative of the hands-on learning opportunity and experience provided through the field excursions.

11. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FAO and the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) has been signed during the World Forestry Congress, Durban, South Africa, September 2015. The MoU renews a previous Agreement signed in 2011 and outlines key activities of FAO and IFSA to strengthen their collaboration in forestry education. Since 2011, IFSA

students have benefited from internships and financial grants to attend global forest-related meetings helping them to build an important network with like-minded professionals around the world.

12. A meeting of the APFK organized at the margins of the World Forestry Congress 2015 in Durban, South Africa was attended by 18 participants from academia, research, student and international organizations. The meeting highlighted the need to better define the mandate and role of the APFK, to better understand the current status of forestry education globally and to collect more data on forestry education institutions and number of students enrolled. In this respect the on-going Joint IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on Forest Education was most welcomed. Participants preferred to call the APFK a “partnership” instead of a “panel” to better reflect the flexible nature of membership and attendance to meetings. There was an agreement to keep the APFK as an informal group of interested members. Participation in meetings should be both by invitation from the Secretariat and by expressed interest of institutions. There is a need to connect the APFK to existing networks and to define the added value of the APFK compared to these other networks.

13. Under the current setting, the APFK, chaired by FAO, brings together participants from academia, research, student and international forestry organizations. The topic of forestry education is highly relevant as demonstrated by the interest expressed during the APFK meetings as well as by the Regional Forestry Commissions and the previous sessions of COFO. APFK meetings enable participants to exchange views and ideas on forestry education and provide a space for coordination. However, the lack of formality and dedicated resources currently limit the role of the APFK to being merely an exchange platform.

C. Points for discussion and consideration

14. The Committee is invited to exchange perspectives on the APFK, considering its potential to positively influence forestry education to meet today’s and tomorrow’s societal needs and to further strengthen FAO’s work in this area.

15. The Commission may wish to invite countries to:

- identify major challenges facing the future of forest education and explore innovative approaches to tackle these challenges and attract more students to the field of forestry;
- consider providing dedicated resources to FAO to strengthen its capacity to support forestry education and the APFK.

16. The Commission may wish to recommend that FAO support countries in their efforts to modernize and strengthen forestry education, using the APFK to provide strategic guidance.

Annex VI

COLLABORATION AMONG THE FAO TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**A. Background**

1. At its 22nd session the Committee on Forestry (COFO) reviewed collaboration and recognized the need for strengthening coherence in the work of the Technical Committees and invited the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) to explore opportunities for collaboration with COFO. It also requested FAO to continue the ongoing collaboration within the context of the Strategic Framework and to *“elaborate, in consultation with the respective bureaux, a detailed proposal for collaboration, for the consideration of the Technical Committees in their forthcoming sessions¹⁵”*.

B. Progress made

2. The COFO recommendation was presented to the bureaux of COAG and COFI in 2014, who welcomed the recommendation and requested that the three secretariats prepare a concept note for possible collaboration and arrange for a joint meeting of the bureaux, preferably on the sidelines of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference. The secretariat was also requested to explore the opportunities for including the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in such a collaboration. The CCP Secretariat confirmed its interest in the collaboration and contributed to the preparation of the concept note but noted the need for guidance for any further action from CCP. Regarding the collaboration with the CFS it was concluded that because of the differences between CFS and the Technical Committees (TCs) another form of collaboration should be sought.

3. The first joint meeting of the bureau of COAG, COFI and COFO was held on 12 June 2015. Participants considered different options for collaboration. They discussed issues of global importance to all TCs; areas of bilateral collaboration; early coordination in developing session agendas; and the conduct of sessions and sponsoring of joint events.

4. The meeting recognized the benefits of enhancing collaboration along the lines suggested in the concept note and identified several areas of common interest with the SDGs and climate change being the most relevant and timely for the 2016 sessions. It was suggested that these issues could be considered by all committees, who could provide their input to the Council and Conference. The meeting also underlined the role of the renewed Strategic Framework in coordinating the technical work of the Organization.

5. In implementing the guidance of the joint meeting the secretariat identified three areas for consideration by the Technical Committees which are included in all agendas.. These are: FAO’s work on the SDGs; the corporate climate change strategy; and the follow-up on the outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition. The documentation for these items includes common elements which are further enriched with specific discussions of particular relevance for the respective committees (COFO/2016/5.1, COFO/2016/6.1, COFO/2016/7.4 have been prepared on this basis, in collaboration with the respective divisions and Strategic Programme teams).

6. Collaboration has also evolved on the other recommended areas. Since SOFO2016 discusses land use challenges and opportunities for agriculture and forest, collaboration has been sought with the Agriculture Department in contributing to the conduct of the session. A side event has been prepared, along similar lines, for presenting an overview for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda across forestry, fisheries and agriculture and for exploring the way forward. This event is sponsored by the

¹⁵ COFO 2014/REP pp 78

respective Strategic Programme team. Other forms of collaboration have also evolved and the secretariats held regular meetings to consult on the development of the session agendas and key documents including their multi-year programmes of work.

C. Points for consideration

7. The Committee may wish to take note of these developments and
 - Welcome the positive response and active engagement of COAG and COFI and invite all Technical Committees to continue collaboration;
 - Request FAO to translate the results of the collaboration into its Medium Term Plan and biennial Programmes of Work and Budget;