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منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# CONFERENCE

## Forty-first Session

Rome, 22-29 June 2019

### Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (Rome, Italy, 16-20 July 2018)

#### Executive Summary

The Committee:

- a) welcomed the State of the World's Forests 2018 (SOFO) and its key messages, and recognized the importance of forests for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- b) recognized the urgency of taking decisive action to promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally to achieve SDG 15;
- c) requested FAO to ensure more effective cooperation between Technical Committees and CFS, and consider organizing intersessional joint activities;
- d) acknowledged the progress made on the Global Core Set of Forest Related Indicators and invited the United Nations Forum on Forests and the governing bodies of CPF member organizations to consider the use of Tier 1 and Tier 2 indicators in their reporting processes;
- e) recognized that sustainable management of urban and peri-urban forests and trees and their integration in urban planning can help achieving the SDGs, ensuring people's health and well-being, and tackling climate change;
- f) supported FAO's initiative to serve as a Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform covering forestry, fisheries and agriculture in an integrated manner, and recognized that the implementation of sustainable forest management is important for mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry;
- g) recognized that sustainable forest management is essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, welcomed the policy recommendations as

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endorsed by the CFS on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition, and acknowledged the importance of also implementing sustainable agriculture practices to support SFM;

- h) took note of the decisions and recommendations of FAO bodies of interest to the Committee, supported the recommendations for cross-sectoral integration and commended FAO for the efforts made in enhancing coordination both internally and externally;
- i) welcomed the successful implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) (2016-2019) to date and the collaboration between the FAO Technical Committees;
- j) encouraged FAO and Member Nations to further mainstream the outcome of the Regional Forestry Commissions' meetings into the Regional Conferences;
- k) received progress reports from forestry statutory bodies and provided guidance for their further work; appreciated the dialogue between COFO and regional forestry commissions chairs, noted the benefits of inter-regional collaboration and encouraged further steps in this regard;
- l) took note of the recommendations from the European Forestry Commission and the North American Forest Commission to focus on boreal forests, and pointed out that increased attention to boreal forests should not lead to diminishing the attention to tropical and other types of forests;
- m) welcomed FAO's Strategy on Climate Change and the priority given to its implementation;
- n) welcomed the accomplishments in FAO's work in forestry in the 2016-17 biennium, including its alignment with the SDGs;
- o) supported the eight thematic priority areas for FAO's work in forestry in 2018-2021, stressing the need for a complementary and integrated approach for agriculture and forests;
- p) recognized the role of FAO in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) as a member and the chair, and stressed the importance of the work of the CPF in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and other global forest-relevant instruments;
- q) recommended deeper collaboration between regional forestry commissions and the UNFF through its regional dimension and suggested that this collaboration be flexible and fit to different regional circumstances;
- r) elected Dr Shin Won Sop of the Republic of Korea as Chairperson of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of COFO.

### **Suggested action by the Council and Conference**

The Council and Conference are invited to:

- endorse the report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry and the recommendations therein.

*Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:*

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**Global policy and regulatory matters for the attention of the Conference**

- *State of World's Forests 2018: Key findings (Paragraph 9.a), b), c) (i), (v), (vi))*
- *Accelerating Progress towards SDG15 (Paragraphs 10, 11, 12.b))*
- *Urban and Peri-urban Forestry (Paragraph 13.a), b))*
- *Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Paragraph 14.b), c), d) (iv))*
- *Forests for Food Security and Nutrition: Follow-up to the 44th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Paragraphs 15, 16)*
- *Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Bodies of Interest to the Committee (Paragraph 18.c))*
- *Report on Progress and the Implementation of the MYPOW (Paragraphs 19.a), 20, 21, 23)*
- *Dialogue with Statutory Bodies (Paragraph 26.b))*
- *Biennial Theme: Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO (Paragraphs 31, 32.i))*
- *Supporting the Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (Paragraph 35)*

**Programme and budgetary matters for the attention of the Council**

- *State of World's Forests 2018 (Paragraph 9.c))*
- *Accelerating Progress towards SDG15 (Paragraph 12)*
- *Urban and Peri-urban Forestry (Paragraph 13.c))*
- *Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Paragraph 14.b), d))*
- *Forests for Food Security and Nutrition: Follow-up to the 44th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Paragraphs 15, 17)*
- *Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Bodies of Interest to the Committee (Paragraph 18.b))*
- *Report on Progress and the Implementation of the MYPOW (Paragraphs 19.a), d), 21, 22, 23, 24, 25)*
- *Dialogue with Statutory Bodies (Paragraphs 26.b), c), 27, 28)*
- *Enhancing Work on Boreal and Temperate Forests (Paragraph 29)*
- *Biennial Theme: Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO (Paragraph 32)*
- *FAO's Work in Forestry under the Reviewed Strategic Framework (Paragraph 33)*
- *Supporting the Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (Paragraphs 34, 36)*

## **OPENING OF THE SESSION (Item 1)**

1. The 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) was held at FAO headquarters, Rome (Italy), from 16 to 20 July 2018 as the centrepiece of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Forest Week.
2. The session was attended by delegates from 104 countries and one Member Organization, representatives of 32 United Nations Agencies and Programmes, intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations were also in attendance.
3. His Excellency Akram Chehayeb (Lebanon), Chairperson of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of COFO, opened the session highlighting the timeliness of the topics to be addressed. He introduced the speakers at the opening session: Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO (via video); His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; Her Excellency Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia; Her Excellency Marie Chatardová, President of ECOSOC and of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development concurrently taking place in New York (via video); Mr Slawomir Mazurek, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of the Environment, Republic of Poland, His Excellency Mario Arvelo, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic and Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security, and Mr Daniel J. Gustafson, FAO's Deputy Director-General (Programmes).
4. Mr Hiroto Mitsugi, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, welcomed delegates to the session.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 2)**

5. The Agenda (*Appendix A*) was adopted. The documents considered by the Committee are listed in *Appendix B*.

## **DESIGNATION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE (Item 3)**

6. The Committee was advised that the Regional Forestry Commissions had elected the following Chairpersons, who thus serve as Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee on Forestry for the duration of their terms in office in their respective Commissions: Mr Baidy Ba (Senegal), representing the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission; Mr Anura Sathurusinghe (Sri Lanka), representing the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission; Ms Christine Farcy (Belgium), representing the European Forestry Commission; Mr Misael Leon Carvajal (Honduras), representing the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission; Ms Vicki Christiansen (USA), representing the North American Forest Commission; and Mr Chadi Mohanna (Lebanon), representing the Near East Forestry and Range Commission.

7. The following Members were elected to the Drafting Committee: Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Latvia, Morocco,

Netherlands, Norway, Thailand, United States. The Committee elected Mr Mohamed Ali Elhadi from the Republic of Sudan as Chairperson of the Drafting Committee and Mr Arvids Ozols, delegate of Latvia, as Vice-Chairperson.

8. Austria delivered a statement at the opening session on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

#### **STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS 2018: KEY FINDINGS (Item 4)**

9. The Committee welcomed the launch of *State of the World's Forests 2018* (SOFO 2018) and its key messages. Based on its findings, the Committee:

- a) Recognized the importance of forests for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- b) Invited countries to:
  - (i) improve recognition that poverty alleviation, food security, food systems, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and forests are closely linked and that forests contribute to multiple SDGs;
  - (ii) promote integrated approaches to national development policies and strategies to harmonize sector policies and ensure policy coherence as appropriate, taking into account their national priorities and capacities;
  - (iii) consider ways to improve information of the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda;
  - (iv) submit or provide information for specific revisions in SOFO to help the secretariat improve its accuracy.
- c) Requested FAO to:
  - (i) disseminate and promote key messages of SOFO 2018 in appropriate fora, including relevant governing and statutory bodies of the Organization, as well as in other processes relevant to land use and forests including the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF);
  - (ii) assist countries in strengthening the role of forests and trees in achieving multiple SDGs and in accelerating progress in this regard in accordance with their national priorities and strategies and the guidance provided by the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development;
  - (iii) promote the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 - including by incorporating it within its Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget - and support countries in monitoring progress;
  - (iv) support countries with tools, methodologies and capacity-building for generating better information and data on forests' contribution to the SDGs, including gender-disaggregated data, as well as for monitoring progress and improving general awareness of forests' contribution to building more sustainable and resilient societies;
  - (v) strengthen its role as coordinator of forest data reporting, including at regional level, in order to maintain consistency in the data provided and to avoid duplication of efforts and promote alignment and harmonization with other global forest reporting processes;

- (vi) promote FAO's global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) as the main reference data source on forest resources at the global level.

## **FORESTS AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Item 5)**

### **5.1 ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG 15**

10. The Committee acknowledged the progress made on the Global Core Set of Forest Related Indicators and invited UNFF and the governing bodies of CPF member organizations to consider the use of Tier 1 and Tier 2 indicators in their reporting processes.
11. The Committee invited countries to:
- a) recognize the urgency of taking decisive action to promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally to achieve SDG 15;
  - b) consider ways to promote the role of civil society, local communities, women and youth as agents of change;
  - c) consider ways to promote sustainable value chains in agriculture, food systems and forestry that prevent deforestation and forest degradation, in accordance with national needs and priorities;
  - d) promote policy coherence across sectors, provide an enabling framework and facilitate responsible investment and finance for SFM and sustainable agriculture and food systems;
  - e) strengthen forestry education at all levels and educate consumers of forest products about sustainability in all of its three dimensions.
12. The Committee requested FAO to:
- a) continue to promote action to halt deforestation and increase forest cover in order to achieve SDG Target 15.2, to promote sustainable management of all types of forests worldwide and to combat desertification;
  - b) ensure more effective cooperation between COFO, the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and consider organising intersessional joint activities;
  - c) support countries in promoting and developing policies and measures that lead to sustainable value chains for forest products;
  - d) support countries with a view to strengthening capacities in implementation and innovation in the private sector and smallholders and their organizations, including women's organizations, as appropriate;
  - e) support countries in developing technical skills to control transboundary forest pests and diseases;
  - f) support the capacity development for relevant country stakeholders to collect and analyse data for the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators;
  - g) continue working with CPF members on further development of the "Tier 2", "Tier 3" and "candidate" indicators of the Global Core Set; request FAO to continue to report on progress on the Global Core Set, including at UNFF.

## 5.2 URBAN AND PERI-URBAN FORESTRY

13. Based on the outcomes of the discussions by the regional forestry commissions (Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East and North America), the Committee:

- a) recognized that sustainable management of urban and peri-urban forests and trees and their integration in urban planning can help achieving the SDGs, ensuring people's health and well-being and tackling climate change.
- b) invited member countries to:
  - (i) increase knowledge transfer and exchange on urban and peri-urban forests and trees through active participation in regional technical networks;
  - (ii) foster inter-sectoral coordination among the various levels of governments (national, regional, local) on development of policies and urban planning approaches addressed to fully exploit the contribution of urban and peri-urban forests to SDG 11 and 15;
  - (iii) encourage participation of national professionals in the 1<sup>st</sup> World Forum on Urban Forests.
- c) requested FAO to support countries by:
  - (i) continuing to develop planning and management tools for urban and peri-urban forests, including through the implementation, collection and dissemination of case studies and good practices;
  - (ii) supporting dialogue and exchange through international networks and events and through South-North, South-South and North-North cooperation;
  - (iii) developing capacity-building programmes on urban forestry in collaboration with national and regional centres of excellence;
  - (iv) providing assistance in the use of inventory, monitoring and evaluation technologies for urban and peri-urban forests and for the quantification and valuation of their environmental services;
  - (v) providing policy and technical support on the planning, design and management of urban and peri-urban forests.

## 5.3 MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY INTO AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

14. The Committee:

- a) considered the report from the informal multi-stakeholder dialogue of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform in May 2018 to provide recommendations on the work programme of the Platform;
- b) supported FAO's initiative to serve as a Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform covering forestry, fisheries and agriculture, in an integrated manner, and recognized that the implementation of sustainable forest management is important for mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry;
- c) invited member countries to:
  - (i) engage in the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform to exchange on opportunities and constraints for biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry;

- (ii) strengthen the implementation of international agreements relevant to biodiversity and forests, as well as the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources;
- d) requested FAO to:
  - (i) contribute to an improved understanding of the implications of forest biodiversity loss for forestry, fisheries and agriculture, and of responses addressing threats to forest biodiversity as well as the important role of sustainable forest management, through the development and dissemination of knowledge and tools, including the Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox;
  - (ii) continue coordinating and supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources, in collaboration with the regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations, bodies and processes, and regularly report on progress made in its implementation to the Committee;
  - (iii) provide more clarification on the work of this platform, especially in its financial and institutional implications, as well as potential activities including sharing of best practices, knowledge management, development of metrics, and development of technical studies;
  - (iv) Develop a biodiversity strategy which will include a plan to mainstream biodiversity in the forest sector, and bring to COFO's consideration.

#### **5.4 FORESTS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: FOLLOW-UP TO THE 44<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY**

15. In view of the importance of sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition as highlighted by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the Committee:

- a) recognized that sustainable forest management is essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”;
- b) welcomed the policy recommendations as endorsed by the CFS on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition;
- c) acknowledged the importance of also implementing sustainable agriculture practices to support SFM.

16. The Committee invited countries to:

- a) promote the role of forests and trees in achieving food security and nutrition in its four dimensions (access, availability, utilization, stability) by taking into consideration the specific recommendations of the CFS in this regard;
- b) improve data collection and strengthen capacities to generate the knowledge needed for mainstreaming the role of forests and trees in food security and nutritional policies;
- c) promote policy coherence between land use sectors for integrated land management that optimizes forests' contribution to food security and nutrition;

- d) promote, as appropriate, forest tenure rights of local and indigenous communities, in accordance with the VGGT<sup>1</sup>, as a means to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, in the context of national food security, taking into account national laws and legitimate tenure rights;
- e) promote sustainable value chains in agriculture and forestry that prevent deforestation and forest degradation, including through positive incentives to companies and small producers in a way that addresses food security concerns.

17. The Committee requested FAO to:

- a) further promote the use of existing operative guidelines for integrated land management optimising forests' and agriculture's contribution to food security and nutrition, and to update them if needed;
- b) compile and disseminate best practices on achieving policy coherence for mainstreaming the contributions of forests and trees to food security and nutrition;
- c) support countries to:
  - (i) develop cross-sectoral policies that integrate forests, agriculture and food security and nutrition objectives;
  - (ii) strengthen the capacity of government institutions and of local communities to integrate food security and nutrition objectives into their sustainable forest management practices;
  - (iii) monitor and collect data and information on the contribution of forests to improving food security and nutrition.

## **PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAST SESSIONS AND OTHER FAO GOVERNING BODIES (ITEM 6)**

### **6.1 DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE**

18. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the presentation and took note of the decisions and recommendations of FAO bodies of interest to the Committee including when addressing the related agenda items;
- b) urged FAO to give high priority to its scientific and technical expertise throughout its work, also in the context of individual FAO bodies;
- c) supported the recommendations for cross-sectoral integration and commended FAO for the efforts made in enhancing coordination both internally and externally.

### **6.2 REPORT ON PROGRESS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MYPOW**

19. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the successful implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) (2016-2019) to date and the collaboration between the FAO Technical

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<sup>1</sup> The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

Committees and encouraged FAO and Member Nations to further mainstream the outcome of the Regional Forestry Commissions' meetings into the Regional Conferences;

- b) appreciated the work done by the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management; the Forest and Farm Facility; the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism; the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources; the Mountain Partnership; and REDD+;
- c) took note of the progress made on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade;
- d) acknowledged the need to continue to combat illegal logging and promote the consumption of legally produced timber and wood products;
- e) welcomed the preparation of the second report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, to be released in 2023.

20. The Committee invited countries to:

- a) recall the relevance of the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, and encouraged members to contribute technically and financially to the organisation of the first meeting and other activities of the Working Group;
- b) support the second phase of the Forest and Farm Facility;
- c) strengthen commitments to improving forest governance and promoting sustainable forest management as enabling factors for addressing illegal deforestation, advancing trade in legal timber and wood products, and supporting climate change initiatives;
- d) actively pursue more integrated approaches to restoration of degraded lands at landscape level, support the development of financing mechanisms dedicated to forest and landscape restoration and better engage the private sector in forest and landscape restoration initiatives;
- e) actively participate in the Mountain Partnership, promote investment and specific policies for improving the livelihoods of mountain peoples and increase their resilience, invest in data and research collection and strengthen the national and local capacities in sustainable mountain development.

21. The Committee urged FAO to give high priority to scientific and technical expertise throughout its work.

22. The Committee requested FAO to continue to:

- a) support the work of the Forest and Farm Facility;
- b) assist countries in addressing the problem of illegal logging and related trade, and improving forest governance including through Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), in cooperation with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other relevant bodies;
- c) support efforts on Forest and Landscape Restoration, including by working together with other efforts such as the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR);
- d) report on the activities of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources during future sessions;

- e) support countries, upon their request and within available resources, in their process to develop national strategies and planning documents, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), adaptation communications, and national adaptation plans, in order to address forest related emission reduction and adaptation actions;
  - f) support countries to develop monitoring systems for forest degradation.
23. The Committee invited FAO to consider future MYPOWs to cover at least three biennia, also taking into account the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan on Forests.
24. The Committee invited FAO to provide the next COFO session with more detailed information on the results of project activities on FLEGT and how experiences and best practices are being mainstreamed in other relevant activities.
25. The Committee encouraged FAO to explore options for operationalizing the Working Group on Forests and Drylands Agrosilvopastoral Systems, including virtual meetings and involvement of decentralized offices.

### **6.3 DIALOGUE WITH STATUTORY BODIES**

26. The Committee:
- a) appreciated the dialogue between COFO and regional forestry commissions chairs and proposed extending the dialogue mechanism to women, youth, indigenous communities and the private sector;
  - b) encouraged FAO to explore options for linking the work of the regional forestry commissions to other policy areas and working groups, in order to increase relevance and effectiveness, create synergies, and strengthen attention to forest issues in FAO Regional Conferences;
  - c) noted the benefits of inter-regional collaboration and encouraged further steps in this regard, including in the context of *Silva Mediterranea*.
27. The Committee:
- a) supported the recommendations of the 58<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSF);
  - b) recognized ACSFI's important role in representing the private sector in the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) Initiative and invited countries to provide inputs to activities within SW4SW, as recommended by ACSFI;
  - c) requested FAO to give adequate attention to forestry in its work on biotechnology and bioeconomy and invited ACSFI to continue to provide advice to FAO in this regard;
  - d) invited ACSFI to provide information on its work to Member Nations and continue to advise FAO as well as other relevant fora, such as the UNFF.

28. The Committee:

- a) supported the process for reforming the International Poplar Commission (IPC), including the reorganisation of its Working Parties;
- b) reiterated that there are neither new obligations on contracting parties nor additional costs to the FAO Regular Programme;
- c) encouraged members of the Commission to actively contribute to the reform of IPC;
- d) encouraged the IPC to consider potential new species, especially those of significance to support tropical countries, while avoiding duplication of work with other organizations such as ITTO;
- e) encouraged FAO to enhance coordination with the IPC ensuring timely distribution of relevant documents and enabling member countries to be more informed about IPC progress.

#### **6.4 ENHANCING WORK ON BOREAL AND TEMPERATE FORESTS**

29. The Committee:

- a) took note of the outcome of the Boreal Ministerial Summit on Cooperation on Boreal Forests, which took place in Haparanda, Sweden in June 2018 and further noted that the establishment of a UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on Boreal Forests is a matter to be discussed by the competent governing bodies;
- b) took note of the recommendations from the European Forestry Commission and the North American Forest Commission to focus on boreal forests;
- c) pointed out that increased attention to boreal forests should not lead to diminishing the attention to tropical and other types of forests;
- d) invited member countries to recognize the importance of boreal forests in the relevant international policy fora and to catalyse scientific and technical cooperation;
- e) recommended FAO to:
  - (i) continue its work on boreal forests within its existing programmes and available resources and through existing mechanisms;
  - (ii) maintain collaboration with UNECE and other relevant processes to explore opportunities on joint work on boreal forests;
  - (iii) include further work on boreal and temperate forests in the next Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium Term Plan.

#### **6.5 BIENNIAL THEME: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE WORK AND ACTIVITIES OF FAO**

30. The Committee welcomed FAO's Strategy on Climate Change and the priority given to its implementation.

31. The Committee encouraged Members to:
- a) undertake and monitor domestic mitigation efforts in the forest sector including, as appropriate, in the implementation of their respective NDCs;
  - b) incorporate forests into their National Adaptation Plans, develop policies for adaptation through forests, and take action to improve forest health and to restore degraded forests and landscapes.
32. The Committee requested FAO to:
- a) continue to work in close collaboration with governments to facilitate inter-sectoral dialogues among agricultural sector ministries, other ministries and relevant stakeholders in order to address the vulnerabilities and mitigation potential of forests and to promote more holistic landscape-based approaches in the face of climate change, including measures to reduce risks of natural disasters;
  - b) provide additional technical and capacity-building support, including through South-South collaboration, to countries to set up forest monitoring, reporting and verification systems, address deforestation and climate change, and implement REDD+ and alternative strategies, forest financing strategies and investment plans;
  - c) further assist countries to integrate forestry into national plans and action to address climate change, including, as appropriate, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Adaptation Communications, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and NDCs, and to develop and implement integrated, cross-sectoral approaches to climate action, using funding opportunities under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the 7<sup>th</sup> replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7);
  - d) assist countries to promote actions preventing deforestation and forest degradation as well as actions promoting the enhancement of forest sinks in particular through afforestation and long-lived harvested wood products, in accordance with their national priorities;
  - e) continue exploring synergies with other organizations, relevant processes and across programmes that support mitigation and adaptation action, including strengthening coordination of relevant ongoing initiatives at the country level, for example FLEGT;
  - f) strengthen the implementation and monitoring of FAO's strategy on climate change by ensuring food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries are considered in an integrated and holistic way;
  - g) contribute to a well-informed international dialogue and to evidence-based decision-making on forest and climate change mitigation and adaptation, through its work in capacity-building, forest health monitoring and knowledge-sharing initiatives;
  - h) promote the involvement of stakeholders, including rural and indigenous communities, which depend on forests for food and survival, in climate actions;
  - i) continue to strengthen coordination efforts internally to integrate work across FAO's Departments and externally with other initiatives and organizations, including the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Green Climate Fund and relevant multilateral and bilateral programmes;

- j) contribute to enhancing the role of private sector in forest related actions, including the promotion of responsible investments that are consistent with the conservation and sustainable use of forests, including those in agriculture;
- k) further support multi-country technical and policy exchanges to address emerging issues relating to climate change and advance understanding and adoption of best practices for climate change adaptation measures among Member Nations;
- l) continue to contribute to the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention including increasing funding base for its operations, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to address forests in the context of a changing climate.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS (Item 7)**

### **7.1 FAO'S WORK IN FORESTRY UNDER THE REVIEWED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

33. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the accomplishments in FAO's work in forestry in the 2016-2017 biennium, including its alignment with the SDGs;
- b) supported the eight thematic priority areas for FAO's work in forestry in 2018-2021, stressing the need for a complementary and integrated approach for agriculture and forests;
- c) encouraged FAO to continue strengthening its contribution to global forest goals and targets, and to integrate them explicitly into its forest-related plans and programmes;
- d) urged FAO to give high priority to standard setting activities, including within the FAO budget;
- e) requested FAO to:
  - (i) include sustainable integrated land use as well as forest degradation among the thematic priority areas under the Strategic Framework, and to address them at the next meeting;
  - (ii) continue to place a high priority on its work on global forest data and capacity-building for countries to gather and manage forest-related information;
  - (iii) better articulate its work related to forest fire management;
  - (iv) further develop long-term scenarios and solutions for sustainable supply and demand of forest products, especially wood, in collaboration with CPF partners.

### **7.2 SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FORESTS**

34. The Committee welcomed CPF's new Policy Document and Workplan and suggested to strengthen further integration with the UNSPF and its Quadrennial Programme of Work (4POW).

35. The Committee:

- a) recognized the role of FAO in the CPF as a member and the chair, and stressed the importance of the work of the CPF in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and other global forest-relevant instruments;
- b) recognized FAO's contributions to the work of UNFF and invited the Forum to continue to engage FAO closely in its work on the Organization's areas of expertise;
- c) invited the Forum to continue to use major analytical products of FAO;
- d) recommended deeper collaboration between regional forestry commissions and the Forum through its regional dimension and suggested that this collaboration be flexible and fit to different regional circumstances.

36. The Committee requested FAO to:

- a) continue to support the implementation of the UNSPF and the 4POW and align its activities with the Programme of Work in Forestry under the Strategic Framework with them;
- b) continue and strengthen its leadership role in the CPF and initiate new activities, including, inter alia, on forest education and support to small-holders;
- c) recognize the contribution to the UNSPF as a core function of the organization and include it in the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 8)**

37. The Committee elected Dr Shin Won Sop of the Republic of Korea as Chairperson of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of COFO.

#### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 9)**

38. In order to enable the Programme and Finance Committees to take into consideration the report of the Committee and to submit its recommendations to the Council, the Committee recommended that its next session be held in 2020, and suggested that the final date be decided by the FAO Secretariat in consultation with the COFO Steering Committee, following review of the FAO Calendar of Governing Body Sessions for the next biennium by the Council.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Item 10)**

39. The Committee adopted the report as amended by consensus.

#### **CLOSURE OF THE SESSION (Item 11)**

40. The Chairperson closed the session at 17:43 on 20 July 2018.

**APPENDIX A****AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Designation of the Drafting Committee
4. State of the World's Forests 2018: Key findings
5. Forests and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
  - 5.1 Accelerating Progress towards SDG15
  - 5.2 Urban and Periurban Forestry
  - 5.3 Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
  - 5.4 Forests for Food Security and Nutrition: Follow-up to the 44th Session of the Committee on World Food Security
6. Progress in Implementation of the Recommendations of Past Sessions and other FAO Governing Bodies
  - 6.1 Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Bodies of Interest to the Committee
  - 6.2 Report on Progress and the Implementation of the MYPOW
  - 6.3 Dialogue with Statutory Bodies
  - 6.4 Enhancing Work on Boreal and Temperate Forests
  - 6.5 Biennial Theme: Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO
7. Strategic Directions
  - 7.1 FAO's Work in Forestry under the Reviewed Strategic Framework
  - 7.2 Supporting the Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests
8. Election of Officers
9. Date and Place of the Next Session
10. Adoption of the Report
11. Closure of the Session

**APPENDIX B****LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

<b>Document symbol</b>	<b>Title</b>
COFO/2018/1	Provisional Agenda
COFO/2018/4	State of the World's Forests 2018: Key findings
COFO/2018/5.1	Accelerating progress towards SDG15
COFO/2018/5.2	Urban and peri-urban forestry
COFO/2018/5.3	Mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture, forestry and fisheries
COFO/2018/5.4	Forests for food security and nutrition: follow up to the 44 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security
COFO/2018/6.1	Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Governing Bodies of interest to the Committee
COFO/2018/6.2	Report on progress and the implementation of the MYPOW
COFO/2018/6.3	Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry
COFO/2018/6.4	Enhancing work on boreal and temperate forests
COFO/2018/6.5	Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO in forestry
COFO/2018/7.1	FAO's work in forestry under the reviewed Strategic Framework
COFO/2018/7.2	Supporting the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests
<b>Information Documents</b>	
COFO/2018/Inf.1	Provisional Timetable
COFO/2018/Inf.2	Scaling up Agroecology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals: Outcomes of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> International Symposium and way forward
COFO/2018/Inf.3	List of Documents
COFO/2018/Inf.4	List of Participants
COFO/2018/Inf.5	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights Submitted by the European Union (EU) and its Member States

*APPENDIX C***MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bhutan
- Bolivia  
(Plurinational State of)
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Democratic People's  
Republic of Korea
- Democratic Republic of  
the Congo
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- European Union  
(Member Organization)
- Finland
- France
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran (Islamic  
Republic of)
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Kuwait
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Lithuania
- Madagascar
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru

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- Philippines
  - Poland
  - Portugal
  - Republic of Korea
  - Republic of Moldova
  - Romania
  - Russian Federation
  - Sao Tome and Principe
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Senegal
  - Slovakia
  - Slovenia
  - South Africa
  - South Sudan
  - Spain
  - Sri Lanka
  - Sudan
  - Suriname
  - Sweden
  - Switzerland
  - Thailand
  - Togo
  - Tunisia
  - Turkey
  - Uganda
  - Ukraine
  - United Arab Emirates
  - United Kingdom
  - United Republic of Tanzania
  - United States of America
  - Uruguay
  - Uzbekistan
  - Vanuatu
  - Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
  - Viet Nam
  - Yemen
  - Zambia
  - Zimbabwe