

25th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Item 8.3 - DIALOGUE WITH STATUTORY BODIES IN FORESTRY

Introductory Notes

Statutory bodies are established under Article VI of the FAO Constitution to carry out specific tasks in support of the work of FAO and to provide specialist advice in high-priority areas or questions.

This document presents progress reports on activities of the Forestry Statutory Bodies and the Working Group of the Committee on Forestry:

1. Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs), held between June 2019 and March 2020
2. Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*, including:
 - its 23rd Session held in April 2019 in Brummana, Lebanon
 - Forest and landscape restoration in the Mediterranean
 - Young entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean
 - Advocacy and sharing knowledge
3. Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI), including:
 - Outputs of the 60th and 61st Sessions of ACFSI, held in 2019 and 2020
 - Key messages of ACFSI
4. International Poplar Commission (IPC), including:
 - The IPC Reform
 - Developing an IPC Vision and Strategy
 - The 26th Session of the IPC, to be held in 2021
5. Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, including:
 - Progress of the Working Group
 - Working Group review of its Rules of Procedure and proposal of amendments

The Committee may wish to engage in a dialogue with Chairpersons of the Statutory Bodies and provide further advice or guidance, as appropriate.

The Committee may wish to:

1. Regional Forestry Commissions
 - Continue providing guidance on strategic issues to the Regional Forestry Commissions and other FAO regional bodies; and
 - Stress the importance for the regional bodies to have a more policy-relevant role in the FAO Regional Conferences.
 - Request FAO to review and consult with Members on further improving Regional Forestry Commissions as well-established mechanisms for policy dialogue and exchange, with a view to further strengthening coordination and collaborative action across sectors and stakeholders to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement and the Global Forest Goals.
2. Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*

- Encourage Members of Silva Mediterranea to:
 - Support the project “MedForYouth-Empowering Young Entrepreneurs around the Mediterranean” and urge FAO to explore ways and means to further develop and implement it;
 - Contribute to the preparation and commit to high-level participation in the 24th Session of Silva Mediterranea and the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week, planned to be held in 2021;
 - Review the activities of Silva Mediterranea to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on Mediterranean forest ecosystems and related livelihoods, and how forests and forestry can contribute to the recovery from the pandemic in the region.
3. Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI)
- Endorse the ACFSI outputs and key messages arising out of its 60th and 61st sessions;
 - Request FAO to facilitate, as Secretariat of the ACFSI, the finalization and implementation of the ACFSI Strategic Framework 2020-2030, including identifying key action to address the impacts of COVID-19 on the forest sector;
 - Invite ACFSI to continue catalyzing strategic partnerships between FAO and the private sector to support country efforts to achieve the SDGs.
4. International Poplar Commission (IPC)
- Take note of the achievements of the IPC Reform process;
 - Encourage the IPC Executive Committee to take concrete actions through fast-growing tree species to support the UN Decade of Action for the SDGs, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and UN Decade on Family Farming;
 - Encourage participation in the 2021 IPC Session and membership in the IPC in view of the expansion of the IPC scope.
5. Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems
- Approve the revised Rules of Procedure, as proposed by the First Session of the Working Group;
 - Take note of the progress made in the work of the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems;
 - Encourage countries that have not yet done so to nominate their national dryland experts to serve on the Working Group.