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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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FAO's Forestry Roadmap: from Vision to Action

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following the recommendations of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the 171st Session of the Council, the Forestry Division (NFO) commenced a process to develop a new framework document titled *FAO's Forestry Roadmap: from Vision to Action*, to maximize forests' contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals and other globally agreed goals and targets and support the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.
- The roadmap will outline FAO's vision on and mission in forestry in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, and will be fully aligned with other relevant FAO strategies. It will also inform the future Medium-Term Plans and Programmes of Work and Budget.
- The roadmap will specify objectives and priority areas for action, as well as implementation arrangements and modalities to monitor and report on progress. It will further outline how FAO's accelerators and cross-cutting themes will be implemented in forestry and operationalize FAO's reinvigorated, fit-for-purpose business model. The roadmap is being developed in an open and participatory manner, in consultation with FAO Members and international partners, aiming for cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration, within and outside the Organization.
- The roadmap is intended for the consideration of COFO at its 27th Session.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- The Programme Committee is invited to take note of the document.

I. Introduction

1. At its 26th Session, held on 3-7 October 2022, the Committee on Forestry (COFO)¹ discussed FAO's work in forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. The Committee noted with appreciation the accomplishments of FAO's work in forestry and endorsed the priority areas of work in forestry in 2022-23 and beyond. It also welcomed the strong alignment with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, as well as the contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) Global Forest Goals. The Committee also encouraged FAO to "continue to pursue its reinvigorated business model, including through better interlinking technical and operational work, fostering partnerships, and strengthening responsiveness to Members' needs and delivery at country level."
2. The FAO Council, at its 171st Session², endorsed the proposed priority areas of work in forestry and welcomed their strong alignment with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. It also requested FAO to continue actively identifying the important and mutually beneficial linkages between agriculture and forestry, and scaling up its related activities.
3. In response to these requests, the FAO Forestry Division has commenced a process to develop a roadmap for FAO's work in forestry towards 2031, to support the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems and maximize forestry's contribution to the 2030 Agenda, in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF)'s Global Forest Goals, with the aim of presenting this document to the 27th Session of the Committee on Forestry in 2024 for consideration.

II. Rationale for developing the FAO forestry roadmap

4. The need for a FAO forestry roadmap is based on the recognition that the world is facing fast escalating challenges, which cannot be effectively addressed without forests. Forests and trees play fundamental roles in the provision of wood and non-wood forest products, energy and ecosystem services that are integral to the sustainability and productivity of agrifood systems. Forests provide essential habitat for much of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, an essential component of agrifood systems and a key resource in efforts to sustainably increase food and biomass production and contribute to food security and nutrition. Worldwide, forests contain more than half the global carbon stock in soils and vegetation³, and long-life wood products constitute another important carbon reservoir. While forests are crucial in tackling multiple environmental crises, they also generate livelihoods and millions of rural jobs, vital especially for those who are most in need.
5. As these concerns are at the core of FAO's work, the starting points for the roadmap are FAO's Basic Texts, FAO's vision and its three Global Goals, as illustrated in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.
6. The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 seeks to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind. These *four betters* comprise an organizing structure for the way in which FAO contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). FAO implements the Strategic Framework through 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), which articulate FAO's thematic, technical comparative advantages and competency to deliver, through its regular Medium-Term Plans and Programmes of Work and Budget.
7. The roadmap will outline FAO's vision on and mission in forestry in the context of FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the Global Forest Goals. This includes specifying objectives and outcome indicators related to FAO's forestry support to Members in achieving the SDGs and the

¹ Report of the 26th Session of COFO: <https://www.fao.org/3/nk728en/nk728en.pdf>

² Report CL171: <https://www.fao.org/3/nl148en/nl148en.pdf>

³ FAO. 2022. *The State of the World's Forests 2022*.

Global Forest Goals. It will further inform the future Medium-term Plans and the Programmes of Work and Budget.

8. The basis for the objectives and outcome indicators will be the four priority areas of FAO's work in forestry as endorsed by COFO at its 26th Session⁴ and 171st Session of the Council⁵ in 2022, notably: halting deforestation and enhancing resilience; mainstreaming biodiversity and restoring forest ecosystems; enhancing sustainable production, use and livelihoods; and data, statistics, and analytics.

9. The roadmap will further specify priority areas for action as well as implementation arrangements and modalities to monitor and report on progress made. It will outline how FAO's "accelerators" and cross-cutting themes will be implemented in forestry's programmatic interventions. It will also strengthen FAO's reinvigorated, fit-for-purpose business model in forestry, aiming to ensure an inclusive and agile organization that is transparent, open, innovative, responsible, effective and impactful - and that serves its Members to achieve the *four betters*.

10. The roadmap and its implementation will be based on the principles that are inherent in FAO strategies and operational activities. The framework will be, in particular: driven by Members' demand; focused on FAO's comparative advantages; oriented towards achieving results at scale; balanced between the different dimensions of sustainability (social, economic and environmental); science- and evidence-based; technically and financially feasible; inclusive and participatory; and team-oriented.

11. The roadmap will also serve as a vehicle for strategizing and operationalizing the forest pathways as means for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and resilient economies, as outlined in *the State of the World's Forests 2022*⁶.

12. In addition to identifying pathways and setting objectives and targets closely linked with the SDGs and the Global Forest Goals, the roadmap will also establish a monitoring and reporting framework with a dual objective: to follow its implementation and contribute to monitoring progress on the PPAs, and to help assess progress in achieving the broader Sustainable Development Goals. By doing so the roadmap will also contribute to FAO's UN system-wide monitoring and reporting tasks related to the SDGs and other global goals.

13. The roadmap will seek full compliance with and contribute to FAO's main strategies, such as the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031, the Science and Innovation Strategy, the Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, and the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025.

III. Way forward

14. The roadmap is being developed in an open and participatory manner. The participatory process includes broad consultations within FAO, involving all thematic areas and decentralized offices, consultations with FAO Members, and consultations with partner organizations, in particular members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests⁷ (CPF).

15. Consultations with FAO Members will include the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions, who are invited to provide their inputs to the roadmap through their Sessions in the current meeting cycle (2023-24), and consultations with Members through their national focal points and Permanent Representations to FAO, planned for late 2023 and early 2024.

⁴ COFO/2022/REP paragraph 27

⁵ CL 171/REP paragraph 24

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb9360en>

⁷ CPF is a voluntary partnership of 16 global organizations with substantive mandates on forests. CPF is chaired by FAO and was established in response to ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35.

16. The roadmap will be presented for consideration to the 27th Session of COFO, to be held on 22-26 July 2024.