

27th Session of the Committee on Forestry - Written Correspondence Procedure

Item 9.2 Strengthening FAO's contribution to the international arrangement on forests, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (COFO/2024/7.2)

Secretariat response to written inputs from Members

The secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments from Members on Item 9.2 Strengthening FAO's contribution to the international arrangement on forests, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) (COFO/2024/7.2).

The secretariat noted with deep appreciation the welcome and support by the EU and its Member States, the United States of America, Japan, New Zealand, Canada, Australia and Mexico to FAO's contribution to the implementation of the UNSPF and the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and its leadership in the CPF, and for recognizing the role of FAO in leading the CPF's endeavour to shape coordinated activities following the decisions of the 19th of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF 19) and the CPF Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030 .

The suggestions of the EU on the text of the COFO 27 report have been noted by the secretariat.

The secretariat appreciates Japan's recognition of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), as a flagship contribution to the UNSPF, providing essential basic data for policy formulation and serving as a monitoring function for achieving the GFGs.

The secretariat is also grateful to Japan for the generous support for and excellent collaboration in organizing the regional FRA 2025 country reporting workshop in Tokyo in the last quarter of 2023. The secretariat wishes to inform that FAO will continue to inform Members on the FRA process through the Regional Forestry Commissions, COFO Sessions, and the FRA National Correspondents, and through the FRA capacity building events, bi-annual emails and the recently re-introduced FRA newsletter sent to the FRA National Correspondents.

The secretariat notes with gratitude the substantive support provided by Japan to the SW4SW Joint Initiative, and the contribution to the implementation of the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood since 2022. The secretariat also thanks the United States of America, New Zealand and Australia for the recognition of the SW4SW and FAO's collaboration with IUFRO to this end and noted Australia's proposal to expand the focus of the SW4SW initiative in the Asia-Pacific region.

The secretariat took note of the input provided by the United States of America on the text of the session report.

The secretariat took note of the proposal to play a role in responding to the Mid-Term Review of the IAF, and to ensure that the recommendations related to the implementation of specific elements of the UNFF19 Omnibus Resolution, related to the FAO programme of work, in line with the mandate of the Organization, should be considered. The secretariat will, within its mandate and available resources, including extra-budgetary resources, make effort to respond to this suggestion, and, in its capacity as the Chair of the CPF, will facilitate CPF's discussion and consideration of items f), c), d) of the UNFF Omnibus Resolution. FAO will continue to explore, in collaboration with CPF members and other experts, how to support best UNFF's review functions, including the use of FRA data in the UNFF GFGs Report.

The secretariat took note of the United States of America's observation regarding the ITTO-led Joint Initiative on Integrated Fire Management in Tropical Forests and FAO's work on the UN Global Fire Management Hub, which will be considered under provisional agenda item 8.4: FAO's work on integrated wildfire management.

The secretariat appreciates the support by Canada to the suggested actions contained in the above document. The secretariat notes the valuable contributions of the International Model Forest Network to the relevant CPF Joint Initiatives, as suggested by Canada.

The secretariat took note of New Zealand's, Mexico's and Australia's support to the suggested actions in COFO/2024/7.2.

The secretariat took note of the concern expressed by Mexico over deforestation and the adverse effects of climate change, desertification, land degradation, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste.

The secretariat further noted the support of Mexico and Australia to the integration of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and the Global Forest Goals into FAO's work in forestry, which will be considered under item 7.