

27th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – Original language

Item 8.6 Decisions and recommendations of FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee (COFO/2024/6.6)

Member Name	Comments
<p><b>Japan</b> Friday, 28 June 2024 11:11 (CET)</p>	<p>Japan supports the FAO’s efforts to submit a Voluntary Code of Conduct for the sustainable use and management of plastics in agriculture (VCoC) at the 29th Committee on Agriculture (COAG29). We expect FAO to lead in sharing information about the VCoC discussions held under COAG with the 27th Committee on Forestry (COFO27) and to promote understanding among all member countries.</p>
<p><b>United States of America</b> Friday, 28 June 2024 17:03 (CET)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As we continue discussions of bioeconomy, the United States suggests that FAO use the term “forest-based bioeconomy approaches” as agreed at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Forum on Forests omnibus resolution. As there is not an agreed definition of “forest bioeconomy” or even of “bioeconomy,” “forest-based bioeconomy approaches” acknowledges that stakeholders are likely to include a mix of social, environmental, and economic components when considering forest bioeconomy approaches.</li> <li>• With regard to the COAG 28 Report, the United States would like to emphasize the need for FAO to collect, analyze, <u>and report</u> (which was not mentioned in COAG Report) on the agricultural and forestry interlinkages. In many parts of the world, forests are under intense pressure from agricultural expansion and FAO is uniquely placed in the UN system to highlight those threats and offer potential responses. Given forests’ multiple contributions to the SDGs, KMGBF goals, Paris goals, GFGs, etc. we expect COFO and FAO to be at the center of such conversations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>New Zealand</b> Wednesday, 03 July 2024 12:32 (CET)</p>	<p>New Zealand encourages FAO to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue actively identifying the important and mutually beneficial linkages between agriculture and forestry, and scaling-up its related activities in the relevant Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) of its Strategic Framework 2022-31;</li> <li>• continue collecting and analysing data on agriculture and forestry interdependencies, including on the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation;</li> <li>• support further efforts towards a definition of “forest degradation”;</li> <li>• recommended further efforts towards a definition of “forest degradation” during the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025 cycle, as directed by FAO Council;</li> <li>• strengthen its leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF);</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote awareness-raising, capacity building, research and innovation to help develop sustainable bioeconomy and forest product value chains and enhance their role in mitigating climate change and supporting climate adaptation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mexico</b> Thursday, 04 July 2024 12:36 (CET)</p>	<p>Mexico appreciates the information provided on decisions and recommendations of FAO Bodies of Interest to the Committee.</p> <p>Mexico takes note of the decisions and recommendations set out in the document and wishes to underscore the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We agree with the FAO Conference on the need to integrate water resource management at all levels to achieve sustainable agrifood systems. Mexico is committed to implementing strategies that promote efficient water management and conservation, recognizing water’s vital role in agriculture and forestry.</li> <li>• The FAO Council has highlighted the importance of mutually beneficial linkages between agriculture and forestry activities. Mexico supports this outlook and calls on FAO to support its Member Nations in building capacities, promoting research and innovation and collecting scientific data to improve complementarity between these sectors.</li> <li>• We support the FAO Council's recommendation of further developing harmonized methods and definitions for forest data collection. We believe that the availability of accurate and up-to-date information is essential for informed decision-making and effective forest policy implementation.</li> <li>• Mexico reaffirms its commitment to the decisions and recommendations of FAO bodies and is willing to collaborate in the implementation of these actions. We urge FAO to continue to support Member Nations in their efforts to achieve sustainable and resilient development, and we appreciate the guidance provided by the Committee in this process.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Australia</b> Friday, 05 July 2024 14:12 (CET)</p>	<p>Australia suggests that FAO use the formulation ‘forest-based bioeconomy approaches’ in place of ‘forest bioeconomy’. The former is recently agreed language from the omnibus resolution of the 19th UN Forum on Forests, whereas the latter is not internationally agreed language.</p> <p>Regarding paragraph 5.2 on the outcomes of the 171st FAO Council in document 6.6, Australia requests that FAO report findings from the data-based efforts on agricultural and forest interdependencies, and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation, in addition to the case studies and good practices. Australia also</p>

	<p>encourages the involvement of Collective Partnership on Forests members in this work, who can bring valuable input from their decades of experience promoting trade in legally harvested forest products, including on promoting good practices and minimalising the burden on vulnerable producers.</p>
<p><b>Russian Federation</b> Friday, 05 July 2024 19:41 (CET)</p>	<p>The summary reports of the 171st, 172nd, and 174th Sessions of the FAO Council, the Twenty-eighth Session of COAG, and the Twenty-fourth Regional Conference for Europe contain some decisions and recommendations on which consensus had not been reached and which were thus adopted by voting. We therefore ask the COFO Secretariat to take this into account and to include specific references to the adoption by vote of these decisions and recommendations while preparing the conclusions on this item of the report.</p> <p>Item 8.6.i (Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions) The Russian Federation supports FAO’s participation in UN interagency work on implementing the Five Years of Action in areas that overlap with FAO’s mandate. We would like to note that the summary report of the joint Eighty-first Session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and Forty-second Session of the FAO European Forestry Commission contains a call for FAO to take a more active part in implementing the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions, which were announced at the UNGA after being proposed by the Government of Kyrgyzstan. This issue was also discussed at the 174th Session of the FAO Council. We ask that the Secretariat reflect this process while preparing its conclusions on this item of the agenda.</p>
<p><b>Argentina</b> Monday, 08 July 2024 14:54 (CET)</p>	<p>8.6 ii. (Voluntary Code of Conduct for the sustainable use and management of plastics in agriculture)</p> <p>The Argentine Republic welcomes the opportunity to submit written comments to the Secretariat of the Committee on Forestry on document COFO/2024/6.6 entitled “<i>Decisions and recommendations of FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee</i>”.</p> <p>While we welcome the update and the proposals therein, we feel that it would be hasty and counterproductive at this stage to proceed further with drafting a <i>Voluntary Code of Conduct on Plastics in Agriculture</i>. In principle, a multilateral process is already in place within the framework of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, which aims to achieve the adoption of a legally binding instrument on this matter. Argentina believes that any overlapping or repetition of discussions or negotiations could undermine the progress achieved in previous official sessions.<sup>1</sup></p>

<sup>1</sup> See sessions:

Uruguay: <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-1>

	<p>Given the technical complexity of the INC's work, Argentina also considers that it would not be appropriate to encourage the adoption of a document that could potentially influence the outcome, for instance, of the INC's fifth session.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>While we value COFO's efforts, Argentina wishes to state that it is not currently in a position to support, collaborate in, or endorse activities related to the development of the <i>Voluntary Code of Conduct on Plastics in Agriculture</i> under FAO's Strategic Framework, subject to future activities and/or work in the light of outcomes achieved by the INC.</p> <p>We present our compliments to the Secretariat and thank them for the opportunity to share these comments.</p>
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France: <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-2>

Kenya: <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-3>

Canada: <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-4>

<sup>2</sup> Fifth session in Korea (December 2024): <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-5>