



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTIETH SESSION

Rome, Italy, 4-8 October 2010

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE

I. FAO COUNCIL

1. **At its 136th Session in June 2009 the FAO Council¹:**
 - a. endorsed the report of the 19th Session of the Committee on Forestry, including the FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry which was developed in consultation with all Member Nations and with the regional forestry commissions.
 - b. supported FAO's leadership of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
 - c. supported active participation by all Members in the XIII World Forestry Congress in Argentina in October 2009.
 - d. supported the need for increased resources to be provided to support FAO's work in forestry.
 - e. requested further prioritization of the Programme of Work at the next session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).
2. **The Committee may wish to consider responding to the request contained in 1e) when addressing Agenda Item 8 Programme Priorities for FO in Forestry.**

¹ CL 136/REP pp. 7-11

3. At its 139th Session in May 2010 the FAO Council²:

- a. adopted Resolution 1/2010 (Annex 1) amending the Statutes of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission.
- b. adopted Resolution 2/2010 (Annex 2) approving the change in name of the Near East Forestry Commission and amendments to its Statutes.
- c. concurred with a proposal that the Committee on Forestry should examine the activities of regional forestry and rangeland bodies in the Near East with a view to ensuring better coordination and avoid overlapping of activities.

4. The Committee may wish to respond to the proposal contained in 3c) by inviting the Near East Forestry and Range Commission to review the activities of relevant bodies engaged in forest and range activities in the region, with the view to promoting coordination and collaboration.

5. At the same session the Council³:

- a. invited the Committee on Forestry, together with other Technical Committees, to examine its Rules of Procedure, taking into account the considerations outlined in document CCLM 90/2 and the recommendations of the Report of the 90th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).
- b. acknowledged that authority to amend the Rules of Procedure was vested in the Technical Committees, which had their own specific functional requirements. However, the Council stressed the desirability of consistency among the Rules of Procedure of all Technical Committees.

6. The CCLM, at its 90th session, invited the Technical Committees to consider the following issues⁴:

- a. The CCLM recalled that the IPA had called for an enhanced role of the chairpersons of the Technical Committees, requiring them to facilitate full consultation with Members in relation to agendas, formats and other matters (IPA action 2.59).
- b. Technical Committees be invited to determine whether their Rules of Procedure should be amended to provide for the establishment of a steering committee or a bureau which would act not only during sessions but also between sessions.
- c. The CCLM considered that a generic reference to the functions of the steering committee or bureau such as “ensuring preparations for the sessions” could be added to the Rules of Procedure but this was a matter for each Technical Committee. A more detailed description of the functions might not be required, considering the dynamic nature of the functions of bodies of this nature.
- d. The CCLM also examined the issue of the number of officers elected by each Technical Committee to constitute a steering committee or bureau. The CCLM considered that broader membership in order to ensure representation of all regions could be achieved in some Technical Committees through an increase in the overall number of officers up to

² CL 139/REP pp. 60-62

³ CL 139/REP pp. 55-56

⁴ CL 139/6 pp. 10-14

seven (one per geographic region) or six officers, as is the case with COFI and COFO. The CCLM underlined that this was a matter to be reviewed by each Technical Committee taking into account all relevant considerations including the fact that some regions could have difficulties in fulfilling all the positions.

- e. The CCLM also noted that the issue of the timing of the election of officers needed to be addressed and, in particular, whether this should be done at the beginning or the end of the sessions. The CCLM noted that a debate had arisen in some Technical Committees and some Statutory Bodies of FAO regarding the timing of the elections and that, in general, proposals that elections should take place at the end of the sessions had benefited from increasing support. In this regard, the CCLM noted that under current Rules of Procedure of the Technical Committees the Chairperson and the other officers remain in office until the election of a new Chairperson and other officers, without specifying whether the election takes place at the beginning or at the end of the sessions of the Committees, thus providing sufficient flexibility for an election either at the beginning or at the end of the sessions.
- f. The CCLM recalled that in future the Technical Committees will report to the Council on programme and budget matters and to the Conference on policy and regulatory matters (IPA action 2.56) and that, in order to implement this action the Conference adopted, at its Thirty-sixth Session, amendments to the Constitution and to the General Rules of the Organization. The CCLM noted that the implementation of this action involved consequential amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committees, and recalled that at its Eighty-fourth Session (2-4 February 2009) it had already recommended a possible amendment to the Rules of Procedure along the following lines:

“At each session, the Committee shall approve a report embodying its views and recommendations, including when requested, a statement of minority views. The Committee shall make every effort to ensure that recommendations are precise and can be implemented. Policy and regulatory matters shall be referred to the Conference whereas programme and budget matters shall be referred to the Council. Any recommendations adopted by the Committee which affect the programme or finances of the Organization shall be reported to the Council with the comments of the appropriate committees of the Council” (insertions are indicated using underlined text).

7. The CCLM noted the observations made in document CCLM 90/2 regarding the need for the timing of Technical Committee sessions in accordance with the schedule of sessions appended to Conference Resolution 10/2009 entitled “Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action on Reform of Programming, Budgeting and Results-based Monitoring System” (IPA Actions 3.1 to 3.11) to enable the Programme and Finance Committees to take into consideration their reports in formulating advice to the Council under the new budget cycle. The CCLM invited the Technical Committees to examine whether their Rules of Procedure should be amended in that respect.⁵

8. The Committee at its 18th Session recommended that the chairpersons of the regional forestry commissions play an active role in planning and managing the work of the Committee through its Steering Committee. This has been the practice for the last two sessions of COFO and has proven to be an effective means to build ownership in the COFO agenda and enhance the conduct of the COFO session.

9. The Chairpersons of the regional forestry commissions are selected by their peers in the region based on a system of country rotation. The Chairpersons of the regional forestry commissions serve on the COFO Steering Committee from the start of the current session until the next election in their respective commissions. Thus, the members of a COFO Steering

⁵ CL 139/6

Committee would rotate off between sessions of COFO and be replaced by the incoming Chairpersons of the regional forestry commissions. The aim of this proposal is to strengthen the linkages between the regional forestry commissions and COFO and to reinforce the inputs from the Committee into the Regional Conferences.

10. Based on the guidance given by the Council and the recommendations of the CCLM, the Committee may wish to consider, with a view to adopting them, the following changes to its Rules of Procedure:

Rule I Officers

1. At the first session in each biennium, the Committee shall elect a Chairperson~~man~~ a ~~first Vice-Chairman and five other Vice-Chairmen~~ from among the representatives of its Members~~;~~. The Chairperson and the six Chairpersons of the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions who shall remain in office until the election of a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman and who will act as a Steering Committee during sessions. The six Chairpersons of the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions shall act as Vice-Chairpersons. The Chairperson shall remain in office until the election of a new Chairperson. The Vice-Chairpersons shall remain in office until they complete their term as Chairpersons in their respective Regional Forestry Commissions. A newly elected Chairperson of a Regional Forestry Commission shall automatically replace his/her predecessor in the Steering Committee.
- 1.bis When electing the Chairperson, the Committee shall give due consideration to the desirability of ensuring equitable rotation of the office among the regions.
2. The Chairperson~~man~~, or in his absence ~~one of the first Vice-Chairpersonsman~~, shall preside at meetings of the Committee and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate its work. In the event of the Chairperson~~man~~ and the ~~first Vice-Chairpersonsman~~ not being able to preside at a meeting, the Committee shall appoint ~~one of the other Vice-Chairmen or, failing these,~~ a representative of one of its Members to take the chair.
2. bis Between sessions, the Steering Committee shall facilitate consultation with Members in relation to agendas, formats and other matters, and perform other actions relevant for ensuring preparations for the sessions.

Rule II Sessions

2. Sessions of the Committee shall normally be held once in each biennium, ~~preferably early in non-Conference years,~~ with timing that enables the Programme and Finance Committees to take into consideration the report of the Committee in formulating advice to the Council. Sessions shall be convened by the Director-General in consultation with the ~~Chairpersonman~~ of the Committee, taking into account any proposals made by the Committee.

Rule VI Records and papers

1. At each session the Committee shall approve a report to the Council and Conference embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, including, when requested, a statement of minority views. The Committee shall make every effort to ensure that recommendations are precise and can be implemented. Any recommendation adopted by the Committee which affects the programme or finances of the Organization or concerning legal or constitutional matters shall be reported to the Council with the comments of the appropriate subsidiary committees of the Council.

II. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION (CoC-IEE)

2nd Session of the CoC-IEE (23 June 2010, Rome)

11. Under the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA), reform actions aiming at improving the effectiveness of FAO governance include the development of Multi-year Programmes of Work (MYPOWs) for the Governing Bodies. In this regard, the relevant IPA actions provide for the following:

The Council, Programme and Finance Committees, CCLM, Regional Conferences and Technical Committees will each: (action 2.70)

- a. prepare a multiyear programme of work of at least four years duration, once per biennium which will be reviewed by the Council and/or Conference (in accordance with their respective reporting lines) (action 2.71);*
- b. prepare a report of their progress against the Programme of Work once every two years also for review by the Council and/or Conference (action 2.72).*

12. The CoC-IEE reviewed the progress made in this regard. It concluded that bodies with annual or more frequent meetings either have adopted a MYPOW already or in the process of doing so: the Programme Committee had already adopted its MYPOW in April 2010, and good progress was made in developing the Finance Committee draft MYPOW, which is expected to be adopted at the next session in October. A draft MYPOW for Council would be discussed at two informal seminars in July and September, with a view to its review and adoption in November-December 2010. The Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters should consider and approve its MYPOW in September 2010.

13. The CoC-IEE further noted that bodies with biennial sessions are facing particular difficulties in this area. As called for by the IPA, MYPOWs should also be prepared by the Technical Committees and the Regional Conferences. As with the other Governing Bodies, such MYPOWs should have duration of at least four years, and should be reviewed by the Council and/or the Conference, in accordance with the respective reporting lines of the Technical Committees and the Regional Conferences.

14. Because of their unprecedented nature, MYPOWs had not been foreseen in the meeting agendas of the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees in 2010. Since these Governing Bodies hold only one session every two years, their MYPOWs would be finalised when they meet next in 2012, following preparatory work that could begin during the current biennium.

15. The Committee may wish to request the secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Steering Committee, a draft MYPOW for the period 2012-2015 for consideration at its 21st Session in 2012.

III. FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES

31st Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (26-30 April 2010, Panama City, Panama)⁶

16. The Regional Conference expressed appreciation for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) and endorsed the decisions adopted at the last session of LACFC, particularly as regards sustainable forest management and the development of sustainable agroforestry systems. It also supported the guidelines to reverse the loss of forest area and the efforts to incorporate the valuation of environmental assets into national accounts. It suggested that technical committees, including LACFC, could play an advisory role for the Regional Conferences and could serve to promote South-South cooperation.

17. The Regional Conference expressed concerns about the degradation of natural resources, the impact of climate change and the increasing frequency of natural disasters.

18. It further recognized the existence of evidence of the seriousness of climate change, and of the strong impact of its effects on the agricultural sector and the high vulnerability of the poorest countries. The Conference noted that the development of biofuels should be considered as an option for reducing carbon emissions within a broad framework of measures to avoid exacerbating climate change, on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and stressed the need to prioritize activities of adaptation to climate change and to intensify practices to facilitate mitigation. It requested that FAO look into the possibility and merit of establishing a system of monitoring the impacts of climate change on agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

26th Regional Conference for Africa (06-07 May 2010, Luanda, Angola)⁷

19. The Regional Office for Africa presented for the consideration of the Regional Conference, six main priority areas of FAO technical assistance for the next biennium to the Regional Conference for Africa. These six priority areas are: “promote sustainable increase in agriculture production and crop diversification; promote sustainable use and management of natural resources, including land and water, fisheries and forestry; support market access and sanitary measures for better trade; stimulate information and knowledge management; incorporate emergency preparedness and risk management; and formulate and implement effective agricultural policies, while integrating gender concerns as a crosscutting issue”.

20. The Regional Conference endorsed the priority areas for 2010-11 and 2012-13 and recommended that FAO:

- “supports Member Countries to prepare appropriate investment plans; and
- ensures that sufficient data will be available to monitor the results by the end of 2013.”

21. The Regional Conference noted that

- climate change is a complex and important issue which has direct implications on food security and natural resources management.
- Africa faces serious concerns from climate change which are directly linked to food insecurity.

⁶ LARC/2010/REP pp. 18, 19, 20, 23, 45, 62, 63, 66

⁷ ARC/10/REP pp. 35, 36, 42, 43

- climate change needs to be addressed primarily at national and regional level alongside other crosscutting issues as a block. There are many links and consequences of climate change to forest conservation, competition for natural resources, especially between humans and animals, desertification with special reference to the Sahel; for example, the issue of the receding Lake Chad.
- impact could be mitigated through the efforts of the member countries.

22. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO

- collaborates with national Governments in developing institutional capacity building programmes and creating awareness including integration of indigenous knowledge to assist rural communities understand and cope with climate change and as it relates to food security.
- develops forecasting models, regional and national policy strategies in climatic change mitigation,
- provides access to available facilities such as carbon credit,
- establishes data monitoring systems
- reviews the possibility of providing technical support in capacity building and technical support to apply effective technologies such as conservation agriculture and use of germplasm that is locally adapted, as well as considerations of gender issues
- facilitates the convening of a Ministerial meeting to discuss the impact of climate change, adaptation and mitigation.

27th Regional Conference for Europe (13-14 May 2010, Yerevan, Armenia)⁸

23. The Regional Conference emphasized that priority should be given to regional activities involving advocacy, policy support, capacity-building, knowledge management and neutral fora for discussion in the following areas of action:

- provision of basic global data and statistics;
- assistance to define national economic, social, food and nutrition policies, with a focus on capacity-building for least developed countries to meet global expectations and benefit from market opportunities;
- normative role at global level, as well as capacity-building to reinforce technical and institutional capacities, especially for least developed countries;
- implementation of food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary standards including global conventions;
- animal and plant transboundary diseases;
- emergencies and rehabilitation;
- interface between climate change and agriculture and rural development;

⁸ ERC/10/REP pp. 33

- gender;
- conservation and management of plant and animal genetic resources, and
- sustainable management of forests.

24. The Committee may wish to consider the recommendations of the Regional Conferences in particular under Agenda item 8 “Programme Priorities for FAO Forestry” and give specific guidance in this regard.

IV. COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (COAG)

22nd Session of the COAG (16-19 June 2010, Rome)⁹

25. COAG supported the FAO Strategy for Sustainable Crop Production Intensification through an ecosystem approach and an enabling environment. With respect to the implementation of the strategy, the Committee noted that the thematic areas should be tackled concurrently, adding emphasis to post-harvest, access to food, agro-forestry, mountainous areas, gender mainstreaming, youth and employment, and access to natural resources and its responsible governance.

26. COAG noted, *inter alia*, the following proposals for possible consideration in the agenda of the next session:

- mechanisation in the agro-forestry sector and in vulnerable ecosystems;
- linking water and soil to climate change;

27. The Committee may wish to draw on the relevant discussions of COAG and call for closer cooperation in the thematic areas of agro-forestry, soil and water. The Committee may also wish to request the secretariat to give priority to cooperation in these areas in its programme of work and to prepare a proposal for enhanced cooperation for consideration at its next session.

V. COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

28. At its 12th Regular Session in October 2009 the Commission considered the issue of forest genetic resources, in particular the preparation of the State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources report.

29. The Commission “acknowledged that the FAO Committee on Forestry and all the FAO regional forestry commissions had endorsed the preparation of The State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources, and welcomed the communications and outreach efforts that had been undertaken.”¹⁰

30. The Commission requested FAO “to prepare The State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources for consideration at its Fourteenth Regular Session, as the first authoritative assessment of forest genetic resources of importance to sustainable forest management, food security, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability”, and endorsed the suggested outline. The secretariat paper COFO/2010/5.1 provides further information on the subject.

⁹ Draft Report of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Agriculture pp. 7, 8, 8e, 8(i)

¹⁰ CGRFA-12/09/Report, pp. 48, 49, 51, 55, 57

31. The Commission agreed to establish an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources), and agreed on its statutes and elected its Members.

32. The Commission requested relevant international and regional organizations to participate in the preparatory process. It stressed the need to involve the Committee on Forestry, the CBD, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as well as other relevant international organizations and institutions in the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*. It further stressed the need to take into account decisions of the CBD relevant to this work.

33. The Commission recommended that the Director-General of FAO consider, in cooperation with the Forestry Department and the Committee on Forestry, a review of the role of the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources, in light of the establishment of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources and its mandate under the Commission.

34. In implementing the above decision the secretariat prepared an analysis of the role and mandate of the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources, which is attached as Annex 3.

35. The Committee may wish to consider this analysis and provide its views for the consideration of the Director-General of FAO.

Annex 1**Resolution 1/2010*****African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC)*****THE COUNCIL,**

Recognizing that the Tenth Session of the Conference, held from 31 October to 20 November 1959, established the African Forestry Commission through Resolution 26/59 and adopted its Statutes;

Recalling that the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council, held from 15 to 26 November 1988, approved a change in the name of the Commission to “African Forestry and Wildlife Commission” (AFWC);

Recalling further that the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council noted that the change of title did not entail changes in the terms of reference of the Commission because it had been the practice of FAO, as well as that of the Commission, that the concept of forestry be interpreted in its widest sense, to include wildlife and allied subjects;

Taking note that the Sixteenth Session of the Commission, held in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan, from 18 to 21 February 2008, and the Seventeenth Session of the Commission, held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 22 to 26 February 2010, requested the Organization to amend Article 1 of the Commission’s Statutes, in order to add, among its functions, that of advising on the formulation of “wildlife” policy;

Decides, under Article VI, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, to amend Article 1 of the Statutes of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission as follows:

“1. The functions of the Commission shall be to advise on the formulation of forest and wildlife policy and to review and coordinate its implementation on the regional plane, to exchange information and, generally, through subsidiary bodies, advise on suitable practices and action in relation to technical problems and make appropriate recommendations in relation to the foregoing.” (insertions are indicated using underlined text).

Adopted on 21 May 2010.

Annex 2

Resolution 2/2010

Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC)

THE COUNCIL,

Recognizing that the Seventh Session of the Conference, held from 23 November to 11 December 1953, established the Near East Forestry Commission through Resolution 24/53;

Recognizing further that the Tenth Session of the Conference, held from 31 October to 20 November 1959, adopted the Commission's Statutes through Resolution 62/59;

Taking note that the Eighteenth Session of the Commission, held in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan, from 18 to 21 February 2008, requested the Organization to amend its title and mandate "in order to include range concerns";

Taking also note that the Nineteenth Session of the Commission, held in Hammamet, Republic of Tunisia, from 5 to 9 April 2010, approved a change in the name of the Commission and an amendment to Article 1 of its Statutes.

Decides, under Article VI, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, to change the name of the Near East Forestry Commission to "Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC)".

Decides further to amend Article 1 of the Statutes of the Commission as follows:

"1. The functions of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission shall be to advise on the formulation of management policy of forests, trees, range and their products ~~policy~~, and to review and coordinate its implementation at ~~on~~ the national and regional levels ~~plane~~; to exchange views and experiences ~~information~~ and, generally, through special subsidiary bodies, advise on suitable practices and action in regard to technical problems and make appropriate recommendations in relation to the foregoing. The Commission shall examine the widening gap between present trends and the potential of forests and rangelands. It shall identify the threats to forests and rangelands and recommend possible action. The outcomes of the Commission reflect the views of its members and their will to work together towards common goals." (insertions are indicated using underlined text, deletions are indicated using ~~struck-out~~ text).

Adopted on 21 May 2010.

Annex 3

Review of the role of the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources

Role and mandate of the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources

1. The FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources was established in accordance with the directives of the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference (November 1967):

"244. Forest Tree Genetic Resources. The Conference requested the Director-General to take into account Recommendation N° 62 of document C67/AG/FO/1 in formulating the Programme of Work and Budget 1970-71. It recognized that, as development proceeds in the less as well as in the more advanced areas of the world, the reserves of genetic variation stored in the natural forests have been or are being displaced on an increasing scale. Moreover, efforts to explore and collect forest genetic resources were, on a world scale, inadequate and inadequately concerted.

245. The Conference requested the Director-General to establish a Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources to help plan and coordinate FAO's efforts to explore, utilize and conserve the gene resources of forest trees and, in particular, help prepare a detailed short-term programme and draft long-term programme for FAO's action in this field and to provide information to Member Governments."

2. The Director-General established the Panel in 1968. The Panel carries out its mandate by:

- systematically reviewing work in the field of forest genetic resources worldwide;
- discussing priorities for action at the national, regional, eco-regional and global levels based on up-to-date information received from member countries; and
- recommending the main focus and operational priorities of FAO on the subject considering the need to coordinate and collaborate with the programmes and activities of national governments and other international organizations.

3. The Panel reports to the Committee on Forestry and shares its findings with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA).

4. At its Thirteenth Session (1997), COFO:

- recognized the work done by FAO in the forest genetic resources field over several decades. It recommended that efforts to explore, conserve, evaluate and better utilize forest genetic resources be continued and further strengthened in collaboration with national institutes and international governmental and non-governmental partners;

- noted the recent broadening of the mandate of the CGRFA and recommended that the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources continue to provide advice to the CGRFA in its fields of competence.

5. The Panel provided critical technical and scientific advice in the design of the forest genetic resources component of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) adopted by the CGRFA, and in the definition of the scope and content of The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources as well as the process for its preparation.

Role and Mandate of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources

6. In 2009, the CGRFA established an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG FGR) which, according to its Statutes, shall:

- review the situation and issues related to biodiversity in the area of forest genetic resources and advise and make recommendations to the Commission on these matters;
- consider the progress made in implementing the Commission's programme of work on forest genetic resources as well as any other matters referred to the Working Group by the Commission; and
- report to the Commission on its activities.¹¹

Analysis

7. There are considerable differences between the Commission's ITWG FGR and the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources.

8. The Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources is an independent technical scientific advisory body. The members of the Panel are appointed by the Director-General and serve in their personal capacity. In appointing members of the Panel, due attention is given to appropriate geographical representation of its membership. Based on the scientific knowledge and experience of its members in the field of forest genetic resources, the Panel advises COFO, the Forestry Programme and FAO in general on various issues in its area of competence in a flexible and demand-driven manner.

9. Members of the ITWG FGR are elected by the Intergovernmental CGRFA at its regular sessions. The ITWG FGR, according to its Statutes, is composed of 27 Member Nations (5 each from Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin America, 3 from Near East and 2 each from Northern America and South West Pacific). It carries out its work in line with its mandate, which includes any matters referred to it by the Commission.

¹¹ <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-about/cgrfa-sector/cgrfa-sfg/en/>

10. The Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources should continue to provide scientific and technical advice in the area of forest genetic resources and biodiversity to the FAO programme of work on forests and forestry.

11. Future meetings of the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources should be coordinated closely with COFO and the CGRFA and its ITWG FGR.