

26th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Item 9.4 Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and strengthening FAO's contribution to the International Arrangements on Forests, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and the mid-term review in 2024

Consideration of developments in the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and support to the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument, the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF), including the achievement of the Global Forest Goals and their associated targets has become a regular agenda item for both the Regional Forestry Commissions and the Committee on Forestry (COFO).

Supporting work in this regard is also a main task for FAO, which Members recurrently requested during recent sessions, including promoting knowledge on the role of sustainable forest management in sustainable development, establishing clear links between its activities and the UNSPF and reporting on implementation accordingly.

The corresponding document (COFO/2022/7.4 Rev.1) presents an overview of activities carried out since the last session of the Committee and progress made by FAO, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), in implementing the UNSPF.

Among others the following issues are highlighted under this agenda item:

- the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) contribution to the monitoring of the progress towards the Global Forest Goals of the UNSPF;
- the *State of the World's Forests 2022 (SOFO 2022)* as a major contribution to the UNSPF as well as to the in-depth review of SDG15 during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2022;
- FAO's continued leadership role in the CPF, as a member and as chair, to facilitate the work of the CPF; and
- the midterm review of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests in achieving its objectives is guided by the relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2015/33.

The Committee is invited to:

- welcome the progress and accomplishments of FAO's work in support of the Global Forest Goals, the UNSPF and the CPF.

The Committee may wish to recommend FAO to:

- continue supporting the implementation of the UNSPF;
- continue and strengthen its leadership role in the CPF, and facilitate active participation of CPF members in the CPF midterm review;
- continue contributing with expertise, data and knowledge products to the policy discussions of the United Nations Forum on Forests; and
- support the implementation of the UNSPF communication and outreach strategy aimed at raising awareness on the multiple benefits of forests, and through this enhance advocacy on forests through relevant global processes, initiatives and events.

Tiina Vahanen, Deputy Director, Forestry Division, FAO