

26th Session of the Committee on Forestry - Written Correspondence Procedure

Item 9.3 Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry 2020-2023

Secretariat response to written questions from Members

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments from Members on Item 9.3 Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry 2020-2023.

The Secretariat appreciates the positive response of the European Union and its 27 Member States to the adjustment of the MYPOW 2020-2023 based on the request of the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry.

The Secretariat also appreciates the support of Japan to the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) initiative of FAO. Sustainable use of wood is one of the three forest pathways for tackling the global crisis, as featured in the *State of the World's Forests 2022*. Its importance for green recovery and growth and for resilient, carbon-neutral economies was also confirmed by the conclusions of the recent XV World Forestry Congress.

The Secretariat appreciates the positive comments of New Zealand regarding progress in implementing the Multi-year Programme of work (MYPOW), FAO's work on interlinkages between agriculture, food security, forestry and other areas and related inputs to the HLPF and other intergovernmental fora, and its efforts to strengthen the relevance of the Regional Forestry Commissions. The Secretariat took note of the suggestion to broaden the briefing sessions for members beyond Permanent Representatives.

The Secretariat noted with appreciation Argentina's comments about the implementation of the MYPOW 2020-2023. The Secretariat also took note of Argentina's query about the COFO MYPOW not coinciding with the COFO sessions' cycle. The MYPOWs were introduced in 2012 and have been applied in a somewhat different way by each Technical Committee. The Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) and COFO considered a MYPOW with a 4-year life span, while the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) applied a rolling planning method, adjusting the 4-year MYPOW in every biennium. Affirmative decisions of the Committees and the Council make it seem that both methods served the purpose well. Given the current efforts to strengthen alignment across Technical Committees and following the Council's request that FAO continue ongoing efforts to strengthen coordination between COFO and COAG on cross-sectoral matters, the Secretariat appreciates the suggestion to adjust the planning cycle of the COFO MYPOW. This could be implemented starting from 2024 with the MYPOW cycle.

The Secretariat also took note of the acknowledgement by the Russian Federation of the progress in implementing the updated Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee.