



CONFERENCE

Fortieth Session

Rome, 3-8 July 2017

Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry (Rome, 18-22 July 2016)

Executive Summary

The Committee:

- a) welcomed the State of the World's Forests 2016 (SOFO) and the messages therein, and recognized that the sustainable management of both forests and agriculture, and their integration in land-use plans, effectively contributed to achieving the SDGs, ensuring food security and helping to tackle climate change;
- b) supported the development of the five interconnected principles of a common vision for sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries that provided a framework for policy dialogue on sustainability, and welcomed the fact that these were also being discussed by COAG and COFI in order to promote a more coherent and integrated approach;
- c) noted with appreciation the report on forest-related indicators, monitoring and reporting progress related to the achievement of the SDGs and highlighted the challenges associated with monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management;
- d) took note of the draft FAO Climate Change Strategy and highlighted the need to strengthen the focus on forests, and provided detailed suggestions for improvement to the draft document to be taken on board by the Secretariat;
- e) considered funding opportunities for forests and gave guidance for countries and FAO to improve financing for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and to address climate change;
- f) took full account of the recommendations and decisions of FAO bodies of interest to the Committee and considered them when addressing relevant agenda items;
- g) endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring;
- h) agreed to establish a Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems;
- i) reviewed the follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and highlighted the key contribution that forests could make towards ensuring food security and improving nutrition;
- j) welcomed the progress that had been made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 22nd Session of COFO (June 2014);

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- k) received progress reports from forestry statutory bodies and provided guidance for their further work. The Committee welcomed the work accomplished and the contributions of the Regional Forestry Commissions to COFO, and recognized the valuable role of the Commissions in helping to set priorities for the FAO programme in forestry;
- l) expressed its deep appreciation to South Africa for hosting the XIV World Forestry Congress (WFC), thanked FAO for its contribution to the success of the Congress and welcomed the main outcome document, namely the Durban Declaration: 2050 Vision for Forests and Forestry;
- m) reiterated the importance of the contribution that FAO made to the International Arrangement of Forests, both as Chair and Member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), as well as through its support to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF);
- n) acknowledged with appreciation the offers received from Italy, Peru and the Republic of Korea to host the XV WFC in 2021 and considered the presentations that were made by those three countries;
- o) welcomed the achievements of FAO's work in forestry over the 2014-2015 biennium and took note of the developments and trends identified with respect to the forest sector;
- p) stressed that FAO's work should be responsive to major global developments and should reflect the relevance of forests in the international agenda, and provided guidance on the main priorities for FAO's work in forestry, to also be taken into account in the review of the Strategic Framework and the preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21;
- q) welcomed the progress made in implementing the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee (MYPOW) 2014-2017 and adopted the MYPOW 2016-2019;
- r) elected H.E. Minister Akram Chehayeb of Lebanon as Chairperson of the 24th Session of COFO;
- s) took note of the appointment of Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, Chairperson of the 23rd Session, as FAO Special Ambassador for Forests and the Environment.

Suggested action by the Council and Conference

The Council and Conference are invited to:

- endorse the report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry and the recommendations therein.

The Council is invited to:

- consider the submissions of Italy and the Republic of Korea and decide on the venue of the XV World Forestry Congress.

Global policy and regulatory matters for the attention of the Conference

- The Committee supported and encouraged the close collaboration among FAO Technical Committees (Paragraphs 11, 37a, 62c), and welcomed the role and contributions of the Regional Forestry Commissions (Paragraph 43);
- *State of World's Forests 2016* (Paragraph 10a, b)
- *Forests, food security, hunger and poverty eradication: FAO's work on the sustainable development Goals (SDGs) and the role of forests* (Paragraphs 11, 12)
- *Forest-related indicators, monitoring and reporting progress related to the achievement of the SDGs* (Paragraph 16)
- *FAO's corporate climate change strategy and the role of forests* (Paragraphs 18, 19)
- *Funding opportunities for forests* (Paragraph 22)
- *Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring and assessment* (Paragraphs 25, 26a)
- *Establishment of a Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems* (Paragraph 27)
- *Follow up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition* (Paragraphs 30, 31)
- *Progress in implementation of the recommendations of the 22nd Session* (Paragraphs 33, 36, 37a, 38, 40)
- *Statutory Bodies* (Paragraphs 43-47)
- *Follow up on the outcome of the XIV World Forestry Congress: Achieving the 2050 Vision for Forests and Forestry* (Paragraphs 48, 49, 51)
- *Strengthening FAO's contribution to the International Arrangement on Forests* (Paragraphs 52, 53)

Programme and budgetary matters for the attention of the Council

- *State of World's Forests 2016* (Paragraph 10c, d)
- *Forests, food security, hunger and poverty eradication: FAO's work on the sustainable development Goals (SDGs) and the role of forests* (Paragraphs 13, 14)
- *Forest-related indicators, monitoring and reporting progress related to the achievement of the SDGs* (Paragraph 17)
- *FAO's corporate climate change strategy and the role of forests* (Paragraphs 18, 20, 21)
- *Funding opportunities for forests* (Paragraph 23)
- *Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring and assessment* (Paragraphs 25, 26b)
- *Establishment of a Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems* (Paragraphs 27-29)
- *Follow up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition* (Paragraph 32)
- *Progress in implementation of the recommendations of the 22nd Session* (Paragraphs 33, 34, 35, 37b, 39, 41)
- *Statutory Bodies* (Paragraph 46)
- *Follow up on the outcome of the XIV World Forestry Congress: Achieving the 2050 Vision for Forests and Forestry* (Paragraphs 48-50)
- *Strengthening FAO's contribution to the International Arrangement on Forests* (Paragraphs 52, 54)
- *Hosting of the XV World Forestry Congress* (Paragraphs 55-58)
- *FAO's work in forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework* (Paragraphs 59-62)
- *Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee* (Paragraphs 63, 64)

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) was held at FAO headquarters in Rome (Italy) from 18 to 22 July 2016, as the main event of the 5th World Forest Week.
2. The session was attended by delegates from 125 countries and one Member Organization, representatives of 15 United Nations Agencies and Programmes and observers from 19 intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations were also in attendance.
3. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo (Guyana), Chairperson of COFO, opened the session and introduced the speakers at the opening ceremony: Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO; His Royal Highness Prince Laurent of Belgium, FAO Special Ambassador for Forests and the Environment; His Excellency Vidar Helgesen, Minister for Climate and Environment of Norway; His Excellency Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, and Dr Hoesung Lee, Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
4. The FAO Director-General delivered an opening statement to COFO, which is available on the Committee's webpage¹.
5. Mr René Castro, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, welcomed delegates to the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Agenda (*Appendix A*) was adopted. The documents considered by the Committee are listed in *Appendix B*.

DESIGNATION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

7. The Committee was advised that the Regional Forestry Commissions had elected the following Chairpersons, who thus serve as Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee on Forestry for the duration of their terms in office in their respective Commissions: Mr Emilio Mugo (Kenya), representing the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission; Mr Marcial Amaro (Philippines), representing the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission; Mr Kenan Kiliç (Turkey), representing the European Forestry Commission; Ms Fabiola Muñoz (Peru), representing the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission; Mr Glenn Mason (Canada), representing the North American Forest Commission; and Mr Yettou Abdelkader (Algeria), representing the Near East Forestry and Range Commission.
8. The following Members were elected to the Drafting Committee: Brazil, Canada (Chair), China, Costa Rica, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand and United Republic of Tanzania.
9. Slovakia delivered a statement at the opening session on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS 2016

10. The Committee welcomed the publication of *State of the World's Forests 2016* (SOFO 2016) and its key messages. Based on its findings, the Committee:
 - a) Recognized that the sustainable management of both forests and agriculture, and their integration in land-use plans, contribute strongly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring food security and helping to tackle climate change.
 - b) Invited countries to:
 - (i) improve coordination between policies on forests, agriculture, food, land use and rural development for more effective regulation of land use change;

¹ <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofo/daily-highlights/en/>

- (ii) promote integrated land use planning as a strategic framework for balancing land uses at national, subnational and landscape scales;
 - (iii) strengthen tenure rights taking into account the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security;
 - (iv) use adequate policy instruments, including training and capacity building, and boost investments, including through existing international financial mechanisms to increase sustainable agricultural production and sustainable forest management.
- c) Requested FAO to support interested countries in:
- (i) developing integrated land use planning as a strategic framework that takes into account the important role of forests in the water cycle, soil conservation, carbon sequestration and habitat protection, thus safeguarding their contributions to sustainable agriculture and food security in order to support the achievement of the SDGs;
 - (ii) enhancing governance of land use by strengthening security of tenure, especially for local communities and smallholders and encouraging partnerships with the private sector and civil society for sustainable forest and land management;
 - (iii) sharing of best practices on the effectiveness of governance mechanisms related to land use change affecting forests, as well as on the promotion of the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests.
- d) Recommended that the FAO Secretariat ensure that the report SOFO 2016 be brought to the attention of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) for its consideration.

FORESTS AND TREES AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Forests, Food Security, Hunger and Poverty Eradication: FAO's Work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Role of Forests

11. The Committee supported the development of the five interconnected principles² that provide a framework for policy dialogue on sustainability, and welcomed the fact that these were also being discussed by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in order to promote a more coherent and integrated approach.

12. The Committee invited Members to consider:

- a) strengthening dialogue with agriculture, fisheries and other relevant sectors on joining efforts for transformative change towards the achievement of the SDGs, in particular on actions to eradicate hunger and eliminate poverty, while conserving and sustainably managing natural resources in line with the recommendations of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF);
- b) using the five interconnected principles developed by FAO as an approach to promote sustainability for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, based on balancing the different dimensions of sustainability across sectors and along value chains;
- c) reviewing and adapting existing mechanisms and tools such as National Forest Programmes (NFPs) and Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) to inform and support decision making for sustainability across sectors;
- d) promoting coherent and effective actions in sustainable forest management in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through the International Arrangement on Forests.

² As referred to in paragraph 18 and Figure 1 of COFO/2016/5.1.

13. The Committee requested FAO to support countries in:
- a) using the five interconnected principles developed by FAO to strengthen policy dialogue on agriculture, forestry and fisheries and to enhance governance capacities to effectively deliver joint contributions to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
 - b) integrating sustainable forest management into national development programmes and action plans, as well as into regional forest-related coordination;
 - c) identifying new opportunities for financing sustainable development, with integrated approaches between forestry, agriculture, livestock, in line with the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;
 - d) promoting the multi-functional role of forests through valuation of ecosystem services and increased private sector involvement in sustainable forest management.
14. The Committee requested FAO to:
- a) continue and enhance collaboration on implementation of the 2030 Agenda including the SDGs, across FAO's Technical Committees, including CCP³, COAG, COFI and COFO, in line with recommendations of the HLPF on Sustainable Development;
 - b) continue its active role within the international forest related dialogue, especially to strengthen its support to the International Arrangement on Forests, and provide inputs to the HLPF based on its expertise related to the relevant aspects of the SDGs;
 - c) strengthen its work in the area of boreal and temperate forests, taking into account their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including combating climate change and enhancing food security and nutrition.

Forest-related Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting Progress related to the Achievement of the SDGs

15. The Committee noted with appreciation the paper on this topic and highlighted the challenges associated with monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management (indicator 15.2.1).
16. The Committee invited countries to:
- a) strengthen forest data collection, inter alia, to support monitoring progress towards SDG targets at global, regional and national levels;
 - b) design national level forest related SDG indicators, including by building on information and data generated by the national statistics system and through national and regional C&I processes, and whenever possible, using or further developing existing C&I before defining new ones.
17. The Committee requested FAO to:
- a) review the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) strategy, including its financing strategy, in consultation with FAO Members, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and other relevant international agencies and organizations, and align it as necessary towards the needs of SDGs monitoring, as well as to the reporting needs of other global forests processes, aiming at the production and dissemination of robust forest physical and socioeconomic information, including by using remote sensing;
 - b) support countries in strengthening the collection, analysis and dissemination of forest data with a view to supporting the national SDG indicator framework and country reports to regional and global review processes, as well as paying special attention to collecting gender-disaggregated data;
 - c) continue to explore new and innovative tools and techniques to further improve support to Members in collecting, analyzing and reporting data on forest and related aspects;
 - d) pilot new methodologies for assessing regional and global trends in forest cover;

³ Committee on Commodity Problems

- e) promote global and regional knowledge sharing on best practices and lessons learned for the enhancement of data collection and analysis of forest statistics and information;
- f) continue working with the Secretariats of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other members of the CPF, as well as other relevant international processes to improve and streamline global reporting on forests, with the aim of identifying synergies and reducing the reporting burden on countries.

FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE AFTER THE PARIS AGREEMENT

FAO's Corporate Climate Change Strategy and the Role of Forests

18. The Committee took note of the draft FAO Climate Change Strategy and highlighted the need to strengthen the focus on forests. Members also made detailed suggestions for improvement to the draft which the Secretariat would take on board.

19. The Committee invited interested countries to strengthen institutional frameworks and processes to ensure sound forestry and integrated, cross-sectoral approaches to climate change, including considering integrating forests into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and/or their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) as appropriate.

20. The Committee requested FAO to increase its efforts to assist countries to:

- a) develop forest governance frameworks enabling the forest sector to contribute to the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, including moving forward to halting deforestation by 2020;
- b) develop and implement policies and measures for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, through promotion and implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as the strengthening of sustainable forestry value chains, and to step up activities to achieve adaptation and mitigation, while promoting synergies between these two approaches;
- c) develop and implement adaptation policies and measures to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability of forests and people against the negative impacts of climate change;
- d) integrate forestry into their national development frameworks relevant for climate change and as reflected in their NDCs and NAPs;
- e) complete their readiness phase consistent with the Warsaw Framework for REDD+4, including by moving towards results-based payments (for countries implementing REDD+);
- f) ensure adequate existing monitoring, reporting and verification;
- g) develop and implement integrated, cross-sectoral approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation action, including cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder partnerships;
- h) further the role of sustainably produced wood in substituting for materials produced with fossil fuels and of carbon storage by harvested wood products;
- i) take account of and enhance the contribution of all types of forests, including boreal, temperate and tropical, in combating climate change and its impacts.

21. The Committee requested FAO to:

- a) assist countries in developing appropriate tools and methodologies for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) in the context of REDD+, and to train national teams in their use;
- b) assist countries to develop appropriate tools for monitoring forest degradation and associated baseline information;

⁴ Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries

- c) continue facilitating dialogue and information exchange among the different sectors, such as environment, forestry, fisheries and agriculture, including livestock at national, regional and international levels, with a view to strengthening synergies and avoiding duplications;
- d) further develop technical guidance for forest vulnerability assessment in the context of climate change, as appropriate;
- e) update the guidelines on *Climate Change for Forest Policy-Makers: An approach for integrating climate change into national forest programmes in support of sustainable forest management*, and to support interested countries in the use of the Climate Change Guidelines for Forest Managers as extensively as possible in the context of implementation of forest adaptation in NDCs;
- f) collaborate with the Secretariat of the CBD and the ministries responsible for forests and the forest sector in the preparation of the COP13, in relation to the discussion of the forest sector under the High Level Segment of COP, including consideration of article 5 of the Paris Agreement;
- g) continue the work engaged on the Lima-Paris Action Agenda as it relates to forests.

Funding Opportunities for Forests

22. The Committee invited countries to:
- a) improve governance and institutional mechanisms, as appropriate, to effectively capitalize on and utilize both existing financial instruments and mechanisms and the opportunities resulting from the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda to improve financing for SFM and to address climate change;
 - b) strengthen investments in forests for climate change and scale up successful initiatives that could generate significant multiple benefits, including through results-based payments in the context of REDD+;
 - c) strengthen public-private and private-private partnerships in financing for SFM;
 - d) consider, through the governing bodies of the international instruments and processes related to climate change, simplifying procedures and enhancing access to financial resources for SFM.
23. The Committee requested FAO to:
- a) scale up existing FAO facilities and programmes as channels for technical support, for building capacity for larger scale investments for climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors;
 - b) strengthen partnerships to help countries' access to international climate finance, including from bilateral sources and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, Copenhagen Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as NGOs and the private sector;
 - c) support countries in developing national forest financing strategies and effective instruments to strengthen financing for SFM, including for non-carbon benefits of forests;
 - d) assist countries in identifying and mobilizing financial resources for forests, including in the context of the Paris Agreement, as well as by supporting the work of the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and to engage with the CPF in this regard.

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAST SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE AND OTHER FAO GOVERNING BODIES

Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Bodies of Interest to the Committee

24 The Committee took full account of the recommendations and decisions of bodies of interest to the Committee and considered them when addressing relevant agenda items of this Session.

Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring and Assessment

25. The Committee endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring, noting that in finalizing them for publication FAO would take account of comments made during the discussion.

26. The Committee further:
- a) invited and encouraged Members, resource and technical partners to consider disseminating and implementing the voluntary guidelines, including their insertion in forestry academic programmes;
 - b) requested FAO to continue and enhance its support to countries on National Forest Monitoring, including through strengthening the capacity of public forestry administrations at the national and sub-national level.

Establishment of a Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems

27. Recognizing the critical importance of Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems in all regions, the Committee agreed to establish a Working Group in accordance with the recommendation of the 22nd Session of COFO (June 2014) and the proposal contained in document COFO/2016/7.3, and to review its continued relevance and operational modalities following COFO 26.

28. The Committee particularly considered the financial aspect of the proposal as contained in Annex 2 of the above document and agreed that the work of the Working Group would be financed through extra budgetary means and urged FAO to mobilize extra budgetary resources for the Working Group activities.

29. In order to minimize costs, the Committee requested FAO to explore the possibility of organizing meetings of the Working Group back-to-back with any other meetings dealing with forestry matters, taking into consideration the specific needs of developing countries.

Follow up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition

30. The Committee highlighted the key contribution that forests could make to ensuring food security and improving nutrition.

31. The Committee invited countries to:

- a) mainstream the important role of forests and trees outside forests for food security and nutrition in policies and programmes and across all four dimensions of food security;
- b) take measures to promote the sustainable production of wood-fuel, as well as the efficient and safe use of wood-fuel for cooking and water sterilization;
- c) provide secure tenure rights, including to local communities. to enable sustainable management of forest resources for increased contribution to food security and nutrition, in accordance with national legislation.

32. The Committee requested FAO to support interested countries:

- a) in forest tenure reform taking into account food security and nutrition;
- b) in the formulation of forest-related policies that integrate food security and nutrition objectives;
- c) in strengthening the capacity of government institutions and of local communities to integrate food security and nutrition objectives into their sustainable forest management practices;
- d) in strengthening efforts to collect more detailed information about the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to food security and nutrition, and to explore opportunities for increasing this contribution, including through the use of traditional knowledge.

Progress in Implementation of the Recommendations of the 22nd Session

Progress Report

33. The Committee welcomed the progress that has been made in the implementation of the recommendations of COFO22.

34. The Committee requested FAO to strengthen its work on boreal and temperate forests and explore further options in this regard, such as, *inter alia*, participation in existing initiatives, bodies and processes and the establishment of a dedicated working group of COFO, and to present a detailed document with concrete proposals on that issue to its next session in 2018 under a separate agenda item.

SFM Toolbox

35. The Committee requested FAO to continue to enhance the Toolbox, including by improving its ease of access and interactivity.

The Bonn Challenge and Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM)

36. The Committee invited countries to:

- a) consider strengthening the mobilization of innovative and enhanced financing for the restoration of degraded lands, including through the GEF STAR allocations, through both adaptation and mitigation windows of the Green Climate Fund and by providing enhanced enabling conditions for increased private sector investment in forest and landscape restoration;
- b) support actions towards the recently launched regional initiatives/dynamics in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Mediterranean in order to contribute to a more efficient and successful achievement of the Bonn Challenge and related global initiatives for forest and landscape restoration, especially the relevant SDGs.

Technical Committees Collaboration

37. Taking note of developments, the Committee:

- a) welcomed the positive response and active engagement of COAG and COFI and invited all Technical Committees to continue collaboration;
- b) requested FAO to translate this collaboration into its Medium Term Plan and biennial Programmes of Work and Budget.

Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge

38. The Committee invited countries to:

- a) identify major challenges facing the future of forest education and explore innovative approaches to tackle these challenges and attract more students to the field of forestry;
- b) consider providing dedicated resources to FAO to strengthen its capacity to support forestry education and the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge (APFK).

39. The Committee recommended that FAO support countries in their efforts to modernize and strengthen forestry education, using the APFK to provide strategic guidance.

Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

40. The Committee invited countries to integrate the conservation and use of forest genetic resources into national forest programmes and other relevant national strategies and programmes, in collaboration with the CBD, and as appropriate the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), and make innovative use of traditional knowledge;

Forests and Gender Equality

41. The Committee requested FAO to continue its efforts and to strengthen gender mainstreaming in all its dimensions.

Statutory Bodies

Regional Forestry Commissions

42. The Committee welcomed the dialogue with heads of the Regional Forestry Commissions.

43. The Committee welcomed the work accomplished and the contributions of the Regional Forestry Commissions to COFO, and suggested that further opportunities be explored to strengthen the interactions in this regard. The Committee also recognized the valuable role of the Commissions in helping to set priorities for the FAO programme in forestry.

Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*

44. The Commission encouraged Member Countries of *Silva Mediterranea* to:
- a) contribute to the activities of the *Silva Mediterranea* working groups and to the preparation of the second edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests;
 - b) consider committing to a Mediterranean initiative on forest and landscape restoration;
 - c) contribute to the preparation of and commit to high level participation in the V Mediterranean Forest Week to be held in March 2017 in Morocco;
 - d) continue to implement the recommendations from the evaluation of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests.

Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI)

45. Taking note of the strengthened collaboration between ACSFI and International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA), the Committee recognized the continued role and relevance of ACSFI as a mechanism to channel private sector knowledge and solutions into the FAO Forestry Programme. In particular, the Committee encouraged and supported the cross-sectoral initiative on bio-economy for its role in sustainably providing goods and services across economic sectors.

International Poplar Commission (IPC)

46. The Committee encouraged the IPC Executive Committee to continue their reform process, ensuring that there were neither new obligations on contracting parties nor additional costs to the FAO Regular Programme, and to seek the approval for the proposed amendments relating to the reform of the IPC from the delegates of the 25th IPC Session, to be held in Berlin in September 2016.

The Mountain Partnership

47. The Committee invited countries to:
- a) promote investment and specific policies for improving the livelihoods of mountain peoples and increase their resilience;
 - b) engage in or strengthen commitment to the Mountain Partnership and the Mountain Facility;
 - c) strengthen national and local capacities in sustainable mountain development.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Follow up on the Outcome of the XIV World Forestry Congress: Achieving the 2050 Vision for Forests and Forestry

48. The Committee expressed its deep appreciation to South Africa for hosting the XIV World Forestry Congress (WFC) and also thanked FAO for its contribution to the success of the Congress.

49. The Committee welcomed the main outcome document, namely the Durban Declaration: 2050 Vision for Forest and Forestry.

50. The Committee requested FAO to:
- a) strengthen its work on forests in the implementation of the Organization's Strategic Objectives, in particular on forests' fundamental role for food security and nutrition, sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable agriculture, improved livelihoods and increased resilience of rural and urban communities, as well as work on integrated approaches to land use;
 - b) strengthen, as appropriate and within FAO's mandate, its work on integrated approaches to land use by supporting improved policies and practices to address the drivers of

- deforestation and conflicts over land use; capitalize on the full range of economic, social and environmental benefits of integrating forests and agriculture; and maintain multiple forest services in the landscape context;
- c) initiate a process for reviewing the FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry in the light of recent developments, elaborate a new strategic document that was fully aligned with the corporate Strategic Framework and the Strategic Plan of the International Arrangement on Forests and to present it to the 24th Session of the Committee, after consultation with the Regional Forestry Commissions.

51. The Committee invited the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and its member organizations to strengthen their collective action to integrate forests with other aspects of sustainable development, in line with the interlinkages and integrated nature of the SDGs.

Strengthening FAO's Contribution to the International Arrangement on Forests

52. The Committee reiterated the importance of the contribution that FAO made to the International Arrangement of Forests, both as Chair and as Member of the CPF, as well as through its support to the UNFF.

53. The Committee invited the UNFF to:

- a) consider SOFO, FRA and other major knowledge and analytical products of FAO and those of the CPF as major inputs for its review sessions;
- b) consider the potential offered by the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions for enhancing regional/sub-regional involvement, including through using the Commissions for regional dialogues related to the UNFF, noting that the respective roles and responsibilities should be clearly defined in collaboration with other relevant regional forest-related bodies and processes.

54. The Committee requested FAO to:

- a) continue to support the implementation of the UNFF decisions and related ECOSOC resolutions and to provide support to Members in this regard;
- b) continue its leadership in the CPF, including through playing an active role in implementing the provisions for strengthening the Partnership, through its contribution to the development and implementation of the IAF Strategic Plan and through strengthening capacity on forestry matters at regional level, closely coordinated with ongoing regional efforts;
- c) include in its Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget activities related to the CPF, including those identified in the IAF Strategic Plan, and to allocate adequate resources for this purpose.

Hosting of the XV World Forestry Congress

55. The Committee acknowledged with appreciation the offers received from Italy, Peru and the Republic of Korea to host the XV WFC in 2021 and considered the presentations that were made by those three countries.

56. During the session, Peru, whose proposal's excellent quality was recognized by the Committee, for the sake of consensus, decided to withdraw its candidacy, and this gesture was appreciated by the Chair of the Committee.

57. With regard to geographic rotation, the Committee stressed that the WFC had taken place in the Asia Pacific region twice since 1926. The relevance of the WFC 2021 as a follow-up to the outcomes of EXPO 2015 was also underlined.

58. The Committee, noting that no consensus had been achieved, decided to recommend that the 155th Session of the FAO Council consider the submissions of Italy and the Republic of Korea and decide on the venue of the XV World Forestry Congress.

FAO'S WORK IN FORESTRY UNDER THE FAO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

59. The Committee welcomed the achievements of FAO's work in forestry over the 2014-2015 biennium and took note of the developments and trends identified with respect to the forest sector.

60. The Committee stressed that FAO's work should be responsive to major global developments and should reflect the relevance of forests in the international agenda.

61. The Committee noted the importance of the recommendation of the Regional Forestry Commissions and Regional Conferences and provided the following guidance on the main priorities for FAO's work in forestry, to also be taken into account in the review of the Strategic Framework and the preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21:

- a) monitoring and implementation in support of the SDGs, including through the FRA;
- b) technical support to countries for NDCs and climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- c) further work on forests and food security and nutrition;
- d) assessment and monitoring of forest resources;
- e) youth employment and empowerment;
- f) forestry value chains and poverty reduction, particularly in rural areas, including through Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF);
- g) strengthening governance, including through institutional frameworks and, as appropriate, through the FAO Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme;
- h) provision of technical excellence through statutory bodies relating to forestry and partnerships such as the CPF;
- i) continued mainstreaming of gender within FAO's work in forestry;
- j) integrated approaches across landscapes, including forest landscape restoration;
- k) communication and dissemination of best practices in SFM.

62. The Committee:

- a) suggested that future priorities be outlined at the outcome level instead of more broadly through the Strategic Objectives;
- b) noted the need to strengthen technical capacity for FAO's work in forestry.
- c) invited other FAO Technical Committees to continue to collaborate to further integrate forestry and related areas, including agriculture and fisheries.

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE COMMITTEE

63. The Committee welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the MYPOW 2012-2015 and endorsed the report.

64. The Committee adopted the MYPOW 2016-2019, as outlined in document COFO/2016/10, and stressed the continued need for its work to be effective and responsive to global developments.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

65. The Committee elected H.E. Minister Akram Chehayeb of Lebanon, representing the Near East region, as Chairperson of the 24th Session of the Committee on Forestry.

66. The Director-General informed the Committee of the appointment of Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, Chairperson of the 23rd Session, as FAO Special Ambassador for Forests and the Environment.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

67. Noting the need for the Technical Committee sessions to be effectively scheduled to enable the Programme and Finance Committees to take into consideration their reports and to submit their recommendations to the Council, the Committee recommended that its next session be held in 2018 and suggested that the final date be decided by the FAO Secretariat in consultation with the COFO Steering Committee, following review of the FAO Calendar of Governing Body Sessions for the next biennium by the Council.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

68. The Committee adopted the Report by consensus.
69. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Steering Committee and in particular to the Chairperson for his excellent conduct of the deliberations.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

70. The Chairperson closed the session at 16.23 hours on Friday, 22 July 2016.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Designation of the Drafting Committee
4. State of the World's Forests 2016
5. Forests and trees and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
 - 5.1 Forests, food security, hunger and poverty eradication: FAO's work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of forests
 - 5.2 Forest-related indicators, monitoring and reporting progress related to the achievement of the SDGs
6. Forests and climate change after the Paris Agreement
 - 6.1 FAO's corporate climate change strategy and the role of forests
 - 6.2 Funding opportunities for forests
7. Progress in implementation of the recommendations of past sessions of the Committee and other FAO Governing Bodies
 - 7.1 Decisions and recommendations of FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee
 - 7.2 Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring and Assessment
 - 7.3 Establishment of a Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems
 - 7.4 Follow up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition
 - 7.5 Progress in implementation of the recommendations of the 22nd Session
 - 7.6 Statutory Bodies
8. Strategic directions
 - 8.1 Follow up on the outcome of the XIV World Forestry Congress: Achieving the 2050 Vision for Forests and Forestry
 - 8.2 Strengthening FAO's contribution to the International Arrangement on Forests
 - 8.3 Hosting of the XV World Forestry Congress
9. FAO's work in forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework
10. Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Committee
11. Election of officers
12. Date and place of the next session
13. Adoption of the report
14. Closure of the session

APPENDIX B

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document symbol	Title
COFO/2016/1	Provisional Agenda
COFO/2016/4	State of the World's Forests 2016: Forests and Agriculture - Land use challenges and opportunities
COFO/2016/5.1	Forests, food security, hunger and poverty eradication: FAO's work on the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of forests
COFO/2016/5.2	Forest-related indicators, monitoring and reporting progress related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
COFO/2016/6.1	FAO's corporate climate change strategy and the role of forests
COFO/2016/6.2	Funding opportunities for forests after the Paris Agreement
COFO/2016/7.1	Decisions and recommendations of FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee
COFO/2016/7.2	Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring
COFO/2016/7.3	Proposal for the establishment of a Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems
COFO/2016/7.4	Follow up to the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition
COFO/2016/7.5	Progress Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of Past Sessions of the Committee and the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW)
COFO/2016/7.6	Progress report of the statutory bodies in Forestry
COFO/2016/8.1	Follow up on the outcome of the XIV World Forestry Congress: Achieving the 2050 Vision for Forest and Forestry
COFO/2016/8.2	Strengthening FAO's contribution to the International Arrangement on Forests
COFO/2016/8.3	Hosting the XV World Forestry Congress
COFO/2016/9	FAO's Programme of work in forestry under the reviewed Strategic Framework
COFO/2016/10	Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Committee
Information documents	
COFO/2016/Inf.1	Provisional Timetable
COFO/2016/Inf.2	List of Documents
COFO/2016/Inf.3	List of Participants
COFO/2016/Inf.4	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights Submitted by the European Union (EU) and its Member States

APPENDIX C

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Denmark
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Ethiopia
- European Union
(Member Organization)
- Finland
- France
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Kuwait
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Lithuania
- Madagascar
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Sierra Leone
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Thailand
- Togo
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United Republic of Tanzania
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
- Viet Nam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe