

27th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Item 9.2 Strengthening FAO's contribution to the international arrangement on forests, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030

The implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) to achieve its six Global Forest Goals (GFGs) is a key priority for FAO and its Members. Consideration of progress made in this regard is a recurrent item on the agenda of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the Regional Forest Commissions (RFCs).

The document (COFO/2024/7.2) provides an overview of FAO's actions in response to Members' requests and presents options for further enhancing FAO's contributions. FAO has two main avenues to support the implementation of the UNSPF: through its programme of work and through its contribution to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The CPF is a unique voluntary partnership of 16 global UN and non-UN organizations and processes, with a substantive mandate on forests. FAO serves as the permanent Chair of the partnership with the UNFF Secretariat acting as its secretariat.

FAO supports the implementation of the UNSPF and relevant decisions of other policy processes by providing information and knowledge products, such as the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the State of the World's Forests (SOFO) and others, thereby facilitating the review function of these processes. FAO also supports Members through technical work performed both at the global and regional level including through co-leading the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, programmes on restoration, sustainable wood value chains, forest monitoring, forest financing and others.

Within the CPF, FAO is leading or co-leading seven joint initiatives which directly support the implementation of the -UNSPF. FAO is also steering the work of the CPF, and in collaboration with member organizations seeks ways to improve its efficiency further. Through the recent launch of the CPF Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030, CPF and its member organizations have offered heightened commitment and concerted efforts to enhance forest-based solutions in four focal areas: implementation and action; data, science, and innovation; finance for forests; and communication and awareness-raising.

The Committee is invited to:

- take note of the progress and accomplishments of FAO's work in support of the GFGs, the UNSPF and appreciate FAO's leadership role in the CPF and the joint initiatives under FAO's lead;
- invite FAO to further integrate the UNSPF and the GFGs in its programmes of work on forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and regularly report on progress at the Committee's sessions;
- invite FAO to continue leading the CPF and the development of its workplan, focusing on supporting the implementation of the UNSPF and the achievement of its GFGs, as well as other multilaterally agreed forest-related goals and objectives;
- invite FAO to continue to contribute with expertise, data and knowledge products to the policy and technical discussions of the United Nations Forum on Forests; and
- invite Members, as members of the governing bodies of CPF member organizations, to send consistent messages to those governing bodies and support the work of the CPF.

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