

27th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – Original language

Item 8.5 Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry (COFO/2024/6.5)

Member Name	Comments
<p>European Union and its 27 Member States Friday, 28 July 2024 09:03 (CET)</p>	<p>In response to the written correspondence procedure, we are honoured to share with you a statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.</p> <p>I. AFWC/EFC/NEFRC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – <i>Silva Mediterranea</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage broad and active participation to the 25th Session of the Committee and the 8th Mediterranean Forest Week whose aim is to build a collaborative roadmap for sustainable and resilient Mediterranean forests. • Support and encourage the development of the Mediterranean Youth Task Force (MYTF) initiative. • Encourage all members of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> to contribute to the development of activities related to the Flagship Restoring Mediterranean Forests initiative under the UN Decade. • Encourage FAO and its Members to continue taking note of key findings of the State of Mediterranean Forests reports and Unasylna, as key information sources on forests in the Mediterranean region. <p>II. Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge the ACSFI engagement to further catalyse strategic partnerships as a way to implement its strategic priorities according to its Strategic Framework 2020-2030, namely by; i) building a forest-based bioeconomy to mitigate climate change while addressing biodiversity loss and food insecurity; and ii) enhancing the forest sector’s engagement in ecosystem restoration”. • Encourage the ACSFI to continue fostering strategic actions and facilitating partnerships between FAO, the private sector and other stakeholders, to promote sustainability and circularity of a forest-based bioeconomy and productive ecosystems while leveraging technology and innovation for sustainable forest management to achieve the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular in developing countries. <p>III. The International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment</p>

- Acknowledge the increased focus of the Commission on the role of sustainably managed fast-growing trees, and resilient and diverse planted forests in combating deforestation and enhancing forest benefits in rural and urban contexts.
- Take note of the progress in the implementation of the IPC Strategy.
- Encourage FAO members to engage with IPC for knowledge exchange, technical collaboration and policy dialogue, while also considering the benefits of becoming a member of the IPC.

IV. COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems

- Acknowledge the importance emphasized by the Working Group members of enhancing coordinated responses to member's needs for an integrated and multidisciplinary dryland management approach.
- Welcome the progress made and the substantive contributions of the Working Group to promoting activities related to drylands, including by partnering with entities inside and outside FAO.
- Underline the potential of agroforestry as a useful toolbox for sustainable agriculture and landscape restoration.
- Reiterate the importance of strengthening collaborations with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other relevant processes.
- Request that the Working Group continue and strengthen the collaboration with the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Sub-Committee on Livestock (COAG-CL), including through the Grazing with Trees global initiative, and inform both the COAG and the COFO on the progress made.
- Invite the Working Group to continue developing actions recommended at its 3rd Session.

V. Regional Forestry Commissions

- Further stress the need for RFCs to have a more policy-relevant role in the FAO Regional Conferences, including through contributing to setting the agenda, and further invite FAO to enhance its support for better integration of important regional forest-related matters.
- Encourage Members to continue to actively support the RFCs as the main instrument in forestry for linking the global and regional levels under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031.
- Request FAO to support RFCs to enhance their role, improve their functionality and increase their impact in the regional contexts where they operate.

<p>Japan Friday, 28 July 2024 11:11 (CET)</p>	<p>Regarding the cross-sectoral work of Paragraph 4. c. of the Regional Forestry Committees where an integrated approaches are required, Japan would like to stress that it is important to strategically describe how forests and forestry will contribute to other sectors, including climate change, agriculture and the environment, and to clarify priorities in the region. It is also important to incorporate a perspective on how to strengthen FAO's expertise in the field of forests and forestry and how to utilize it.</p>
<p>United States of America Friday, 28 July 2024 17:03 (CET)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are major milestones/outcomes of the IPCs work that have not been noted in the document and should be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A database of Researchers working with FGTs was produced by Dr. Julia Kuzovkina from the University of Connecticut. This database is highly relevant with mandate from the 2019 IPC reform to broaden the IPC priority genera beyond <i>Populus</i> and <i>Salix</i> and to foster a collaborative network and engagement among scientists. It also allows the IPC secretariat to have a list of people they can reach out to in order to get more researchers and countries interested in joining and/or collaborating with the IPC. ▪ We would also like to check on the status of the Green Book that was produced while preparing for the 2020 session. Our understanding is that the book was submitted to the secretariat in May 2021, and was reviewed by a contracted copy editor in June of 2023. This is an important product that we hope can be published soon. ○ Other notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bullet six contains two separate working parties – please consider splitting into two separate bullets. ▪ Suggest replacing “bioremediation” with “phytotechnologies.” Bioremediation is a very narrow focused term, while phytotechnologies encompasses a broad range of nature-based solutions, within which FGTs play a major role. • <u>Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSF)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACSFI and FAO refer to “forest bioeconomy” in the background paper for Item 8.3. As there is not an agreed definition of “forest bioeconomy” or even of “bioeconomy,” we would prefer that FAO use the term “forest-based bioeconomy approaches” as agreed at the 19th Session of the UN Forum on Forests omnibus resolution. Such phrasing acknowledges that stakeholders are likely to include a mix of social, environmental, and economic components when considering forest bioeconomy approaches.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Edit: encourage the ACSFI to continue fostering strategic actions and facilitating partnerships between FAO, the private sector and other stakeholders, to promote forest-based bioeconomy

	<p>approaches and productive ecosystems while leveraging technology and innovation for sustainable forest management to achieve the SDGs, in particular in developing countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The United States encourages FAO and the Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems to brief and collaborate with the UNCCD secretariat on their work. We further suggest that any quantitative analyses or reports that relate to land degradation and agriculture be shared with UNCCD.
<p>Canada Friday, 28 July 2024 20:36 (CET)</p>	<p>Canada thanks FAO for the report and supports the recommended actions contained in paper COFO/2024/6.5. With respect to <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>, we encourage members to continue their restoration work and note their contributions to FAO reports and publications.</p> <p>Canada also notes the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries' key messages, and further notes their relevance to agenda items 6, 7 and 8.3. We encourage the ACSFI to continue fostering strategic actions and facilitating partnerships between FAO, the private sector, and other stakeholders and to promote a forest-based bioeconomy and productive ecosystems while leveraging technology and innovation for sustainable forest management to achieve the SDGs, in particular in developing countries.</p> <p>As a long-standing member of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment, Canada congratulates the IPC on progress in the implementation of its Strategy and recognizes its valuable contributions.</p> <p>We also wish to recognize the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions, noting the North American Forest Commission as a significant and valuable platform for cooperation on forest policy and technical issues of commonality to the continent.</p>