

27th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – Original language

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 (COFO/2024/7.2)

| Member Name  | Comments   |
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| <p><b>European Union and its 27 Member States</b><br/>Friday, 28 June 2024<br/>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>We welcome and support FAO’s double role of both contributing to implementing the UNSPF and the GFGs through its leader’s role in the CPF and its own work program.</p> <p>The EU and its Member States underscore that the role of FAO in leading the CPF’s endeavour is crucial to shape coordinated activities following UNFF 19 decisions and its Joint Call to action of September 2023.</p> <p>We agree in general with the five suggested actions by the Committee in doc COFO/2024/7.2</p> <p>However, we would like to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add to bullet c <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “including the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”</li> <li>○ “including through integrated, coordinated, and enhanced joint initiatives with clearly assigned contributions by CPF members”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Add a bullet c- bis “to request FAO to implement the decisions of the UNFF 19 omnibus resolution relevant to FAO, in particular initiating the assessment of options to strengthen collaboration within the Partnership.”</li> <li>• Add a bullet c-ter “invite FAO to focus on further developing the Global Core Set of Forest-related indicators and enhancing coordination, streamline reporting and data sharing activities and explore ways to use these core set of indicators in reviewing- and assessment-processes”.</li> <li>• Delete bullet e because in our understanding, in these proposed actions we should recommend decisions to the FAO and not reiterate a call to member states that has already been made in UNFF context.</li> <li>• We can instead add a bullet on advocacy. In this bullet we ask FAO to lead a more interactive and transparent CPF communication on their joint activities to UNFF members as well as major groups and other relevant stakeholders during intersessional periods of UNFF, as well as to lead on coordinating CPF</li> </ul> |

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|   | <p>and its members on “topline” key messages to HLPF on forest interlinkages to the SDGs under review each year, including benefits of, challenges and threats to forests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ask FAO to continue and further enhance, as appropriate, communication efforts on multiple benefits of forests and sustainable forest management that contribute to the achievement of SDGs.</li> <li>• The potential of FAO Regional Forestry Commissions should be further explored in regional dialogues related to UNFF.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Japan</b><br/>Friday, 28 June 2024<br/>11:11 (CET)</p>                    | <p>Japan appreciates FAO's efforts on the UNSPF and the GFGs, and we support FAO's further contributions. In particular, we appreciate that the FRA, which is a flagship contribution to the UNSPF, provides essential basic data for policy formulation and also serves as a monitoring function for achieving the GFGs.</p> <p>Japan cooperated with FAO in hosting a workshop for FRA2025 in Tokyo last October, contributing to capacity building for FRA reporting in the Asian region.</p> <p>Information on the progress of FRA2025 was provided in INF/6, but we would like to request that information be provided in a timely and appropriate manner in the future, including the task force to be established this year.</p> <p>With regard to the CPF, which supports the activities of the UNFF, Japan welcomes FAO's leadership and welcomes further development of joint initiatives. In particular, we welcome the Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World (SW4SW) initiative co-led by FAO and ITTO, the Wood for Globe project in collaboration with IUFRO, and the implementation of international policy dialogues.</p> <p>Japan has also actively participated in opportunities such as “Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood” in 2022 and the follow-up high-level dialogue at COFO27, sharing Japan's efforts and experiences. In addition, we believe that the results of the sustainable wood use project being carried out in Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia) and India through ITTO with Japan's support will also contribute to scaling-up of SW4SW. We hope that FAO will continue to work with CPF members such as ITTO to build a sustainable society through wood use.</p> |
| <p><b>United States of America</b><br/>Friday, 28 June 2024<br/>17:03 (CET)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As CPF Chair, FAO will play an important role in responding the Midterm Review of the IAF and the decision language found in the UNFF19 Omnibus Resolution. The United States requests that FAO take steps to implement (f) of the Omnibus Resolution section focused on the CPF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “f. Conduct an assessment of options to strengthen collaboration within the Partnership and send consistent and supportive messages on the work of the CPF to their respective governing bodies, and consider funding of the CPF activities, as appropriate.”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would also welcome progress on the following elements of the Omnibus Resolution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ c. Regularly undertake assessments of its completed joint initiatives to identify challenges, successes, lessons learned, and the contributions of the joint initiatives to the GFGs, and share those assessments with its members, members of the Forum, and other relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>○ d. Enhance interaction and communication, including through a hybrid format, with members of the Forum, regional and subregional partners, Major Groups, and other relevant stakeholders on its activities by organizing short briefing meetings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The US congratulates FAO on their work and contributions to the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and different major programmes on Forestry. We encourage FAO’s continued leadership of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and in particular, on streamlining forest related reporting as we prepare for the publication of FRA 2025 and the new UNFF National Voluntary Reports.</li> <li>• We also encourage FAO’s active input into the development of the UNFF second short and concise UN Global Forest Goals Report and are interested to learn more about what “restructuring” SOFO would entail. We are cautious about changing the format of SOFO around the Global Forest Goals without first examining the benefits and implications to the UNFF GFG Report and UNFF VNRs, as well as flexibility of SOFO to cover significant emerging issues. To that end, we are interested in hearing further views from FAO, CPF members, and other monitoring and reporting experts.</li> <li>• The US recognizes the value of the Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World Initiative and looks forward to the results of the FAO and IUFRO global stock take of sustainable wood policies and policy platforms.</li> <li>• At UNFF19, the US requested consideration be given to expanding the ITTO-led Joint initiative on Integrated Fire Management in Tropical Forests to include fire in temperate forests as well as a greater focus on governance frameworks outlined in the objectives. Given this expansion in scope, we hope that FAO will be play an active role in the new JI given that it is the host of the UN Global Fire Management Hub.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Canada</b><br/>Friday, 28 June 2024<br/>20:36 (CET)</p> | <p>Canada thanks FAO for the comprehensive update and notes the progress and accomplishments of FAO’s work in support of the GFGs and UNSPF. With respect to reporting, we agree that more systematic and streamlined monitoring and assessment of progress of actions in support of implementation of the GFGs could provide valuable input to further accelerate actions towards the forest-related 2030 Agenda goals and targets. Canada also agrees with the suggested actions by the Committee.</p>  |

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|   | <p>The FAO-led or co-led initiatives captured under paragraph 19 seem well aligned with FAOs comparative advantage. With respect to 19b, c, d, h and I, Canada encourages FAO and the CPF to engage with partners such as the International Model Forest Network, which is well positioned to act as a ready-made multi-stakeholder and landscape scale platform for sustainable forest management activities on the ground.</p> <p>Lastly, Canada is pleased to see mention and a way forward to further integrate related outcomes from the IAF mid-term review in the FAO forest programme and CPF workplan, as appropriate.</p>  |
| <p><b>New Zealand</b><br/>Wednesday, 03 July 2024<br/>12:32 (CET)</p> | <p>We support FAO’s ongoing contribution to implementing the UNSPF 2017-2030 and the GFGs through its critical role leading the CPF. This includes coordinating activities of the partnership organisations in support the IAF, and implementation of applicable UNFF resolutions, including those from the Mid-Term Review.</p> <p>We appreciate join initiatives such as the Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World (SW4SW) co-led by FAO and Wood for Globe project in collaboration with IUFRO, and welcome either further development of these or related initiatives.</p> <p>We encourage FAO to continue work on the Global Core Set of indicators including to streamline data collection / collation, and to explore reporting.</p> <p>We support the suggested actions by the Committee in COFO/2024/7.2</p>   |
| <p><b>Mexico</b><br/>Thursday, 04 July 2024<br/>12:36 (CET)</p>       | <p>Mexico acknowledges FAO's contributions to the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030. We recognize the progress made towards the achievement of the Global Forest Goals and reiterate our commitment to the conservation and sustainable management of our forests.</p> <p>Mexico expresses its concern over deforestation and the adverse effects of climate change, desertification, land degradation, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste. These challenges require urgent and coordinated action to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation and to prevent land degradation by 2030.</p> <p>We welcome FAO's efforts within its work programme and its participation in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). We applaud the regular publication of reports that provide vital information for our decisions.</p> <p>Mexico supports the future actions proposed by FAO, including the integration of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and the Global Forest Goals into its Forestry Action Plan.</p> <p>Mexico reaffirms its commitment to sustainable forest management and supports FAO and CPF initiatives.</p> |

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| <p><b>Australia</b><br/>Friday, 05 July 2024<br/>14:12 (CET)</p> | <p>Australia supports the suggested actions by the Committee in document 7.2 and welcome the contributions of the FAO to the UNSPF and GFGs, including its contributions to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and through its broader programme of work.</p> <p>We highlight the important role that FAO, as CPF chair, will play in helping to realise implementation of the UNFF19 Omnibus Resolution, and encourage FAO to integrate CPF-related outcomes of the International Arrangement of Forests (IAF) Mid Term Review (MTR) into its forward workplan.</p> <p>We recognise the value FAO forest reporting brings to the UNSPF’s implementation and monitoring, including its contributions to the Global Forest Goals report in 2021. In line with the outcomes of the IAF MTR, we encourage FAO’s active engagement in the development of the next short, concise Global Forest Goals Report, in consultation with other CPF members.</p> <p>Australia welcomes FAO’s leadership on sustainable wood use initiatives, including the Wood for Globe event in the margins of COFO27, and the CPF’s Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) initiative. Australia looks forward to results of the FAO/IUFRO global stock take of sustainable wood policies and policy platforms. Noting the SW4SW major focus to date has been on market development initiatives within Africa, we encourage expanding the focus to the Asia-Pacific region where possible.</p> |
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