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COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

5 - 9 October 2020

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY FOR 2020-2023

Executive Summary

The document informs the Committee on progress in implementing its Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW). It presents its strategy and working method to achieve its objectives for 2020-2023, in due consideration of the need to adjust to new realities in a post-COVID-19 world.

Suggested action by the Committee on Forestry

The Committee may wish to review and adopt the MYPOW 2020-2023 as outlined in this document.

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The Committee adopted its last Multi-Year Programme of Work 2016-2019 (MYPOW) at its 23rd session in September 2016. The MYPOW was subsequently endorsed by the 155th Session of the Council and the 40th Session of the FAO Conference. The Secretariat reported on the implementation of the MYPOW to COFO in document FO:COFO/2018/6.2, and the 158th Session of the FAO Council in document CL158/9. A full report on all actions since the 24th session can be found in document FO:COFO/2020/8.2.

II. DRAFT MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) FOR THE COMMITTEE 2020-2023

A. Overall Objectives for the Committee on Forestry for 2020-2023

2. The key functions of the Committee have remained unchanged: the Committee periodically reviews the situation of forests and forestry worldwide; advises the Council on matters pertaining to the priorities, programmes and budgets of the Organization and the Conference on global policy and regulatory matters; and provides guidance for its Members on promoting the sustainable management of the world's forests. The Committee collaborates closely with the six Regional Forestry Commissions in order to facilitate policy and programme coordination between the global and regional levels, including through developing its agenda in close cooperation with them, and providing a forum for global-regional dialogue at its sessions. The Committee also maintains collaboration and coordinates closely with other Technical Committees and pursues discussion of cross-cutting issues.
3. The Committee is willing to explore opportunities for increasing the efficiency of its work and to consider methods of operation that would enable it to better adjust to new realities in a post-COVID-19 world, including in strategy and priority setting, global policy advice and working methods.

B. Results for 2020-2023

Strategy, priority setting, and budget planning

4. Result

- The Committee's recommendations provide a solid basis for the Council decisions on the Organization's priorities, programmes, the general organizational structure and budgets pertaining to the forestry programme under the reviewed Strategic Framework.

5. Indicators and targets

- Analyses on the world situation on forests and forestry (Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020, The State of the World's Forests 2020 considered by the 25th session and The State of the World's Forests 2022 as well as the outcome of the XV World Forestry Congress considered by the 26th session of the Committee);
- Key global and regional developments identified by the Regional Forestry Commissions considered and appropriate guidance provided;
- Recommendations made in a timely manner to the FAO Council through the Programme and Finance Committees regarding FAO's priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets;
- Recommendations relating to the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) reflected in the Council reports;
- Guidance on forest issues taken up by other relevant bodies, including other Technical Committees, Regional Conferences and Regional Forestry Commissions, as well as non-FAO bodies, such as the United Nations Forum on Forests, as appropriate.

6. Output

- Report of the Committee containing clear, precise and consensual recommendations on strategies, priorities, organizational structure, programmes and budgets for Members and Governing Bodies, as appropriate.

7. Activities

- Review the world situation in the Committee's areas of mandate;

- Address issues of high priority and emerging issues identified by the Regional Forestry Commissions and the Steering Committee, giving due recognition to issues related to post-COVID-19 recovery and building back better as they relate to forests and forestry;
- Review decisions and recommendations from other global and regional fora relevant to forests and their implications for Members and FAO;
- Review decisions and recommendations from other FAO governing and statutory bodies and sub-committees;
- Review implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget in areas falling within the Committee's competence;
- Formulate recommendations and guidance for areas pertinent to forests and forestry on strategies, priorities, organizational structure, programmes and budgets under the reviewed Strategic Framework.

8. Working methods

- Close collaboration with the Regional Forestry Commissions through the Chairperson and the Steering Committee, supported by the Secretariat;
- Inter-sessional work of the Steering Committee, review of progress and guidance for the preparation for the Committee's sessions;
- Consideration of the outcomes of the COFO Working Group on Drylands¹
- Consideration of the outcomes of forestry statutory bodies;
- Collaboration with other relevant FAO governing and statutory bodies, in particular with the FAO Technical Committees, contribute to the formal and informal coordination mechanisms.

Advise on global policy and regulatory matters

9. Result

- The Committee's recommendations provide a sound basis for decisions by the FAO Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, as well as for decisions and actions by Members.

10. Indicators and targets

- Clear, precise and consensual recommendations made in a timely manner to the Conference regarding global policy and regulatory matters in its areas of mandate;
- Recommendations made on global policy and regulatory matters are reflected in the Conference Report;
- Members and the Regional Forestry Commissions benefit from the deliberations of the Committee, using its recommendations in developing national and regional policies;
- Recommendations of the Committee taken up by other international fora, in particular the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Rio Conventions, other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as relevant regional processes and instruments, as appropriate.

11. Output

- Clear, precise, consensual and actionable recommendations, for decision and appropriate action, for the Conference, for Members on policy and regulatory matters; and for other relevant international processes and instruments on policy measures pertaining to forests and forestry.

¹ COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, established by the 23rd session

12. Activities

- Consider the recommendations of Regional Forestry Commissions, other FAO governing and statutory bodies;
- Consider developments in relevant international processes and instruments pertaining to forests and forestry;
- Identify and review new and emerging issues in areas pertaining to forests and forestry, giving due recognition also to issues related to post-COVID-19 recovery and building back better;
- Develop recommendations and guidance, for areas falling within the Committee's competence, for the consideration of the Conference;
- Formulate recommendations with a view to support actions by Members and Regional Forestry Commissions;
- Provide input to other international processes and instruments, as appropriate.

13. Working methods

- Consideration of global and regional trends in sectoral policies and regulations;
- Liaison with FAO Governing Bodies as well as forestry and other relevant statutory bodies, and consideration of the outcomes of their deliberations;
- Collaboration with the Regional Forestry Commissions;
- Regular contacts between the Chairperson of the Committee and the chairpersons of other relevant bodies, in particular the FAO Technical Committees, as well as FAO senior management.

Effective work planning

14. Result

- The Committee works effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way, according to established work plan and improved working methods.

15. Indicators and targets

- The Committee agendas are focused, responsive also to emerging needs;
- Agendas are coordinated with other Technical Committees, as appropriate;
- Committee reports are concise and contain specific, action-oriented recommendations to Council, Conference and Members, as well as to other international processes as appropriate;
- Regular review of progress by the Steering Committee in the inter-sessional period.

16. Outputs

- Progress report on implementation at COFO sessions;
- Multi-Year Programme of Work, to be adopted in 2020;
- Progress report to the Council at its request and progress report on the Committee's work in 2022;
- Reports of Steering Committee meetings and coordination meetings with FAO Technical Committees.

17. Activities

- Develop draft agendas for the Committee through a consultative process with input from Regional Forestry Commissions and collaborate closely with other FAO Technical Committees in coordinating agendas;
- Search for new ways and innovative approaches to improve efficiency of sessions; build strongly on opportunities offered by the World Forest Week to establish proper balance between policy and technical dialogues;

- Regular review (at Committee sessions and during inter-session periods by the Steering Committee) of the status of implementation and assess the impact of the recommendations of the Committee;
- Regular review of methods of work, including through indicators and targets specified in the MYPOW;
- Continue inter-session coordination and collaboration with other Technical Committees to appraise emerging challenges.

Working methods

18. The Committee shall have two sessions in the 2020-2023 period. The Committee shall consider holding both sessions in conjunction with a World Forest Week. The Committee will give due consideration to implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and develop working methods according to new realities, including consideration of the role and extent of virtual events.

19. The Committee shall maintain close coordination with the Regional Forestry Commissions including in aligning agendas, identifying common items and developing meeting calendars to allow for timely input to the Regional Conferences and to the Committee.

20. The Committee shall have the following standing items on its future agendas:

- Adoption of the agenda
- Designation of the Drafting Committee
- State of the World's Forests
- 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
 - Progress in implementation of the recommendations of the XX Session and the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee
 - Statutory Bodies
- FAO's work in forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework
- Election of officers
- Date and place of the next session
- Adoption of the report

21. Recommendations for specific issues for the agenda for the sessions will be developed by the Steering Committee, in consultation with Members, the Regional Forestry Commissions; as well as other Technical Committees, with due consideration to the decisions of FAO Governing Bodies as well as to developments in relevant international and regional processes and instruments relevant for forests and forestry.