

REPORT

**Rome,
Italy,
22–26 July 2024**

Committee on Forestry

Twenty-seventh Session



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

First session	Rome, Italy	8–13 May 1972
Second session	Rome, Italy	22–29 May 1974
Third session	Rome, Italy	22–27 November 1976
Fourth session	Rome, Italy	15–19 May 1978
Fifth session	Rome, Italy	26–30 May 1980
Sixth session	Rome, Italy	3–7 May 1982
Seventh session	Rome, Italy	7–11 May 1984
Eighth session	Rome, Italy	21–25 April 1986
Ninth session	Rome, Italy	9–13 May 1988
Tenth session	Rome, Italy	24–28 September 1990
Eleventh session	Rome, Italy	8–12 March 1993
Twelfth session	Rome, Italy	13–16 March 1995
Thirteenth session	Rome, Italy	10–13 March 1997
Fourteenth session	Rome, Italy	1–5 March 1999
Fifteenth session	Rome, Italy	12–16 March 2001
Sixteenth session	Rome, Italy	10–14 March 2003
Seventeenth session	Rome, Italy	15–19 March 2005
Eighteenth session	Rome, Italy	13–16 March 2007
Nineteenth session	Rome, Italy	16–20 March 2009
Twentieth session	Rome, Italy	4–8 October 2010
Twenty-first session	Rome, Italy	24–28 September 2012
Twenty-second session	Rome, Italy	23–27 June 2014
Twenty-third session	Rome, Italy	18–22 July 2016
Twenty-fourth session	Rome, Italy	16–20 July 2018
Twenty-fifth session	Rome, Italy	5–9 October 2020
Twenty-sixth session	Rome, Italy	3–7 October 2022

REPORT

of the

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

of the

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

Rome, Italy

22–26 July 2024

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2024

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Matters requiring the attention of the Council

The Council is invited to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Forestry, and attention is drawn in particular to:

- *State of the World's Forests (SOFO 2024), paragraph 11;*
- *Scaling up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages, paragraph 12;*
- *Enhancing the contribution of forestry to bioeconomy, paragraph 13;*
- *FAO's work on forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, paragraph 14;*
- *Urban forestry and its contribution to urban agrifood systems transformation, including the Green Cities Initiative, paragraph 15;*
- *Contribution of forestry to FAO's work on climate change and integrated water management, paragraph 16;*
- *The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, paragraph 17 a;*
- *Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, paragraph 17 b;*
- *Sustainable wildlife management and addressing human-wildlife conflict, paragraph 17 f;*
- *Integrated wildfire management, FAO Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines and the Global Fire Management Hub, paragraph 18;*
- *Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry, paragraphs 19-23, including COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, paragraph 22 and Regional Forestry Commissions, paragraph 23;*
- *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, paragraph 27; and*
- *Hosting of the XVI World Forestry Congress, paragraph 28.*

Matters requiring the attention of the Conference

The Conference is invited to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Forestry, and attention is drawn in particular to:

- *State of the World's Forests (SOFO 2024), paragraph 11*
- *Scaling up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages, paragraph 12;*
- *Enhancing the contribution of forestry to bioeconomy, paragraph 13;*
- *FAO's work on forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, paragraph 14;*
- *Urban forestry and its contribution to urban agrifood systems transformation, including the Green Cities Initiative, paragraph 15;*
- *Contribution of forestry to FAO's work on climate change and integrated water management, paragraph 16;*
- *The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, paragraph 17 a;*
- *Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, paragraph 17 b;*
- *Sustainable wildlife management and addressing human-wildlife conflict, paragraph 17 f;*
- *Integrated wildfire management, FAO Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines and the Global Fire Management Hub, paragraph 18;*
- *Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry, paragraphs 19-23, including COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, paragraph 22 and Regional Forestry Commissions, paragraph 23; and*
- *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, paragraph 27.*

Suggested action by the Council and Conference

The Council and Conference are invited to endorse the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Forestry.

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

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I. Introduction

1. The 27th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), under the Chairpersonship of Mr Günter Walkner (Austria), was held from 22 to 26 July 2024 in conjunction with the 9th World Forest Week under the theme “Accelerating forest solutions through innovation”.
2. The Committee was convened in a hybrid format, following the endorsement of its working method as outlined in document COFO/2024/INF/3, *Note on the working method of the Committee on Forestry*.
3. Of the 125 Members of the Committee, 108 Member Nations attended the Session, including ten Ministers and six Vice Ministers. 12 Members of the Organization, seven United Nations agencies, 13 intergovernmental organizations and ten non-governmental organizations participated as Observers. The list of participants is available in COFO/2024/INF/4.
4. Two high-level dialogues, one on innovation, “*Catalyzing innovation to accelerate the contributions of forests and forest products to the 2030 Agenda and beyond*”, and another on scaling up agroforestry, “*An investment in resilient agrifood systems*”, were held during the World Forest Week (Appendix G).

II. Opening of the Session (Item 1)

5. Mr Günter Walkner (Austria), Chairperson of the Committee, opened the Session and welcomed the participants.
6. Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General of FAO, inaugurated the Session and delivered a statement (via video message).
7. Dr Carlos Nobre, Earth System Scientist and Co-Chairperson of the Science Panel for the Amazon, and Ms Louise Mabulo, representative of youth and an agroforester, delivered opening statements.
8. The Chairperson introduced the Vice-Chairpersons, who are the members of the Steering Committee of the 27th Session of COFO, namely: Mr Dos Santos A. Silayo (United Republic of Tanzania), Chairperson of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission; Mr Keiran Andrusko (Australia), Chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission; Mr Keith Anderson (Switzerland), Chairperson of the European Forestry Commission; Ms Ana Gabriela Saavedra López (Ecuador), Chairperson of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission; Mr Mohammad AlHyari (Jordan), Chairperson of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission; and Mr Randy Moore (United States of America), Chairperson of the North American Forest Commission.

III. Adoption of the Agenda (Item 2)

9. The Agenda (COFO/2024/1 and in Appendix A) and the Provisional Timetable (COFO/2024/INF/1) were adopted. The documents considered by the Committee are listed in Appendix B and COFO/2024/INF/2 Rev.1.

IV. Designation of the Drafting Committee (Item 3)

10. The Committee was assisted by a Drafting Committee composed of Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, Hungary, India, Japan, Kenya (Chairperson), New Zealand, Russian Federation¹ and Saudi Arabia.

¹ Australia, Canada, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, European Union and its Member States, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Ukraine chose to disassociate themselves from the nomination of the Russian Federation as member of the Drafting Committee, while the Russian Federation chose to disassociate itself from any member that disassociated itself from the nomination of the Russian Federation to the Drafting Committee.

V. State of the World's Forests 2024: Forest-sector innovations towards a more sustainable future (Item 4)

11. The Committee:

- a. took note of the key findings of the 2024 edition of the *State of the World's Forests* (SOFO 2024) and invited Members to take advantage of, promote and further elaborate responsible, sustainable and inclusive innovations relevant to forests, for optimizing forest-based actions to address global challenges, within their national contexts, capacities and priorities, and in line with relevant international commitments and obligations;
- b. recommended FAO to support Members by facilitating knowledge exchange, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and in their efforts to mobilize financial resources and investments, as well as policy dialogues with Members and partners on good practices, and ways to enhance and apply forest-sector innovations, in supporting sustainable forest management, including supporting forest conservation, protection, restoration and sustainable use;
- c. stressed the important technical role of FAO in assessing and addressing, within its mandate, the impact of all ongoing conflicts on the forest sector, while noting Members' interventions on this matter; and
- d. recommended FAO to support Members' efforts, upon request, to increase forest sector innovation capabilities and knowledge towards a more sustainable future, including opportunities offered by non-wood forest products.

VI. Scaling up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages (Item 5)

12. The Committee acknowledged collaboration between the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and:

- a. took note of the working group created internally within FAO between the Forestry Division and the Plant Production and Protection Division, and looked forward to receiving updates on the implementation of their 2024-2025 joint work plan in the appropriate Governing Bodies sessions;
- b. encouraged Members to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration and promote policies, strategies and programmes to strengthen food security, agriculture and forestry linkages in land management and throughout relevant value chains, to mitigate deforestation and biodiversity loss, to not create unnecessary barriers to trade and to benefit the situation of small-scale producers who are key for global food production;
- c. recommended FAO to support Members, upon request, to improve their capacity, including through the voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices, research and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, for integrating land-use planning and monitoring to achieve sustainable agriculture and forestry, addressing threats to forests as well as significant drivers of deforestation and forest degradation by, *inter alia*, promoting sustainable practices across economic activities and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, reforestation, restoration, and the conservation and sustainable management of forests, taking into consideration the relevant commitments to halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation and preventing land degradation by 2030, while achieving sustainable development, keeping in mind the necessity of poverty eradication and fighting hunger, and the needs of developing countries in terms of financial assistance and capacity building; and
- d. recommended FAO to support Members, upon request, in their actions to scale up agroforestry through projects, knowledge products, tools and capacity development.

VII. Enhancing the contribution of forestry to bioeconomy – opportunities and challenges (Item 6)

13. The Committee:

- a. encouraged Members and invited FAO to scale up technical support, capacity building and development, and the voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices, research and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, to support formulating national, regional and global sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches, strategies and action plans fully incorporating sustainable forest management, with a view to promoting cross-sectoral collaboration and inclusive engagement of stakeholders;
- b. invited Members to support sustainable practices, market development and investments in sustainable forest-based value chains, and invited FAO to provide technical assistance to Members, upon request, in developing and fostering value-added innovation and material efficiency in the forest sector;
- c. recognized FAO's role in advancing work to support the development of sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches and restoration of ecosystems contributing to improved livelihoods, including through building capacities of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, underlining the need to ensure sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and encouraged FAO to build upon its comparative advantages working across agricultural sectors to improve the knowledge base and data collection, analysis and sharing, promote policy coherence and scale up technical support and capacity building to advance sustainable bioeconomy practices across agrifood systems and forestry, and initiate a global bioeconomy partnership and cooperation;
- d. invited FAO to convene, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources, an international conference on the contribution of the forest sector to sustainable bioeconomy and to present its results at the 28th Session of the Committee on Forestry, and to the appropriate Sessions of the FAO Council and Conference; and
- e. noted the Brazilian proposal to start the discussion on the possibility of establishing an ad-hoc working group for the negotiation of principles of sustainable forest-based bioeconomy for food and agriculture.

VIII. The FAO Forestry Roadmap – From Vision to Action 2024–2031 and FAO's work on forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31 (Item 7)

14. The Committee:

- a. welcomed with appreciation the achievements of FAO's work in forestry during the 2022-2023 biennium;
- b. welcomed with appreciation and endorsed² the FAO Forestry Roadmap: From Vision to Action 2024–2031 (the Roadmap) as FAO's vision and action on forestry in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, noting that FAO developed the Roadmap through a consultative process but that it was not a negotiated outcome by Members, and encouraged FAO to take into account in its implementation the discussions and different views expressed by the Members with regard to the Roadmap;
- c. recommended FAO to implement the FAO Forestry Roadmap through the Programme Priority Areas under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, impactful partnerships, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and relevant programmes and projects;

² Statements expressing minority views can be consulted in Appendix D.

- d. endorsed the updated priorities for FAO's work in forestry in 2024–2025 within the Programme of Work and Budget 2024–25 and the Medium Term Plan 2022–25 in the context of the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, reflecting the FAO Forestry Roadmap, and encouraged FAO to take into account the views expressed by Members during COFO 27; and
- e. requested FAO to increase its normative and technical support to Members, upon request, to facilitate and build national legal and institutional capacity for sustainable forest management in line with the FAO Forestry Roadmap.

IX. FAO's work on urban forestry and its contribution to urban agrifood systems transformation (Item 8.1)

15. The Committee:

- a. encouraged FAO Members to integrate sustainably managed urban and peri-urban forests and trees into urban planning, contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and to the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in urban and peri-urban areas, providing sustainable forest products and ecosystem services, and ensuring people's health and well-being, addressing the needs of people in vulnerable situations and promoting delivery of adequate, inclusive and quality public services to city dwellers;
- b. invited Members to join the FAO Green Cities Initiative and to promote knowledge transfer through active participation in regional technical networks;
- c. recommended FAO, through the FAO Green Cities Initiative and other ongoing programmes and projects, to develop capacity-building programmes and tools and to provide technical assistance for increasing the resilience, health and well-being of urban and peri-urban dwellers, improving the sustainability of agrifood systems, and supporting sustainable urban development; and
- d. recommended FAO to continue its collaboration and cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations and initiatives and to explore new cooperation.

X. Contribution of forestry to FAO's work on climate change and integrated water management (Item 8.2)

16. The Committee:

- a. recommended FAO to support Members, upon request, in strengthening their efforts, including integrated solutions, to enhance the contributions of forests for climate and water services by, among others, conserving forests, halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation, promoting afforestation, reforestation and sustainable forest management, and restoring forest landscapes and watersheds, to strengthen adaptation related to forests and water, and to facilitate access to finance, recognizing the need for increased support to developing countries;
- b. recommended FAO to support Members, upon request, in:
 - i. enhancing the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031 through increasing forestry-related activities; and
 - ii. implementing FAO's Conceptual Framework for Integrated Land and Water Resources Management and contribute to the implementation of FAO's 2024-25 Biennial Theme "*Water resources management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*".

XI. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry (Item 8.3)

17. The Committee:

- a. welcomed FAO's achievements in supporting the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) (the UN Decade) as its co-lead, and encouraged Members to continue their support to the implementation of the UN Decade and enhance ecosystem restoration implementation and monitoring efforts, including by using the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) platform, as appropriate;
- b. welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (the Strategy) through the completed 2021–2023 Action Plan and current 2024–2027 Action Plan, and took note of the alignment of the 2024–2027 Action Plan with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- c. stressed the importance of the Strategy for the implementation of activities through which FAO supports countries' efforts to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, including in the forest sector;
- d. recommended FAO to continue to collaborate with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in advancing the mainstreaming of biodiversity in forestry, including on data and monitoring;
- e. invited FAO to collect and disseminate evidence-based practices related to the sustainable management and use of wild species that provide social, economic and environmental benefits, including products and services that enhance biodiversity and support livelihoods of people, especially those in vulnerable situations, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities;
- f. recommended FAO to continue to collaborate with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) and through the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme, to strengthen countries' capacity to assess the impact of human–wildlife conflict on food security, within FAO's mandate, and achieve sustainable wildlife management; and
- g. noted the African proposal for a Decade of Afforestation and Reforestation.

XII. FAO'S Work on integrated wildfire management (Item 8.4)

18. The Committee:

- a. encouraged Members to consider the implementation of the principles and strategic actions for integrated fire management (IFM) as outlined in the updated FAO's *Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines* and the *Landscape Fire Governance Framework*, taking into account different regional and national priorities;
- b. recommended FAO to continue working with partners, including international partners and regional initiatives, to lead the paradigm shift from a focus on fire suppression to IFM's holistic approach, recognizing the need to draw on, protect and respect traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use practices related to integrated fire management; and
- c. invited FAO to continue to support Members on IFM, including through the Global Fire Management Hub, with a focus on capacity building and technical exchange.

XIII. Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry (Item 8.5)

*A. Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – *Silva Mediterranea**

19. The Committee:
- a. encouraged members of *Silva Mediterranea* to actively participate in the 25th Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – *Silva Mediterranea* and the 8th Mediterranean Forest Week, which will be held from 4 to 8 November 2024 in Barcelona, Spain;
 - b. encouraged members of *Silva Mediterranea* to contribute to the development of activities related to the Flagship Restoring Mediterranean Forests initiative under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030; and
 - c. encouraged FAO and its Members to continue taking note of key findings of the State of Mediterranean Forests reports and *Unasylva*, as key information sources on forests in the Mediterranean region.

B. Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSF)

20. The Committee:
- a. acknowledged the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSF)'s key messages and engagement to further catalyse strategic partnerships as a way to implement its strategic priorities according to its Strategic Framework 2020-2030;
 - b. encouraged the ACSF to continue fostering strategic actions and facilitating partnerships between FAO, the private sector and other stakeholders, to promote forest-based bioeconomy approaches and productive ecosystems, while leveraging technology and innovation for sustainable forest management, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other international forest-related commitments and goals; and
 - c. invited FAO to play a stronger role in forecasting supply and demand of forest products into the future to help guide policy dialogue.

C. International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC)

21. The Committee:
- a. took note of the progress in the implementation of the Strategy for the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment 2022–2032 (IPC Strategy);
 - b. acknowledged the increased focus of the IPC on the role of sustainably managed fast-growing trees, and resilient and diverse planted forests in combating forest cover loss and enhancing forest benefits in rural and urban contexts; and
 - c. encouraged FAO Members to engage with the IPC for knowledge exchange, technical collaboration and policy dialogue, while also considering the benefits of becoming a member of the IPC.

D. COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems (Working Group)

22. The Committee:
- a. acknowledged the progress made and the substantive contributions of the Working Group to promote activities related to drylands, including by partnering with relevant entities;

- b. underlined the importance of enhancing coordinated responses to Members' needs for integrated and multidisciplinary dryland management approaches, as well as the potential of agroforestry for sustainable agriculture and landscape restoration in dryland forests;
- c. reiterated the importance of strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including by sharing knowledge products and reports related to land degradation and agriculture, and other relevant processes; and
- d. requested the Working Group to continue strengthening the collaboration with the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock, including through the Grazing with Trees global initiative, and inform both COAG and COFO on progress made.

E. Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs)

23. The Committee:

- a. stressed the need for the Regional Forestry Commission (RFCs) to have a more policy-relevant role, including in the FAO Regional Conferences through, *inter alia*, contributing to the agenda, and invited FAO to further enhance the role of the RFCs for better integration of important regional forest-related matters;
- b. encouraged Members to continue to actively support the RFCs as the main bodies under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 for linking the global and regional levels, regarding forestry issues; and
- c. encouraged the RFCs to continue to consider ways to further improve their efficiency, impact in the regional context, and broader policy relevance as well-established mechanisms for cross-sectoral policy dialogue and exchange, and to strengthen coordination and collaborative action across sectors and stakeholders in order to achieve the SDGs, the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and the Global Forest Goals (GFGs), and other international forest-related commitments and goals.

XIV. Decisions and recommendations of FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee (Item 8.6)

A. Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions

B. Voluntary Code of Conduct for the sustainable use and management of plastics in agriculture

24. The Committee:

- a. acknowledged the decisions and recommendations of the FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee on Forestry (COFO).

XV. Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry 2024-2027 (Item 9.1)

25. The Committee reviewed the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry 2024-2027, and in particular:

- a. underlined the importance of the Committee's input to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development promoting the multiple contributions of forests in achieving the SDGs;

- b. recommended FAO to, *inter alia*:
 - i. continue to facilitate the collaboration between the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Forestry;
 - ii. continue to strengthen the work of the Regional Forestry Commissions; and
 - iii. continue to seek ways to further increase the efficiency of the work of the Committee;

26. With the above observations, the Committee adopted the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry 2024-2027.

XVI. 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 (Item 9.2)

27. The Committee:
- a. welcomed the progress and accomplishments of FAO's work in support of the implementation of the UNSPF and the GFGs;
 - b. invited FAO to further align 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;
 - c. invited FAO to enhance cooperation and collaboration with relevant regional intergovernmental organizations with a view to supporting countries in the implementation of the UNSPF;
 - d. appreciated FAO's leadership role in the CPF and the joint initiatives under FAO's lead, and invited FAO to continue leading the CPF and to implement, within its mandate, the agreed outcomes of the Mid-term Review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF); and
 - e. encouraged FAO to:
 - i. continue facilitating the development of the CPF workplan, and joint initiatives with other CPF members, to support the implementation of the UNSPF and the achievement of its GFGs, as well as other multilaterally agreed forest-related goals and objectives;
 - ii. continue, in collaboration with other CPF members, working on the global core set of forest-related indicators to streamline reporting and data sharing, and explore ways to use the global core set of indicators in review and assessment processes;
 - iii. further enhance communication and advocacy with regard to the contribution of forests and joint initiatives of CPF members, and facilitate sending consistent and supportive messages on the work of the CPF to the respective governing bodies, as appropriate;
 - iv. continue contributing expertise, data and knowledge products to the policy and technical discussions of the United Nations Forum on Forests and to its next GFGs Report; and
 - v. support the assessment of options to strengthen collaboration within the CPF.

XVII. Hosting of the XVI World Forestry Congress (Item 9.3)

28. The Committee:
- a. acknowledged with appreciation the offers received from Germany and Peru to host the XVI World Forestry Congress (WFC) in 2027, and considered the presentations that were made by those countries; and
 - b. decided to recommend that the 176th Session of the FAO Council consider the submissions of Germany and Peru and decide on the venue of the XVI WFC.

XVIII. Election of Officers (Item 10)

29. The Committee elected, by acclamation, Mr Pierre Taty (the Republic of the Congo) to the position of Chairperson of the 28th Session of COFO.

30. The six Chairpersons of the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions will act as Vice-Chairpersons and shall remain in office until they have completed their term as Chairpersons in their respective Regional Forestry Commissions (see Item 1, paragraph 8).

XIX. Date and Place of the Next Session (Item 11)

31. The Committee agreed that the 28th Session of COFO will be held in Rome in 2026. The exact date will be determined by the Director-General of FAO in consultation with the COFO Steering Committee and will be presented to the next FAO Council, in December 2024, and the 44th Session of the FAO Conference in 2025.

XX. Adoption of the Report (Item 13)

32. The Committee adopted the Report, as amended, by consensus.

XXI. Closure of the Session (Item 14)

33. The Chairperson closed the session at 14.30 (UTC +2) on Friday, 26 July 2024.

Appendix A**Agenda of the 27th Session of the Committee on Forestry**

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Designation of the Drafting Committee
4. State of the World's Forests 2024: Forest-sector innovations towards a more sustainable future
5. Scaling up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages
6. Enhancing the contribution of forestry to bioeconomy – opportunities and challenges
7. The FAO Forestry Roadmap – From Vision to Action 2024-2031 and FAO's work on forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31
8. Progress of implementation
 - 8.1 FAO's work on urban forestry and its contribution to urban agrifood systems transformation
 - 8.2 Contribution of forestry to FAO's work on climate change and integrated water management
 - 8.3 The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry
 - 8.4 FAO's work on integrated wildfire management
 - 8.5 Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry
 - 8.6 Decisions and recommendations of FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee
 - i. Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions
 - ii. Voluntary Code of Conduct for the sustainable use and management of plastics in agriculture
9. Other Matters
 - 9.1 Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry 2024-2027
 - 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
 - 9.3 Hosting of the XVI World Forestry Congress
10. Election of Officers
11. Date and Place of the Next Session
12. Any other business
13. Adoption of the Report
14. Closure of the Session

Appendix B**List of Documents**

COFO/2024/1	Provisional Agenda
COFO/2024/2	State of the World's Forests 2024: Forest-sector innovations towards a more sustainable future
COFO/2024/3	Scaling up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages
COFO/2024/4	Enhancing the contribution of forestry to bioeconomy – opportunities and challenges
COFO/2024/5.1	The FAO Forestry Roadmap – From Vision to Action 2024-2031
COFO/2024/5.2	FAO's work on forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31
COFO/2024/6.1	FAO's work on urban forestry and its contribution to urban agrifood systems transformation
COFO/2024/6.2	Contribution of forestry to FAO's work on climate change and integrated water management
COFO/2024/6.3	The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry
COFO/2024/6.4	FAO's work on integrated wildfire management
COFO/2024/6.5	Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry
COFO/2024/6.6	Decisions and recommendations of FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee
COFO/2024/7.1	Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee on Forestry 2024-2027
COFO/2024/7.2	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/2024/7.3	Hosting of the XVI World Forestry Congress
COFO/2024/INF/1	Provisional Timetable
COFO/2024/INF/2 Rev. 1	Provisional List of Documents
COFO/2024/INF/3	Note on the working method of the Committee on Forestry
COFO/2024/INF/4	List of Participants
COFO/2024/INF/5	Implementation of the recommendations of the 26th Session of the Committee
COFO/2024/INF/6	Progress of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025, including FAO's work on forest degradation
COFO/2024/INF/7	Update on the implementation of the Action Plan 2024-2027 for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors
COFO/2024/INF/8	Update on the Global Fire Management Hub
COFO/2024/INF/9	Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights submitted by the European Union
COFO/2024/INF/10	Summary of Submissions to Host the XVI World Forestry Congress 2027

Appendix C

Members of the Committee on Forestry

Afghanistan	Croatia	India
Algeria	Cuba	Indonesia
Angola	Cyprus	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Argentina	Czechia	Iraq
Armenia	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Ireland
Australia	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Israel
Austria	Dominican Republic	Italy
Azerbaijan	Ecuador	Jamaica
Bangladesh	Egypt	Japan
Belarus	El Salvador	Jordan
Belgium	Equatorial Guinea	Kenya
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Eritrea	Kuwait
Botswana	Estonia	Latvia
Brazil	Ethiopia	Lebanon
Bulgaria	European Union (Member Organization)	Lesotho
Burkina Faso	Finland	Liberia
Burundi	France	Libya
Cabo Verde	Gabon	Lithuania
Cameroon	Georgia	Luxembourg
Canada	Germany	Madagascar
Chad	Greece	Malaysia
Chile	Guatemala	Mali
China	Guinea	Mexico
Colombia	Haiti	Mongolia
Congo	Honduras	Morocco
Costa Rica	Hungary	Myanmar
Côte d'Ivoire		Netherlands (Kingdom of the)

New Zealand	Saudi Arabia	Uganda
Nicaragua	Senegal	Ukraine
Nigeria	Serbia	United Arab Emirates
Norway	Seychelles	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Oman	Slovakia	United Republic of Tanzania
Pakistan	Slovenia	United States of America
Panama	Somalia	Uruguay
Paraguay	South Africa	Uzbekistan
Peru	Spain	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Philippines	Sri Lanka	Viet Nam
Poland	Sudan	Yemen
Portugal	Sweden	Zambia
Republic of Korea	Switzerland	Zimbabwe
Romania	Thailand	
Russian Federation	Tunisia	
San Marino	Türkiye	

Appendix D**Statements expressing minority views**

The following intervention on agenda item 7 was made by the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States: “We would like to thank FAO for preparing the Forestry Roadmap and for consulting with the members and we welcome the efforts that led to the outcome of this process. However, we regret that at the last stage, wording has been added that the EU cannot support. In particular, wording such as ‘*preventing unjustified trade restrictions and distortions, eliminating and not creating unnecessary and unjustified barriers to trade*’. The appropriate expression for this last sentence should be simply ‘*in conformity with international trade rules*’. In addition, while in principle we agree that we should avoid approaches ‘one-size fits all’, this shouldn’t be interpreted in a way that members can’t define measures ‘*in conformity with international trade rules*’.”

Appendix E**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – Explanation of Position**

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates.

The UK would like to thank the Secretariat, and all delegates for our constructive discussions this week. We are grateful to all those that helped make a success of World Forest Week and COFO itself.

We are pleased to have joined the consensus in adopting the Report of COFO27 – COFO/2024/REP.

Mr Chairman, now that the report has been adopted, the UK would like to make a brief Explanation of Position regarding Agenda Item 7, and specifically paragraph 2 line 8 of the Introduction to ‘The FAO Forestry Roadmap: from Vision to Action 2023-2031’.

Mr Chairman, the UK was pleased that the final report recognises that the FAO Forestry Roadmap was not a negotiated text. The UK does not recognise the framing of the Paris Agreement as set out in the text.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement are distinct treaties and should be treated as such.

Mr Chairman, we request that this statement be included in the Final Report.

Appendix F**The United States of America – Explanation of Position on the Report of the 27th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry**

The United States appreciates the leadership of the Chair, and the constructive dialogue and outcomes of the session. We are pleased to join consensus on the report.

The United States strongly supports FAO Forestry's work and elevating recognition of its importance in achieving FAO objectives, and we see the value of the FAO Forestry Roadmap in this regard. The United States appreciates the recognition in the COFO 27 report that the Roadmap is not a negotiated outcome, as it does not reflect well established positions of the United States on some specific items, such as on references to the Paris Agreement, the Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the CBD COP15, and the distinction between individual and collective rights.

The United States would like to underscore its position that trade language negotiated or adopted does not affect our prerogative on trade obligations or commitments, or for the agenda at the World Trade Organization (WTO). While the FAO and WTO share some common interests, they have different roles, rules, and memberships. Similarly, this includes calls to adopt approaches that may undermine incentives for innovation, such as technology transfer that is not both voluntary and on mutually agreed terms.

We will submit these comments in writing and request that they be annexed to the report.

Thank you.

Appendix G

High-level dialogue on innovation “Catalyzing innovation to accelerate the contributions of forests and forest products to the 2030 Agenda and beyond”

Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of FAO, opened the session. Mr Randy Moore, Chief U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Washington, D.C. United States of America, provided the moderation for the session. He introduced the ministerial level speakers: H.E. Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Minister for Environment and Forestry, Indonesia; H.E. István Nagy, Minister of Agriculture Hungary, Senator Nelsinho Trad, Chair of the Amazon Parliament, Brasilia, Brazil; and H.E. Hassan Hussein Mohamed, Minister for Livestock, Forestry and Rangeland, Federal Republic of Somalia. This was followed by five general statements: Mr Paul Steffen, Deputy Director of the Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland; Ms Maggie Charnley, Head International Forests Unit Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom; Mr. Alexander Panfilov, Deputy Head of the Federal Forestry Agency Russian Federation; Ms Cristina Goralewski, President National Forest Institute (INFONA), Paraguay; and Prof. Dr. Daniela Kleinschmit, IUFRO President and Professor of Forest and Environmental Policy, University of Freiburg, Germany.

The High-Level Dialogue recognized that innovation in the forest sector is an important accelerator and enabler for progress towards the SDGs. The dialogue noted the importance of inclusive and equitable innovation with a particular focus on the critical role of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It emphasized that innovation should be created and tailored so that it is appropriate for the specific contexts in which it is being created and adopted. The dialogue outlined the intertwined need to sustainably manage forests for conservation, restoration and sustainable use. The challenges that forests face, including climate change, deforestation, biodiversity loss and pests and diseases were noted, and the need for innovation to help address their impacts was acknowledged. The dialogue highlighted that wood research and the development of innovative forest products are crucial for enhancing sustainability and maintaining the socio-economic contribution of forests and forest products.

The dialogue celebrated the breadth and depth of innovation in the forest sector across the innovation typology (technological, social, policy, institutional and financial), geographically and thematically. Examples of forest sector innovations that were described included, but were not limited to, FAO's Open Foris initiative which has trained more than 250 000 people from 196 countries to improve forest data; FAO's Action Against Desertification (AAD) programme in support of Africa's Great Green Wall which has developed a blueprint for large-scale restoration that builds climate and nutritional resilience into its interventions for food security, biodiversity and climate action, combining plant science and traditional knowledge of local communities; Indonesia's investments in inclusive innovations related to legislation, stakeholder consultation, social forestry, conservation promotion, timber-oriented landscape management and mangrove management; Hungary's championing of the importance of forest monitoring systems and its integration of environmental and forest education into the education system; Brazil's investment in the bioeconomy as a means to address urgent societal issues with a focus on poverty alleviation, regulation and governance and institutional coordination; Somalia's inclusive efforts to raise awareness of the effects of climate change among local populations and implementing context appropriate policies to combat it; and the United States' forest research and investments in a wide variety of products including biochar.

The dialogue cited that opportunities exist for science and innovation to be a productive force for good, however, to promote inclusivity and equity it should incorporate mutual responsiveness among stakeholders, ensuring technical acceptability, sustainability, and social desirability. It stressed the cross-cutting nature of innovation and the need for it to be understood and integrated in all parts of the forest sector. It emphasized the transformative impact that collaboration and partnerships can have to catalyse innovation and enable access to both knowledge and finance. Finally, the dialogue highlighted the importance of finance and investment to support the development of a wide range of innovations to ensure a sustainable future and advance the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

High-level dialogue on scaling up agroforestry “An investment in resilient agrifood systems”

The High-Level Dialogue on Scaling-up Agroforestry was moderated by Prof Silayo Dos Santos, Vice-chairperson of COFO. The session began with opening remarks from Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of FAO, highlighting agroforestry’s contributions to the Four Betters. Mr Michael Taylor, an agrosilvopastoral farmer from Australia, provided a practitioner's perspective. Ms Elaine Springgay, Agroforestry Officer, presented FAO’s work on agroforestry. Prof Dos Santos introduced the high-level panelists: His Excellency Norbert Totschnig, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management of Austria; Senator Pippa Hackett, Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine of Ireland; His Excellency Abel Bom Jesus, Minister of Agriculture of Saõ Tomé and Príncipe; Mr Franklin L. Khobung, Joint Secretary, Natural Resource Management Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare of India; Mr Jorge Mario Rodriguez, Director of the National Forest Financing Fund (FONAFIO) of Costa Rica. The event also included country statements by Côte d’Ivoire, the Netherlands, Jamaica and Indonesia. The planned observer statements by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and Acorn Rabobank were recognised but could not be delivered due to time constraints. Mr Nyam-Osor, Advisor to the President of Mongolia on Environment and Green Development Policy and Chair of the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral systems, closed the event.

The dialogue featured a broad range of interventions from Members, showcasing the diversity of national experiences in implementing and scaling-up agroforestry. Speakers shared success stories and lessons learned from their innovative agroforestry initiatives, ranging from policy support to on-the-ground implementation, recognizing that scaling-up agroforestry, investments are required beyond the plot level. These insights can be built upon to jointly address barriers to agroforestry.

The High-level dialogue emphasized the importance of agroforestry for strengthening livelihoods, improving the resilience and food security of smallholder farmers, and contributing to international and national commitments to sustainable development. Speakers recognized the remaining barriers to scaling-up agroforestry, including technical, financial, and knowledge gaps. They highlighted priority areas of investment to address these gaps, such as innovative financial incentives for farmers, public-private partnerships, payments for ecosystem services, green value chain development and extension services.

The dialogue also showcased how FAO is responding to the needs of Members and addressing global agroforestry capacity gaps through its innovative new direction, which includes three priority areas: i) Promoting and implementing agroforestry as sustainable production systems; ii) Improving agroforestry monitoring; iii) Supporting national agroforestry policy and strategy development.

The dialogue highlighted that collective efforts are key to addressing the remaining barriers to adoption, ensuring agroforestry’s sustainability and maximizing agroforestry’s potential in enhancing agriculture-forestry linkages.