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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
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# COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

## Twenty-seventh Session

Rome, 22–26 July 2024

### Decisions and recommendations of FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee

#### Executive summary

This document provides an overview of the decisions and recommendations of the FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee on Forestry.

#### Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to take note of the decisions and recommendations of the FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee, and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.

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## I. FAO Conference

1. At its 43rd Session, held at FAO headquarters in Rome on 1–7 July 2023, the FAO Conference endorsed the Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).<sup>1</sup>
2. In reviewing the State of Food and Agriculture 2023,<sup>2</sup> the Conference “emphasized that water resources management needs to be integrated at all levels, inclusive of all stakeholders, and coherent across relevant sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, land and soil, energy, environment, biodiversity, climate change and One Health.”<sup>3</sup>
3. The Conference further stressed “the importance of bioeconomy for sustainable agrifood systems and highlighted the need to discuss this topic within the Governing Bodies and Technical Committees of FAO, bearing in mind the ongoing collaboration between the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the COFO on the linkages between agriculture and forestry and the COFO–COAG joint work roadmap.”<sup>4</sup>
4. The Committee is invited to consider the outcome of the 43rd Session of the Conference, when addressing Items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of its Agenda.

## II. FAO Council and its Committees<sup>5</sup>

### A. The 171st Session of the FAO Council

5. The 171st Session of the FAO Council, held on 5–9 December 2022, reviewed the Report of the 26th Session of the Committee (COFO 26), and in particular:
  - a. requested FAO to continue actively identifying the important and mutually beneficial linkages between agriculture and forestry, and scaling-up its related activities in the relevant Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) of its Strategic Framework 2022-31;
  - b. recommended FAO to continue collecting and analysing necessary science- and evidence-based data on agriculture and forestry interdependencies, including on the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation, by further enhancing consistency between agricultural and forest datasets, and compiling case studies and good practices, which should be reported at COFO 27;
  - c. recommended FAO to strengthen its leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF);
  - d. urged FAO to support Members with tools, methodologies and capacity development initiatives to strengthen their capacity to scale up forest ecosystem restoration efforts;
  - e. encouraged FAO to promote awareness-raising, capacity building, research and innovation for an effective contribution of sustainable bioeconomy, and wood and non-wood products and their value chains, to mitigating climate change and supporting climate adaptation; substituting carbon-intensive products; and increasing resilience to climate change, including through the inclusion of sustainable wood in FAO’s Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031;
  - f. recommended FAO to continue the development and harmonization of methods and definitions for forest data collection, including for primary forests, and recommended further efforts towards a definition of “forest degradation” during the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025 cycle. This includes using remote sensing and

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<sup>1</sup> [C 2023/REP, paragraph 44](#)

<sup>2</sup> FAO. 2023. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2023 – Revealing the true cost of food to transform agrifood systems*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7724en>

<sup>3</sup> [C 2023/REP, paragraph 26 e\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [C 2023/REP, paragraph 29 a\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [FAO Council](#)

- conducting related capacity development to help reduce the reporting burden, enhance information sharing, and increase transparency of forest-related data and reporting;
- g. highlighted the importance of field inventory data in quality control and validation of remote sensing-derived results;
  - h. invited FAO to support Members, upon request, to further identify opportunities and implement actions to improve complementarity between the agriculture and forestry sectors and strengthen coordinated policy responses towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recommended that these initiatives do not create unnecessary barriers to trade, and benefit the situation of small-scale producers who are key for global food production; and
  - i. endorsed the proposed priority areas of work in forestry in 2022–2023 and beyond, and welcomed their strong alignment with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.<sup>6</sup>
6. The Council also reviewed the Report of the 28th Session of the COAG (COAG 28), and, referring to forestry, in particular:
- a. stressed the importance of agriculture and forestry linkages, and of strengthened coordination between the COAG and the COFO on related cross-sectoral matters, and recommended to continue collecting and analysing science and evidence-based data on agriculture and forestry interdependencies; and
  - b. encouraged FAO to continue playing an active role in relevant international fora by promoting open dialogue on enhancing and promoting sustainable agrifood systems and further working with other international partners, including all relevant stakeholders and particularly members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), to upscale synergies between agriculture and forestry.<sup>7</sup>
7. The Council recommended that the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) review the process of election of the Chairperson of the COFO for consistency of processes across Technical Committees, recognizing their distinct nature, and to provide recommendations to the next session of the Council.<sup>8</sup>

#### *B. The 118th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*

8. The 118th Session of the CCLM held on 6–8 March 2023 considered document CCLM 118/5 on the “process of election of the Chairperson of the COFO.”<sup>9</sup>
9. The CCLM confirmed that the rules governing the election of Chairpersons of Technical Committees are similar and consistent and, in particular, the legal framework governing the process of election of the Chairperson of the COFO was consistent with the General Rules of the Organization.<sup>10</sup>

#### *C. The 172nd Session of the FAO Council*

10. The FAO Council, at its 172nd Session, held on 24–28 April 2023, endorsed the conclusions of the 118th Session of the CCLM.<sup>11</sup>

#### *D. The 137th Session of the Programme Committee*

11. The 137th Session of the Programme Committee held on 6–10 November 2023 welcomed the information document on the development of the FAO Forestry Roadmap: from Vision to Action, noting the importance and relevance of the role of forests and forestry in addressing the challenges of

<sup>6</sup> [CL 171/REP, paragraph 24, a\)–i\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> [CL 171/REP, paragraph 20, g\) and h\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> [CL 171, paragraph 26](#)

<sup>9</sup> [CCLM 118/REP, paragraph 22](#); [CCLM 118/5](#)

<sup>10</sup> [CCLM 118/REP, paragraph 23](#)

<sup>11</sup> [CL 172/REP, paragraph 27 b\)](#)

climate change, food insecurity, poverty and biodiversity loss, and took note of the process for its development.<sup>12</sup>

### *E. The 174th Session of the FAO Council*

12. The 174th Session of the FAO Council, held on 4–8 December 2023, endorsed the Report of the 137th Session of the Programme Committee.<sup>13</sup>

13. The Committee is invited to consider the outcome of the 171st, 172nd and 174th Sessions of the Council when addressing Items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of its Agenda.

## **III. Committee on Agriculture<sup>14</sup>**

14. COAG, at its 28th Session, held on 1–7 July 2022, acknowledged the multiple linkages between the agriculture and forestry sectors, and underscored the need to achieve better synergies between them through intersectorial approaches, for more sustainable agrifood systems.<sup>15</sup>

15. COAG recommended FAO to continue collecting and analysing necessary science and evidence-based data on agriculture and forestry interdependencies, including on the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation, by further enhancing consistency between agricultural and forest datasets and compiling case studies and good practices which should be reported at COAG 29, and requested the COAG Secretariat to share this information with the COFO Secretariat, if relevant.<sup>16</sup>

16. COAG invited FAO to support Members, upon request, to further identify opportunities and implement actions to improve complementarity between the agriculture and forestry sectors and strengthen coordinated policy responses towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recommending that these initiatives do not create unnecessary barriers to trade and do not worsen the situation for small-scale producers' well-being.<sup>17</sup>

17. COAG invited FAO to conduct, subject to available extrabudgetary resources, a global assessment of the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry, and to report on progress to COAG 29, and requested the COAG Secretariat to share this information with the COFO Secretariat, if relevant.<sup>18</sup>

18. COAG encouraged FAO to continue playing an active role in relevant international fora by promoting open dialogue on enhancing and promoting sustainable agrifood systems and further working with other international partners, including all relevant stakeholders and particularly members of the CPF, to upscale synergies between agriculture and forestry.<sup>19</sup>

19. COAG invited Members to promote greater and inclusive policy coherence between the agriculture and forestry sectors, including through integrated land-use planning, landscape approaches and secured access to land, as well as support to small-scale producers, family farmers, women, youth, local communities and Indigenous Peoples.<sup>20</sup>

20. On drivers of deforestation and land degradation, COAG requested FAO and Members to put greater emphasis on ways to decouple growth in agricultural production from forest and other biodiversity loss, 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.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> [PC 137/REP, paragraph 19](#)

<sup>13</sup> [CL 174/REP, paragraph 22 a\) and 24](#)

<sup>14</sup> [COAG](#)

<sup>15</sup> [COAG C 2023/22 paragraph 18 a\)](#)

<sup>16</sup> [COAG C 2023/22 paragraph 18 b\)](#)

<sup>17</sup> [COAG C 2023/22 paragraph 18 c\)](#)

<sup>18</sup> [COAG C 2023/22 paragraph 18 d\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> [COAG C 2023/22 paragraph 18 e\)](#)

<sup>20</sup> [COAG C 2023/22 paragraph 18 f\)](#)

<sup>21</sup> [COAG C 2023/22 paragraph 18 g\)](#)

21. COAG invited FAO to report regularly on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the agriculture and forestry sectors.<sup>22</sup>

22. The Committee is invited to consider the outcome of the 28th Session of COAG, in particular when addressing Items 5, 6, 7, 9.1 of its Agenda.

#### **IV. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>23</sup>**

23. At its 19th Regular Session, held on 17–21 July 2023,<sup>24</sup> the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) endorsed the report and recommendations of the 7th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG-FGR).<sup>25</sup> CGRFA then considered the preparation of The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources<sup>26</sup> and took note of a draft of this report.<sup>27</sup>

24. CGRFA recommended FAO to prepare a revised draft of the report and invited CGRFA Members and observers to provide comments before its publication in 2024. The CGRFA also recommended FAO to publish an in-brief version of the report in all official languages of FAO. The CGRFA further recommended FAO to present the report at relevant international meetings and actively disseminate its findings to inform global processes on biodiversity, climate change, forests and ecosystem restoration. Moreover, it invited Members to make full use of the findings as appropriate.<sup>28</sup>

25. CGRFA also reviewed the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources<sup>29</sup> and took note of the second implementation report<sup>30</sup> prepared by FAO based on the inputs provided by the National Focal Points (NFPs).<sup>31</sup> It invited countries to continue implementing the Global Plan of Action and welcomed FAO efforts in developing a new global information system on forest genetic resources (FGR).<sup>32</sup> CGRFA requested that the Secretariat consult Members, NFPs and regional networks on FGR to collect views on the need to revise the Global Plan of Action and to present the results of the written consultation for consideration by the 8th Session of the ITWG-FGR scheduled for November 2024 and the 20th Regular Session of the CGRFA, to be held in March 2025.<sup>33</sup>

26. In addition, CGRFA discussed several cross-sectoral topics related to biodiversity for food and agriculture. It welcomed the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and endorsed a draft Council Resolution on the KMGBF.<sup>34</sup> It further noted with satisfaction the high degree of mutual supportiveness of the KMGBF, the FAO Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and the sectoral Global Plans of Action on genetic resources.<sup>35</sup>

27. Concerning the role of genetic resources in the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, CGRFA requested that the Secretariat circulate a voluntary questionnaire to the CGRFA NFPs to coordinate national consultations and subsequent submissions of baseline data to FAO across all agricultural sectors.<sup>36</sup> It further requested that the Secretariat convene, after the completion of the questionnaire, a global multistakeholder workshop on climate change and genetic resources for food

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<sup>22</sup> [COAG C 2023/22 paragraph 18 h\)](#)

<sup>23</sup> [FAO CGRFA](#)

<sup>24</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/Report](#)

<sup>25</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/8.1](#)

<sup>26</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/8.2](#)

<sup>27</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/8.2/Inf.1](#)

<sup>28</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraphs 63–66](#)

<sup>29</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/8.3](#)

<sup>30</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/8.3/Inf.1](#)

<sup>31</sup> [National Focal Points](#)

<sup>32</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraphs 67–69](#)

<sup>33</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 70](#)

<sup>34</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 35 and Appendix C](#)

<sup>35</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 36](#)

<sup>36</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 16](#)

and agriculture.<sup>37</sup> Other cross-sectoral topics considered by CGRFA included FAO's work on biodiversity, nutrition and human health, as well as recent developments under international agreements related to access and benefit sharing, and digital sequence information. Moreover, the CGRFA revised its Strategic Plan and updated its Multi-year Programme of Work.<sup>38</sup>

28. The Committee is invited to consider the outcomes of the 19th Session of CGRFA, in particular when addressing Items 7 and 8.3.

## V. Regional Conferences<sup>39</sup>

### A. Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

29. The 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC), held on 19–22 February 2024, recognized the importance of One Health in food systems transformation that addresses threats to the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment – and associated diseases (zoonotic, transboundary animal and waterborne) and antimicrobial resistance – food safety, nutrition and food security risks. APRC “noted the paucity of data in the region, including data on disease prevalence and transmission, particularly for the livestock, plant, forestry and fishery subsectors.”<sup>40</sup>

30. APRC “recognized FAO's leading role in global One Health initiatives, and strongly encouraged FAO to continue supporting One Health capacity-development and technical interventions relevant to the priorities of the environment, agriculture (including fisheries and forestry) and health sectors.”<sup>41</sup>

31. APRC “noted the significance of the work of the Regional Commissions – the Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA), the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC), the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) and the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) – and region-level activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in standards setting, development of voluntary guidelines and implementation of globally endorsed legal instruments in key technical areas of the Organization's mandate.”<sup>42</sup>

32. APRC also welcomed the Strategic Regional Foresight for Asia and the Pacific region, where the bioeconomy is included as a systemic approach that can improve resilience if there is investment in national and local research and development.<sup>43</sup>

### B. Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

33. The 38th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC), held on 18–21 March 2024, reaffirmed FAO's role in the technical secretariats of the Regional Commissions and endorsed the recommendations of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission, the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, the Commission for Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, which are contained in document LARC/24/INF/12.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 17](#)

<sup>38</sup> [CGRFA-19/23/Report, Appendix E](#)

<sup>39</sup> [FAO Regional Conferences](#)

<sup>40</sup> [APRC/24/REP, paragraph 22 e\)](#)

<sup>41</sup> [APRC/24/REP, paragraph 22 h\)](#)

<sup>42</sup> [APRC/24/REP, paragraph 25 d\)](#)

<sup>43</sup> [APRC/24/INF/17](#)

<sup>44</sup> [LARC/24/REP, paragraph 27 a\)](#)

34. The Regional Conference recommended FAO to continue working with Members, the United Nations and other regional and international agencies to support the active participation of all vulnerable groups, such as family farmers, Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent, rural youth, women, fisherfolk and forest-dependent peoples, in agrifood systems transformation, at regional, subregional, country and local levels, recognizing their important role in preserving traditional knowledge and practices in building resilience and care for the environment.<sup>45</sup>
35. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:
- a. support the effective uptake of technologies, innovations and practices to improve crop, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture systems, encouraging improvements in the enabling environment and in national policies for sustainable agricultural production, including biotechnology; genome editing; no tillage; other technical tools; the bioeconomy; climate-resilient agriculture; climate-adapted planting materials; efficiency of irrigation systems; restorative, agroecological and conservation approaches, as well as voluntary guidelines that entail the responsible use of agricultural inputs<sup>46</sup>; and
  - b. continue supporting Members in the adoption of an integrated approach to fire management that protects forests as a source of food and avoids the damaging effects of uncontrolled fires to both the environment and agrifood systems, while reducing the risks to both human and animal life.<sup>47</sup>
36. With regards to the bioeconomy, LARC further recommended that FAO:
- a. support the bioeconomy in promoting sustainable production of food and environmentally sound biobased products and services, through the use and transformation of biological resources, as well as its essential contribution to food security within the region;<sup>48</sup> and
  - b. assist Members in the production, use and conservation of biological resources, including related knowledge, science, technology and innovation to provide information, products, processes and services to all economic sectors, with the aim of moving towards a sustainable economy, in line with the bioeconomy concept.<sup>49</sup>

### *C. Regional Conference for the Near East*

37. The 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC) reviewed the Report of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission. Members took note of the key messages that emerged from the Report of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission including<sup>50</sup>:
- a. supporting countries in strengthening their forest and rangeland monitoring systems to measure agrosilvopastoral, social, economic and environmental values in response to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as other pledges, such as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
  - b. supporting the UN Declaration of 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists;
  - c. supporting countries to contribute to conserving and restoring biodiversity while improving nutrition, food security and livelihoods through the identification of opportunities, challenges and specific technical support requirements for the sustainable use of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) and pastoral value chains; and

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<sup>45</sup> [LARC/24/REP, paragraph 21 f\)](#)

<sup>46</sup> [LARC/24/REP, paragraph 26 c\)](#)

<sup>47</sup> [LARC/24/REP paragraph 26 bb\)](#)

<sup>48</sup> [LARC/24/REP, paragraph 26 d\)](#)

<sup>49</sup> [LARC/24/REP, paragraph 26 w\)](#)

<sup>50</sup> [NERC/24/REP, paragraph 14, 15](#)

- d. accelerating action on the ground for combatting desertification and restoring ecosystems.

38. Furthermore, under Item 5 of its agenda<sup>51</sup>: “*Accelerating Transformation of Agrifood Systems in the Near East and North Africa Accelerating Transformation of Agrifood Systems in the Near East and North Africa*”, NERC stressed the need to have an inclusive and sustainable agrifood system, taking into account sustainable management of natural resources, including forests and rangelands<sup>52</sup>. NERC also took note of the document *Greening Agriculture: Towards Transformation to Efficient and Climate Resilient Agrifood Systems*<sup>53</sup> prepared by FAO.

39. NERC also recommended FAO to support countries, subject to available extra-budgetary resources, in investing and improving knowledge on decarbonization scenarios for forests, agrosilvopastoral systems and also the wetlands in the region.<sup>54</sup>

#### D. Regional Conferences for Africa and Europe

40. At the time of preparing this document, the reports from the 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) and the 34th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) were not available.

41. The Committee is invited to consider the outcomes of the FAO Regional Conferences, in particular when addressing Items 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of its Agenda.

### VI. Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions<sup>55</sup>

42. At its 174th Session, the FAO Council noted the Global Framework for the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027<sup>56</sup> as declared by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2022 (A/RES/77/172).<sup>57</sup> The Global Framework was launched by the Government of Kyrgyzstan during the High-level Political Forum in July 2023, in New York. The President of Kyrgyzstan presented it at the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 19 September 2023.<sup>58</sup> It provides a basis for all stakeholders to enhance existing efforts and to initiate new actions aimed at improving the resilience and sustainable development of mountain regions across the world, as well as to engage in impactful advocacy for mountains at the global level.

43. The Council<sup>59</sup> recognized and reaffirmed the leading role of FAO as the main agency for sustainable mountain development within the United Nations system. The Council also called for the development of the Global Action Plan on Mountain Regions Development 2023–2027. In response, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat at FAO prepared the Global Action Plan on Mountain Regions Development 2023–2027, in collaboration with other United Nations and regional organizations.<sup>60</sup>

44. The Council recommended FAO to support Members, subject to available extrabudgetary resources, with tools, methodologies and capacity-building activities to strengthen their capacity to scale up sustainable mountain development initiatives with specific reference to the Five Years of Action; it also encouraged FAO to continue supporting Members in raising awareness on the challenges, problems and opportunities of mountain regions, and enhancing global efforts to address them.

45. The Council looked forward to updates on the development of the Five Years of Action Plan in future sessions of the FAO Governing Bodies. On this basis, the Global Action Plan on Mountain

<sup>51</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/466f4a8e-e15a-43c1-bc94-6659b6d5ef2b/content>

<sup>52</sup> [NERC/24/REP, paragraph 12](#)

<sup>53</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/6ad9ac0a-6946-4b8b-90f3-dc14a5d97c33/content>

<sup>54</sup> [NERC/24/REP, paragraph 38](#)

<sup>55</sup> See the Mountain Partnership webpage on [Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions](#)

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc6910en/cc6910en.pdf>

<sup>57</sup> [A/RES/77/172](#)

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/news/news-detail/en/c/1651181/>

<sup>59</sup> [CL 174/REP](#)

<sup>60</sup> [Global Action Plan on Mountain Regions' Development](#)



Regions Development 2023–2027 is shared for consideration at the 27th Session of COFO. The Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions was the framework for the high-level event held at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 28 on 11 December 2023,<sup>61</sup> International Mountain Day. Last year’s International Mountain Day focused on the theme “Restoring Mountain Ecosystems” and highlighted solutions to the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in mountains. A forum<sup>62</sup> on the role of mountains within the context of the Nairobi Work Programme<sup>63</sup> was held on 2 December 2023 at COP 28. This led to mountains, high-latitude areas and the cryosphere being declared a priority thematic area for 2024 within the Nairobi Work Programme.

46. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat is supporting Members in organizing key events at United Nations Conventions, including the Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change (to be held at Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) 60),<sup>64</sup> the 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests,<sup>65</sup> the High-level Political Forum 2024,<sup>66</sup> the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP 16,<sup>67</sup> the UNFCCC COP 29<sup>68</sup> and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP 16.<sup>69</sup> Moreover, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat continues to support the science–policy dialogue on sustainable mountain development by coordinating the work of the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee of the Mountain Partnership.<sup>70</sup>

47. The Committee is invited to consider the Five Years of Action, in particular when addressing Item 7 of its Agenda.

## **VII. Voluntary Code of Conduct for the sustainable use and management of plastics in agriculture**

48. In response to the recommendations of the 28th Session of the COAG, subsequently endorsed by the 171st Session of the FAO Council and the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference, FAO has carried out inclusive and geographically representative consultations with Members and a wide range of stakeholders towards the development of the Voluntary Code of Conduct for the sustainable use and management of plastics in agriculture (the “Voluntary Code of Conduct”).

49. The consultation process entailed an Informal Briefing for Members on 25 May 2023, and a Global Expert Meeting on 27–28 June 2023, followed by multistakeholder consultations for six regions, completed at the end of October 2023, and included both Members and other stakeholders. To ensure wider outreach, FAO launched an online written consultation on the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum) from September to November 2023. The inputs collected from the Informal Briefing, the Global Expert Meeting, the regional consultations and the FSN Forum, were carefully analysed and considered in the drafting of the Voluntary Code of Conduct.

50. The draft Voluntary Code of Conduct was made available to Members in February 2024. At the time of preparing this document, further consultations with Members are ongoing, with the aim of submitting the revised draft of the Voluntary Code of Conduct to the 29th Session of the COAG to be held from 30 September to 4 October 2024.

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<sup>61</sup> <https://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/news/news-detail/en/c/1673116/>

<sup>62</sup> <https://unfccc.int/event/16th-focal-point-forum-of-the-nairobi-work-programme-understanding-and-closing-adaptation-knowledge>

<sup>63</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/Pages/NWP-knowledge-resources.aspx>

<sup>64</sup> <https://unfccc.int/sb60>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>

<sup>66</sup> <https://hlpf.un.org/2024>

<sup>67</sup> <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/un-biodiversity-conference-cbd-cop-16/>

<sup>68</sup> <https://unfccc.int/cop29>

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.unccd.int/cop16>

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/our-work/advocacy/science-knowledge-advisory-committee/en/>

51. The Committee is invited to consider the update on the development of the Voluntary Code of Conduct, in particular when addressing Item 5 of its Agenda.