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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Rome, 18 - 22 July 2016

HOSTING THE XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

1. FAO's involvement in World Forestry Congresses dates to 1945, when the Organization took over the functions of the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA). The IIA had organized World Forestry Congresses in Rome in 1926 and in Budapest in 1936. Since then, FAO has selected the host country for, and has co-sponsored and assisted in the organization of twelve more World Forestry Congresses, the last one in Durban, South Africa, on 7-11 September 2015.

2. World Forestry Congresses serve as inclusive fora for the exchange of views and experiences and for robust debate on key aspects of forests and forestry, leading to recommendations applicable at all levels. They provide the forestry sector with a periodic opportunity (generally every six years) to take stock of the state of forests and forestry, discern trends, debate policies and create awareness among all stakeholders: decision-makers, the private sector, academia, civil society and the public.

3. As the main global forum for all those concerned with forests and forestry, the World Forestry Congress (WFC) should be seen as a meeting for the whole forestry world. The process of preparing for Congresses should engage broad constituencies in the forest sector, other relevant sectors, and all geographic regions, and a sense of universal ownership should prevail. The functions of Congresses are advisory. The implementation of their recommendations is a matter solely for those to whom such recommendations are addressed in light of their own particular circumstances. The outcomes of a Congress should be brought to the attention of the FAO Conference following the Congress, which may wish to consider it for possible endorsement.

4. World Forestry Congresses are recognized for the technical relevance, deliberations and outcomes in the context of forest-related international dialogues, and the broad consensus of views underpinning policy and technical advice to governments, international organizations and other groups, in the context of global sustainable development.

5. In early 2016, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations announced to all States that are Members of FAO, the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, that the Fifteenth World Forestry Congress is scheduled to be held in 2021, and invited governments interested in hosting the event to communicate their formal offer to the Organization. The deadline for the submission of formal offers by governments interested in hosting the Fifteenth World Forestry Congress was set to 1 May 2016.

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6. The Committee on Forestry at its Twenty-third Session (Rome, 18-22 July 2016), will consider the submissions made by interested host countries and will make recommendations on the venue of the Fifteenth World Forestry Congress to the Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session of the Council (Rome, 5-9 December 2016) for its decision.

Points for consideration

7. The Committee may wish to:

- Acknowledge the offers received from interested countries;
- Provide recommendations to the Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session of the Council (Rome, 5-9 December 2016) on the venue of the Fifteenth World Forestry Congress.