



AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

The role of forests and wildlife in building resilience and recovery from crises and threats

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UPDATE ON GLOBAL INITIATIVE AND PROCESSES OF RELEVANCE FOR THE REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Forests continue to be a crucial topic in several global processes and negotiations. In his message for the 2022 International Day of Forests, UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, reiterated that healthy forests are essential for people and the planet and that forests play a crucial role. He called for ending unsustainable consumption and production patterns that jeopardize our forests and providing support for the sustainable management of forests to the countries and peoples who need it.

2. This paper provides an overview of key global developments of relevance to forests and the forest sector and of interest to the Commission, notably:

- the State of the World's Forests 2022;
- The UN-Secretary-General Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation;
- The UN Food Systems Summit 2021;
- The 17th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests;
- The 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- The 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD); and the
- The 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

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II. KEY DEVELOPMENTS OF GLOBAL PROCESSES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FORESTRY

A. Update on the State of the World's Forests 2022

3. FAO's flagship publication "The State of the World's Forests" (SOFO) presents data and analysis on the interaction between forests and people every two years, with a focus on a specific pertinent topic. SOFO complements the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), issued every five years. The SOFO report was launched at the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC) "Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests" in May 2022.

4. SOFO 2022 focus on the topic of "Forest pathways for green recovery and building inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies". The climate, biodiversity and the recent health crises raised awareness on risks and weaknesses in current societal and economic systems. Forests and trees play a central role in containing or preventing these crises. Given that wood is a renewable material, forest-based sectors have the potential to be amongst the leaders of sustainable economies, providing jobs and income in particular in rural areas. Forests and trees could have a key role in accelerating a transformation of societies towards being more sustainable, resilient and inclusive.

5. SOFO 2022 provides a new perspective on environmentally friendly development. It reviews the status and trends of forest and tree assets as well as the benefits they provide to society. It discusses "solution pathways" for managing, restoring and using forests and trees in ways that build more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable green economies in the context of a green recovery. It demonstrates how these pathways could potentially be integrated in existing and emerging policy and finance/investment frameworks and mechanisms in ways that reach local communities, farmers and foresters, thus contributing effectively to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

6. Findings of SOFO 2022 spur policy dialogue on pathways and actions that maintain and use forests and trees more effectively to solve a range of existential crises and build more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable green economies.

7. The SOFO report will be further discussed at the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO26) on 3-7 October 2022.

B. The UN-Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation

8. In September 2019, the UN Secretary-General called for scaling up action to "turn the tide on deforestation", stating that "we must halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and change the way we farm", and initiated a discussion aimed at exploring how the UN can accelerate efforts to halt deforestation and restore forests, through ambitious and concerted action and advocacy across the UN system.

9. To this end, in October 2019 the UN Executive Committee (EXCOM) decided, inter alia, to strengthen UN advocacy efforts to combat deforestation and establish new partnerships with the aim to halt deforestation. A Working Group on Turning the Tide on Deforestation, led by FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in coordination with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)/United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) was established to operationalize actions requested by EXCOM. The actions requested by the EXCOM include, inter alia, strengthening UN advocacy efforts to combat deforestation and its linkages to peace and security, sustainable consumption and production and health, and agreement on common UN messages on deforestation; establishment of new partnership strategies with local governments, corporations and youth and indigenous communities, including through New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) and the private sector; support ongoing processes in countries to clarify and secure land tenure rights, especially for rural people, indigenous people and

local communities; provide enhanced support to UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to strengthen their efforts to enhance country-level sustainable land and forest management develop more innovative instruments and adequate incentives to mobilize resources to finance sustainable forest management and reforestation/restoration, including through advocating for a strong replenishment of the Green Climate Fund.

10. In response to the above mandate, work is in progress on several points. The Working Group has defined common key messages based on state-of-the-art insights and scientific and institutional publications. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) has reviewed these and has launched a joint statement entitled "Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation" .

11. In order to increase advocacy, several high-level events contributed to building momentum and political engagement for the initiative and highlighted the key role of forests in solving climate, biodiversity, hunger and poverty challenges, as well as the role of forests in a green recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. To strengthen advocacy further, as well as to support efforts of countries, a CPF Joint Initiative on turning the tide on deforestation is being developed.

C. The UN Food Systems Summit 2021

12. The UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) was convened on 23 September 2021 as a virtual event during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

13. The Summit was a historic opportunity to empower all people to leverage agrifood systems transformation, to underpin robust and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to accelerate action towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

14. Over 50 000 people across 193 countries watched the Summit and 37 000 registered delegates participated in the event.

15. The Summit was the result of an 18-month process convening a broad array of stakeholders, including all UN Members and constituencies around the world, thousands of youth, food producers, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, researchers, private sector, and the UN system. All were invited to identify solutions to transform the way the world produces, consumes, and thinks about food.

16. Main outcomes of the Summit, built on those numerous inputs, included:

- Commitments from Members through statements and national pathways. One hundred and sixty-three Members made statements at the Summit speaking to the importance of food systems in advancing the 2030 Agenda nationally and globally. One hundred and sixteen Members have so far submitted national pathways for food systems transformation that offer a basis for realizing the vision of the 2030 Agenda at country level.
- The Secretary-General's Chair Summary and Statement of Action . This calls on the world to keep its promises for a better future through food systems that work for people, the planet and prosperity. It outlines how progress in five key action areas at national and regional levels can amount to a global shift in progress on the SDGs, securing fundamental human rights for all. It lays out expectations on the follow-up to the Summit to deliver action and results for the 2030 Agenda. These five action areas are: 1) Nourish All People; 2) Boost Nature-based Solutions; 3) Advance Equitable Livelihoods, Decent Work and Empowered Communities; 4) Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses; and 5) Accelerating the Means of Implementation.
- Coalitions of Action, as voluntary commitments from Members and other stakeholders align behind delivering on national and regional pathways for food systems transformation.

17. Further development and implementation of multistakeholder national pathways and platforms is expected at country level, supported by the UN country Teams. In his Chair's Summary and

Statement of Action, the Secretary-General committed the UN System to establish a UN Food Systems Coordination Hub (the Hub) to support countries on advancing their food systems transformation in support of accelerating the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

18. The Hub, which will act as catalyst inside the UN system in relation to food systems and the 2030 Agenda, will be hosted by FAO on behalf of the UN system. Oversight of the Hub will fall on a Steering Group comprised of the Principals of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), Development Coordination Office (DCO), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) as the initial Chair of an evolved UN Task Force. The Chair of the UN Task Force will rotate among interested UN agencies with strong connections to the work of the Hub.

Relevant outcomes of the UN Food System Summit for forestry and FAO

Consideration of forests in national pathways

19. At the date of preparing this document, 116 countries had presented their national pathways to achieving sustainable food systems. FAO has elaborated a database to facilitate information-sharing of their content. It is structured around the five action areas deriving from the Summit: 1) Nourish All People; 2) Boost Nature-based Solutions; 3) Advance Equitable Livelihoods, Decent Work and Empowered Communities; 4) Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses; and 5) Accelerating the Means of Implementation.

20. The action area “Boost nature-based solutions” is the most relevant to forestry. At least 27 countries involving ten in Africa included forest-related actions in their national pathways, including enhancing forest restoration (nine countries), ensuring sustainable forest management (six countries), halting deforestation (five countries) and reducing forest degradation (five countries).

21. At least 18 countries proposed measures for developing agroforestry, as an action under the agroecology theme. Agroforestry is connected to all five Action Areas of the Food Systems Summit, particularly to Action Area 2 on Boosting nature-based solutions of production. Many of the “game-changing” solutions proposed for the Food Systems Summit explicitly mention agroforestry, particularly as a tool for restoring degraded lands, halting deforestation and increasing levels of biodiversity. Agroforestry was also mentioned as an important nature-positive solution for improving short and long-term outcomes for farmers, maximizing land use, and increasing ecosystem services.

22. Launched in 2021, the USD 345 million GEF-7 Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program (IP), which seeks to promote sustainable integrated landscapes and efficient food value chains at scale, will contribute to achieving the national pathways. It will also contribute to the achievement of other outcomes of the Summit such as the tangible actions of the Coalitions across FOLUR participating countries, expanding the evidence on how sustainable agrifood systems can reduce deforestation, tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and achieve land degradation neutrality.

Coalitions relevant for forestry matters

23. With the aim of turning solution pathways into actions, participants of the UN Food Systems Summit launched several “Coalitions for action”. These voluntary alliances gather governments or public entities, civil society organizations, business and farmer associations, academic institutions and international organizations. They focus on a specific aspect of transforming food systems. Some organizations or countries volunteered to lead the different coalitions and they are currently in an inception phase, in the process of defining their roadmap and identifying the means to be mobilized for the actions of each coalition.

24. Many of the 30 coalitions that emerged during the Summit may generate outcomes with a forestry dimension, but seven have explicit links to the forest sector and to FAO’s actions in this sector: 1) the coalition on agroecology and regenerative agriculture; 2) the coalition on Family Farming and on strengthening actions in support of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming; 3)

the coalition on Restoring grasslands, shrublands and savannahs through sustainable extensive livestock-based food systems; 4) The Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus coalition; 5) The Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance; 6) The Coalition on Halting deforestation and conversion from agricultural commodities; and 7) The Coalition Better data better decisions for nature-positive production.

25. The Food Systems Summit has created a momentum for accelerating efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, through the transformation of agrifood systems to ensure economic, social and environmental sustainability. Enhancing the integration of forests in the national pathways could maximize the potential of forests and trees to contribute to higher resilience and sustainability of food systems, notably through the sustainable provision of multiple ecosystem services needed by agriculture. It would also be key for identifying responses to the competition for land between agriculture and forestry. A strong participation of countries in the Coalitions is encouraged.

26. FAO will continue to engage actively in the Coalitions, in particular with those relevant to forestry matters, including by acting as the coalition leader or co-leader, when relevant, and dependent on the availability of appropriate extra-budgetary resources, thus ensuring that the collaborative work undertaken in this context directly supports the efforts made at country level in transforming food systems.

27. Finally, FAO will continue to make efforts to leverage FAO's ongoing strategic partnerships and multi-country or impact programmes, such as the GEF-7 Impact Programs on Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR-IP) and the Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL-IP), the UNREDD Programme, the Transformative Partnership Platform on Agroecology (TPP), the Forest Data Partnership, to enhance implementation at country level in strengthening positive linkages between forests and sustainable agrifood systems.

D. The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030

28. The United Nations strategic plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF) was adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council on 20 April 2017 and was subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly on 27 April 2017. The UNSPF features a set of six voluntary and universal Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be reached by 2030.

29. Consideration of developments in the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and support to the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument, the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) including the achievement of the Global Forest Goals and their associated targets has become a regular agenda item for both the Regional Forestry Commissions and the Committee on Forestry (COFO). Supporting work in this regard is also a main task for FAO, which Members recurrently requested during recent sessions, including promoting knowledge on the role of sustainable forest management in sustainable development, establishing clear links between its activities and the UNSPF and reporting on implementation accordingly.

30. FAO provides important contributions to the UNSPF as a UN system organization, as a Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) member and chair. FAO's activities contribute directly to all the Global Forest Goals and the associated targets of the UNSPF, through major initiatives of the Forestry Division, the Committee on Forestry and the six Regional Forestry Commissions.

31. The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) is the most comprehensive and authoritative assessment of global forest resources, their management and uses. FRA data contribute to the monitoring of the progress towards the Global Forest Goals of the UNSPF. FAO provided substantive contributions by providing the latest quantitative data from Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 and peer reviewing of the UNFF flagship report "The Global Forest Goals Report 2021".

32. The State of the World's Forests 2022 (SOFO 2022) titled "Forest pathways for green recovery and building inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies" is a major contribution to the UNSPF as well as to the in-depth review of SDG15 during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2022.

E. The 17th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

33. The Seventeenth Session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF17) was held on 9-13 May 2022 as a policy session, in accordance with the guidance provided in Annex I of ECOSOC resolution 2020/14. The UNFF17 recommended the Economic and Social Council to (a) take note of the report of the Forum on its seventeenth session ; (b) note that the eighteenth session of the Forum will be held at Headquarters from 8 to 12 May 2023; and (c) approve the provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Forum.

34. The UNFF17 held discussions on the United Nations strategic plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF) means of implementation, monitoring, assessment and reporting, and the preparations for the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). The midterm review of the IAF will be carried out at the 19th Session of the UNFF in 2024.

35. An updated version of the CPF Work Plan 2021-2024 was presented by FAO, as the CPF Chair, during UNFF17. The member organizations of the Partnership were invited to continue to strengthen its collaboration with and support to the work of the Forum and its members for the implementation of the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2021–2024 and the strategic plan.

36. FAO contributes to the implementation of the CPF Work Plan by providing leadership and facilitating and chairing the CPF meetings, supporting global advocacy, providing its expertise and advice on relevant technical issues and supporting the implementation of the work plan through recurrent activities and joint initiatives. FAO cooperated with the UNFF Secretariat in preparing an initial assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable forest management. FAO also contributes also the implementation of Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), the communication and outreach strategy of the UNSPF and the Expert Group Meetings organized by the UNFF Secretariat.

37. The next session of the UNFF will be held from 8 to 12 May 2023, in New York, United States of America. The session will hold, inter alia, discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the preparations for the 2024 midterm review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, including the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030.

F. The 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

38. The 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place on 1-12 November 2021 in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

39. Priorities for COP 26 were to: (1) secure global net zero emissions by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach; (2) adapt to protect communities and natural habitats, by protecting and restoring ecosystems and by building defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture; (3) mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year; (4) work together to deliver and finalise the Paris Rulebook and accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis through collaboration between governments, businesses and the civil society.

40. Forests appeared prominently in the final text of the Glasgow Climate Pact with its emphasis on the critical role of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems in delivering benefits

for climate adaptation and mitigation. During the World Leaders' Summit on 02 November 2021, more than 140 governments committed to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 through the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use. Over USD 20 billion was pledged to forests from 2021 to 2025, including USD 1.7 billion to advance Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' forest tenure rights. In support of these commitments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests hosted a COP26 high-level dialogue on 'Upscaling Actions to Turn the Tide on Deforestation.'

41. Eliminating deforestation from agricultural commodity supply chains was also a focus of commitments made during COP26. Twenty-eight governments, representing 75% of global trade in key commodities that can threaten forests, signed on to the roadmap of the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue, which is co-chaired by the UK and Indonesia. Additionally, 10 of the largest companies managing over half of global trade in key forest-risk commodities, such as palm oil and soy, announced to develop a roadmap for enhanced supply chain action by COP27.

42. The rules for voluntary cooperation to reduce emissions through Article 6 of the Paris Agreement were finalized, which operationalize market and non-market mechanisms for the mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, under which REDD+ is eligible as long as activities meet the required quality criteria.

43. Finally, adaptation took center stage with the launch of the two-year Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation to scale up action and support to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change, in which forests and trees can play a key role.

G. The 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

44. CBD COP15 began on 11-15 October 2021 (Part I) in Kunming, China and it is expected to adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a steppingstone towards the 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature" on 7 – 19 December 2022 (Part II) .

45. In addition to negotiating the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, COP15 will be reviewing progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Forestry, even though not always explicitly mentioned, remains relevant for several targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including - but not limited to - biodiversity conservation, people's benefits, resilience, restoration, and biodiversity mainstreaming. Moreover, the sustainable use, harvest and trade in wildlife – and the contribution it brings in meeting people's needs – is included in several Targets.

46. The High-Level Segment of COP15 adopted the Kunming Declaration in which Parties expressed their commitment to develop, adopt and implement an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework that would put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 at the latest. The Declaration addresses key elements needed for a successful post-2020 framework, namely: the mainstreaming of biodiversity, improving the effectiveness of area-based conservation and management, phasing out and redirection of harmful subsidies, strengthening the rule of law, recognizing the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, enhancing One Health approach, and ensuring an effective mechanism to monitor and review progress.

47. During Part I of COP15, several countries and the European Union announced increased international funding to support biodiversity. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), announced their commitment to fast-track immediate financial and technical support to developing country governments to prepare for the rapid implementation of the post-2020

global biodiversity framework once it is formally agreed at Part II of COP15 in 2022. Prior to Part II of COP15, the negotiations in the context of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) and the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020).

H. The 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

48. The 15th Convention of Parties of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD COP15) took place from 9 to 20th May 2022 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and welcomed the Land, Life and Legacy Declaration and the Abidjan Declaration on Achieving Gender Equality for Successful Land Restoration from the Gender Caucus.

49. One of main outcome of COP15, the Land, Life and Legacy Declaration, builds on the momentum of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the outcomes of the United Nations Food System Summit, the Glasgow Climate Pact, the Glasgow Leaders 'Declaration on Forests and Land Use, and the Group of 20 Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats. It calls for pursuing a systemic approach to land conservation and restoration as well as to the sustainable land management of all types of degraded ecosystems, recognizing that a significant portion of all land is degraded. It also encourages to avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation by accelerating the implementation of existing national commitments to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030, taking into account the connectivity of ecosystems; and to strive for more effective partnerships, financing, and cooperation at all levels, among the Rio conventions and other relevant mechanisms and processes, including exploring ways to catalyze more synergies at the national level between the individual action plans of the Rio conventions.

50. COP15 welcomed the technical guide on the integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and land degradation neutrality . The guide jointly prepared by FAO and the UNCCD Secretariat, outlines the practical applications of the VGGT – an internationally recognized framework on the responsible governance of tenure – in the context of the design and implementation of LDN initiatives. It offers a flexible multi-pathway approach to support policy and decision-makers and relevant stakeholders in shaping a tailor-made response to commonly encountered land tenure challenges via a range of national plans, legal frameworks, strategies, and action programmes addressing land degradation.

51. At the meeting, one important partnership: “The Abidjan Legacy Program” was launched as a model for increasing sustainability and ambitions, while protecting and restoring forests and lands and improving the resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate change. The program aims to boost to boost long-term environmental sustainability across major value chains in Côte d'Ivoire while protecting and restoring forests and lands and improving communities' resilience to climate change, with a mobilization of US\$1.5 billion over the next five years. In this context, FAO signed the GEF project agreement with the Government of Côte D'Ivoire on Scaling up Cocoa-based Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Transformation Innovation in Cote d'Ivoire, and to promote deforestation-free cocoa value chains and restore degraded cocoa-forest landscapes in the country.

52. During COP15, Heads of State and Government called upon the Secretariat of the UNCCD, the GEF, GCF, African Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Union, as well as other interested entities, such as the bilateral donors, private sector ,foundations, and Civil Society Organizations, to support the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, the Abidjan Legacy Program and similar integrated programs such as Southern Africa Great Green Wall Initiative. Furthermore, several decisions were adopted including a request to the Global Mechanism to strengthen partnerships to accelerate the development of a geographically balanced project preparation pipeline, through a partnership model, to facilitate gender responsive, large-scale integrated landscape

investment programmes and flagship initiatives that support work on sustainable land management and drought resilience.

III. Points for consideration

53. The Commission may wish to:

- consider forest-relevant updates on international events and processes as contained in this document to facilitate policy dialogues and technical exchanges, and to assist in achieving Members' goals and contributions to international processes and goals;
- welcome the topical focus of FAO's flagship publication "The State of the World's Forests" 2022, titled "Forest pathways for green recovery and building inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies";
- welcome FAO's efforts in mainstreaming forest-related issues into the UN Food Systems Summit and its follow up process;
- welcome the developments under the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation;
- welcome the themes of the International Day of Forests 2022 and 2023 and consider them in the preparations of celebration events in the region.
- welcome the progress and accomplishments of FAO's work in support of the Global Forest Goals, the UNSPF and the CPF.

54. The Commission may wish to request FAO to:

- promote SOFO 2022 within and outside of the forestry sector;
- take an active part in advancing the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and related activities;
- continue supporting the implementation of the UNSPF;
- continue and strengthen its leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and facilitate active participation of CPF members in the CPF midterm review;
- contribute with expertise, data and knowledge products to the policy discussions of the United Nations Forum on Forests; and
- actively support the implementation of the UNSPF communication and outreach strategy aimed at raising awareness on the multiple benefits of forests, and through this enhance advocacy on forests through relevant global processes, initiatives and events.