

*REPORT*

Rome, Italy,  
20 October 2020

**Report of the 50<sup>th</sup>  
Session of the  
Executive Committee  
of the International  
Commission on  
Poplars and Other  
Fast-Growing Trees  
Sustaining People and  
the Environment (IPC)**

**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPLARS AND  
OTHER FAST-GROWING TREES SUSTAINING PEOPLE  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT (IPC)**

**Report of the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of its Executive Committee**

**Rome, Italy 20 October 2020**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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# REPORT OF THE 49<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION

## Opening of the meeting

1. The 50th meeting of the IPC Executive Committee (the Committee) was held on 20 and 22 October in a virtual setting.
2. Ms Mette Løyche-Wilkie, Director, Forestry Division FAO, opened the meeting with her remarks.
3. The Chairperson, Martin Weih, welcomed members to the meeting, noting with thanks their willingness to meet in a virtual setting and not in connection with the regular IPC Session due to the force majeure of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
4. The provisional agenda was adopted as presented.

## ***Item 1: Progress since the 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee***

5. The Committee noted the progress of work reported by the Secretariat. Based on this report, the Committee:
  - a. requested the Secretariat to continue work planned leading up to the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPC;
  - b. requested the IPC National Commissions to strengthen the communication of their work related to the functions of the IPC to the Secretariat and the Working Party on Communication for dissemination to members and other stakeholders, as appropriate.
  - c. acknowledged the diversity of work undertaken by the Working Groups, NPCs and member countries.

## ***Item 2: Results of the Presentation of IPC updates to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)***

6. The Committee took note of the recommendations of the Committee on Forestry and:
  - a. requested the Secretariat to facilitate improved communication with Members of the Committee on Forestry, as appropriate;
  - b. noted the need to make the activities and targets of the Commission under its new scope strategic and achievable.

## ***Item 3: IPC Vision and Strategy***

7. The Committee welcomed the progress report on the development of an IPC Implementation Strategy (IPC Strategy) for the new scope of the commission and:
  - a. expressed the wish that the final report of an independent advisor suggesting elements of an implementation strategy for the reformed IPC be communicated to the Committee;
  - b. requested the Secretariat convene a task force to prepare a draft IPC Strategy for consideration at the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPC;
  - c. encouraged Committee Members to consider self-nominating as task force members, together with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and the Secretariat;
  - d. requested that the review of the draft IPC Implementation Strategy include related FAO technical staff, the IPC Secretariat, IPC Working Parties, National

Commissions, and development partners, prior to presentation at the 26<sup>th</sup> IPC Session.

- e. recommended that secondments of experts in support of the Secretariat be explored by Member States as an effective contribution to the development of Commission's action.

#### ***Item 4: Plans for the 26th IPC Session***

8. The Committee:
  - a. took note of the new dates for the 26th Session;
  - b. encouraged the IPC Members and National Commissions to take part to the maximum extent feasible;
  - c. requested Members to suggest current topics of interest to link to the theme of the Session and enrich its organization and outcomes;
  - d. encouraged the organizers of the Session to consider mixed virtual and in-person modalities for interaction in the Session.

#### ***Item 5: Draft Country Progress Reports: Key Findings***

9. The Executive Committee:
  - a. noted the value of the IPC National Reports for the IPC, particularly in the context of the recent reform and current strategy development;
  - b. thanked those countries that submitted a progress report despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - c. encouraged the balance of IPC Members which did not submit a report to submit their updated reports to the Secretariat in May 2021, for the reporting period 2017-2020, for inclusion in the compilation of National Reports for the 26th Session.

#### ***Item 6: Working Party reports***

10. The Committee:
  - a. welcomed the reports of the working parties;
  - b. emphasized the importance of the technical working parties products for the IPC and its stakeholders;
  - c. highlighted the potential to enhance outreach and communication through the IPC communication channels and the working party on communication, as well as through the IPC website;
  - d. noted the need for Chairpersons of Working Parties to serve a period of time equal to Members of the Executive Committee.

#### ***Item 7: Any Other Business***

11. The Committee:
  - a. took note of the proposal from members on collaborative research projects and encouraged participation as appropriate;
  - b. reviewed the work on preparation of a "Green Book" on fast-growing trees and encouraged members to contribute to the preparation of the product;
  - c. suggested photographs collected as part of the book *Poplars and Willows: Trees for Society and the Environment* be hosted online as part of the IPC's communications products.

### ***Closure of the Meeting and Date of Next Meeting***

12. The next meeting of the IPC Executive Committee was agreed to be held in connection with the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPC, at which point a new Executive Committee would be elected.
  
13. The meeting was closed at 22:00 hrs.

## **Annex I**

### ***Agenda of the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee***

#### **Provisional Agenda 20:00-21:30 Rome | 20 & 22 October 2020 Virtual meeting**

##### **Items:**

1. Updates from the Secretariat and Chair/Vice-chairs
2. Results of the discussion item on the IPC from the meeting of the Committee on Forestry
3. IPC Vision and Strategy
4. Plans for the 26<sup>th</sup> IPC Session
5. Draft country progress reports: key findings
6. Working Party reports
7. Any other business

##### **Programme:**

###### **20 October 2020:**

Remarks from the Director of Forestry, FAO

1. Updates from the Secretariat and Chair/Vice-chair (20 minutes)
2. Results of the discussion item on the IPC from the meeting of the Committee on Forestry (20 minutes)
3. IPC Vision and Strategy: presentation of summary (30 minutes)
4. Plans for the 26<sup>th</sup> IPC Session (20 minutes)

###### **22 October 2020:**

5. Draft country progress reports: key findings (20 minutes)
6. Working party reports (10 minutes remarks from each chairperson, 60 minutes total)
7. Any other business (10 minutes)

##### **Procedure:**

1. Meeting documents to be posted on the IPC Website, each agenda item with its own document
2. Each member to review them and provide any comments and questions, in writing to the Secretariat. A short statement to precede each agenda item will be made by the key person responsible, followed by the written feedback received and any discussion.



## **Annex II**

### ***List of Participants***

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## **Annex III**

### ***Meeting Documents***

Summary of draft Implementation Strategy for the IPC

Draft Compilation of Country Progress Reports

Working Party Reports