

**25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry – written correspondence procedure**

**Item 8.2 Report on Progress including the Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests**

**Secretariat response to written questions from the Committee**

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments received from Members on item 8.2 of the Agenda - *Report on Progress including the Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests*. All comments are well noted.

1. With regard to the request for updated information on FAO's plans with regard to the Sixth session of the ITWG-FGR (postponed from its scheduled date of 12–14 May 2020) and on the concept and plans for the development of the new global information system on forest genetic resources:

The Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources has been postponed to 2021. The new dates of the session will be communicated to Members as soon as they have been confirmed. Should the ongoing pandemic still prevent FAO from organizing the session as a physical meeting in 2021, it will be organized as a virtual one. Concerning the development of the new global information system on forest genetic resources, FAO has prepared a proposal for a three-year project for this purpose and a funding agreement is currently being finalized with a donor. The project is expected to be launched before the end of 2020, and the National Focal Points on forest genetic resources will be invited to provide their inputs to the design of the new information system. Data and information reported by countries for the preparation of the Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources will be migrated to the new information system by FAO. The National Focal Points will have an opportunity to test the information system before it will be launched, and FAO will also organize regional training workshops for them. The information system be made available online in conjunction with the release of the second global report in 2023.