

## 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry

### Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members (English version)

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

Member Name	Comments
Japan (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japan recognizes UNFF as a platform for policy development and dialogue on all types of forests. In order to make UNFF operate effectively, expert knowledge on forests including specific examples of efforts in forests is needed, and FAO should exert a comparative advantage as a specialized agency at the platform. We expect FAO's continuous leadership as the chair of the CPF to support UNFF on technical aspects.</li> <li>• Japan also expects activity of COFO and the Regional Forestry Committee which can generate synergistic effect and breakdown the global-level policy dialogue at UNFF into regional contexts.</li> <li>• Regarding FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme, Japan stresses importance of strengthening forest related governance, which could support legal and sustainable wood supply chain. To this end, it is important to promote sharing information at international level on countries' legal framework on logging and forest exploitation, and to contribute to improve forest policy at country level. In this regard, Japan is funding to FAO project on this issue since 2018, and also preparing to initiate a new project aiming to collect, analyze and assess information which is useful for private enterprises to check and confirm legality through funding to International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).</li> </ul>
Republic of Korea (25 September)	<p><b>General comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the aim of sharing results and achievements of FAO-led programs and initiatives, the summary reports of the programs and initiatives are submitted to the Council. Therefore, it would be a great opportunity for member countries to deeply understand each FAO's program and initiative and to learn from them.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific comments for suggested actions by the Committee on Forestry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjusting to new realities after COVID-19 pandemic and preventing another pandemic in the future require stronger solidarity and cooperation at a global level. There is need of considering ways to enhance the efficiency of main projects joined by FAO including Mountain Partnership, REDD+ Programme and Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) through strengthened cooperation, and reviewing the linkages between those projects. Therefore, the ROK would like to propose that going beyond just sharing reports submitted by each country, FAO plays a leading role in analyzing projects in a comprehensive way and establishing cooperative strategies.</li> <li>• The ROK would also like to ask FAO to foster technical cooperation to take advantage of the Global Core Set in order to draw implications from the Voluntary National Contribution Reports (VNCRs), recognizing the value of VNCRs that are submitted to implement the Global Forests Goals (GFGs) in an efficient way.</li> </ul>

Canada (25 September)	<p><b>Canada supports the requests to FAO.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per paragraph 4, we agree with a strong leadership role for FAO at the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and for exploring new initiatives on forest education and small-holders.</li> <li>• We appreciate the continued work on the Tier 2 and 3 indicators of the global core set, as well as progress under the Forest and Farm Facility and the Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism.</li> </ul>
USA (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The US congratulates FAO on their work and contributions to the UN Strategic Plan and different major programmes on Forestry. We encourage FAO's continued leadership of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and in particular, on streamlining forest related reporting.</li> <li>• We also encourage FAO's active input into the development of the UNFF / Global Forest Goal Flagship publication.</li> <li>• During the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the North American Forestry Commission, the commission undertook a participatory exercise mapping recent accomplishments of NAFC working groups against the Global Forest Goals. The aims of the exercise were to: 1) demonstrate how NAFC is contributing to the GFGs; 2) raise awareness of the GFGs amongst members; and 3) identify potential gaps or areas which may need more attention in our regional cooperation. It was recognized that governance frameworks was an area that needed further collaboration, and a result the commission is exploring the creation of an illegal logging ad hoc working group. The Commission felt this exercise was a good example of promoting closer cooperation between a FAO regional forestry commission, UNFF, and contributions toward the UNSPF.</li> <li>• The US recognizes the value of the Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World Initiative. However, it is important for FAO, CIFOR, and ITTO to discern which elements of that initiative are more appropriately undertaken by the private sector or are the mandate of other UN agencies/international bodies to address. In particular, we emphasize that activities under that initiative not delve into trade, procurement or market access messaging that are known to be sensitive policy matters or without consensus in other forums, as well as keep in mind that some policies are voluntary, and not mandatory in some countries.</li> <li>• It is clear that there continues to be a great need for the work of Forest and Farm Facility, especially in light of the UN Decades on Forest Farming and Ecosystem Restoration. We appreciate their concentrated efforts to strengthen the role of women, youth, and agroforestry systems.</li> </ul>
Russian Federation (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 4: We would like to underscore the importance of forestry education and acknowledge the relevance of FAO's initiatives to draw attention to this matter. We would therefore appreciate information on FAO's plans to develop this further. For its part, the Russian Federation stands ready to share its experiences with respect to education. We would like to take this opportunity to invite youth representatives from FAO Member Countries to participate in the XVII International Junior Forest Contest, which is due to take place from 30 November to 4 December 2020.</li> <li>• Paragraph 37: We would like to request 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.</li> </ul>

<p>Indonesia (26 September)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We appreciate the hard work to prepare doc. COFO/2020/8.2. We suggest that the document, first of all, highlight the Progress report 2018-2019, considering that this is the core business of COFO, as compared to the UNSPF.</li> <li>• On Collaboration with UNFF as described in section I.C of Document COFO/2020/8.2, Indonesia has long been a strong supporter of such collaboration at the regional level. Therefore, we welcomes the recent best practice in the Asia Pacific Forestry Week, when the UNFF played the role of a co-leader of Stream 5 “Innovating Governance and Institution”. We do not suggest any ammendment to the language in this section.</li> <li>• Our proposed ammendment of document COFO/2020/8.2 are in other parts of the document, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For paragraph 34 under “FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme”, on the point of systems development for governments, Indonesia would like to have the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS), known in Indonesia as <i>Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu</i> (SVLK), be included in the text as the example of the national timber tracking and control systems to monitor timber products along the supply chain.</li> <li>○ For paragraph 46 under “REDD+ Programme”, Indonesia would like to update the information and suggested ammendment “by <b>August 2020, six countries</b> have received Results Based Payments (RBPs) under the GCF Results Based Payments Pilot Programme comprising Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Indonesia and Paraguay.”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Argentina (26 September)</p>	<p><b>General comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Argentina is in favour of the Committee continuing to support the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF).</li> <li>• As chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), FAO plays an essential role in supporting the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With regard to item I (Implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests), Argentina supports the continuation of work with the UN on priority areas for our country such as strengthening sustainable wood value chains from production to consumption, leveraging its contribution to the bioeconomy and circular economy. This issue is a very important goal for our country.</li> <li>• Argentina also supports streamlining forest-related reporting and continuing to improve the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators. It is important to continue implementing the sustainable management of all types of forests, increase afforestation and reforestation and collaborate in the restoration of degraded forests by means of enrichment. Finally, Argentina supports the proposal outlined in paragraph 15 on inviting Regional Forestry Commissions to consider UNFF-related topics and provide feedback to the Forum. The UNFF is the main multilateral authority for the issue of forestry. In order to support and promote this role, it is necessary to support its synergies.</li> <li>• With regard to item II of the report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee’s 24th Session, the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) is a welcome initiative that should be strengthened through promotion of sectoral policies at a national and regional level to allow the creation and improvement of dialogue mechanisms and public-private partnerships. As part of this dialogue, one of the fundamental tools is the training</li> </ul>

	<p>of producers and their organizations in sustainable forest management, from soil preparation, follow-up activities, pest control and crop associations to reduce the carbon footprint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We also support the continuation of work on the FLEGT Programme, which is an excellent initiative aimed at tackling illegal logging, promoting trade in legal timber products and ultimately contributing to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and poverty reduction.</li> <li>• Argentina has established strict controls on the legality of exported wood in order to comply with requirements. Nevertheless, the National Directorate for Forest Industry Development (NDFID), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, is willing to work on a joint project to ensure this outcome.</li> </ul> <p>With regard to the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG-FGR), Argentina is working on the next report on Forest Genetic Resources of Argentina.</p>
Turkey (27 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulties in implementing the strategic plan due to the covid-19 pandemic can be addressed.</li> </ul>
China (28 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a UN Agency and Chair of the CPF, FAO has played an active leading role in promoting the implementation of UNSPF in close cooperation with the UNFF and has provided useful tools for member states to implement UNSPF with its expertise. We would like to express our appreciation to FAO’s work in this regard. We agree to request the FAO to continue playing its leading role in CPF and motivate other members of CPF to support UNFF actively. We hope FAO can continue take full its advantages of technologies and expertise, in particular to enhance its work in further developing and improving “Tier 2”, “Tier 3” and “candidate” indicators of the Global Core Set, so as to facilitate member states and relevant international organizations to report their progresses in implementing UNSPF in a more convenient and effective manner.</li> </ul>
European Union (28 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.</li> <li>• The EU commends the Secretariat for providing the progress report, as included in the document COFO/2020/8.2, and the document “Moving Forward: Selected Achievements of the FAO Forestry Programme in 2018-2019” and welcomes the progress made in the various areas, i.a. on the recommendations of the 24<sup>th</sup> session of COFO.</li> <li>• For the EU, implementing the UNSPF at all levels is vital. It offers an important opportunity to further enhance coherence, coordination and synergies, and to promote sustainable management of all types of forests worldwide and thus contribute to the achievement of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.</li> <li>• We commend FAO, including as Chair of the CPF, for its continuous support to the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and request it to continue as such, including a strengthened leadership role in CPF.</li> <li>• In this context, we request FAO to actively steer the work in developing CPF’s work plan for the period 2021-2024 in line with the UNFF Quadrennial Programme of Work 2021-2024. This could become an important building block for upscaling global joint activities in response to the UNSPF for the years to come.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In this context, we acknowledge the “Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World” initiative, including its contribution to the GFFFN, and invite FAO and relevant partners to utilise the initiative's potential to encourage sustainable production and consumption of wood worldwide and thus contribute to the development of the bio economy and circular economy.</li> <li>• In line with the suggested action on establishing clear links between FAO's activities and UNSPF, it appeared beneficial that recommendations for FAO's work in forestry were to be mapped against the Global Forest Goals, as it is done currently for the FAO Strategic Objectives.</li> <li>• We invite FAO member countries to ensure through UNFF that full use be made of SOFO, FRA and other analytical products of FAO and those of the CPF, as major inputs for UNFF's review work.</li> <li>• We also request FAO to actively cooperate with the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat in preparing an initial assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable forest management that will be presented at 16<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFF in 2021.</li> <li>• We wish to stress that the potential of FAO’s Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs) should be further employed in regional dialogues related to UNFF jointly with other relevant bodies and processes, such as Forest Europe and UNECE's Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry. This would enhance regional contributions to the implementation of the UNSPF.</li> </ul>
Peru (28 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In “Major areas of work and progress made” cited in section B “Forests and Farm Facility (FFF)” under the item, Report on the Implementation of the Decisions and Recommendations of the 24th Session of the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The implementation of contributions in the Forests and Farms Facility. Has the legal condition on the occupation of different producer areas been considered?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In “Major areas of work and progress made” cited in section D “Forest and Landscape Mechanism” under the item, Report on the Implementation of the Decisions and Recommendations of the 24th Session of the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What activities have been considered for large-scale restoration programmes? Has the legal condition of the areas where the restoration activities take place been taken into account? Was there joint work with the local inhabitants?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Mexico (1 October)	<p><b><u>Comments:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mexico supports the recommendation to the Committee to strengthen collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and to request FAO to continue providing support to ensure the effective implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and its programme of work, considering that it has the capacity and that its activities in</li> </ul>

	<p>the forestry sector contribute directly to the six global forest objectives and their related goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We recognize the importance of requesting FAO to establish clear and visible links between its activities and the said Strategic Plan, and to generate and share with countries the reports on its implementation.</li> <li>• We welcome the leadership role of FAO in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) as a member and chair, recognizing its contributions to the initiatives it leads and/or participates in, such as streamlining forest-related reporting, the recommendations to UNFF on combating deforestation and increasing reforestation, contributions to the FAO report on the State of the World's Forests 2018, presented at the High-Level Political Forum organized by the UNFF Secretariat, and the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World initiative.</li> <li>• We also agree on its approach and are grateful that FAO continues to support the work of the main forest-related programmes, especially REDD+ through the UN-REDD Programme, to continue providing support, tools and technical assistance to countries in their national processes and in the development of the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) or Forest Reference Level (FRL).</li> </ul>
<p>Malaysia (2 October)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malaysia take note the progress on the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and supports collaborations and works/programs in forestry between FAO and UNFF. However, Malaysia would like to reiterate the importance of streamlining the programs and activities among FAO and UNFF to avoid the duplication of work and waste of resources.</li> </ul>