

28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – English version

Item 3.5 Progress towards the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

Member name	Comments
<p>Australia Friday, July 1, 2022, 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Australia supports the intent of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the FAO’s focus on restoration of agricultural lands. Australia has many programs in place that support restoration activities on both private and public lands including our Indigenous Protected Areas program, National Reserve System and National Landcare Programmes. Australia submitted the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP) in April 2022 for consideration as a potential UN Decade Flagship Initiative. We look forward to hearing if our proposal has been accepted. Australia supports the recommendations put forward in this paper and would gratefully receive further information on the actions underway globally to promote the UN Decade, advance ecosystem restoration and combat land degradation, including how countries are measuring and monitoring improvement.</p>
<p>European Union and its 27 Member States Friday, July 1, 2022 06:36 PM</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding the abovementioned agenda item for the 28th session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture. 2. The EU and its Member States thank FAO for the information provided in document COAG/2022/17. We welcome the active role that FAO, together with UNEP, has taken in initiating and coordinating, within their respective mandates, actions aimed at implementing the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. These actions can make a critical contribution to multilateral solutions that focus on building a more sustainable, inclusive, just, equal and resilient world with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as our roadmap. Ecosystems such as peatlands, wetlands, oceans and forests can – if in good condition – remove and store large amounts of carbon dioxide and contribute significantly to reducing the impact of climate change. 3. We underline the continued importance of ensuring due involvement of the membership. In this regard, we appreciate the ‘Flagship Initiatives’ approach, whereby proposals for action at national and regional level put forward by FAO and UNEP members can be supported directly through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund of the UN Decade. 4. We note the information provided on the integration of FAO’s work on restoring productive ecosystems into the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. We agree that this work can make a significant cross-cutting contribution to advancing FAO’s work within several Programme Priority Areas. In this regard, it is essential to ensure an appropriate balance between the economic, social and ecological dimensions of food systems. We would also stress the need for taking into consideration ecosystem services as part of nature-based solutions to climate adaptation, in particular those associated with sustainable agriculture, forest resilience, biodiversity and the water cycle. Furthermore, particular attention needs to be paid to reducing soil degradation and enhancing soil health as

	<p>well as promoting sustainable and integrated water resources management. We also stress the need to pay due attention to addressing the challenges related to marine and coastal ecosystems.</p> <p>5. We note the development by FAO in 2021 of a strategy to define the scope of FAO actions aimed at ecosystem restoration and we look forward to the action plan for the implementation of that Strategy. In this regard, we appreciate that the document underlines the importance of ensuring due alignment and synergies with, in particular, the actions aimed at implementing FAO’s Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and the recently adopted FAO Strategies on Climate Change and on Science and Innovation.</p> <p>6. In conclusion, we call for continued leadership and strong commitment from FAO to take work forward on the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and we reiterate the continued commitment of the EU and its Member States to support global efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.</p>
<p>The People's Republic of China Friday, July 1, 2022 06:53 PM</p>	<p>China supports the “United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration” and believes that promoting the implementation of this initiative will strengthen international cooperation, bolster the balance of ecosystems, promote sustainable development of agriculture and forestry in all countries, and contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>In recent years, China has improved the establishment of an ecological civilization and continued to promote ecosystem restoration, resulting in a significant improvement in agricultural ecosystems and a gradual increase in sustainable production capacity. First, enhancing the concept of leadership: the Chinese government has accelerated the mainstreaming of ecological protection, and has included in the Constitution the concept and building of an ecological civilization as well as the overall layout of a Chinese based socialism and the 14th Five-Year Plan. Second, strengthening comprehensive measures: the aquatic resources of the Yangtze River and black land resources are protected thanks to the introduction of laws and regulations. The government has formulated major projects for ecosystem protection and planned agricultural green development to promote the protection of the environment and natural resources needed for agricultural production. Third, promoting green and low-carbon development: China is focused on resource conservation and the promotion of green agricultural development aimed at reducing agricultural inputs such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides and the effective recycling of agricultural straw and other waste. Fourth, strengthening cooperation and exchange: China has signed and ratified a number of multilateral environmental agreements, established the "Belt and Road" Initiative and the International Alliance for Green Development, and pledged to achieve the "double carbon" target, contributing Chinese solutions to the restoration of the global ecosystem.</p> <p>At the same time, as the President of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), China is committed to promoting an ambitious and balanced post-2020 global biodiversity framework, so as to form a more just and reasonable biodiversity governance system in which all parties can contribute to the best of their abilities.</p>
<p>Chile</p>	<p>In this regard, the United Nations General Assembly, through resolution A/RES/73/284 of 1 March 2019, proclaimed the 2021-2030 period as the "United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration", with the aim of supporting and</p>

<p>Friday, July 1, 2022 09:18 PM</p>	<p>expanding efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide and to raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration.</p> <p>Chile has endorsed the call to mobilize relevant resources and technical capacities to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life for all.</p> <p>We would like to highlight the plans and strategies in progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources 2017-2025 • Long-Term Climate Strategy • Roadmap for a Circular Chile by 2040 • Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) • National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change • Sectoral Adaptation Plan to Climate Change for Biodiversity • Agri-Food Sustainability Strategy • National Landscape Scale Restoration Plan
<p>United States of America Friday, July 1, 2022 10:30 PM</p>	<p>The United States thanks the Secretariat for providing this update. The United States agrees the FAO has relevant technical expertise, operational capacities and frameworks in place to support Members in their restoration efforts and in scaling up and showcasing practical solutions. The United States welcomes the approach of promoting ecological restoration through Flagship Initiatives and is pleased that the selection process will prioritize a “diversity of ecosystems and balance at global scale.” The United States recognizes the importance of ecosystem restoration and has for decades been funding these types of activities, for example, through the USDA’s Natural Resource Conservation Service and Forest Service. We concur with FAO’s assessment that ecosystem restoration activities offer potential for climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as resilience building, and see a natural fit for these activities within the scope of FAO’s Strategy on Climate Change.</p>