



COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Rome, 18 - 22 July 2016

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE

I. FAO CONFERENCE

1. At its 39th session, held in Rome on 6-13 June 2015 the FAO Conference¹:

endorsed the Report of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and noted in particular the importance of:

- a) the Zero Hunger Challenge by developing evidence-based and inclusive forest policies, as well as integrated cross-sectoral approaches, and advocate for, and work actively towards achieving zero illegal deforestation;
- b) an enabling environment for forest communities, family forest owners, forest rights holders and forest and farm producer organizations;
- c) establishing and strengthening platforms for cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder dialogue and initiatives that link forestry and agriculture and other natural resource-related sectors;
- d) FAO's participation in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+) at country, regional and global level;
- e) FAO's lead role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests as a broad inter-agency coordination mechanism in the future international arrangement on forests;
- f) the cooperation within existing initiatives working on boreal forests and requested FAO to scale-up its support to countries on boreal forests; and
- g) a global capacity development programme on sustainable management and restoration of dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems.

2. At the same session, the FAO Conference encouraged Members to:

- a) increase efforts to ensure adequate consideration of gender issues in forestry;
- b) strengthen collaboration of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and other land use sectors to promote the application of integrated approaches across the landscape, including through

¹ C2015/REP

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increased collaboration of COFO with the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), as well as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS); and
 c) strengthen their efforts to ensure adequate consideration and visibility of forests in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

3. At the same session, the Conference emphasized that the work of FAO on forestry needed to be focused on the basis of the Organization's reviewed Strategic Framework.

The Committee may wish to consider the requests as contained in 1c) and 2b) when addressing Agenda item 4.0; in 2c), when addressing Agenda item 5.1; in 1d) in particular when addressing Agenda item 6.1.; in 3) when addressing Agenda items 8.1 and 9.1; and 1e) when addressing Agenda item 8.2.

II. FAO COUNCIL

4. At its 150th session, the FAO Council² endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry (23-27 June 2014) and welcomed the State of the World's Forests 2014 (SOFO 2014).

In particular, the Council:

- a) stressed the need for FAO as a whole, and its forestry programme in particular, to continue to prioritize its activities in support of the reviewed Strategic Framework, and to continue strengthening the links between forestry and food security;
- b) recommended that FAO assist countries in strengthening tenure rights and governance processes, including through building capacity to implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security;
- c) underscored the importance for FAO of the work of the Regional Forestry Commissions and the collaboration with other regional bodies, as well as to support the network of regional forest communicators;
- d) requested FAO to continue its leadership role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and in collaboration with other members, seek new ways of strengthening the CPF;
- e) encouraged FAO to lead the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLR), and continue to actively participate in the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) and the review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF);
- f) supported the formulation of policy and planning, information exchange and dialogue, as well as access to funding, with a view to achieving zero illegal deforestation;
- g) acknowledged the need to strengthen Members' capacity to develop and implement evidence-based forest policies, as well as cross-sectoral programmes that take into consideration the role of forests in addressing the Zero Hunger Challenge;
- h) supported the development of appropriate targets and indicators on forests in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the development of indicators for the socio economic benefits of forests; and
- i) encouraged FAO to explore further possibilities for interdisciplinary work on boreal forests.

The Committee may wish to respond to the proposal contained in 4h) when addressing Agenda items 5.1 and 5.2; 4e) when addressing Agenda items 6.1 and 7.5; 4d) when addressing Agenda item 8.2 and 4a) when addressing Agenda item 9.1.

² CL 150/REP

5. At its 153rd session, the FAO Council³ endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and in particular:

- welcomed the decision of CFS to hold an event during 43rd Session of the CFS to share experiences and take stock of the use and application of the “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security”.

6. At its 153rd session, (30 November - 4 December 2015) the Council discussed and welcomed the outcome of the XIV World Forestry Congress (Durban, South Africa, 7-11 September 2015)

In particular, the Council:

- a) welcomed the 2050 Vision for Forests and Forestry as a milestone to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and a sustainable future to 2050 and beyond;
- b) noted the key findings of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 on the status of the world forest resources and their sustainable management; and
- c) recommended that FAO actively support strengthening the contributions of its work on forests to the Organization’s Strategic Objectives, including alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by means of inter alia technical support and promoting best practices and dialogue.

The Committee may wish to respond to the proposal contained in c) when addressing Agenda item 5.1.

III. COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

7. At the 41st session of the CFS⁴, the Committee requested the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) to undertake a study on "Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition" for presentation at CFS Plenary 2017.

IV. COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

8. At its 15th Session, in January 2015, the CGRFA⁵ considered the document “Targets and indicators for forest genetic resources.”⁶ It welcomed the progress made and recognized that more work is still needed to finalize the list of verifiable indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.⁷

9. The Commission requested FAO to continue the work on indicators for forest genetic resources, in consultation with the FAO Statistics Division, and to coordinate an inter-sessional consultative process with the participation of the Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources prior to its next meeting to further refine the list of verifiable indicators and to identify a set of targets for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources as well as a draft schedule for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, for the consideration of the Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources and the Commission at their next sessions. Comments and

³ CL 153/REP

⁴ CFS 41 FINAL REPORT

⁵ CGRFA-15/15/REPORT

⁶ CGRFA-15/15/4.2

⁷ CGRFA-15/15/4.2, *Appendix I*.

suggestions were provided to be considered by the Secretariat in reviewing and revising the list of indicators.

10. The Commission considered the Report of the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources. It endorsed the report and requested FAO to make country reports and thematic studies produced during the preparation of The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, available on the FAO web site.

11. The Commission considered the document Draft Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources and adopted the Strategy.

12. The Commission called upon countries to implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources and to assist others in this endeavour. It stressed that the Strategy is fundamental for achieving the goals of the Global Plan of Action and called for the implementation of the Strategy in coordination with the Committee on Forestry and relevant international organizations. The Commission requested FAO to assist in the mobilization of funds and appealed to donors to make funding available.

13. The Commission acknowledged the importance of REFORGEN as a knowledge-sharing platform on forest genetic resources and requested FAO to continue developing and updating it in coordination with relevant databases.

14. The Commission further requested FAO to continue integrating forest genetic resources within its forestry programme and requested its Secretary to report to the Commission on this matter.

The Committee may wish to consider the requests as considered in the above section when addressing Agenda item 7.5.

V. REGIONAL CONFERENCES

15. No report has been available at the time of writing. Outcome of the Conferences will be brought to the attention of the Committee through amendments to this document as appropriate.

VI. PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

16. At its 116th session (3-7 November 2014), the Programme Committee⁸ discussed the follow-up on the Strategic Evaluation of FAO's role and work in forestry.

17. The Programme Committee appreciated the clear and comprehensive report and presentation, and:

- a) appreciated the continued efforts at integrating FAO's work in forestry into the reviewed Strategic Framework in support of the Strategic Objectives;
- b) underlined the need for greater integration of the work of the Regional Forestry Commissions into Regional Conferences and COFO;
- c) emphasized the importance of COFO's intersessional work; and
- d) encouraged FAO to fully participate at an early stage in the upcoming review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) and further development of international forestry policy, to ensure inter alia linkages and synergies with all stakeholders.

⁸ CL 150/5

The Committee may wish to consider the requests as contained in a) when addressing Agenda item 8.1; in b) when addressing Agenda item 9.1; and in d) when addressing Agenda item 8.2.

VII. COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

18. The report on the 100th session of the CCLM⁹, (23 – 24 February 2015), referred to the Reform of the International Poplar Commission.

19. The CCLM examined document CCLM 100/3 “Reform of the International Poplar Commission” describing a process of amendment of the Convention placing the International Poplar Commission within the Framework of FAO (IPC Convention), currently under way, as well as the purpose and content of a set of proposed amendments to the IPC Convention. The proposed amendments to the IPC Convention, considered on the basis of a presentation by the Secretary of the International Poplar Commission (the Commission), are set out in Appendix I to the CCLM Report.

20. The CCLM noted that the amendments would be referred to the Commission for adoption at a session due to be held in 2016 and that the amendments would become effective upon approval by the Conference of FAO at its session of June 2017.

21. In the course of the discussions, the CCLM sought clarifications on, inter alia, the extent and implications of the proposed expansion of the scope of the Commission to cover poplars and other related trees and associated genera, the revised functions of the Commission, the relationship between the Commission and national commissions and other national bodies provided for in Article IV of the IPC Convention, the relationship between the Commission and the Committee on Forestry, and the content of the proposed amendments in light of the criteria developed by the CCLM, the Council and the Conference, to assess whether proposed amendments involved new obligations for the Parties.

22. The CCLM noted that it would review the proposed amendments again, together with further information on the deliberations of the Commission after the adoption of the amendments by the Commission in 2016 and prior to the referral of the amended IPC Convention to the Conference in June 2017 for approval.

The Committee may wish to consider the requests as contained above when addressing Agenda item 7.6.

⁹ CL 151/2