

43rd Session of the Conference

Secretariat Response to sub-item 12.4: Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (3-7 October 2022)

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments received from Members on Item 12.4, *Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (3-7 October 2022)* and takes note of Colombia's appreciation for the publication *The State of the World's Forests 2022* Report and acknowledges the importance of the socio-economic value of forests, especially for small producers, women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The Secretariat acknowledges Argentina's recognition of the important linkages between forestry and agriculture and the need for consideration of forestry and agriculture interrelated issues by both the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the Committee on Agriculture (COAG). We took note of Argentina's emphasis on the need for seeking evidence-based and balanced solutions, as well as of the interrelation between agriculture, livestock and forestry. The Secretariat wishes to share that the ongoing valuable collaboration between the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems and the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock provides an opportunity for further consideration of the complementarities between agriculture, livestock and forestry.

The Secretariat thanks the Russian Federation for its appreciation of FAO's work in forestry in the 2020-2021 period, appreciates their support to the preparations for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 and took note of the suggestion concerning official information from countries, where data is available, in the context of the Global Fire Management Hub, which is being co-developed by FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other partners.

The Secretariat takes note of Mexico's observation on the important role that FAO plays in supporting developing countries to explore financing alternatives for small producers, rural women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The Secretariat appreciates Mexico's emphasis on the need for collaboration between agriculture and forestry, the essential role of integrated land management approaches and discouraging sectorial competition for land use. We finally appreciate Mexico's generous offer to collaborate with other Members on prevention, combat and monitoring of forest fires.

The Secretariat notes with appreciation Australia's support to FAO's ongoing efforts to promote sustainable use of wood, including through the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) Initiative under the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). We also take note of Australia's suggestion for a balanced Action Plan for 2024-2027 and implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors.

The Secretariat takes note of Switzerland's observations on possible modalities of the future sessions of COFO, including on format, on-screen editing and the role of the Drafting Committee. The proposed working modalities for the 27th Session of the Committee on Forestry, to be held from 22 to 26 July 2024, will be shared with Members well in advance of the Session, as per COFO's Rules of Procedure.

The Secretariat appreciates Canada's support to promoting the development and sustainable consumption and production of wood and non-wood forest products and to FAO's work on agriculture and forestry linkages to achieve better synergies between them through inter-sectorial approaches for sustainable agrifood systems. The Secretariat appreciates Canada's support to FAO's leading role to define "forest degradation" within the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025 process. The Secretariat welcomes Canada's support to the joint FAO and UNEP initiative on the Global Fire Management Hub.

The Secretariat thanks New Zealand for its support to FAO's work on the linkages between forestry and agriculture and notes New Zealand's support to FAO in collecting and analysing the evidence base on interdependencies between these sectors.

The Secretariat thanks Germany for their commitment in addressing the wildfire risk reduction and appreciates Germany's support to the Global Fire Management Hub, under the lead of FAO, with the support of UNEP and the United Nations Office for Disaster and Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The Secretariat notes Germany's suggestions that the Global Fire Management Hub should build on existing networks and regional centres, including the work of the Global Fire Monitoring Center, and align with the Landscape Fire Governance Framework.

The Secretariat acknowledges the European Union's appreciation for having a joint agenda item for COFO and COAG on agriculture and forestry linkages and took note of its recommendation for further recognition of trade-offs between the two sectors as regards deforestation. In the context of the ongoing FRA 2025 cycle, FAO uses improved guidance on reporting on primary forests and collects data on existing national forest degradation definitions, related criteria, existing monitoring systems and their results.

The Secretariat appreciates Chile's national efforts in the implementation of actions related to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 as well as the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021-23 Action Plan.

Finally, the Secretariat thanks Japan for its encouragement to FAO for leading enhanced action towards sustainable growth in both agriculture and forest sectors, in collaboration with the members of the CPF. The Secretariat appreciates Japan's support to the SW4SW Initiative.