

Rome, Italy,
5-8 October
2021

Report of the 26th Session of The International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPLARS AND
OTHER FAST-GROWING TREES SUSTAINING PEOPLE
AND THE ENVIRONMENT (IPC)**

Report of the 26th Session of the IPC

Rome, Italy 5-8 October 2021

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, November 2021

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT OF THE 26TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPLARS AND OTHER FAST-GROWING TREES SUSTAINING PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	2
ORGANIZATION	2
THE SESSION	2
<i>Item 1: Opening</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Item 3: Country Progress Report: Key Findings</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Item 4: Summary of Working Party Reports</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Item 5: Strategic Directions for the IPC after the Reform of the Convention</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Item 6: Election of the Executive Committee</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Item 7: Date and Place of Next Session</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Item 8: Adoption of the Report</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Item 9: Closure of the Session</i>	<i>4</i>
ANNEX I AGENDA OF THE 26TH SESSION OF THE IPC	5
ANNEX II RESULTS SHEET, ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	6

Report of the 26th Session of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment

ORGANIZATION

1. The 26th Session of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC) was held on 5 and 8 October 2021, five years after the 25th Session. It was the first IPC session ever held in a purely virtual format due to the precautions made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The Session was co-hosted by FAO and Italy, which led the organization and bore the expense of the technical congress held in conjunction with the IPC Session on 6 and 7 October.
3. Prior to beginning its deliberations, the Commission confirmed that the virtual meeting constituted a formal regular Session of the Commission.
4. The Session was attended by 82 delegates from 33 countries, one Member Organization and one Intergovernmental Organization. The technical congress was attended by 206 participants (participants are listed in document Inf. 5).

THE SESSION

Item 1: Opening

5. The meeting was opened by Mr Martin Weih, Chairperson of the IPC. In his welcoming address the Chairperson underscored the importance of this Session for the future work of the IPC, as the first meeting since the historic reform of the IPC Convention in 2019.
6. The Chairperson introduced Undersecretary Senator Gian Marco Centinaio, Ministry for Agricultural Food and Forest Policies (Italy), who welcomed Members to the Session in a video-recorded message, on behalf of his country, and noted the importance of the ecosystem goods and services provided by poplars in Italy.
7. The Chairperson then introduced Ms Mette Wilkie, Director, Forestry Division, FAO, who shared her remarks, highlighting how the expanded mandate of the IPC aligns effectively with the broader goals of the FAO and its new strategic framework.
8. Ms Alessandra Stefani, Director-General, Ministry for Agricultural Food and Forest Policies (Italy), commemorated Professor Ervedo Giordano (1930-2021), who was a prominent scholar and researcher in arboriculture and silviculture and President of the IPC in 1975.
9. Mr Stefano Bisoffi, Member of the IPC Executive Committee, introduced the four keynote speakers of the Session: Ms Marielle Brunette, expert on the economics of risk management in forestry, food and environment, National Research Institute for Agriculture (France); Mr Patrick Worms, Senior Science Policy Advisor, World Agroforestry Centre; Mr Giuseppe Scarascia Mugnozza, Professor, Director of the Department of Biotechnology, Agrofood, and Forest Innovation, University of Tuscia (Italy); and Mr Zhiqiang Zhang, Professor and Dean of College of Soil and Water Conservation, Beijing Forestry University (China).

Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

10. The Agenda (Annex I) was adopted. The documents considered by the Commission are listed in document Inf. 4.

Item 3: Country Progress Report: Key Findings

11. Country progress reports and publications from the National Commissions of 22 Members were received, covering the period 2016-2019. The Secretariat presented a summary of the key findings, based on a synthesis report which can be found as document Inf. 2.

12. The reports were endorsed by the Commission and Members requested that the individual country reports be published on the IPC website.

13. Members welcomed the reports received and requested the next Executive Committee to propose suitable updated guidelines and reporting templates for country progress reports for the next reporting period, in light of the expansion of the scope of the 2019 IPC Convention.

Item 4: Summary of Working Party Reports

14. The Chairpersons of the six IPC Working Parties presented a summary of their work during the previous four years, as well as their proposal for work in the next three years.

15. The Working Party Chairpersons underscored the high level of participation and discussion in their respective Working Party meetings, highlighting the renewed relevance of the work of the Working Parties in the context of the global challenges facing agriculture and forestry, and of the importance of engaging new members and raising awareness of this work.

16. Members took note of the summary of work, invited the Working Parties to continue this work, subject to the availability of necessary funds. They requested that the Working Parties take into consideration the new IPC strategy in their programmes of work and update the Commission at the next Session.

Item 5: Strategic Directions for the IPC after the Reform of the Convention

17. Martin Weih and Thomas Hofer, respectively Chairperson and Secretary *ad interim* of the IPC, presented a draft IPC Strategy 2022-2032 to the Commission, which was developed through an extended consultation process and based on the reform of the IPC Convention in 2019.

18. Members appreciated and supported the expanded scope and geographies of IPC as presented in the strategy 2022-2032.

19. Members highlighted the diversity of ways that fast-growing trees can sustain livelihoods and provide ecosystem services, including by being incorporated into agroforestry systems. They also noted that the new strategy does not limit the IPC's work on fast-growing trees to any single classification of land uses.

20. Members underscored the value of the work of the Working Parties and of the National Commissions and stressed the importance of creating strong linkages between the two.

21. The Commission adopted the IPC Strategy, requested the IPC Executive Committee to take the steps necessary to implement it, and recommended the Secretariat to report back on progress at the next Session.

Item 6: Election of the Executive Committee

In accordance with the provisions of Article VII of the IPC Convention, the Commission elected the twelve members of its Executive Committee (the results sheet can be found in Annex II). The composition of the Executive Committee of the IPC following these elections is as follows:

Mr Esteban Borodowski (Argentina)
Ms Maria Chambova (Bulgaria)
Ms Barb R. Thomas (Canada)
Mr Meng-Zhu Lu (China)
Mr Eric Paillasa (France)
Mr Mirko Liesebach (Germany)
Mr Dinesh Kumar (India)
Mr Giuseppe Nervo (Italy)
Mr Kyu-Suk Kang (Republic of Korea)
Mr Martin Weih (Sweden)
Mr Yasar Selim Bostanci (Turkey)
Mr Ron Zalesny (USA)

22. In view of the limitations of a virtual meeting environment, the Chairperson of the session requested the new Executive Committee to meet in approximately one month time to elect its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, as well as to co-opt, as necessary, one to five additional members, as provided for in paragraph 2 of Article VII of the Convention.

Item 7: Date and Place of Next Session

23. Members agreed that the next Session of the IPC would be held in October 2024 in Rome, Italy at FAO headquarters and would be co-hosted by Italy and France, as was intended for the 26th Session.

Item 8: Adoption of the Report

24. The main recommendations of the Session report and the results of the election of the Executive Committee were presented to Members.

25. The Commission adopted the Report as amended by consensus and requested that the Secretariat communicate the outcome of the session to the other Committees of FAO, as relevant.

Item 9: Closure of the Session

26. Closing remarks were delivered by Ms Stefani, Director General of the Italian Ministry for Agricultural Food and Forest Policies, on behalf of Italy and by Mr Hofer, IPC Secretary *ad interim*, on behalf of FAO.

27. The Chairperson closed the Session at 15 hours CET on 8 October, thanking delegates, Members, Working Party Chairpersons and all participants for their active participation.

ANNEX I Agenda of the 26th Session of the IPC

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPLARS AND OTHER FAST-GROWING TREES SUSTAINING PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
26th Session
Rome, 5- 8 October 2021
PROVISIONAL AGENDA

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the Session**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Country Progress Report: Key Findings**
- 4. Summary of Working Party Reports**
- 5. Strategic Directions for the IPC after the Reform of the Convention**
- 6. Election of the Executive Committee**
- 7. Date and Place of Next Session**
- 8. Adoption of the Report**
- 9. Closure of the Session**

Annex II Results sheet, Election of the Executive Committee

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	1	Election of 12 Members of the Executive Committee of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment Élection de 12 membres du Comité exécutif de la Commission internationale du peuplier et autres arbres à croissance rapide utiles aux personnes et à l'environnement Elección de 12 miembros del Comité Ejecutivo de la Comisión Internacional del Álamo y otros Árboles de Crecimiento Rápido que Sustentan a la Población y al Medio Ambiente
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	20
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0

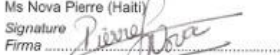
4. Members casting valid votes Membres ayant exprimé suffrages valides Miembros que emitan votos válidos	20
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5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	11
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Elected – Élu(s) – Elegido(s)		Not elected – Pas élu(s) – No elegido(s)		Eliminated – Éliminé(s) – Eliminado(s)
Mr Giuseppe NERVO (Italy)	20	Mr Mihai-Leonard DUDUMAN (Romania)	12	
Mr Esteban BORODOWSKI (Argentina)	19	Mr Kamran POURMOGHADAM (Islamic Republic of Iran)	11	
Mr Martin WEIH (Sweden)	18	Mr Amr REAFAT RABIE (Egypt)	9	
Ms Barb R. THOMAS (Canada)	17	Mr Ali THABEET (Syrian Arab Republic)	7	
Mr Mirko LIESEBACH (Germany)	17	Mr Yaojian XIE (China)	6	
Mr Kyu-Suk KANG (Republic of Korea)	17			
Ms Mariya CHAMBOVA (Bulgaria)	16			
Mr Eric PAILLASA (France)	15			
Mr Meng-Zhu LU (China)	14			
Mr Dinesh KUMAR (India)	14			
Mr Yasar Selim BOSTANCI (Turkey)	14			
Mr Ronald S. ZALESNY Jr. (United States of America)	14			

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Ms Tamara Villanueva (Chile)
Signature
Firma 
Date
Fecha 8/10/2021

Ms Nova Pierre (Haïti)
Signature
Firma 

Mr Ilja Beltem, CSG


Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones