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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
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COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAST SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW)

1. Under the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA), COFO, similar to other FAO governing and technical bodies, will prepare a multiyear programme of work of at least four years duration, once per biennium which will be reviewed by the Council and/or Conference (in accordance with their respective reporting lines); and prepare a report of their progress against the Programme of Work once every two years also for review by the Council and/or Conference¹.

2. The Committee adopted its Multi-Year Programme of Work 2012-15 (MYPOW) at its 21st session in September 2012. The MYPOW was subsequently endorsed, as part of the Report of the Committee, by the 145th session of the Council and 38th session of the FAO Conference. The Committee also requested FAO to further explore how future MYPOWs could be more efficient in setting priorities, avoiding overlaps and helping to determine resource needs.

I. PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAST SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

3. The 20th and 21st session of the Committee resulted in a robust mandate for FAO that was translated into the Programme of Work. A full account of all actions taken in response to the recommendations to COFO, the Regional Forestry Commissions as well as other FAO Governing Bodies contained in miscellaneous document: Progress Report.

4. In this context the Committee may also wish to note the background document Moving Forward 2013-2014 providing highlights of the work conducted using regular budget and extra-budgetary resources.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MYPOW IN 2012-2013

A. Strategy, priority setting, and budget planning

5. The Committee reviewed the world situation in forest and forestry through the State of the World's Forests 2012. Its recommendations regarding FAO's priorities, programmes, organizational

¹ C 2008/4 actions 2.70, 2.71, 2.72

structure and budgets, the Strategic Framework, and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) were endorsed by 145th session of the Council and the 38th session of the Conference.

6. The Committee's recommendations were the basis for translating the outcome of the Rio+20 Summit into action, and COFO invited the United Nations Forum on Forests to consider the findings of SOFO 2012 in discussing forests and economic development. Regional Forestry Commissions have followed the guidance from COFO and considered issues under their agendas as recommended by the Committee. Forest issues were also considered at the FAO Regional Conferences as part of the report of the regional forestry commissions while some of the Conferences had forest-specific items in their agendas.

7. The indicators and targets were successfully met and planned activities performed. It can be noted however that there is a need for considering ways and means for stronger future collaboration with other technical committees and for closer integration of forest issues into the regional conferences agendas.

B. Advise on global policy and regulatory matters

8. The Committee presented its recommendations to the Conference in a timely manner. The recommendations, including those related to the Strategic Objectives and the resource allocation for the Forestry programme, were fully endorsed by the Conference at its 38th session.

9. Close collaboration with and among the Regional Forestry Commissions were maintained through the Steering Committee. In its intersessional meetings the Steering Committee reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of the Commissions and advised FAO on further actions.

10. The Steering Committee also reviewed emerging issues and developments in relevant international processes and advised FAO to consider appropriate actions. The Steering Committee built its recommendations for the agenda of the 22nd session of COFO according to the guidance given by the Regional Forestry Commissions.

C. Work planning and working methods

11. The Committee and its secretariat continued to improve and develop further the coordination mechanism introduced in 2011 to enhance and streamline the interaction between the regional and global levels. The demand driven nature of the work of the Committee is guaranteed by a bottom-up approach through which the Regional Forestry Commissions play a key role in identifying issues for the Committee's consideration and for the work programme of FAO in forestry. This coordination mechanism also seeks developing recommendations for the Regional Conferences in a coordinated manner.

12. The bureaux of the Regional Forestry Commissions and COFO worked towards a meeting timetable which allowed timely input to all relevant governing bodies. As a result, input was provided in good time for all bodies. The draft agenda for COFO was developed by the Steering Committee on the basis of the recommendations of the six Regional Forestry Commissions. Similarly, the programme priorities for FAO's work in forestry were developed from the recommendations of the Commissions.

13. It was noted that coordination of session timetables remain a challenge and in some cases short time becomes the main obstacle in making the best use of the inputs provided. It was also noted that while the method of developing recommendations for the agenda of COFO serves the purpose well, more emphasis should be placed on early identification of priorities together with areas of de-emphasis, so that Regional Forestry Commissions could clearly identify areas that require decreasing attention in the future.

14. Meetings were held with secretaries of regional conferences and other technical committees to address key issues of the FAO reform process as they relate to the work and cooperation of these bodies. These exchanges contributed considerably to harmonizing approaches and working modalities across governing bodies and could provide useful inputs to reviewing the MYPOWs.

III. SETTING PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT MYPOW OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY FOR 2016-2019

15. At its 148th Session the Council reviewed the experiences with the MYPOWS so far and recognized that this mechanism was at an early stage and would benefit from further elaboration by concerned Governing Bodies. It also noted that the Independent Review of Governance Reforms to be conducted in 2014 would evaluate the relevance and usefulness of MYPOWs to date.

16. Based on the request of the Committee at its 21st session to further explore how future MYPOWs could be more efficient in setting priorities, avoiding overlaps and helping determine resource needs and further based on the opinion of the Council, the secretariat presents the following proposal for the Committee's consideration.

17. The Committee may wish to:

- a) welcome the report on progress in implementing the recommendations of past sessions and request FAO to continue incorporating fully the Committee's recommendation in the Strategic Framework;
- b) maintain its overall objectives to conduct periodic reviews of the situation of forests and forestry worldwide, with a view to advising Member Nations and the Organization on forest issues with emphasis on integrating all environmental, economic and social aspects and the promotion of sustainable forest management, as well as the Council on matters pertaining to the priorities, programmes and budgets of the Organization, and to the Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, in its areas of mandate;
- c) include ways and means in its next MYPOW to increase interaction with other technical committees and the regional conferences so that forest issues are better integrated in the Strategic Framework of the Organization;
- d) maintain and develop further its coordination mechanism with the Regional Forestry Commissions and keep it as the main vehicle of regional-global collaboration and policy and programme coordination;
- e) maintain and strengthen the method of developing the draft agenda for its sessions based on its coordination mechanism with the Regional Forestry Commissions and through a consultation with Member States by the Chairperson of the Committee and the Steering Committee;
- f) invite the Steering Committee to maintain its active role in the inter-sessional period, including in developing the next draft MYPOW for the Committee;
- g) recommend that the next MYPOW be developed in a more action-oriented manner outlining clearly the areas of priority;
- h) recommend that strong coordination be maintained with other FAO governing bodies in the course of the development of the MYPOW and request the Steering Committee to proactively facilitate such coordination;
- i) invite Regional Forestry Commissions to provide, according to the already well-established practice, their inputs to the development of the MYPOW, in order to facilitate policy and programme coordination between the global and regional levels;
- j) recommend that the next MYPOW pays due attention to and explores options for stronger interactions between the Committee and Civil Society Organization as well as the private sector.

18. The Committee may wish to request the secretariat to develop a draft MYPOW on the basis of the above guidance and in consultation with the Steering Committee so that it could be presented for consideration and adoption by the 23rd session of COFO.