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Organización de las
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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
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COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Rome, 18 - 22 July 2016

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Background

1. The Committee adopted its Multi-Year Programme of Work 2012-15¹ (MYPOW) at its 21st session in September 2012. The MYPOW guided the work of COFO and the secretariat over the last four years. The Secretariat provided regular progress reports to the COFO, the Steering Committee and the FAO Council.
2. At its 22nd Session the Committee reviewed the implementation of the MYPOW and based on a detailed progress report² gave its guidance for the development of the next MYPOW, noting the need for it to be strategic and forward looking, enabling enhanced regional-global coordination through the Regional Forestry Commissions, and to be instrumental in strengthening the collaboration among FAO Technical Committees.
3. The current document has been developed on the basis of the guidance received from the Committee and intends to provide a solid basis for guiding the work of the Committee in the 2016-2019 period.

I. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MYPOW: RESULTS FOR 2012-2015

A. Strategy, priority setting, and budget planning

4. The Committee delivered successfully on its mandate of reviewing the situation of the world's forest and forestry through the State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2012³ and 2014⁴ as well as the Forests Resources Assessment 2015 (SOFO2016 is presented to COFO at its 23rd session). The Committee's recommendations for FAO's priorities, programmes, organizational structure, the

¹ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/026/me211e.pdf>

² <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mk192e.pdf>

³ COFO/2012/4

⁴ COFO/2014/4

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Strategic Framework, and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) were endorsed by the 145th and 150th Sessions of the Council.

5. The Committee's recommendations were duly followed in preparing the input to the Rio+20 Summit, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the XIV World Forestry Congress. Regional Forestry Commissions have followed the guidance from COFO and considered issues under their agendas accordingly. Their recommendations were taken up increasingly by the FAO Regional Conferences leading to more forest-related items in their agendas than in the past.

6. Considerable progress was made in strengthening the collaboration among FAO Technical Committees. A joint meeting of the Bureaux held in June 2015 made recommendations for future joint activities and gave guidance for enhancing collaboration further. Key results of the coordination include the discussion of the SDGs, FAO's climate change strategy and the follow up on the outcome of ICN2 by the Technical Committees in their forthcoming sessions, as well as the presentation of SOFO2016 in collaboration with the Agriculture Department at the current session of COFO.

7. The indicators and targets were successfully met and all planned activities performed. The Committee was provided with detailed progress reports⁵ on all actions taken, the last report⁶ is presented in item 7 of the agenda of the 23rd session.

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 and 39th Sessions.

9. Close collaboration with and among the Regional Forestry Commissions were maintained, including through the COFO Steering Committee in the development of the session agendas. The Commissions continued to address common items of global relevance and provided their regional perspectives, and provided coordinated inputs to the COFO agenda and the work programme of FAO. The Steering Committee based its proposal for the draft agenda of the 22nd and 23rd Sessions on these inputs and regularly reviewed the implementation of the Commissions' recommendations and advised FAO on further actions.

C. Work planning and working methods

10. The Committee and the Regional Forestry Commissions continued to maintain close coordination and worked with the secretariat towards meeting calendars that allowed timely input to all relevant governing bodies.

11. Meetings were held with secretaries of the Regional Conferences to explore further opportunities for closer collaboration. Regular meetings were held with the secretaries of other Technical Committees to enhance cooperation and coordination and to further the implementation of related recommendations of COFO.

12. The Steering Committee had six physical meetings in the intersessional period and one joint meeting with the bureaux of other Technical Committees, and held several e-consultations. The Chairperson met annually with the Independent Chair of the Council and the Director-General to discuss issues of high relevance. The Steering Committee also reached out to member nations and encouraged participation in the work of COFO.

⁵ COFO/2014/6.1 and COFO/2014/6.7

⁶ COFO/2016/7.5 and COFO/2016/7.6

II. DRAFT MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) FOR THE COMMITTEE 2016-2019

A. Overall Objectives for the Committee on Forestry for 2016-2019

13. The Committee periodically reviews the situation of forests and forestry worldwide; advises the Council on matters pertaining to the priorities, programmes and budgets of the Organization, and the Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, in its areas of mandate; and provides guidance for its members on promoting the sustainable management of the world's forests. The Committee works closely with the regional forestry commissions and develops its agenda in close cooperation with them, in order to facilitate policy and programme coordination between the global and regional levels; and maintains collaboration with other Technical Committees as appropriate.

B. Results for 2016-2019

Strategy, priority setting, and budget planning

14. Result

- The Committee's recommendations provide a solid basis for the Council decisions on the Organization's priorities, programmes, organizational structures and budgets pertaining to the forestry programme under the reviewed Strategic Framework.

15. Indicators and targets

- Analyses on the world situation in forests and forestry (State of the World's Forests 2016 and 2018) considered by the 23rd and 24th Sessions of the Committee, respectively;
- Key global and regional developments identified by the Regional Forestry Commissions considered and appropriate guidance provided;
- Recommendations made in a timely manner to the FAO Council through the Programme and Finance Committees regarding FAO's priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets;
- Recommendations relating to the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) reflected in the Council reports;
- Guidance on forest issues taken up by other relevant bodies, including other global Technical Committees, Regional Conferences and Regional Forestry Commissions.

16. Output

- Report of the Committee containing clear, precise and consensus-based recommendations on strategies, priorities, organizational structure, programmes and budgets for Members and governing bodies, as appropriate.

17. Activities

- Review the world situation in the Committee's areas of mandate;
- Address issues of high priority and emerging issues identified by the Regional Forestry Commissions;
- Review decisions and recommendations from other global and regional fora relevant to forests and their implications for member nations and FAO;
- Review decisions and recommendations from other FAO governing and statutory bodies and sub-committees;
- Review implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget in areas falling within the Committee's competence;

- Formulate recommendations and guidance for areas pertinent to forests and forestry on strategies, priorities, organizational structure, programmes and budgets under the reviewed Strategic Framework.

18. Working methods

- Close collaboration with the Regional Forestry Commissions through the Chairperson and the Steering Committee, supported by the secretariat;
- Inter-sessional work of the Steering Committee, review of progress and guidance for the preparation for the Committee's sessions;
- Consideration of the outcomes of forestry statutory bodies;
- Collaboration with other relevant FAO governing (in particular council committees and Technical Committees) and statutory bodies.

Advise on global policy and regulatory matters

19. Result

- The Committee's recommendations provide a sound basis for decisions by the FAO Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, as well as for decisions and actions by member nations.

20. Indicators and targets

- Clear, precise and consensus-based recommendations made in a timely manner to the Conference regarding global policy and regulatory matters in its areas of mandate;
- Recommendations made on global policy and regulatory matters are reflected in the Conference report;
- Member nations and the Regional Forestry Commissions benefit from the deliberations of the Committee, using its recommendations in developing national and regional policies
- Recommendations of the Committee taken up by other international fora, in particular the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Rio Conventions and other governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

21. Output

- Clear, precise and consensus-based recommendations for the Conference on policy and regulatory frameworks or instruments; for member nations for decision and appropriate action; and for other relevant international processes and instruments on policy measures pertaining to forests and forestry.

22. Activities

- Consider the recommendations of Regional Forestry Commissions, other FAO governing and statutory bodies;
- Consider developments in relevant international processes and instruments pertaining to forests and forestry;
- Identify and review new and emerging issues in areas pertaining to forests and forestry;
- Develop recommendations and guidance for the consideration of the Conference for areas falling within the Committee's competence;
- Formulate recommendations with a view to support actions by member nations and Regional Forestry Commissions;
- Provide input to other international processes and instruments, as appropriate.

23. Working methods

- Consideration of global and regional trends in sectoral policies and regulations;
- Liaison with FAO governing bodies as well as forestry and other relevant statutory bodies and consideration of the outcomes of their deliberations;
- Collaboration with the Regional Forestry Commissions;
- Regular contacts between the Chairperson of the Committee and the chairpersons of other relevant bodies and FAO management.

Effective work planning

24. Result

- The Committee works effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way, according to established work plan and improved working methods.

25. Indicators and targets

- The Committee agendas are focused and responsive to emerging needs;
- Agendas are coordinated with other Technical Committees, as appropriate;
- Committee reports are concise and contain specific, action-oriented recommendations to Council, Conference and member nations;
- Regular review of progress by the Steering Committee in the inter-sessional period.

26. Outputs

- Progress report on implementation of MYPOW 2012-2015
- Multi-Year Programme of Work, adopted in 2016;
- Annual progress report to the Council and progress report on the Committee's work in 2014;
- Reports of Steering Committee meetings and coordination meetings with FAO Technical Committees.

27. Activities

- Develop draft agendas for the Committee through a consultative process with input from Regional Forestry Commissions;
- Continuously seek ways to improve efficiency of sessions and build strongly on opportunities offered by the World Forest Week to establish proper balance between policy and technical dialogues;
- Review the status of implementation and assess the impact of the recommendations of the Committee;
- Regular review of methods of work, including through indicators and targets specified in the MYPOW;
- Continue coordination and collaboration with other Technical Committees.

Working methods

28. The Committee shall have two sessions in the 2016-2019 period. The Committee shall consider holding both sessions in conjunction with a World Forest Week.

29. The Committee shall maintain close coordination with the Regional Forestry Commissions, including in aligning agendas, identifying common items and developing meeting calendars to allow for timely input to the Regional Conferences and to the Committee.

30. The Committee shall have the following standing items on its future agendas:

- Adoption of the agenda
- Designation of the Drafting Committee
- State of the World's Forests XXXX
- Progress in implementation of the recommendations of past sessions of the Committee and other FAO Governing Bodies
- Decisions and recommendations of FAO Bodies of interest to the Committee
- Progress in implementation of the recommendations of the XX Session
- Statutory Bodies
- Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee
- FAO's work in forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework
- Election of officers
- Date and place of the next session
- Adoption of the report

31. Recommendations for specific issues for the agenda of the 24th session will be developed by the Steering Committee, in consultation with member nations, the Regional Forestry Commissions; as well as other Technical Committees, with due consideration to the decisions of FAO governing bodies as well as to developments in relevant international and regional processes and instruments relevant for forests and forestry.

Points for consideration

32. The Committee may wish to:

- take note of the progress made in the implementation of the MYPOW 2012-2015 and endorse the report;
- review and adopt the MYPOW 2016-2019, as outlined in Section II of the current document.