



Preparations for thirty-third Regional Conference for Europe (ERC 33), twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 26), and the XV World Forestry Congress

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Agenda Item 5.f

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The 25th Session of Committee on Forestry (COFO):

- Stressed the importance of the Regional Forestry Commissions and the need for them to have a more policy-relevant role in the FAO Regional Conferences
- Requested FAO to consult with the Regional Forestry Commissions on the need for them to have more policy relevant role
- Invited FAO to explore options to further link the work of the Statutory Bodies to increase their relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency.



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2021
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**North American Forest
Commission (NAFC)**
17-19 November 2021

European Forestry Commission (EFC)
22-25 November 2021

**Near East Forestry and Range
Commission (NEFRC)**
19-21 October 2021

**Asia-Pacific
Forestry Commission
(APFC) 2022**

**Latin American and Caribbean
Forestry Commission (LACFC)**
6-10 September 2021

**African Forestry and
Wildlife Commission
(AFWC) 2022**

Regional Forestry Commissions

(statutory bodies art. VI.)

- Provide inputs from the regions to COFO agenda
- Chairpersons of the RFCs act as members of the COFO Steering Committee (ultimately act as vice chairs of COFO)
- Report to the Regional Conferences and COFO
- Identify regional priorities for FAO's work in

Other forest-related statutory bodies

- Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (**ACSFI**)
- AFWC/EFC/NEFRC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "**Silva Mediterranea**"
- International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (**IPC**)
- Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (**ITWG-FGR**)

Measures taken to improve the effectiveness of statutory bodies

Strategic Evaluation of the forest-related Statutory Bodies (2011-12):

- better coordinate the agenda of FAO's statutory bodies on a global level
- inputs from RFCs were made to FAO's Regional Conferences.

COFO has continued to encourage actions to improve the effectiveness of the RFCs and other forest-related Statutory Bodies:

- COFO22, 2014: encouraged the RFCs to provide guidance on regional priorities in forestry
- COFO23, 2016: recognized the RFC's valuable role in helping the FAO Forestry Program, the relevance of ACSFI in private sector collaboration
- COFO24, 2018: encouraged Member Nations to streamline the RFC meetings' outcomes into Regional Conferences
- COFO25, 2020: increasing the RFCs involvement in preparing UNFF technical sessions.

Points for consideration for COFO, ERC and WFC

The Commission may wish to:

- (a) Develop its recommendations for the European Regional Conference, COFO and the programme priorities and request the Secretariat to share them with other Commissions as well as with the secretariats of the Regional Conference and COFO;
- (b) Identify key areas and messages for the outcomes of the XV World Forestry Congress;
- (c) Recommend ways and means to best collaborate with relevant global processes and instruments and to create synergies, including in implementing the Congress' outcomes;
- (d) Invite countries to support the XV World Forestry Congress by encouraging and facilitating good attendance, and countries in a position to do so, by providing financial support to the Congress to enable balanced participation.



Points for consideration on linking FAO forest-related statutory bodies

The Commission may wish to consider:

- (a) To synchronize the calendar of future EFC sessions with the timetable of the European Regional Conference (ERC) sessions in order to provide inputs from EFC to the ERC in a more timely manner;
- (b) To strengthen the cross-sectorial work of the EFC, especially on forestry and agri-food systems matters by providing relevant and useful inputs to their Members, to FAO (including through the EFC) and to other international processes on forest-related issues;
- (c) Ways to further enhance the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the EFC and other FAO forest-related Statutory Bodies, notably, *Silva Mediterranea*, ACFSI, IPC; ways to increase participation in meetings of EFC and other Statutory Bodies.

Points for consideration 3/3

The Commission may wish to request FAO to:

- (a) Invite the EFC Chairperson to attend the Regional Conference and enhance inter-sessional activities by improving interactions between EFC and ERC Members, including Rome-based delegations, with a view to strengthening cross-sectorial policy dialogue and to ensure that important regional forestry matters are integrated in the themes of the Regional Conferences;
- (b) Consider undertaking a detailed review of EFC with the aim of further enhancing its relevance, including the focus on Agenda 2030 and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-30 and its efficiency and effectiveness;
- (c) Communicate the results of the discussion on this item to the next session of COFO for its consideration.



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Thank you.

