26th Session of the Committee on Forestry and XV World Forestry Congress

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 80th Session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
2-4 November 2022

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COFO26
3-7 October 2022

• Held in a **hybrid format**
• **Chair:** Mr Glenn Hargrove (CAN)

• **758 delegates**
• **109 COFO Members** (out of 120)
• 10 Observer countries
• 4 UN and Specialized agencies
• 9 Intergovernmental organizations
• 15 International NGOs incl. CPF members
• Representatives of the private sector
Outcomes of COFO26 (selected)

• discussed the key findings of the 2022 edition of the *State of the World’s Forests* (SOFO 2022) “Forest pathways for green recovery and building inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies”

• discussed *forests and sustainable production of wood and NWFPs*, recommended FAO to
  • promote the *contribution of sustainable wood products to address climate change*;
  • support enhanced access of family farmers, producer organizations and SMEs to markets, industries, innovation and finance;
  • support accelerated South-South and Triangular Cooperation to promote the development and use of sustainable wood and NWFPs
  • assess and disseminate good practices of sustainable production and trade of charcoal and other forms of *wood energy*
Outcomes of COFO26 (selected)

• discussed *agriculture and forestry linkages*, presented to both the Committee on Agriculture (COAG 28) and COFO 26, and recommended FAO to
  • identify *mutually beneficial linkages* and *scaling up FAO’s related activities*
  • conduct a global assessment of *agroforestry* and other innovative approaches
  • lead discussions to *define “forest degradation”* within the FRA process;

• discussed *forest solutions for combating climate change*, and recommended FAO to
  • assist in *optimizing the mitigation, adaptation and resilience potential* of forests;
  • assist in implementing *integrated risk management approaches and forest-related adaptation measures*, including through regional networks;
  • support *fire* analysis, risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery, e.g. through fire management networks.
Outcomes of COFO26 (selected)

- discussed *progress in implementation* and *other matters*
  - welcomed FAO & UNEP co-leadership of the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030** and recommended strengthening capacities to scale-up forest ecosystem restoration
  - strengthen FAO’s leadership role in the **Collaborative Partnership on Forests**
  - provided forest-related guidance on
    - FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming **Biodiversity** across Agricultural Sectors & Action Plan
    - FAO Strategy on **Climate** Change 2022-2031 & Action Plan
    - FAO Science and **Innovation** Strategy 2022-25 & regional action plans

- discussed **Statutory Bodies** and recommended
  - continue to review and consult on ways to further improve **Regional Forestry Commissions** as mechanisms for technical and policy dialogue and cross-sector work
  - the **Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries** to facilitate partnerships between FAO and the private sector on bioeconomy and restoration
8th World Forestry Week Events

- 7 events throughout the week covering topics related to COFO26 themes
- All sessions and events were webcast with a total of 1,243 online views
XV World Forestry Congress
Building a green, healthy and resilient future with forests

- hosted by Government of the Republic of Korea
- Seoul, 2-6 May 2022
- Over 15,000 participants from 160 countries
- ~5,000 online
- ~400 speakers
- 5 in-person sessions, 47 hybrid sessions
- 116 side events, 87 exhibitors
- 1,000+ technical papers, posters, videos
- Free to the general public
XV World Forestry Congress
Outcomes and major launches

- Seoul Forest Declaration
- Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood
- Work with Us - Youth Call for Action
- XV World Forestry Congress Action Points
- SOFO 2022 launch
- FRA Remote Sensing Survey launch
- Assuring the Future of Forests through Integrated Risk Management (AFFIRM) mechanism
- Sustaining an Abundance of Forest Ecosystems initiative (SAFE)
- Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM)
- Global mentorship programme for 51 mentees
The Seoul Forest Declaration

- Forests offer nature-based solutions, but we need to act now – there is no time to lose
- Responsibility over forests should be shared and integrated across institutions, sectors and stakeholders
- Investment in forest and landscape restoration globally must be at least tripled by 2030
- Production and consumption needs to be sustainable, policies should foster innovative green financing
- Wood must be used to transform sectors and move towards a circular bio-economy and climate neutrality
- Healthy, productive forests needed to reduce risk of pandemics and provide health benefits
- Knowledge and information for evidence-based decision-making and effective forest communication
- Forest-based solutions must be inclusive of all stakeholders
Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood

• Address the **lack of awareness** of sustainable wood-based pathways’ potential;

• Enhance global and regional **policy dialogues on pathways** and related synergies and trade-offs and ways to strengthen investments;

• Improve modalities to promote **technical exchange, sharing of experiences** and learning in order to drive innovations;

• Significantly **increase the use of sustainable wood-based solutions** within Nationally Determined Contributions by 2030.
The Youth Call for Action

• to ensure inclusive and equitable access to high-quality forest education and trainings
• to ensure decent work and career development for Youth everywhere
• to achieve gender equality and empower all young women in the forest sector
• to ensure political participation and representation in the forest sector for all Youth
THANK YOU

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