PREPARATIONS FOR THE 25TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY AND THE XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

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Forêt2019 – Joint Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission
4-7 November 2019, Geneva, Switzerland
Forestry is the only area in FAO with complete regional coverage

Regional Forestry Commissions provide input to
- COFO
- Regional Conferences
- Global processes (Rio Conventions, UNFF)
- FAO’s Programme of Work

RFC input is sought for:
- advice on global policy and regulatory matters
- strategy and priority setting
- budgetary planning
THE COFO AGENDA

The COFO agenda is built on:

- Biennial theme decided by the FAO Conference
- Recommendations of the RFCs
- Coordination with other technical committees
- Prior decisions of COFO and other governing bodies

RFCs are to specify:

- Topics to be discussed by COFO
- Expected outcome of the discussions
- Possible follow-up activities

RFCs coordinate their recommendation directly and through the COFO Steering Committee
Key regional delivery mechanisms: RIs and CPFs

Proper recognition of forest issues require regional discussion:
- “food security, agriculture and forestry can no longer be treated in isolation”

Regions differ strongly in approach to discuss forest issues

COFO24 requested strengthened attention to forests in RCs

RFCs could consider recommending:
- topics with strong cross-sectoral dimensions
- synergies and possible common items with other technical commissions

Executive Committees/secretariat to help channel input to RCs
RFCs are to:
- Recommend activities to be undertaken at various levels
- Set clear priorities
- Link recommendations with:
  - FAO’s Strategic Objectives
  - Global Forest Goals

Prioritization should address:
- Areas of new or emerging priorities
- Areas of de-emphasis
  - Continuation of work as lower priority
  - Discontinuation of work
PREPARATIONS FOR THE XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

- Planned to be held in 2021
- Regional Forestry Commissions are invited to provide input to priority themes
- For WFCs, FAO provides administrative and technical support and prepares the technical programme
- The outcome of WFC may be brought to the attention of COFO and FAO Council or Conference
- Korean Forest Service is expected to appoint Secretary-General and the Associate Secretary-General is appointed by FAO Director-General
The Commission may wish to:
- develop recommendations for the RC, COFO and the PWB priorities and transmit these to other Commissions and the respective secretariats;
- invite the Chairperson of the RC to give adequate attention to the recommendations of the Commission in the agenda of the Conference.

The Commission may wish to:
- invite countries to support the XV World Forestry Congress and to encourage the widest possible attendance and participation from all sectors within the Region;
- based on priority issues in the Region, propose themes and topics that could form the basis of technical sessions at the Congress;
- encourage members, if appropriate, to support the Congress financially, especially participation from developing countries.
Thank you!