

Fifth Session of the Assembly  
25-27 October 2021, Hybrid

## Agenda Item 10

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### Engagement plan for the XV World Forestry Congress

#### I. Background

1. Convened every six (6) years by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Forestry Congress (WFC) is one of the world's largest global gatherings of foresters. Postponed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> session of the WFC will be held next year on **2-6 May 2022 at COEX, Seoul, Republic of Korea**. It is expected to attract thousands of participants around the globe and from a wide range of sectors.

2. In the context of recovery from COVID-19 pandemic and thrusts towards meeting global sustainable development agenda, the theme of the 15<sup>th</sup> WFC is set out as “**Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests.**” This overarching theme is further supported by and elaborated into the following 6 subthemes:

- Sub-theme 1: Turning the tide: reversing deforestation and forest degradation
- Sub-theme 2: Nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation and biodiversity conservation
- Sub-theme 3: The green pathway to growth and sustainability
- Sub-theme 4: Forests and human health: revisiting the connections
- Sub-theme 5: Managing and communicating forest information and knowledge
- Sub-theme 6: Forests without boundaries: enhancing management and cooperation

3. Among other international conferences, the upcoming session of the WFC is expected to provide geographical and strategic advantages for AFoCO to promote itself in an international forum and build partnerships and momentum to visualize the organizational missions and goals.

#### II. Strategic directions

4. The 15<sup>th</sup> session of the WFC is strategically configured to promote roles of forests in multiple global development agenda – 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Forest Goals (GFGs), the Paris Agreement on climate change, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, among others. Considering that AFoCO has served as a facilitator for its Member Countries to accomplish their environmental and developmental goals set against these global agenda, AFoCO's engagement in the WFC is highly relevant and necessary.

5. In assessing and prioritizing the opportunities towards the WFC, the extent to which the identified opportunity may contribute to the expected outcomes will be considered. The expected outcomes for the AFoCO's engagement with the XV WFC are:

- Building momentum to launch regional initiatives or programs
- Developing partnerships to facilitate the delivery of impact from on-going or new programs
- Promoting AFoCO as a model for intergovernmental forest cooperation and an effective partner to attain the global and regional aspirations

### III. Engagement plan

6. Guided by the strategic directions above, the strategic entry points to the WFC have been identified and being pursued in consultation with the FAO and the host government as below:

- Co-organizing the main events of the WFC
- Speaking at the plenary session, special session or other main events of the WFC
- Shaping up sub-theme sessions of the WFC with sub-theme leaders of FAO
- Organizing a pre-congress event, named "Asian Forest Forum"
- Organizing side events
- Exhibition

7. Currently, the Secretariat is involved in preparation of the following six (6) events and the exhibition at the WFC. Detailed programs and schedules of the events appear in **Annex**.

A. Events organized by AFoCO:

**(A1) Asian Forest Forum**, pre-congress event, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022

**(A2) Forest Fire Forum**, special event, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**(A3) Landscape Partnership Asia: Restoring Asian Drylands and Drought-Prone Areas**, side event, date to be decided

B. Events where AFoCO contributes as a partner:

**(B1) Subtheme 1 sessions**, parallel session for subthemes, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**(B2) Session 4 of the Subtheme 6**, parallel session for subtheme, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**(B3) Building Healthy and Resilient Landscapes through FLR: Forest-based solutions for climate, biodiversity, and livelihoods**, side event, date to be decided

C. Exhibition:

**(C1) Exhibition (2-6 May 2022)**: AFoCO will introduce our work and experiences with the participants to the WFC and explore potential collaboration opportunities for the future. Field-based projects and capacity building programs will be one of main items to be promoted at the AFoCO exhibition. Scheduled presentations and demonstrations may also be considered as in-booth programs to gain more attention and interests.

8. The ad-hoc communication team will be formed in the Secretariat to support disseminating key messages delivered through the events above.

9. Back to back with the XV WFC, **a special session of the AFoCO Assembly** will be organized upon endorsement of the plan by the Assembly. Per each AFoCO Member Countries, **two (2) representing officials** will be invited to attend the Assembly and the XV WFC. The

support will cover registration fee, round trip flight, accommodation at the designated hotels, and the daily subsistence allowances. The invited officials are expected to prioritize their participation to the AFoCO events and give a significant contribution to the events.

**Points for consideration**

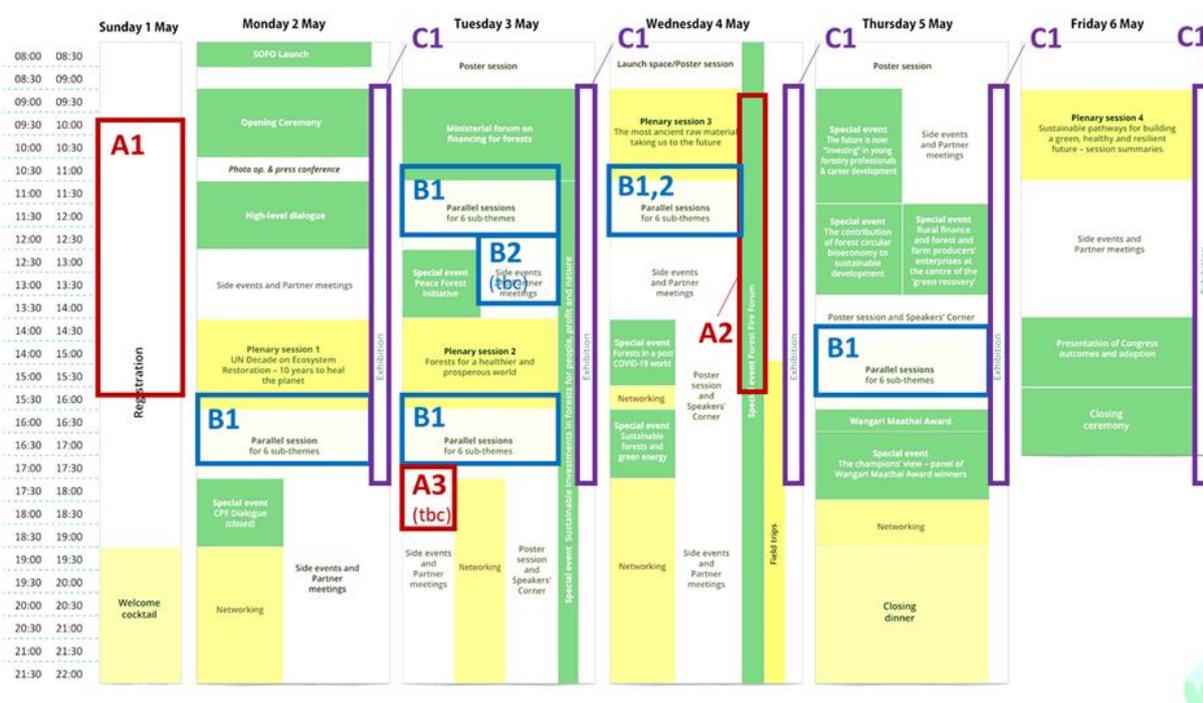
10. The Assembly may wish to:
    - Take note on the AFoCO's plan for the XV WFC; and
    - Encourage each Party to render support in the successful implementation of the plan.
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# Annex

## AFoCO Events at the XV WFC Provisional Schedule and Program

### I. XV WFC Program Overview

The XV WFC will be held from 2-6 May 2022, with a day dedicated for the ‘Pre-congress event’ advance to the congress. Shown below are tentative schedules of the AFoCO events, indicated by the red, blue and purple boxes over the WFC program (for the latest version of the WFC program: <https://wfc2021korea.org/sub02/programme.html>).



### II. Program and Schedule of AFoCO Events

#### Events organized by AFoCO:

##### (A1) Asian Forest Forum: Capacity Building for Resilient Forest in Asia

- Type: pre-congress event
- Date & Time: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022, 10:00 – 16:00
- Synopsis: Capacity building in the forest sector, especially in vulnerable regions, is fundamental to building a resilient future in the forest sector. Capacity building through physically gathering is instrumental and inevitable, especially in the forest sector. However, we are facing challenges such as COVID-19 effects, the decrease of youth in the forest sector, and insufficient and outdated approaches in forest education. The Asian Forest Forum under the theme of “capacity building for a resilient forest in Asia” will provide the venue to map the current status and needs in forest capacity building and find the practical and applicable way forward which can narrow the gap in Asia.

- Program
  - Session 1: Mapping the current capacity building in the forest sector in Asia (50 minutes)
    - AFoCO's Capacity Building Programs, Challenges and Opportunities
    - Forest sector capacity building needs in the sub-regions of Asia
  - Session 2: Alternative approach in capacity building (50 minutes)
    - Introduction of initiatives implemented by international organizations related to blended or alternative learning
    - Success cases and practices in other regions
  - Session 3: Panel discussion on the way forward for capacity building in the forest sector in Asia (120 minutes)
    - Exploration on the approaches for the capacity building in the forest sector in Asia
    - Recommendation for the way forward

### **(A2) Forest Fire Forum**

- Type: special event
- Date & Time: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 9:30 – 16:30
- Synopsis: The objective is to broaden the scope of consideration of wildfires and fire management beyond forests to the full suite of sectors including infrastructure, health, transport, tourism and other sectors impacted by damaging fires. This Forest Fire Forum will also seek to confirm the need for clearer and more relevant data collection on the incidence, causes, sources, motivations and drivers of damaging fires to underpin stronger review and analysis on reducing wildfire risks, the IFDRM, and stimulate and sustain better approaches through Fire Risk Governance.
- Program
  - Session 1. Opening and setting the scene
  - Session 2. Where are the Fires? How are we coping?
  - Session 3. Post-fire
  - Session 4. Innovation in forest fire management
  - Session 5. Way forward

### **(A3) Landscape Partnership Asia: Restoring Asian Drylands and Drought-Prone Areas**

- Type: side event
- Date & Time: TBD
- Synopsis: Landscape Partnership Asia: Restoring Dry Lands and Drought-prone Areas (LPA) aims to contribute to national and international targets on the restoration of forests, agricultural drylands, and drought-prone areas in Central, East, South and Southeast Asia with initial 10 million hectares brought under integrated dryland and drought management by 2032. The event will unveil LPA's 10 Year Vision and Roadmap—its regional restore programs and partners. A keynote message from a distinguished speaker will highlight the critical need for enhanced management and cooperation amongst key stakeholders for turning the tides against colossal degradation of dry ecosystems in this part of Asia. Plenary discussions will be followed by a donors' meeting.

Events where AFoCO contributes as a partner:

### **(B1) Subtheme 1 sessions**

- Type: parallel session for subthemes
- Date & Time: 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

- Synopsis: This sub-theme on “Turning the Tide: Reversing deforestation and forest degradation” will discuss progress, opportunities and priorities for addressing deforestation and forest degradation. The implementation of recent global commitments and the operationalization of major initiatives, including that of the UN Secretary-General on turning the tide on deforestation, the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, will form part of the discourse.
  - \*Requested by the host government, the AFoCO Secretariat has been taking part in the subtheme 1 Lead Group on “Turning the tide: reversing deforestation and forest degradation” as a host country counterpart to support planning and organizing the five (5) sub-theme sessions.*
- Program
  - Session 1: Global deforestation: current trends, challenges and opportunities for galvanizing action
  - Session 2: Enabling and scaling up finance to halt deforestation
  - Session 3: Building zero-deforestation supply chains
  - Session 4: Addressing deforestation and forest degradation through strengthened governance, and legal and sustainable production

**(B2) Session 4 of the Subtheme 6**

- Type: parallel session for subtheme,
- Date & Time: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Synopsis: The big challenges in today’s world can only be addressed through collaboration and partnerships. Partnerships are required among different stakeholders, across multi sectors, across national boundaries, across different geographical scales. This session will focus on the importance of partnerships and collaboration for SFM and will discuss three different dimensions — transboundary cooperation, private-public sector collaboration, multi-stakeholder partnership strengthening decentralization.

**(B3) Building Healthy and Resilient Landscapes through FLR: Forest-based solutions for climate, biodiversity, and livelihoods**

- Type: side event
- Date & Time: TBD
- Synopsis: Enormous changes have occurred in forest landscapes in recent decades, and large areas—nearly a billion hectares—have become degraded to varying degrees, requiring urgent and site specific restoration efforts that are ecologically sound and responsive to local social inclusion and economic development. Considerable knowledge and experience exist on how to restore degraded forest landscapes, and a number of policy and technical guidelines on forest landscape restoration (FLR) are already in place promoting inclusive and integrated approaches to reverse land degradation, increase carbon storage, help conserve biodiversity and create sustainable livelihoods for local communities. In light of the importance of developing and implementing effective FLR interventions for a green post-COVID 19 recovery, this side event aims at presenting key FLR implementation guidelines, and sharing best practices to accelerate ground-level action for building healthy, resilient, and productive forest landscapes with enhanced climate, biodiversity and livelihood benefits.

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