

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

Agenda Item 13

Development and strengthening partnership with the private sector

Background

1. Partnership is crucial to achieving the objective of AFoCO as provided in the Agreement on the Establishment of AFoCO which is: to strengthen forest cooperation by transforming proven technology and policies into concrete actions in the context of sustainable forest management to address the impact of climate change.
2. Paragraph 2 (e) of Article 3 of the Agreement on the Establishment of AFoCO provides that the Organization shall promote and undertake partnerships between the Parties and with other entities to carry out cooperative activities. In reference to Decision 12-I-18R, the Assembly tasked the Secretariat to facilitate cooperation arrangements with other entities.
3. In further reference to the discussion of Agenda 2.4 of the Fourth Session of the Assembly, the Assembly took note to acknowledge the updates on the activities related to resource mobilization and tasked the Secretariat to lead and enhance resource mobilization efforts. It was further noted that the respective Parties will facilitate necessary actions to support mobilizing resources from identified new and diverse sources.
4. In December 2020, the Government of the Republic of Korea enlisted AFoCO as an eligible international organization for fundraising of designated donations.

Potential of Partnership with Private Sector

5. Engagement of the private sector in international cooperation has expanded. The quality and purpose of private sector engagement has a wide spectrum interest from corporate social responsibility (CSR) to expanding their market share for a product or investment, or creating business values by building a strong environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) proposition.
6. Through the private sector engagement, AFoCO, building on its complementary strengths, can facilitate the investment of the private sector partners to forests and people in Asia, complement the priorities of the Member Countries to their aspired roles and interests, develop and enhance impactful programs through scientific and evidence-based approach while creating

business opportunities and shared value among the private sector partners, Members of AFoCO, and the Organization.

7. Engagement of executive levels through dialogues may provide consistent and long-term support and commitments. Such dialogues may be organized in conjunction with the Assembly sessions where it will provide the venue for the private sector leaders to have a discourse on the current trends in the forest-sector investment and its opportunities for collaboration or expansion of business in the Member Countries of AFoCO.

Points for consideration

8. The Assembly may wish to:

- Take note of the opportunities and potential of developing and strengthening partnerships with the private sector in order to generate funds
 - Endorse organizing executive-level participation and promote private sector support
 - Endorse the development and implementation of partnership platform, programs, and joint activities with the private sectors, including AFoCO Green Partnership, while ensuring consistency with the organizational vision and mission of AFoCO
 - Task the Secretariat to develop, package, and implement partnership programs to accommodate private sector engagements, receive contributions, and facilitate fundraising for donations effectively
 - Task the Secretariat to establish a Trust Fund for the purpose.
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