

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

Agenda Item 5.1

Update on the status of the Headquarters Agreement between the Republic of Korea and AFoCO, and information on the list of Parties and Observers

Headquarters Agreement between the Republic of Korea and the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

1. Following the signing of the Headquarters Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Korea on 23 December 2020 by exchange of documents, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea began the internal process for ratification by the National Assembly.
2. The signing of the Headquarters Agreement was notified to the Representatives of the Assembly and the diplomatic missions of the Parties to the Republic of Korea. The Secretariat received the acknowledgement letter from all Parties, completing the internal process of AFoCO. While for the Republic of Korea's procedures, the Headquarters Agreement was submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea for deliberation by the relevant Standing Committee, review by the Sub-Committee on Bill, approval by the Standing Committee, and approval by the Plenary Session of the National Assembly.
3. Upon official notification from the National Assembly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the Secretariat and the Ministry exchanged notification on the completion of respective internal procedures. In accordance with Article 19 of the Headquarters Agreement, the Headquarters Agreement entered into force on the 2nd of July 2021.
4. The purpose of the Headquarters Agreement is to facilitate AFoCO's operations in Korea by obtaining legal status for AFoCO as an international organization and ensuring privileges and immunities of the properties and the personnel at its headquarters. The Headquarters Agreement includes stipulations recognizing the legal personality of AFoCO in the Host Country and inviolability of its headquarters, as well as granting immunities on legal procedures and tax exemption to AFoCO and its properties.
5. The entry into force of the Headquarters Agreement signifies the Korean government's commitment to continue supporting AFoCO.

List of Parties as of 1 October 2021

6. The list of Parties, as of 1 October 2021 is as below, in the order of date of deposit:

No.	Party	Date signed	Date of deposit of respective instrument
1	Republic of Korea	10 December 2015	4 November 2016
2	Viet Nam	17 October 2016	14 March 2017
3	Timor-Leste	20 June 2016	25 July 2017
4	Bhutan	13 September 2016	8 December 2017
5	Myanmar	31 July 2017	28 March 2018
6	Cambodia	16 February 2017	10 August 2018
7	Brunei Darussalam	8 May 2017	23 August 2018
8	Philippines	4 June 2018	20 February 2019
9	Lao PDR	13 March 2018	28 May 2019
10	Thailand	<i>Accession</i>	26 June 2019
11	Indonesia	2 August 2016	8 July 2019
12	Kazakhstan	<i>Accession</i>	4 September 2019
13	Mongolia	21 August 2017	1 July 2020

Information on Observers

7. In accordance with Decision 2-I-18R, Singapore is an Observer to AFoCO. Following the intent from Malaysia to become a Party, Malaysia was granted Observer status to AFoCO as of 24 March 2020. Malaysia is currently taking domestic procedures for accession.

8. The Assembly may wish to take note of the information.