

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

Agenda Item 5.2

Update on the intention of Kyrgyzstan to be a Party to AFoCO

1. Pursuant to Article 5 of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (hereinafter 'the Agreement'),
 - a) A non-Signatory Country intending to become a new member of the Organization shall seek an approval of its membership by the Assembly prior to its accession to this Agreement.
 - b) The membership in the Organization is open to a country which is geographically located in Asia.
2. In accordance with Decision 3-I-18R Guidelines on the Application of Non-Signatory Countries to become Parties, the Kyrgyz Republic has sent a Letter of Intent (LoI) to become a member of AFoCO dated 13 September 2021 as attached in Annex-1.
3. As a follow-up procedure, Decision 3-I-18R provides that the Assembly shall consider and endorse the letter of intent or the proposal to invite based on no-objection basis. Upon concurrence by the Assembly, the Secretariat shall send an invitation letter to the applying country to submit an Application Form. This procedure may be dispensed as the Kyrgyz Republic has submitted the Application Form together with the Letter of Intent. In further reference to the Decision 3-I-18R, the countries that submitted the Application Form shall be given Observer status.
4. Having the Kyrgyz Republic as a Party to AFoCO will have an expanded regional representation from the Central Asian region which will strengthen organizational presence on the global level and promote diversification of programs that attract diverse funding resources.

Points for consideration

5. The Assembly may wish to:
 - consider and endorse the membership of the Kyrgyz Republic and further grant Observer status until the deposit of the instrument of accession; and
 - task the Secretariat to facilitate the deposit of the instrument of accession in due course and notify all Parties as necessary.
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