

Fifth Session of the Assembly
25-27 October 2021, Seoul, Korea (hybrid)

List of Decisions Adopted at the Fifth Session of the Assembly

Decision 41-V-21R Promotion and Enhancement of Partnership

Decision 42-V-21R Approval of New Projects

Decision 43-V-21R Work Plan and Budget for 2022

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List of Decisions Adopted at the Fourth Session of the Assembly and Respective Updates

Taking note of the comment from the Republic of Korea to brief on this year's actions and outcomes regarding the Decisions adopted at the 4th Session of the Assembly, the Secretariat will make necessary preparations in the future sessions so that the updates on the Decisions of the previous session of the Assembly is addressed.

Below is the list of Decisions and relevant updates. There are **seven Decisions** adopted at the Fourth Session of the Assembly.

Decision-34-IV-20R Policy Relevance of AFoCO's Operation

The Assembly

- Approved the plan for enhancing policy relevance of the AFoCO's operation as contained in D-34-1 and mandated the Secretariat to establish and manage the 'Communication Platform for Policy Updates and Development';
- Tasked the Secretariat to start the process in constructing 'AFoCO Forest Policy Archive' and developing 'Country Profile and Context' documents in close consultation with the Parties; and
- Tasked the Secretariat to prepare the Annual Thematic Dialogue starting from 2021.

In line with this decision, the Secretariat worked with the Fellowship Officials of AFoCO and graduate Landmark Program Scholarship Students, for the preparation and stocktaking of the "Communication Platform for Policy Updates and Development."

Currently, the summarized form of the country profile and the collected national policies, laws, and regulations relevant to the sustainable management of forest in AFoCO Parties are uploaded in the renewed AFoCO website, under 'Country Information Hub.'

Development of the Country Profile and Context documents is a work in progress which is currently 70% complete for ten countries,

including Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Viet Nam. These draft documents will be asked for further inputs and vetting by the National Focal Points. Drafts for the other three countries are currently being prepared, and are expected to achieve 70% completion by early 2022.

The 2021 Annual Thematic Dialogue was organized in conjunction with the Fifth Session of the Assembly, with participation and contribution by 82 forest experts, government officials, and diplomats from 13 Parties and 2 Observers, as well as from other partner organizations. The outcome report of the event is being prepared, targeting official release by early 2022. The session information together with the background discussion paper and the presentation materials are currently archived in the AFoCO Website under 'Annual Thematic Dialogue.'

Decision-35-IV-20R Approval of New Projects

The Assembly approved 2 projects:

Integrated village-driven forest rehabilitation and livelihood improvement in Viengthong district, Bolikhamxay province, Lao PDR (AFoCO/025/2021)

- Following necessary inception arrangements have been undertaken, the project implementation agreement was signed on 17 September 2021 and subsequent inception meeting and the first meeting of the Project Steering Committee was held on 12 October 2021.

Re-greening the bare lands in Timor-Leste through promotion of locally customized restoration models (AFoCO/026/2021)

- Domestic procedures are undertaken for the inception arrangements. Series of meetings between the Secretariat and the Timor-Leste have been arranged for conclusion of the project inception and recommendation of the Project Steering Committee.

Decision-36-IV-20R Amendment of Staff Regulations

The Staff Regulations has been effective and applied for the day to day operations since 26 November 2020.

Decision-37-IV-20R Amendment of Financial Regulations

The Financial Regulations has been effective and applied for the day to day operations since 26 November 2020.

Decision-38-IV-20R Appointment of the Executive Director

The Secretariat facilitated follow-up procedures and travel arrangements for the assuming of the incumbent Executive Director.

Decision-39-IV-20R Budget Reallocation for Operational Expenditures in FY2020

The unobligated administrative budget was reallocated for practical management of funds, effective for financial year of 2020.

Decision-40-IV-20R Work Plan and Budget for 2021

The Assembly approves the Work Plan and Budget for 2021.

The annual work plan and budget is the main planning tool for the operation of the organizations and allocation of the administrative budget.

The Secretariat has facilitated the implementation of the planned activities and the approved budget for 2021, in close coordination with the Representations and National Focal Points of the Parties and Observers.

Prolonged impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic significantly restricted organizing physical meetings or events in 2021 and traveling across countries. In this respect, many of the planned activities were conducted virtually or in hybrid mode while the major changes to the AFoCO's engagement plan for the Fifteenth World Forestry Congress was inevitable following its postponement decision to 2022.

The overall operational performance of AFoCO will be reported through Annual Report and the Financial Report 2021.
