

Sixth Session of the Assembly
29-30 March 2022, Virtual

Agenda Item 5

Preparation of the Second AFoCO Ministerial Meeting

Introduction

1. The Fifth Session of the Assembly considered and supported to organize the Ministerial Meeting in 2022 and further tasked the Secretariat to coordinate with the Parties and the organizers of the XV WFC. Upon consultation with the WFC Secretariat and Parties, the Secretariat communicated the general schedule of meetings in January 2022 and notified to organize the Ministerial Meeting in conjunction with the XV WFC. The invitation letter to the Ministers are extended through the diplomatic channel.
2. Following the discourse during the AFoCO Ministerial Meeting in 2019, the Meeting will have the opportunity to reaffirm high-level commitment and support on AFoCO and its activities.

Overview of Second AFoCO Ministerial Meeting

3. Following the First AFoCO Ministerial Meeting in October 2019, the Assembly of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization considered to organize the Second AFoCO Ministerial Meeting in 2022. AFoCO will take the opportunity of the XV World Forestry Congress which is the largest global gatherings of foresters to reaffirm high-level commitment and support for the forest sector in Asia.
4. The First AFoCO Ministerial Meeting was held in October 2019 and the focus of the high-level discourse was the innovative local actions on global targets, future of sustainable capacity development, and way forward of international forest cooperation. In 2021, AFoCO Annual Thematic Dialogue focused on roles of regional entities in unleashing the full potential of forest to meet climate goals and building back better and greener from the COVID-19, and assessment of AFoCO projects impact and best practices.
5. Building on this past discourses, the Second AFoCO Ministerial Meeting will recall the “Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use” in which 141 countries have endorsed, covering 3.69 billion ha of forest.

Objectives

6. The AFoCO Ministerial Meeting will provide the venue for the Ministers responsible for forest
 - to reaffirm the high-level support for international forest cooperation through AFoCO;
 - to review the progress and contribution of AFoCO and its activities;
 - to share the priorities in each countries in realizing to achieve common global goals and commitments;

- to shape the strategic direction to implement the actions identified by the “Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use.” (<https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>)

Provisional Theme and Program

7. The provisional theme and program is as below:

- Date and Time: Tuesday, 3 May 2022, 16:10 – 17:50 (1hour 40 minutes)
- Venue: COEX
- Expected Participants: 70 – 100 delegates
- Language: English
- Theme 1: Opportunities and Challenges of the forest sector building on the milestones (accomplishments) of AFoCO in the era of post-COVID-19 and the commitments at the COP 26
- Theme 2: Strategic way forward for international cooperation in the Asian region for the forest sector (Capacity building, thematic areas, national priorities for international cooperation, etc)

Time	Program	Speakers
16:10	Arrival of Ministers	
16:10-16:20 (10 min)	Opening Remarks and Congratulatory Remarks Group photo	- AFoCO - tbc
16:20-16:55 (35 min)	Theme 1: Opportunities and Challenges of the forest sector building on the milestones (accomplishments) of AFoCO in the era of post-COVID-19 and the commitments at the COP 26	- introduction by the Secretariat - Intervention by Ministers
16:55-17:30 (35 min)	Theme 2: Strategic way forward for international cooperation in the Asian region for the forest sector (Capacity building, thematic areas, national priorities for international cooperation, etc)	Introduction by the Secretariat - Intervention by Ministers
17:30-17:50 (20 min)	Joint Ministerial Statement	

Points for consideration

8. The Assembly may wish to:

- take note of the information on the Second AFoCO Ministerial Meeting;
- review the draft joint statement to be provided; and
- encourage each Party to render support in the successful implementation of the plan.