

Seventh Session of the Assembly
26-27 October 2022, Almaty (hybrid)

Agenda Item 5

Promotion and Enhancement of Partnership (Update on Partners)

I. Background

1. Based on Decision 41-V-21R, Promotion and Enhancement of Partnership, Partner Countries and Partner Organizations provides new category of participation and engagement for AFoCO. The Sixth Session of the Assembly endorsed the Rules of Procedures for Partners Countries and Partner Organizations of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization.
2. The Assembly recognizes that participation of countries and entities beyond Parties and Observers of AFoCO complement the organization's action by access to new knowledge, expertise, financing and broad reach – resources that are critical to advancing organization's work.

II. Organizations/entities that granted membership or accreditations to AFoCO

3. The UN General Assembly granted observer status to AFoCO on 15 December 2020. (UN Resolution A/RES/75/149)
4. The Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP) accredited AFoCO as partner international organization on 2 September 2019 (UNCCD document ICCD/COP(14)/15).
5. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) accredited AFoCO on 6 October 2021 for participation at the Conference of the Parties to CBD and related meetings.
6. The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration granted membership to AFoCO on 11 November 2020. (<https://www.forestlandscaperestoration.org/our-partner/>)
7. AFoCO has been included in the ODA-eligible international organizations under the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) from 2021 reporting on 2020 ODA flows.
<https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/annex2.htm>
8. The Conference of the Parties to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) accredited AFoCO as an observer for approval at the COP 27.
9. The UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration has officially recognized AFoCO as Supporting Partner on 22 August 2022.

III. Organization with existing partnership arrangements

10. A multilateral partnership arrangement that the Secretariat engaged with Center for International Forestry Research - International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and the Global EverGreening Alliance (GEA) on the Landscape Partnership Asia (LPA) for collaborative establishment and implementation of a programme for the restoration of drylands and drought-prone areas in Asia.

11. AFoCO considered expanding its network in terms of research in the forest sector through engagement with the Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) as an associate partner which is the world's largest research for development program focused on the role of forests, trees and agroforestry in sustainable development, food security and addressing climate change. One of FTA's objectives is to provide countries and stakeholders the most updated knowledge and solutions for how to best leverage the roles of forests, trees and agroforestry for their broader development objectives and challenges (in particular climate change, food security, restoration, green economy, and the build forward better agendas), and to help capitalize learning and experiences including by informing decision making and supporting capacity development effort.

12. The partner organizations which has bilateral partnership arrangements with AFoCO at the institutional level are as follows:

No	Institution	Date of MOU signed
1	Korea Arborea and Garden Institute	18 June 2019
2	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	19 June 2019
3	Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	18 September 2019
4	Korea Forest Welfare Institute (FOWI)	1 November 2019
5	Dream Sharing	3 December 2019
6	RECOFTC	11 December 2019
7	National Institute of Forest Science (NIFOS)	6 February 2020
8	Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH)	11 August 2020
9	Korea National Arboretum	25 March 2021
10	Korea-Mekong Forest Cooperation Center (KMFCC)	12 May 2021
11	SKForest	17 November 2021
12	MUSTGAMES	22 November 2021
13	Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme-Asia (NTFP-EP)	11 January 2022
14	Forest Aviation Headquarters of the Korea Forest Service	19 January 2022
15	Graduate School of International Agricultural Technology (GSIAT) of Seoul National University	15 February 2022
16	Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)	3 May 2022
17	Korea Forestry Promotion Institute	4 May 2022
18	World Food Programme (WFP)	3 May 2022
19	International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	5 May 2022
20	Woori Financial Group	21 June 2022

13. For the partner organizations which has bilateral partnership arrangements, the Secretariat proposes the Assembly to consider providing a consistent partnership platform for both the existing partners and potential partners under the framework of Partner Countries and Partner Organizations as adopted in Decision 41-V-21R.

IV. Intention received from new prospective partners

14. In accordance with Decision 41-V-21R-ADD-1 Rules of Procedures for Partners Countries and Partner Organizations of AFoCO, following institutions have sent letter of intent to be Partner Organization of AFoCO:

No	Institution	Date of letter intent
1	Ojeong Resilience Institute	21 June 2022
2	Chamber of Forest Engineers of Turkiye	21 September 2022
3	Forest for Peace	30 September 2022

V. Points for consideration

15. The Assembly may
- take note of the information; and
 - consider and endorse existing partnerships to be enlisted as Partner Organizations;
 - consider and endorse prospective partners that have submitted respective letters of intent as Partner Organizations;
 - task the Secretariat to inform the Assembly on the new intentions and keep the list of Partner Organization updated; and
 - task the Secretariat to take follow-up actions in accordance with the Rules of Procedures for Partners Countries and Partner Organizations of AFoCO (Decision 41-V-21R-ADD-1).
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