

Eighth Session of the Assembly
25-26 April 2023, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Agenda Item 3.1

Update on the Development of AFoCO Strategic Plan 2024-2030

I. Background

1. During its inaugural session in 2018, the AFoCO Assembly approved the AFoCO Strategic Plan (2019-2023), which is currently in its concluding year of execution. In line with the recommendations proffered by the 2019 External Institutional Review, the Assembly reviewed and granted approval for the recently proposed statements of the organization's vision and mission, as well as an amended array of priority areas, during its fourth session in 2020.

2. In light of the far-reaching and long-term nature of the strategic framework, the Assembly recommended that the Secretariat afford the Parties sufficient time to consider and provide their input. Furthermore, the Assembly charged the Secretariat with the responsibility of improving the existing Strategic Plan (2019-2023) upon finalizing the vision and mission statements and priority areas through a consultative process.

3. This document aims to provide an update on actions taken in response to the Assembly's decisions and recommendations towards enhancing the organizational strategic framework and get guidance on the next steps.

II. Major Progress

4. In pursuance of the recommendations made during the 4th Session of the Assembly, the Secretariat conducted a consultative survey between the 4th and 29th of December 2020 to review the revised strategic framework (A-21-5-25). During this period, the survey elicited feedback on the statements of vision and mission, as well as a revised set of priority areas.

- a. A total of five responses were received, namely from Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore. Subsequently, based on the feedback provided, both the statements of vision and mission, as well as the revised set of priority areas, were revised, which are detailed below.
- Revised vision statement:
“A greener Asia with resilient and sustainable forests, landscapes and communities”
 - Revised mission statement:
“To promote action-oriented international cooperation of creating sound policy context, building strong capacity, and fostering inclusive partnership to drive the transition of Asian forests onto a resilient and sustainable path”
 - Revised priority areas:
 - Accelerating contextualized actions on tackling forest loss and promoting forest restoration
 - Establishing greater resilience of forests and people against climate change and disaster risks
 - Advancing community forestry and sustainable livelihood strategy to forest landscape
 - Enhancing forest ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation
 - Strengthening human and institutional capacities to enhance sustainable forest and landscape management

5. To develop the Strategic Plan 2024-2030, a series of diagnoses and analyses were conducted from December 2021 to October 2022 through consultation with external experts. A study document was developed internally, which includes the current situation diagnosis, suggestions for the future image of AFoCO by 2030, mid-to-long-term strategic approaches, and action plan settings. For the development of the AFoCO Strategic Plan 2024-2030, strategic approaches and recommendations were proposed below:

- Reinforcing national and international partnerships and networking
- Enhancing awareness for the AFoCO and regional forest cooperation
- Strengthening the AFoCO's organizational and management system
- Establishing an organizational evaluation system based on key performance indicators
- Accumulating practical knowledge in the forest sector and international cooperation

6. In order to respond to the rising demand for climate actions in the member parties and potential partners, from both public and private sectors, the Secretariat initiated to develop concept of AFoCO Climate Action Plan, as a sub-component of the plan of action for Strategic Plan 2024-2030.

III. Preparation of the AFoCO Strategic Plan 2024-2030 in 2023

7. In order to finalize the AFoCO Strategic Plan 2024-2030 in 2023, the Secretariat will form AFoCO Technical Working Group on Strategic Planning, composed of national experts nominated by the Member Countries and experts. The AFoCO Technical Working Group on Strategic Planning will provide comments to improve and finalize the AFoCO Strategic Plan 2024-2030 to seek its approval at the 9th Session of the Assembly.

IV. Points for consideration

8. The Assembly may wish to:
- Take note of the progress made in the development of the AFoCO Strategic Plan 2024-2030
 - Provide guidance and support to the Secretariat for the AFoCO Strategic Plan 2024-2030, seeking its finalization within 2023

Queries on the content of the document may be addressed to:

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