

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

## Agenda Item 3.2

### **Promoting and enhancing climate-focused cooperation**

#### **I. Background**

1. AFoCO's mandates are aligned with, and responsive to, global climate and development objectives, including the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change. In this regard, the Organization has been promoting and undertaking action-oriented forest cooperation programs in Asia.

2. Global reports show climate plans still remain insufficient. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Working Group I, many climate impacts were becoming 'irreversible' unless we take immediate action. Even targets in countries' nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to limiting global warming — which were enhanced at the 2022 Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Agreement on Climate Change — need to be further increased by a total of 23 gigatonnes of carbon-dioxide equivalents to achieve the 2030 climate target.

3. Forests are one of the Key Solutions to Achieve the 1.5°C Climate Goal by 2030. The world's forests have the potential to sequester 8 gigatonnes of carbon-dioxide equivalents per year by 2030, which would achieve, and exceed, the missing gigatonnes in countries' NDCs. Since the forestry sector is essential in mitigating the effects of climate change, the Organization's efforts in this area can contribute to global efforts to address the issue.

#### **II. Proposal of AFoCO's 10-year Climate Action Plan**

##### **AFoCO's 10-year Climate Action Plan**

4. As noted in the Chairperson's Summary of the Second AFoCO Ministerial Meeting (AMM-22-2SR), held on 3 May 2022, the Parties highlighted the impacts of climate change on agriculture productivity, soil quality, economy, and livelihoods of the communities, and expansion of drylands, increase of salinity, and transboundary movement of dust are some of the challenges confronting the forest sector.

5. The Ministers further deliberated that climate actions need to involve broader stakeholders, including local communities living inside and in surrounding forest areas. The organization needs to explore the implementation of diverse resource to assist the achievement of country goals in addressing climate change and promote cross-sectoral cooperation that can address the vulnerability of the region to economic and energy crises, climate change, environmental pollution, etc.

6. The Ministers further highlighted that the impending concerns that need to be prioritized in the long-term strategy of AFoCO include developing alignment for engagement (REDD+ initiatives, forest landscape restoration and building resilience of forest and communities against forest-related disasters like forest fires).

7. In response to the climate crisis and in recognition of the critical role of forests in mitigating the crisis and AFoCO's unique position and responsibility to act, the Secretariat prepared an idea of a 10-year Climate Action Plan which shall be in place as a programme under the new Strategic Plan 2024–2030. The draft idea of the 10-year Climate Action Plan is annexed (Annex-1).

### **Strategic Approaches**

8. The Climate Action Plan aims to accelerate efforts amongst AFoCO Member Countries to drawing down massive amounts of carbon from the atmosphere to arrest global warming while simultaneously advancing economic prosperity. To turn the Plan's objective into actions and deliver impact, AFoCO will focus on six strategic approaches as below:

- a. Climate-focused cooperation to upscale forest-based solutions
- b. Diversified funding from public, private and alternative sources
- c. Enhanced monitoring, reporting and validation for evidence-based action
- d. Action-focused cooperation for forests
- e. Strengthened competencies
- f. Partnerships with a diverse range of groups

### **Strategic Actions**

9. In order to implement the Climate Action Plan, the Organization will focus on three major climate actions with enhanced funding mechanisms which are: 1) Forest Restoration, 2) Community Solutions, and 3) Digital Innovations.

10. To support achievement of the Climate Action Plan, online marketplace and information centre, called AFoCO Climate Action Matching Platform (CAMP), where people can meet and make deals for flowing finance into forests for carbon sequestration, biodiversity and livelihoods will be established.

11. The Secretariat will promote the objectives of the Climate Action Plan and build alliances through strategic events and activities.

### **Preparation of the Climate Action Plan in 2023**

12. In order to prepare the Climate Action Plan in 2023, the Secretariat will form a Technical Working Group (TWG), composed of national experts nominated by the Member Countries and experts. The TWG on Strategic Planning will provide comments to improve the Climate Action Plan to seek approval at the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly.

13. The Climate Action Plan's operations depend on financial resources to be contributed from new donors. To ensure mobilizing sustainable financial resources, the Secretariat will make efforts to the followings:

- a. Develop projects in line with the strategic areas of the Climate Action Plan which will be attractive to potential donors. Projects will be developed including baseline study of the topic, recognition of the donors, and proposal development (US\$ 150,000),
- b. Organize AFoCO Leaders' Forum on Climate, Forests and Environmental Safeguards as a high-level meeting of business and political leaders to cohere commitments and plan actions (September 2023, Seoul) (US\$ 150,000), and
- c. Organize face-to-face (31 May – 1 June 2023, Seoul) and virtual (early August 2023) meetings with TWG on Strategic Planning in order to improve and finalize the key programs and donor's prepositioning (US\$ 100,000).

14. In this regard, total US\$ 400,000 is proposed to be financed from the Working Capital Reserve to promote AFoCO in 2023.

### **III. Points for consideration**

15. The Assembly may consider and decide to:
- Task the Secretariat to develop the AFoCO 10-year Climate Action Plan in a close coordination with the Member Countries and relevant partners, while ensuring consistency with the AFoCO Strategic Plan (2024-2030)
  - Endorse organizing executive-level participation and promote strategic programs and activities to mobilize funding
  - Authorize the use of the funds available in the Working Capital Reserve to support the preparation of the Climate Action Plan.

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

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**Annex-1.**

*(Separately attached and distributed)*