

Tenth Session of the Assembly
17-18 April 2024, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Agenda Item 5.1-REV

Updates on engagement of private sector

I. Background

1. Pursuant to Decision 52-IX-23R and in accordance with the Work Plan in 2024, the Secretariat has been endeavoring to pave the way to implement the 10-year AFoCO Climate Action Plan (2025-2034). Efforts have been directed towards mobilizing and diversifying funding sources from the private sector and other entities.

2. Initially, the Secretariat was tasked with organizing the AFoCO Leaders Forum on Climate, Forests, and Environmental Safeguards, envisioned as a high-level meeting of business and political leaders. However, recognizing the need to broaden the scope and actively engage the private sector, the Secretariat renamed the initiative as Friends of Asia and Asian Forests (FAAF), emphasizing collaborative efforts involving international organizations and private companies.

II. Forming of the Friends of Asia and Asian Forests (FAAF) Forum

3. The FAAF initiative seeks sustainable development and climate solutions through collaborative efforts involving international organizations and private companies. FAAF aims to lead Asia's Nature-based Solutions (NbS), recognized as a key means for sustainable use of forest ecosystems and climate change response, thereby realizing corporate leadership through carbon neutrality and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) management.

4. The inauguration of the FAAF Forum held on 6 February 2024 aimed to strengthen private-public partnerships, bringing together corporations and partner organizations from the Republic of Korea to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and discuss climate solutions leveraging nature-based solutions with forests. More than seventy distinguished figures and corporate representatives, including Mr. Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), as well as representatives from leading Korean companies such as Yuhan-Kimberly, POSCO, Woori Bank, and NH Investment Securities participated in the Forum. The event also saw engagement from the Federation of Korean Industries, the Korea Forest Service, the Korea International Cooperation Agency, UN Global Compact Network Korea, the Presidential Commission on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth, and the Korea Forestry Promotion Agency.

5. The FAAF Forum will align with its strategic focus on three principles: 1) elevating Asia's climate leadership, 2) reducing carbon emissions in Asia through forest carbon projects and NbS,

and 3) fostering shared value by integrating corporate ESG initiatives with national priorities. Serving as a strategic platform, the FAAF Forum aims to integrate corporate interests with environmental sustainability goals, amplifying the impact of private-public partnerships in achieving AFoCO's objectives.

III. Operation for the FAAF Forum in 2024

6. The FAAF Forum will provide an entry point for the private sectors to support and engage in AFoCO's goals and activities. Such engagement and support will be instrumental in broadening the reach of AFoCO's activities and diversifying funding resources of AFoCO's operations.

7. To build on the momentum of private sector engagement in AFoCO's activities, the Secretariat will organize the 2nd FAAF Forum inviting global business and political leaders in September 2024 in the Republic of Korea. The 2nd FAAF Forum is to comprise diverse levels of dialogue and engagement opportunities: (i) business forum to exchange changing environment and global trends in climate financing; (ii) C-Suite roundtable to primarily discuss the introduction of FAAF membership and operation; (iii) launching of AFoCO Climate Action Matchmaking Platform (CAMP) to facilitate fundraising efforts; and (iv) consultation meetings with AFoCO and among partners.

8. In order to support such engagement, the prepositioning works such as joint site survey with the private sector of potential sites in the AFoCO members and advocacy works including campaigns and publications will be developed.

IV. Points for Consideration

9. The Assembly may consider and decide to:
- Task the Secretariat to report and update the achievement of FAAF Initiative when updating the status of the AFoCO 10-year Climate Action Plan in close coordination with Member Countries and relevant partners, ensuring consistency with the AFoCO Strategic Plan (2024-2030); and
 - Authorize the use of funds available in the Working Capital Reserve to the Secretariat's Operational Cost to organize the 2nd FAAF Forum of US \$100,000.

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

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