



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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Item 18 of the provisional agenda

**Matters related to intergovernmental,
non-governmental, governmental and other
organizations**

Information on intergovernmental organizations

Note by the Director General

The present document provides information on the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), which have expressed the wish to enter into an appropriate relationship agreement with UNIDO.

1. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of the guidelines issued by the General Conference in its decision GC.1/Dec.41 regarding relationship agreements, the present document provides in an annex, information on the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), which have expressed the wish to enter into an appropriate relationship agreement with UNIDO.

Action required from the Board

2. The Board may wish to authorize the Director General, in accordance with General Conference decision GC.1/Dec.41, annex, paragraph 9, to conclude appropriate relationship agreements with AFoCO and PAM, based on the information contained in the annex to the present document.

For reasons of sustainability, this document has not been printed. Delegates are kindly requested to refer to electronic versions of all documents.



Annex

Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)

Historical background

The Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) was established in 2018 as a treaty-based intergovernmental organization that aims to strengthen regional forest cooperation by transforming proven technology and policies into concrete actions in the context of sustainable forest management, to address the impact of climate change.

Purpose

The mission of AFoCO is to promote and undertake action-oriented forest cooperation programmes in Asia on:

(a) Sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem services, as well as reforestation and forest rehabilitation;

(b) Climate change mitigation and adaptation activities and supporting the initiatives under REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation), and the role of forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries;

(c) Reduction of deforestation, forest degradation, desertification and land degradation, and mitigation of the impacts of forest-related disasters;

(d) Capacity-building of stakeholders through research and development, sharing of experiences and the transfer of technology, as well as education and exchange programmes; and

(e) Partnerships between its Parties and with other entities to carry out cooperative activities by building upon the current initiatives of other forest-related international agreements and organizations.

Membership

AFoCO currently has 13 Parties: Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam, and three Observers: Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia and Singapore.

Organizational structure

The principal organs of AFoCO are the Assembly and the Secretariat. The Assembly is the policymaking body composed of the Representatives of all Parties. The Secretariat, headed by the Executive Director and located in Seoul, Republic of Korea, is responsible for implementing its policies and strategies. Subject to guidance by the Assembly, the Executive Director enters into agreements on behalf of AFoCO for the implementation of activities of the Organization.

Financing

The funds AFoCO requires to achieve its objectives consist of mandatory and voluntary contributions. On average, AFoCO receives \$3.8 million per annum in the form of mandatory contributions from the Parties. In 2021, in addition to the mandatory contributions, AFoCO received \$4.1 million as voluntary contributions for projects.

Cooperation with UNIDO

Within the scope of their respective areas of competence, AFoCO and UNIDO may develop cooperation activities in the field of environment, including climate change.

Relationship with other intergovernmental and governmental organizations

AFoCO enjoys observer status to the General Assembly of the United Nations, to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Furthermore, AFoCO cooperates with the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration and the official development assistance-eligible international organizations under the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). AFoCO has also concluded partnership agreements with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the CIFOR-World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF).

AFoCO also partners with the following governmental organizations/entities: Korea Institute of Arboretum Management, Korea Forest Welfare Institute, National Institute of Forest Science, Korea Foundation for International Healthcare, Korea National Arboretum, Forest Aviation Headquarters and the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan.

Address of headquarters

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Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)

Historical background

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) is an international organization established in 2005 bringing together 34 member parliaments from the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions to discuss and face critical issues such as regional conflicts, security and counter-terrorism, humanitarian crises, economic integration, climate change, mass migrations, education, human rights and inter-faith dialogue. PAM is the legal successor of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM), launched in the early 1990s.

Purpose

The main objective of PAM is to forge political, economic and social cooperation among its member States in order to find common solutions to the challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf region, and to create a space for peace and prosperity for its peoples.

Membership

PAM's membership consists of 31 member States: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Türkiye and United Arab Emirates; two associate member States: Holy See and Sovereign Order of Malta; and one candidate member: the Russian Federation.

Furthermore, PAM has 10 partner States: Bahrain, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kuwait, Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

Organizational structure

The Assembly is composed of: the alternating Presidency and the Bureau, each national delegation has five members with equal voting rights and decision-making powers; the three Standing Committees, which conduct the work of the Assembly; Working Groups and ad hoc Committees which the Assembly set up to tackle a particular topic; and the international Secretariat, that assists and advises the PAM President, the PAM Bureau and all members in the execution of their mandate.

The Secretary General, assisted by international and local staff, coordinates the activities of the Assembly, from Geneva.

PAM has offices in Naples, Italy and in San Marino. PAM also has Permanent Observers to the United Nations in Geneva, New York and Vienna, a Liaison Officer with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in Jerusalem, a Permanent Representation in Bucharest and a Permanent Representation to the League of Arab States (LAS) in Cairo.

Financing

PAM's annual budget amounts to €902,000 and it is fully funded by its member States.

Cooperation with UNIDO

The second Standing Committee of PAM deals with all issues related to economic, social and environmental cooperation, leading to a number of policies/guidelines and legislative measures by the Member Parliaments. Within the scope of their respective areas of competence, PAM and UNIDO may develop cooperation activities in the areas of small and medium-size enterprise development, trade and investment, clean and renewable energies, the post-COVID-19 economic recovery, and climate change issues.

Relationship with other intergovernmental and governmental organizations

In 2009, the General Assembly of the United Nations granted Permanent Observer Status to PAM. Furthermore, PAM entertains close relationships with the following regional and international organizations: the African Parliamentary Union, Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, Arab Parliament, Asian Parliamentary Assembly, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, Conseil Consultatif de l'Union du Maghreb Arab (UMA), European Parliament, the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (NATO-PA), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE-PA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, Pan-African Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM), the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States

(PUIC), the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the South East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly (SEECP PA), the African Union, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUROMED), the European Court of Human Rights, the European Union, the European Commission, Forum Euroméditerranéen des Instituts de Sciences Economiques (FEMISE), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the International Monetary Fund, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), League of Arab States (LAS), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA), Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), Anna Lindh Foundation, Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME), the Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (BUSINESSMED), Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), the Italian Federation for Human Rights (FIDU), Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly Foundation, the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG), the Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (MED-TSO) and Women Political Leaders.

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