

First Session of the Assembly
12-13 November 2018, Seoul

Agenda Item 5.3

DECISION 3-I-18R

Guidelines on the Application of Non-Signatory Countries to become Parties

The Assembly of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO),

With reference to Article 5 of the Agreement on the Establishment of AFoCO (Agreement); and

Reiterating the objectives of the AFoCO 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

Decides to approve the Guidelines on the Application of Non-Signatory Countries to become Parties as below.

1. Application of Non-Signatory Countries to become Parties

1.1 Pursuant to Article 5 of the Agreement,

- a) A non-Signatory Country intending to become a new member of the Organization shall seek an approval of its membership by the Assembly prior to its accession to this Agreement.
- b) The membership in the Organization is open to a country which is geographically located in Asia.

1.2 Any country which is geographically located in Asia may independently submit a letter of intent to become a Party; or any Party to the Agreement or the Secretariat may propose to invite a non-Signatory Country which is geographically located in Asia to become a new member of AFoCO.

1.3 The Assembly shall consider and endorse the letter of intent or the proposal to invite based on no-objection basis.

1.4 Upon concurrence by the Assembly, the Secretariat shall send invitation letter to submit an Application Form as in the template attached in Annex-1 to the Secretariat.

1.5 Unless otherwise requested by the country, the countries that submitted the Application Form shall be given Observer status without application process for Observer provided for in Rule 6.1.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

2. Accession by non-Signatory Country

2.1 Pursuant to Article 17 of the Agreement, the Agreement shall be open for accession by any non-Signatory Country subject to Paragraph 2 and 3 of Article 5 of the Agreement.

2.2 Upon approval of the Assembly on the membership of a non-Signatory Country, the Secretariat shall notify the respective non-Signatory Countries to take necessary domestic procedures for the accession of the Agreement.

3. Entry into Force

3.1 Upon completion of the domestic procedures for the accession by the non-Signatory Country, the instrument of accession shall be deposited in accordance with Article 18 of the Agreement.

3.2 Once the Agreement takes effect for the non-Signatory Country in accordance with Article 19 of the Agreement, the country shall become a Party to the Agreement.

Application Form to be Submitted by a Non-Signatory Country to be a Party to the Agreement on the Establishment of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)

1. Official Name of the Country:

2. Name and position of the Head of the Ministry/Agency Responsible for Forestry:

.....
(Mr. Ms.) First name Middle name Family name

Position/Title:

Direct telephone line:

Email of the Head of the organization:

3. Name and position of the contact person (if different from the Head of the Ministry/Agency):

.....
(Mr. Ms.) First name Middle name Family name

Position/Title:

Direct telephone line:

Email of the Contact Person:

4. Stamp & Signature of the Head of the Ministry:

Place & Date:.....

Note: By submitting this form, it is regarded that the undersigned acknowledges the objectives of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) and the will abide by the Agreement on the Establishment of AFoCO and the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly.

Unless otherwise requested explicitly, the countries that submitted this Application Form shall be given Observer status without application process for Observer provided for in Rule 6.1.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.
