

Eleventh Session of the Assembly
30-31 October 2024, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Agenda Item 13

Report of the Executive Director Selection Committee in 2024

I. Introduction

1. The Ninth Session of the Assembly tasked resuming the works of the Executive Director Selection Committee (Committee) in 2024.
2. Following the Committee's reconstitution consisting of 14 Committee members in May 2024, Committee held its Ninth Meeting virtually on 18 June 2024 followed by its Tenth Meeting in hybrid mode on 9 July 2024.

II. Deliberation on the renewal of the term of the incumbent Executive Director

3. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Director Selection Committee (CED-22-7-4), the Committee considered and undertook deliberation on the renewal of term of the incumbent Executive Director based on the Executive Director's statement submitted to the Chairperson of the Committee.
4. The Committee took note of the achievements during the 18 months of the incumbent Executive Director's term
 - a. expansion of resource mobilization
 - b. diversification of funding sources
 - c. introducing innovative initiatives through carbon-focused collaborations
 - d. strengthening global networks and internal framework
5. The Committee further noted on his plans to take the momentum to putting into place a sustainable funding mechanism, establishment of headquarters building, and strengthening the relations with the relevant Ministries of the Host Country.
6. After undertaking deliberation of the accomplishments and plans of the incumbent Executive Director, the Committee by consensus supports and recommends renewal of the term of Mr. Park Chongho, the incumbent Executive Director for 2 years from 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2026. The letter of the Chairperson is attached as **Annex 1**.

III. Issues raised by the Committee

7. The Committee reiterated that the term of the Executive Director which is currently 2 years is too short, and further noted that same concerns has been raised in the previous meetings of the Executive Director Selection Committee regarding the term of the Executive Director. The Committee was constituted in 2020, 2022, and 2024. The Committee during its works in each year have raised concerns regarding the term of the Executive Director as attached in **Annex-2**.

8. In this regard, the Committee proposed to bring this matter to the attention of the Assembly.

9. The Secretariat, for information, reviewed the term of the heads of other international organizations as attached as **Annex-3**.

10. The Assembly may consider and adopt a Decision on the initial term of the Executive Director, not exceeding the maximum number of years as prescribed in the Agreement on the Establishment of AFoCO which is of four years*.

** Note: Paragraph 1 of Article 9 of the Agreement on the Establishment of AFoCO provides that the Executive Director shall hold the office for a term of two years and renewable for not more than one term.*

11. The Assembly may consider to appoint the succeeding Executive Directors for a duration of an initial period as to be adopted by the Decision while considering and preparing for a long-term review and ratification process of the amendment of the Agreement on the Establishment of AFoCO.

12. Any Decision on the duration of the initial term of the Executive Director is to be applicable for the succeeding Executive Directors.

IV. Points for Consideration

13. The Assembly may wish to

- a. Acknowledge, with appreciation, the intensive works of the Committee to undertake necessary procedures in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Director Selection Committee;
- b. Take note of the recommendation of the Committee and approve the renewal of the term of Mr. Park Chongho as the Executive Director for a period of 2 years, beginning on 1 January 2025;
- c. Task the Secretariat to take follow-up actions on arrangement of the appointment including appointment letter from the President of the Assembly and other legal arrangements as required for the renewal of term;
- d. Take note of the concerns raised by the Committee regarding the duration of the Executive Director's term and further tasked the Secretariat to review possible alternative procedures and practices that may be applicable to AFoCO for consideration and decision by the Assembly; and
- e. Task the Committee to conclude its activities and reconstitute for the next round of Executive Director selection.

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

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Letter of the Chairperson of the Executive Director Selection Committee to the Assembly

Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

www.afocosec.org



DATE: 2024.8.15

REF.NO.:

President of the Assembly
11th Session of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

Notification of the outcome of the 10th Meeting of the Executive Director Selection Committee and recommendation of the Executive Director Selection Committee

This is in reference to resuming of works of the Executive Director Selection Committee (The Committee) in 2024 as tasked by the Assembly of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) at its Ninth Session held on 25-26 October 2023. As the elected Chairperson of the Committee, I, on behalf of the Committee members, have the report on the work of the Committee as tasked by the Assembly and extend the final recommendation of the Committee to the 11th Session of the Assembly.

As tasked by the Assembly, the members of the Executive Director Selection Committee were re-constituted in May 2024. The Committee virtually held its Ninth Meeting on 18 June 2024, and reviewed the Rules of Procedure for the Executive Director Selection Committee and confirmed the working schedule of the Committee.

The Chairperson, through letter dated June 25, informed the incumbent Executive Director on the outcome of the Ninth Meeting and requested for statement and future plan from the Executive Director at least six months prior to the completion of his term, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. Following the request letter, the Executive Director delivered his statement dated June 28 which was circulated to all Committee members.

At its 10th Meeting held on 9 July 2024 in Seoul (hybrid), the Committee conducted deliberation on the accomplishments and plans of the incumbent Executive Director.

The Committee took note of the achievements during the 18 months of his term, particularly, expansion of resource mobilization, diversification of funding sources, introducing innovative initiatives through carbon-focused collaborations, and strengthening global networks and internal framework. The Committee further noted on his plans to take the momentum to putting into place a sustainable funding mechanism, establishment of headquarters building, and strengthening the relations with the relevant Ministries of the Host Country.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'iw', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

With appreciation to the Executive Director's leadership, efforts, dedication, and vision, I have the great pleasure and honor to inform the Assembly that the Committee by consensus supported the renewal of term of the incumbent Executive Director.

In this regard, the Executive Director Selection Committee recommends renewal of the term of Dr. Park Chongho as the Executive Director, for 2 years from 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2026.

Thank you.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Noralinda Ibrahim", is written over a faint, light blue grid background.

Noralinda Ibrahim

Chairperson of the Executive Director Selection Committee 2024

Director

Forestry Department

Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism

Summary of Concerns Raised Regarding the Term of Executive Director in the Meetings of the Executive Director Selection Committee

Year	Meeting / Date	Issues and Comments
2020	Fourth Meeting - 8 July 2020 - Virtual	The Committee members shared the view that the incumbent Executive Director, if given more time, would be able to make substantial contributions to AFoCO's development as a recognized organization and propel the organization to greater heights.
2022	Seventh Meeting - 13-14 July 2022 - Seoul / Hybrid	The Committee also took note that a two-year term for an Executive Director position is too short as elaborated in the incumbent Executive Director's statement. The Committee recalled that the term of the Executive Director is provided under the governing instrument of the organization which is the Agreement on the Establishment of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO). The Meeting viewed that the Committee does not have the mandate to deliberate on the interpretation of the governing instrument however the matter will be reported to the Assembly for further consideration and guidance.
2024	Tenth Meeting - 9 July 2024 - Seoul / Hybrid	The Committee Members reiterated that the term of the Executive Director which is currently 2 years is too short. The Meeting further noted that same concerns has been raised in the previous meetings of the Executive Director Selection Committee regarding the term of the Executive Director. The Committee proposed to bring this matter to the attention of the Assembly.

List of terms of the heads of other international organizations

	Organization	Head of Organization	Term	Governing Regulation
1	United Nations (UN)	Secretary General	5 years, may be re-appointed for five years	Discretionary (Resolution 11(I))
2	International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	Executive Director	4 years, may be extended for 2 years	ITTC Decision
3	Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	Director General	4 years, may be reappointed for 4 years	Agreement on the establishment of GGGI
4	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Secretary General	5 years, non-renewable	Agreement on the Establishment of ASEAN - 2 years (1976) - 3 years (1985) - 5 years (1992)
5	Green Climate Fund (GCF)	Executive Director	4 years, may be reappointed for 4 years once	Decided by the Board
6	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Director General	4 years, may be reelected	FAO Constitution
7	UN Funds and Programs	Executive Director	Fixed term appointment	Appointment by the UN Secretary General
8	UNCCD	Executive Secretary	3 years, may be reappointed	Appointment by the UN Secretary General
9	UNFCCC	Executive Secretary	-	Appointment by the UN Secretary General
10	UN CBD	Executive Secretary	-	Appointment by the UN Secretary General