

Thirteenth Session of the Assembly
29-30 October 2025, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Agenda Item 10

Updates on the Progress of Activities under the AFoCO Climate Action Plan: Framework Development for Climate Action Plan Implementation

I. Background

1. At the Eleventh (11th) Session of the AFoCO Assembly, the Secretariat reported on the proposal to develop the *Climate-Forest Cooperation Framework* (hereinafter referred to as “the Framework”) as a strategic instrument to enhance the effectiveness of AFoCO climate-related forest initiatives.
2. Following the Assembly’s guidance, the Secretariat has since been working to refine the Framework as a coherent and scalable approach to address the complex and interlinked challenges posed by climate change in the forestry sector. As reported at the Twelfth (12th) Session of the Assembly, the Framework is intended to serve as a flexible guide to align AFoCO’s projects and programs with the AFoCO Strategic Plan (2024–2030) and the Climate Action Plan (2025–2034), with a long-term vision of supporting climate-resilient forests and communities.
3. In line with the UNFCCC Paris Agreement—particularly Articles 5, 6, and 14—the Framework supports jurisdictional approaches, helping Member Countries pursue forest-based climate actions at national and sub-national levels, while contributing to the Global Stocktake of collective progress under the Agreement.
4. By incorporating feedback from Member Countries, refining its strategic approaches, and initiating pilot applications in Myanmar and Cambodia, the Framework now serves as a practical guide to structure investment-ready, country-tailored programs that align national priorities with shared regional climate goals and emerging opportunities for blended financing.
5. Looking ahead, the Secretariat will further refine the Framework through additional pilot applications, consolidation of lessons learned, and preparation of investment-ready proposals in close cooperation with Member Countries and other international partners.

II. Progress and Next Steps Since the Twelfth Session of the Assembly

6. Since the Twelfth (12th) Session, the Secretariat has refined the Climate-Forest Cooperation Framework (CFCF) to enhance its strategic focus and coherence. A revised draft Framework has been prepared, incorporating feedback and lessons learned from Member Countries, and remains

under development.

7. To provide standardized guidance, the Secretariat has also initiated the drafting of an Implementation Protocol. This Protocol sets out six operational stages for project development and implementation, ensuring consistency with the AFoCO Project Manual, while embedding environmental and social safeguards, MRV requirements, and financing frameworks.

8. In line with the Assembly's request, two pilot Concept Notes have been prepared in Cambodia and Myanmar. These pilots are designed to apply the principles of the Framework, test their practical relevance, and generate lessons for replication in other Member Countries.

9. On 16 September 2025, the draft Framework and pilot applications were presented at the Annual Technical Workshop (ATW) for Project Management and Performance Review. This provided a platform for National Focal Points (NFPs) and Project Managers to review the approach, share perspectives, and identify areas requiring further clarification.

10. Building on this initial discussion, the Secretariat will establish a Technical Working Group (TWG) by the end of 2025 to serve as a formal platform for structured technical consultation. The TWG will work closely with the Secretariat and Member Countries to refine both the Framework and the Protocol. In early 2026, the Secretariat plans to convene a dedicated technical workshop to consolidate the TWG's recommendations, with a view to finalizing a comprehensive and operational version of the Framework.

11. For the Assembly's consideration, the following documents are attached as annexes:

Annex-1: Climate-Forest Cooperation Framework (under development)

Annex-2: Concept Note: Cambodia

Annex-3: Concept Note: Myanmar

III. Points for Consideration

12. The Assembly may wish to:

- a. Take note of the information and provide further guidance and recommendations, as appropriate; and
- b. Consider encouraging respective Member Countries in proposing project concepts and actively participating in piloting activities under the Framework.

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

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