Seventh Meeting of the APFNet Council

26–27 April 2023 | Manila, the Philippines

Background note on the Operational Framework modification

The *Operational Framework* adopted at the First Meeting of the APFNet Board of Directors (in 2015) is based on the *Framework Document* released at the inception of APFNet. It serves as a fundamental document for APFNet to guide its operations. Article 1.1 of the *Operational Framework* states that the document should be revised to reflect future developments, as necessary and appropriate.

On the basis of the following issues:

1) Article 3.3 of the *Operational Framework* provides that, "the objectives of APFNet are to a) contribute to the achievement of the aspirational goal of increasing forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares of all types of forests by 2020". This objective, also known as the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal, was set by APEC leaders in 2007 and adopted by APFNet to facilitate achievement of the goal. Now that 2020 has passed and the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal has been achieved, Article 3.3 needs to be revised in line with new regional forestry objectives.

2) In Decision (C. 05/04) of the Fifth Meeting of the APFNet Council (held in Mongolia in 2019), the Council noted a proposal, based on the report of the APFNet Ten-year Review (conducted in 2019), to review the functions of the Council and Board under their respective rules of procedure. A change in the Council's functions would significantly alter the *Operational Framework*.

3) During the Special Meeting of the APFNet Council (conducted online in 2020), the Secretariat proposed seeking consensus at the next face-to-face meeting on a formal consultation to modify the *Operational Framework*.

The Council may wish to consider：

1) Deciding to initiate modification of the *Operational Framework*.

2) As a next step, proposing potential issues for consideration by a taskforce to review the *Operational Framework.*