

Draft words for Pierre Taty – Chairperson 28th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Global Summit on “Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches”

High-level Session

Monday 23 February 2026 | 9:30am - 11:00am CET

Location: Plenary Room 10 Orangerie

1. Excellencies, distinguished speakers, dear colleagues, and participants from around the world,
2. It is a great pleasure to be with you today for the opening Global Summit on “Advancing sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches”. As Chair of the 28th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), I am delighted to join you in this important discussion on how we can scale up forest-based bioeconomy approaches to build a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future.
3. I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Austria for generously hosting this Global Summit. Your leadership and commitment to advancing sustainable forest management and bioeconomy approaches have made this gathering possible, and we are truly grateful for your hospitality
4. When I assumed my role as Chair of the Committee on Forestry in July 2024, I underscored that the challenges we face today require urgent solutions — solutions driven by innovation, goodwill, and above all, cooperation among all of us.
5. Bioeconomy approaches provide a clear pathway to making this vision a reality. I am firmly convinced that transitioning toward a bioeconomy built on renewable biological resources—supported by science, technology, knowledge, and innovation - is not only possible, but essential for achieving carbon neutral and resilient societies.
6. FAO has been a steadfast partner in supporting countries as they advance their bioeconomy agendas. This commitment lies at the heart of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031, which places sustainable food and agriculture at its core.
7. I am particularly encouraged by how FAO’s technical bodies—the Committee on Forestry (COFO 27) and the Committee on Agriculture (COAG 29), among others, —have welcomed this work and emphasized the importance of continuing dialogue on sustainable bioeconomy approaches. They called for greater engagement with Members during the intersessional period, focusing on how the bioeconomy can support sustainable food and agriculture. This call for intersectoral coordination, inclusive engagement, and stronger global partnerships must remain central to our collective efforts.

8. At the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF 20) in 2025, high-level forestry representatives reaffirmed the need for strengthened cross sector collaboration and sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches, while underscoring the importance of engaging women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. The objective is clear: a truly sustainable and equitable bioeconomy that leaves no one behind.
9. Nonetheless, despite this progress, scaling up forest-based bioeconomy approaches continues to face significant challenges. To effectively accelerate these efforts, we need:
 - a. Stronger governance mechanisms that fully integrate forestry and sustainable forest management into national and regional bioeconomy strategies.
 - b. Greater innovation to develop inclusive and sustainable forest value chains.
 - c. Expanded financing solutions to speed up implementation and ensure fair and equitable benefits.
 - d. Enhanced collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building to support evidence-based policymaking and context-specific solutions.
10. This is precisely where this Summit comes in. It was convened, among others, as a response to the recommendations of the last COFO, to organize an international conference to advance the forest sector's contribution to a sustainable bioeconomy. Its objective is to provide a strategic, inclusive platform for evidence, informed dialogue on sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches.
11. Over the course of the thematic sessions, we will explore key issues - from data and policymaking to supply chains, financing, and partnerships - addressing both the challenges and the growing opportunities of forest-based bioeconomy pathways. Our goal is to unlock the sector's transformative potential by reducing dependence on nonrenewable resources and fostering climate-positive societies.
12. This Summit is more than a knowledge sharing platform; it is a space for co-creating solutions, building partnerships, and driving tangible progress. Together, we will generate momentum for innovation and collaboration, aligned with major multilateral platforms such as the G20 Bioeconomy Challenge Initiative.
13. By aligning our discussions and outputs with these key global forums, we can ensure that forest-based bioeconomy approaches receive the visibility and scale they merit, shaping national policies and global frameworks for the years ahead.
14. I warmly invite you all to participate actively, share your perspectives, and help shape the future of forest-based bioeconomy approaches. I firmly believe that the future of humanity will be written with trees and forests.
15. I wish you all a fruitful and inspiring experience throughout the sessions, and I very much look forward to the discussions ahead.
16. Thank you very much for your kind attention.