

**STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FORESTS OF THE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA  
H.E. ANDRÉ DE JESUS MODA  
26TH SESSION OF FAO COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY  
3-7 October 2022**

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

Allow me to express, on behalf of the Republic of Angola, our appreciation for the invitation to participate in this 26th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry.

We would also like to congratulate the Chair for leading this Session, as well as the Secretariat.

The present session of the COFO takes place in an unprecedented difficult time, characterized by several natural disasters and human incomprehension causing displacements, ecosystem disturbances, loss of both biodiversity and human lives in several regions of the planet.

Addressing the forestry issues specifically, the Republic of Angola is particularly engaged in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, to this end, it has taken several political and legislative actions, from the approval of a forestry policy to the adoption of various technical and legal instruments, with emphasis on the Basic Law on Forests and Wildlife, which regulation reflects the vision, goals and strategic objectives of the Nation to achieve sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources in the Country.

Among the referred actions, we can mention the implementation of the National Forest Inventory with technical and financial support from FAO; the Program for the Prevention and Combat of Forest Fires and Global Fire; the Program for the Integrated Management of “Miombo” Forest Ecosystems, representing more than 80% of the Country's forest cover and occupying more than 56% of the national territory, rich in enviable plant and animal biodiversity, such as the cradle of the main watersheds of the Country. In this area can be found the largest concentration of rural population, that is totally dependent on these resources, used as food and medicine. The management will certainly allow the gradual and successful integration of millions of youth to a dignified life through sustainable jobs with the creation of Eco villages and the practice of beekeeping for honey production, considered as a commodity in the Country.

It is also necessary to mention that the implementation of the National Strategy for the Forest Planting and Reforestation is underway, with the aim of renewing the existing and degraded forest polygons in the country, as well as favor their expansion in other areas by promoting the forestry industry and carbon sequestration.

Still in this perspective, Angola is working on launching the mega Project of “Tree planting campaign” targeting the central and southern regions of the country, in order to build a green curtain and stop the silent advance of the desert, while minimizing the effects of the drought that strictly threatens the region. The goal is planting one billion trees by 2030.

The Government of Angola has recently approved a package of measures to improve the safety and management of existing and future forest resources, in particular: creation of the Forest and Wildlife Guard Corps; introduction of the Forest concessions system in longer periods by eliminating the annual forest exploitation systems through practices such as agroforestry, agro-silvo-pastoralism, agroecology and agro-villages with plant species from local ecosystems adapted and resistant in that rural environment in order to strengthen law enforcement.

We would like to conclude our statement wishing you good work and a successful session as well as reaffirming our engagement and commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the sustainable management of forests.

Thank you very much.