

**COFO/2022/3 – FORESTS AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION OF WOOD AND NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS – MEETING DEMANDS AND SUPPORTING RESILIENT LOCAL ECONOMIES**

Mr. Chair,

Brazil appreciates the work carried out by the Forestry Division in preparing the document under discussion.

We highlight the important role bioeconomy has to play in supporting the promotion of multiple environmental objectives, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The role of bioeconomy includes, but it is not limited to the fight against climate change.

Brazil is convinced of the potential of wood and non-wood forest products' value chains in contributing to safeguarding nutrition, health, and livelihoods of rural communities and fostering the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

In order to achieve this potential, it is critical to increase South-South and triangular partnerships to allow the enhancement of technical and scientific cooperation, capacity building and technology transfer, taking into account the specific challenges of developing countries.

We also deem important to involve all relevant stakeholders in efforts to collect, assess and disseminate good practices promoting

bioeconomy activities and industries that contribute to the development of sustainable wood and non-wood forest products, with a view to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions while fostering science and innovation.

With regard to the mentions of “climate neutrality” in the document, our delegation has noticed the close link established between said concept and the outcomes of the XV World Forestry Congress. In addition to noting that the Congress has not reached any negotiated outcome, Brazil would like to point out the fact that, although wood and non-wood forest products have a considerable mitigation potential, they should be considered as one possible instrument, according to national priority and capacity, to contribute to the reduction of gas emissions.

Thank you