

**Statement**  
**of the European Union and its 27 Member States**

**26<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO Committee on Forestry**  
**Rome, 3-7 October 2022**

**Agenda item 8.5: Restoration and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030**

Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the EU and its 27 member states.
2. Republic of Moldova, Türkiye and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.
3. The EU and its MS welcome the progress in the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the operationalization of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund. We stress the importance of FAO leadership in forest restoration, including the aim to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation.
4. Forest restoration contributes to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals and constitutes an essential approach to combat climate change and desertification, and halt biodiversity loss.
5. In the context of the tragic effects of wildfires this summer, forest restoration is particularly crucial to the recovery of burned areas. Soil conservation, appropriate forest genetic resources, and the sustainable forest management of the restored area in the long term are key aspects to prioritize.
6. There is a need to scale up global efforts on forest restoration. We encourage FAO Members to engage in the Decade by establishing and advancing the implementation of ambitious forest ecosystem restoration targets.
7. In this regard, the EU and its MS are currently discussing a proposal for a regulation on ecosystem restoration within the EU, including binding targets. The EU also reaffirms its commitment on forest restoration at global level, as laid down in the Communication on “Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests”.
8. We request FAO to support members with all the tools, methodologies and capacity building initiatives needed in order to scale-up forest ecosystems’ restoration efforts, share good practices and monitor progress.
9. We also encourage FAO to continue its support to members in order to facilitate

their access to financial instruments focused on the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, while fostering the synergies with the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028.

Thank you, Mr Chair.