

**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 8.6 Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry**

Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. Republic of Moldova, Türkiye and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.
3. We welcome the information provided in the document COFO/2022/6.6 and the valuable work presented by the various statutory bodies in forestry. We stress the importance for the Regional Forestry Commissions to have a more policy-relevant role in the FAO Regional Conferences, in order to support further integration of the important regional forestry-related matters in the themes of the Regional Conferences.
4. We also support the strengthening of the cross-sectoral work of the Regional Forestry Commissions, especially on forestry, agriculture and food systems matters and ensuring that the Committee on Agriculture and COFO consider the same background papers relating to deforestation from agriculture.
5. We support enhanced access by Members, upon their request, to climate finance opportunities such as the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund, particularly for forest fire prevention and post-fire restoration initiatives.
6. We support further collaboration of FAO with the private sector, in line with the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025 and Invite Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries to continue fostering strategic actions and facilitating partnerships between FAO and the private sector to promote a forest-based bioeconomy and healthy, productive ecosystems.
7. We also welcome further alignment of the technical focus of statutory bodies to FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31 and FAO's priorities in forestry.

Thank you, Mr Chair.