

Statement
of the European Union and its 27 Member States

26th session of the FAO Committee on Forestry

Rome, 3-7 October 2022

**Agenda item 9.1: FAO's work in Forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework
2022-31**

Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. Republic of Moldova and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.
3. First of all, we recall our statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and in this regard, we request that the same paragraph, which we requested to be inserted under agenda item 4, is also inserted here under this item. We strongly believe it is also very pertinent here in relation to the FAO's work in Forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.
4. We welcome the achievements of FAO's work in forest-related matters in the biennium 2020-21 and encourage FAO to further strengthen the important role of forestry issues when implementing the Strategic Framework 2022-31.
5. We strongly support the priority areas of work in forestry in 2022-23 and beyond, which are: halting deforestation and enhancing resilience; mainstreaming biodiversity and restoring forest ecosystems; enhancing sustainable production, use and livelihoods and data, statistics, analytics. We support the concrete activities planned by FAO to implement the priority areas.
6. We welcome the active role of FAO in implementing global developments with direct significance for forests such as the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Land Degradation Neutrality and the Bonn Challenge, the Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use, One Health approach and ask FAO to consider those commitments when implementing the Strategic Framework 2022-31.
7. We appreciate FAO's efforts towards a reinvigorated business model, and in this context reiterate that FAO should continue prioritizing normative work and standard-setting activities and put further emphasis on the provision of up-to-date and high-quality data on forests, and faster and cheaper access to those data by countries and stakeholders.

Thank you, Mr Chair.