

**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 9.4: Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and strengthening FAO's contribution to the International Arrangement on Forests, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and its review in 2024**

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 thank the Secretariat for presenting the document COFO/2022/7.4.
4. For the EU, implementing the UNSPF at all levels is vital. It offers an important opportunity to further enhance coherence, coordination, and synergies, and to promote sustainable management of all types of forests worldwide and thus contribute to the achievement of the Global Forest Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. We welcome the publication of the SOFO 2022 report and the report on *Status of, trends in, the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators*, representing a significant progress made in streamlining global forest-related reporting, and, in this regard and taking note of the still increasing number of global and multilateral forest-related initiatives and continued risk of duplication of efforts, we recognize a crucial role of FAO in providing forest-related data and information, technical expertise, knowledge products and publications and acknowledge that this role and potential of FAO should also be utilized in the context of the mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests in 2024.
6. We commend FAO, including as chair of the CPF, for its continuous support to the implementation of the UNSPF and request to continue as such, including the leadership role in the CPF, further enhancing and seeking support for joint CPF activities.
7. In line with the ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33, we ask FAO, as a leader of the CPF, to assess the potential added value of additional members with significant forest-related expertise, which should serve as an input to the mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests.
8. We welcome ongoing work of the CPF on joint initiative “Turning the tide on deforestation” and ask FAO for more information as regards development of

a respective Global Action Plan.

9. We ask FAO to enhance its effort to communicate and further explore and utilize innovative ways in raising awareness on the multiple benefits of forests and sustainable forest management while promoting mutual synergies and reducing duplications with existing communication activities; thus support the implementation of the UNSPF communication and outreach strategy.
10. We stress that the potential of Regional Forestry Commissions should be further employed in regional dialogues related to UNFF with other relevant bodies and processes, such as Forest Europe and UNECE's Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry. This would enhance regional contributions to the implementation of the UNSPF.

Thank you, Mr Chair.