

**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 9.5: Development of regional action plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy**

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 FAO for the Science and Innovation Strategy recently endorsed by the 170th Council and for the inclusive and consultative process that guided this work.
4. We appreciate the approach based on the specificities of global, regional, national, and local contexts when implementing this Strategy, to ensure that all types of knowledge, science and innovation are accessible.
5. We expect the timely development of regional action plans, and we call to authors of those plans to explicitly include all forms of science and innovation in forestry and to fully rely on science and evidence-based holistic approaches.
6. We welcome that the Strategy is linked to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and we expect that the regional action plans will be elaborated in the same way.
7. We welcome the linkages of the strategy with FAO's policies on data protection and intellectual property rights and stress again the need to urgently finalise the data policies to provide the necessary safeguards.

Thank you, Mr Chair.