

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 8.3. Global Forest Resources Assessment and Remote Sensing Survey 2021-2022

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 express our continued support to the FAO's ongoing improvements in the work on the Global Forest Resources Assessment.
4. The same holds true for FAO's efforts on capacity building in the light of the next 2025 FRA reporting cycle.
5. Furthermore, we support FAO's continuing development of new technologies as well as digitalization. These can support countries' work on national forest inventories, their capacities to use the best available and suited techniques, including remote sensing, as well as the interplay between these mutually supportive and complementary methods. Ground-based data is the basis for interpretation and verification of remote sensing based measurements in order to avoid misinterpretations.
6. We call on FAO to continue, and strengthen collaboration with the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire partners, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other partners, including UN entities, to reduce the reporting burden, enhance synergies and increase transparency of reporting processes and resulting data.
7. We ask FAO to continue, in coordination with CPF members, the promotion and dissemination of the Global Core Set of Forest related Indicators, and to improve their tier levels.
8. In relation to that, we congratulate FAO on its easily accessible interactive presentations of the State of the World's Forests report.
9. Finally, we encourage FAO that the above-mentioned work is allocated with sufficient resources and executed in an efficient manner.

Thank you, Mr Chair.