

DRAFT ACSFI Statement related to COFO26 session - Item 8.6. Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry)

By Ross Hampton

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Chair of FAO's Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-Based Industries (ACSFI)

Mr Chair, dear colleagues,

- Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today at this very important session.
- My name is Ross Hampton , Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association, and Chair of the FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries, the ACSFI.
- The ACSFI is a statutory body of FAO solely comprised of senior executives from the global private forest sector with a mandate to support FAO in its mission to develop, support and strengthen the global forest sector and to promote sustainable forest management.
- We also provide a platform for dialogue between FAO and the private sector.
- As emphasized by the current FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement that was released by the Director General, the private sector has indeed a unique role in advancing innovation, trade, finance and investment to impact upon food and fibre systems transformation at scale. The Director general has made the strong point that, if we are globally to meet the SDGs, we must accelerate and massively scale up private sector involvement.
- The urgency of our shared mission is clear.
- Witness the floods in Pakistan, heatwaves in Europe, fires in Spain and the USA. In Australia we now have catastrophic floods after terrible wildfires three years ago.
- Dealing with climate change must be the number one priority for us.

- And this means dealing with the global need for climate smart housing, clothing, packaging, fuels and so much more.
- We must pivot with great urgency to sustainable, renewable commodities.
- Forests and forestry are the only answer at scale.
- Our challenge is twofold.
 1. Increase rapidly the available timber and fibre flowing from sustainable forest management systems.
 2. Do this in a manner which protects biodiversity, enhances shared value, supports indigenous communities, youth and women.
- The private sector is ready to step up to this challenge with new business models and finance platforms.
- It will not be one size fits all as we all seek to bring on line greater fibre supplies.
- More fibre will look different in Europe, in sub Saharan Africa, in Canada, in south east Asia or Brazil, Australia and New Zealand.
- We believe in the right trees at the right scale in the right place and for the right purpose.
- as sustainable forestry is the greatest solution to combating climate change it is appropriate that we think of growing forests for production in the same way.
- That is - we all need to agree the need is profound and urgent. Then we also need to acknowledge that nations and countries are best placed to determine just how they will contribute.
- It will be more agro forestry in some places, more natural forestry in others, more planted forests and more plantations.
- Wherever the trees and whatever the model, the FAO ACSFI stands ready to be the bridge between the private sector and the FAO