

## **Note to the FAO Council on the Global Meeting ‘Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World’ (SW4SW)**

FAO together with its Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries and in collaboration with the Center for International Forestry Research, the Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the World Bank and the World Wildlife Fund, organized the Global Meeting ‘Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World’ at FAO headquarters from 31 October 2017 to 1 November 2017. More than 100 delegates from 40 countries participated in the meeting. .

The meeting aimed at promoting the societal benefits provided by sustainable wood value chains and the critical role sustainable wood products can play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and produced a set of agreed key messages on five thematic areas.

- a. Sustainable wood value chains are relevant for all 17 SDGs, especially for SDG8, SDG12, SDG13 and SDG15.
- b. Sustainable forest management is recognized as a significant component of sustainable landscape management. Promoting wood value chains that are environmentally friendly, socially responsible, and economically sound is an important step forward in transitioning to sustainable landscapes.
- c. To enhance local livelihoods, there is a need to connect global/regional/local value chains and to diversify forest products beyond wood to make effective use of ‘baskets of value chains’.
- d. Sustainable wood value chains are critical to mitigating climate change in several ways which include carbon storage in standing forests and in harvested wood products, as well as for the substitution of fossil-based raw materials and products. The contribution to mitigation in the construction sector was particularly highlighted.
- e. Enhancing investments to promote sustainable wood value chains requires critical assessment of investment barriers and opportunities along the value chain and better securitization and monetization of the full range of forest products and services. Creation of a virtual multi-stakeholder investment promotion facility would help tailor finance to support sustainable wood value chains.

The meeting concluded that in order for sustainable forest management and sustainable wood value chains to achieve their potential to contribute to sustainable development, it is important that further work by FAO and partners focus on the above key messages.