

"Thank you, Chair,

Brazil takes note of document COFO/2026/8.

We are overall supportive of the three priority areas proposed, in particular further work on bioeconomy under Priority Area 2.

However, we would like to reiterate our concerns expressed yesterday regarding the approach to forestry and trade as presented *inter alia* in paragraphs 23, 49 and 57. In particular, Brazil takes note with deep concern of the reference to the so-called "Assurance System Evaluation Framework (ASEF)", referred to in Paragraph 23 in document COFO/2026/8.

As we had mentioned yesterday, the available information indicates that this framework has been developed to support the implementation of unilateral extraterritorial trade measures, in particular the European Union Deforestation Regulation.

Brazil does not believe that such framework is consistent with the objectives of FAO and of the FAO Forestry Roadmap: From Vision to Action 2024–2031. References to the ASEF initiative and to unilateral trade measures under this document must not be understood as an endorsement or acceptance of such trade measures and of their extraterritorial effects. We would like to stress that the FAO Forestry Roadmap: From Vision to Action 2024–2030 needs to be implemented in accordance with relevant international obligations. Nothing in the Roadmap should be interpreted as agreement to modify the rights and obligations of a Member State under any international agreement.

References to "Work also advanced efforts on sustainable commodities, due diligence and deforestation-free value chains through collaboration with partners and international initiatives" and "Future trade dynamics are likely to become increasingly influenced by environmental and sustainability requirements" raise significant concerns from our side.

We would like to reiterate that all activities undertaken by FAO need to be consistent with relevant international obligations and nothing in this document should be understood as

an endorsement of the ASEF initiative as an international standard, nor as acceptance of the EUDR or its extraterritorial effects or application, or of any unilateral trade measure.

We would like this statement to be recorded in the report of the meeting."

Best regards,

Luiz Eduardo