

COFO 28 – statements of the EU and its Member States

Agenda item 10.

FAO's work on forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31

1. Madame/ Mr. Chair, Ireland is honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States at this 28th COFO session.
2. We welcome FAO's achievements in forestry and the Organisation's role in guiding global forest-related trends and developments within its mandate.
3. We support the updated priorities for FAO's forestry work under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31 and reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Plan.
4. We welcome the three priority areas for work in forestry in 2026-27 and beyond:
 - a. Globally we must all seek to conserve and restore forest ecosystems to ensure life on land and support resilient agri-food systems.
 - b. Facilitate sustainable production and build sustainable and resilient livelihoods, productive value chains and bioeconomy.
 - c. Scale up science- and evidence-based innovation to increase the forest sector's contributions to global solutions and embedding sustainable forest management as paramount in contributing to environmental, social, and economic aspects, while accelerating sustainable agri-food systems transformation.
5. Implementation of these work areas must maintain the balance between the conservation, restoration, afforestation, and reforestation of forest ecosystems with the sustainable use of forests
6. Innovation remains a cornerstone of sustainable forest management, offering critical solutions to address challenges and we welcome the efforts on strengthening education, training and capacity development as well as improving the access to reliable data.
7. The European Union advocates for leveraging innovative technologies in assisting the sustainable management of forests, forest monitoring, and forest-based solutions, management, and restoration. The European Union underscores the importance of international cooperation and collaborative efforts to tackle global forest-related challenges
8. Thank you, Madam / Mr. Chair.

