

## **Item 10**

### **FAO's work on forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31**

**1 October 2026(09.30-12.00 hours)**

**Mr. Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,**

India welcomes the progress made by FAO on forestry under the *FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31* during the 2024–25 biennium, including strengthened global forest assessments and monitoring systems, support for restoration and biodiversity mainstreaming, integrated fire management, sustainable forest-based production and bioeconomy approaches, and enhanced partnerships, innovation and capacity development.

India recognizes that the progress during the biennium has affirmed the important contribution of forests and trees to addressing interconnected environmental, social and economic challenges, while highlighting the importance of integrated forest-based solutions that deliver multiple and mutually reinforcing benefits across agrifood systems.

FAO's forestry work should remain Member-driven, responsive to national circumstances and focused on translating normative guidance and global commitments into measurable country-level outcomes.

India supports the proposed priorities for 2026–27, particularly halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation; scaling up afforestation, reforestation and landscape restoration; strengthening forest health, resilience and integrated fire management; advancing agroforestry, sustainable forest-based bioeconomy and inclusive value chains; and improving forest monitoring, traceability and digital public goods.

FAO's support should build upon and strengthen existing national institutions, monitoring systems and policy frameworks, while promoting interoperable data, context-appropriate technologies and integrated land-use approaches.

India also emphasizes that limited access to finance, uneven technical capacities and emerging sustainability requirements in international markets remain significant constraints for many developing countries. FAO should provide targeted support on climate and restoration finance, legality, traceability and due-diligence systems, while ensuring that evolving requirements do not create disproportionate burdens for smallholders, local communities and small-scale producers.

India further calls for stronger investment in frontline capacity, including forest managers, local institutions, communities, women, youth and producer organizations. Practical skills, locally adaptable technologies, forestry education and access to finance are essential for translating innovation into sustained action on the ground.

India encourages FAO to strengthen coherence across its forestry programme, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the United Nations Forum on Forests and other relevant processes, reducing duplication and improving the accessibility and practical uptake of knowledge. Progress should increasingly be assessed through strengthened national capacities, adoption of technical solutions and measurable improvements in sustainable forest management and forest-dependent livelihoods.

India reaffirms its commitment to working closely with FAO and Member Nations to translate shared priorities into coordinated, adequately financed and country-led action. Effective implementation must strengthen national capacities, support forest-dependent communities and deliver measurable outcomes for forests, agrifood systems, livelihoods and resilience, while leaving no one behind.

**Thank you, Chair.**