

Statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran

on "FAO's Activities in Forestry within the Framework of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031"

In the Name of God,

Mr. Chair, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,

The Islamic Republic of Iran commends the continued efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in advancing sustainable forestry within the framework of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031 — a framework that guides global action towards more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

Iran welcomes FAO's focus on halting deforestation, enhancing forest resilience, integrating biodiversity, restoring forest ecosystems, and strengthening sustainable forest value chains — priorities that are fully aligned with Iran's national policies and programmes in the areas of dryland forest conservation, climate change adaptation, and sustainable land management.

We also emphasize the importance of FAO's actions in developing forest ecosystem restoration programmes, particularly the restoration of drylands and the promotion of afforestation and integrated agriculture; strengthening governance, human capital and institutional capacities in countries affected by severe climatic conditions; and supporting countries through technology, innovation and innovative financing mechanisms.

Iran further regards as highly important and strategic FAO's prominent role in global forest-related processes, including the "Decade on Ecosystem Restoration," the "Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework," and cooperation with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Given the vast extent of Iran's dryland forests, its vulnerability to drought, and the threats posed by land degradation, Iran requests the following:

- Strengthened FAO support for the resilience of dryland forests, pest management, and countering climate change-induced degradation;
- Expanded regional cooperation on managing dust hotspots and protecting forests against fire;
- Increased FAO technical assistance for participatory restoration of forests and rangelands;
- Facilitated access for countries to innovative financing mechanisms for forest restoration and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its commitment to working closely with FAO and Member States to advance sustainable forest management, protect biodiversity, and enhance resilience in dryland areas.

Thank you.