

Thursday 1st October**Item 10:** FAO's work on forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31

Thank you, Chair.

The UK welcomes the progress made by FAO in forestry during the 2024-25 biennium and thanks the Secretariat for this comprehensive report.

The UK agrees that forests are central to addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and food security. We therefore support FAO's focus on halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation, scaling up forest and landscape restoration, and strengthening sustainable forest management.

Looking ahead, we encourage FAO to prioritise support for countries in implementing integrated land-use approaches that reconcile agricultural production, livelihoods and forest conservation. We also see significant value in strengthening forest monitoring, transparency and traceability systems, including through programmes such as AIM4Forests, to support informed decision-making.

The UK welcomes the increased emphasis on innovation and evidence-based solutions. We encourage FAO to continue leveraging science, digital tools and partnerships to accelerate delivery and maximise impact at country level.

Finally, we underline the importance of ensuring that Indigenous Peoples and local communities and smallholders are fully engaged and able to benefit from forest-based opportunities.

The UK looks forward to working with FAO and fellow Members to advance these shared objectives.

Thank you, Chair.