

*Brazil's statement on COFO Item 4 – SOFO 2026*

Brazil aligns itself with the statement of GRULAC and would like to add the following in our national capacity.

With only four years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Forest Goals of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, and the targets of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the conclusions of SOFO 2026 serve as a timely reminder of the urgent need for renewed international cooperation and solidarity.

According to SOFO, an estimated 1.56 billion hectares of land are degraded, of which degraded forest areas account for approximately 460 million hectares.

SOFO 2026 also recalls that meeting global restoration targets will require from USD 28 up to 190 billion a year until 2035.

We urge developed countries to rise to the task and increase their ambition to leverage new and additional resources to support developing countries in their efforts to scale up restoration actions, fulfilling their commitments under different multilateral environmental agreements.

Chair,

SOFO 2026 highlights that Brazil is among the five countries that have made the largest restoration commitments (12 million hectares). An expression of this commitment is the fact that, currently, according to the last reporting cycle of Brazil's National Plan for the Recovery of Native Vegetation, 3,4 million hectares are the object of restoration initiatives in Brazil.

SOFO 2026 also mentions biocentric restoration projects in Xukuru communities in Brazil, which place traditional knowledge as a key component of ecosystem restoration. We want to thank FAO for their support on this and other innovative initiatives.

Effective implementation of those commitments rely on instruments such as forestry bioeconomy approaches and others, that allow increasing the competitiveness of restoration and sustainable use as an alternative land use.

Bioeconomy-based innovative forest products, including non-wood forest products, can diversify income-generating opportunities in rural areas and provide regular income for landowners, at the initial stages of a restoration project.

Also, agroforestry approaches and integrated crop-livestock-forestry systems that combine agricultural production with forest restoration allow to tackle the persistent levels of poverty and food insecurity in rural areas.

A central pillar underpinning all these activities is the availability of adequate financial resources.

That is why we encourage further work by FAO to improve the methodologies to assess restoration costs, moving beyond the direct costs of specific restoration methods, and also accounting for opportunity costs.

Further work in this area will help develop innovative financial instruments tailored to the specific risks of restoration projects and the needs of forest-dependent communities.

A second pillar underpinning for restoration activities is to rely on adequate concepts. That is why Brazil notes that SOFO 2026 uses the concept of “forest and landscape restoration” (FLR). While recognizing potential merits of this approach, Brazil is concerned about the use of terminology that has not been multilaterally agreed.

Brazil would therefore like to convey to FAO its preference that the Organization refrain from using non-agreed terminology in its official reports and documents, particularly when such terminology is used in relation to the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements that already rely on agreed language.

Brazil also wants to support India’s mention of the importance of South-South cooperation and exchange of experiences to successful initiatives.

Thank you, Chair.