



Statement by Forest Europe at COFO, September 2026

Thank you chair, FAO secretariat, Your excellencies, distinguished delegates and colleagues,

It is a great honor to be here today to reaffirm Forest Europe's support and collaboration with FAO.

FOREST EUROPE is a high-level voluntary political process for dialogue, cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation on forests and forestry in Europe.

For over three decades, FOREST EUROPE has worked alongside the FAO to develop and refine its criteria and indicators for Sustainable Forest Management. These indicators help to shape well-informed policy decisions and provide a clear picture of the state of Europe's forests. This spring, we presented the State of Europe's Forests 2025 report, and we are happy to continue our collaboration with FAO on the continuous improvement of SFM reporting.

At the ministerial conference in Stockholm in June, FOREST EUROPE's Signatories and Observers discussed innovations and collaborations relating to the pillars of sustainable forest management, how to finance biodiversity, woodbuilding to contribute to green cities and the bioeconomy, ways to attract the forestry workforce of tomorrow, wildfire management, the role of forests in geopolitical preparedness, support for Ukraine in rebuilding its forestry sector and much more.

Albania will take over the chairmanship of FOREST EUROPE for 2027-2030, and it is with gratitude and anticipation that Sweden hands over the baton to them.

FOREST EUROPE's aim is to ensure that Sustainable Forest Management remains robust in the face of global challenges, in collaboration with the FAO and other UN bodies.

Thank you