

*Dear Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,*

*We welcome the launch of the State of the World's Forests 2026 and we congratulate FAO for this achievement. These annual reports are important to measure our collective progress and keep ourselves accountable. We also welcome the different views and perspectives shared by the delegations thus far.*

*For FSC, the future of forests is clear: Forests that are healthy, growing and provide resilient ecosystems for communities and local economies. Forests that meet today's needs and create opportunities for future generations.*

*Today, we all know what needs to be done. The challenge is not ambition. The challenge is implementation. This is where FSC can contribute.*

*We contribute with responsible forest stewardship and independent assurance, and we help turn commitments into results. We help demonstrate that forests are managed responsibly, protected from deforestation and degradation and restored to deliver the natural functions that they serve for all of us.*

*But for implementation to attract investment it also needs another ingredient: trust.*

*Trust that products are sourced from responsibly managed forests. Trust that sustainable wood can help build the cities of tomorrow. And trust that nature markets reward those who invest in responsible stewardship of forests.*

*In short: policy sets the direction. Implementation delivers the impact. FSC helps connect the two with high levels of trust from markets and investors.*

*We stand ready to partner with national governments and municipalities, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, businesses and international organizations to deliver on this.*

*Thank you, Mr. Chair.*