

Statement of Poland

Check against delivery

Item 4 - *State of the World's Forests 2026: Restoring forests and landscapes – the way forward for a sustainable future*

COFO meeting - 28 of September 2026

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

We would like to express our appreciation to Dr Wu and FAO Forestry Division for the preparation of the SOFO 2026 Report. We welcome this significant contribution to the global discussion on the current state and the future of the world's forests.

In Poland, the report's recommendations are reflected in the forest policy reforms initiated in 2024. In January 2025, Poland published the *Guidelines and Recommendations of the National Forest Dialogue*, outlining agreed directions for enhancing the protection of forests of high ecological and social value, developed through consultations with stakeholders, including representatives of civil society.

A practical example of implementing the approach advocated by the SOFO report is the pilot programme on forests important for community around

Poland's eleven largest urban agglomerations, including Warsaw, Wrocław and Kraków, developed through a participatory dialogue involving local authorities, civil society organizations, the scientific community and the State Forests. This process highlights the importance of inclusive governance in balancing environmental, social and economic objectives.

Poland is strengthening the role of forests within the country's development policy by assigning them strategic importance for the first time. Poland is currently developing a National Forest Programme, which is intended to provide a long-term, integrated and sustainable strategic framework for the protection, management and development of Poland's forests.

The Programme is being developed in response to evolving climatic, environmental, social and economic conditions and is designed to integrate scientific knowledge, practical forestry experience and societal expectations.

In this context, we recognize and value the important role of FAO, and we believe that Poland's experience can contribute to international knowledge exchange aimed at restoring resilient, multifunctional forests and landscapes.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.