

Switzerland commends FAO for its sustained leadership in advancing the forests, food security and nutrition FFSN agenda- from the first international Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition in 2013, through the endorsement of the CFS policy recommendations on sustainable FFSN in 2017 to the present Global Report. The report is timely and provides an important basis for maintaining this momentum, supporting the implementation of existing policy commitments and translating evidence into action at country level.

We recognize in particular the importance of forests and trees for enabling resilient and productive landscapes. While the food produced directly by forests in Switzerland is significant, particularly culturally, we recognize that for many of the countries of the world, food from forests is directly essential. For the Swiss context, forests and trees are essential in mosaic, mountainous, and temperate forests because they provide crucial ecosystem services that enable all agricultural production. The global report captures this factually, namely that water, soil quality, and climate regulation provided by forests and trees are crucial to global agricultural production.

Many regions have not only their own approaches but also different legislative frameworks, for example Europe with the EU Nature Restoration Regulation. We agree with the statements of a geographical diversity of delegations that mentioned the importance of ecosystem services, including the Congo, Poland, Tunisia and we borrow the expression of the EU that this is a “hidden sector” lacking information and cross-sectorally focused efforts, and that this initiative should be further enhanced. We recommend that a next step would be for FAO to address the subject of forests for food and resilience at the regional level. This could include regionally-focused technical work, the activities of the Regional Forestry Commissions, and including this in the agenda of the Regional Conference in our region.