

Austria Statement for Item 7: Advancing forest-based bioeconomy approaches for sustainable food and agriculture, 29.09.2026

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- Thank you chair, Excellencies, dear colleagues,
- Austria aligns itself with the Statement made by Ireland on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
- Let me start by thanking the FAO for its constant efforts to enhance sustainable forest management globally. Austria is a forest and wood country, forest-based bioeconomy has played an essential role for centuries.
- Together with Australia, Finland, Japan, Türkiye, FAO and IUFRO, we initiated the Country- and Organization-Led Initiative on Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches, or COLI for short, in 2024. COLI aims to provide a meaningful multilateral dialogue to foster this important topic.
- The highlight of COLI so far has been the Global Summit, which took place in Vienna, in February this year. The Summit was co-chaired by Austria and South Africa and brought together more than 400 participants. Representatives from more than 60 countries and over 100 organizations took part in this important event.
- A major outcome of the Summit was the Vienna Call for Action, including concrete recommendations. Today, we want to bring these areas of action from Vienna to Rome and discuss how we can accelerate their implementation.
- On behalf of the host countries Austria, Finland and South Africa, it is my pleasure to invite all of you to join us at our joint side event today, at 12:00 in the Sheikh Zayed Centre, in the Atrium. A light lunch will be waiting for you at the venue as well.
- Look forward to seeing you all there. Thank you!