

Agenda item 7, Bioeconomy: Contribution of Finland

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ireland on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We would like to add a few remarks reflecting Finland's long-standing commitment to sustainable forest-based bioeconomy.

Finland supports the Vienna Call for Action and is committed to translating its priorities into practice through our National Forest Strategy and National Bioeconomy Strategy.

One practical example from Finland is the efficient and circular use of renewable resources. Wood is directed to different uses according to its quality, while residues and industrial side streams are used for new products, renewable energy and other applications. This creates value throughout the chain, increases the value of wood thus supporting income generation of forest owners and rural communities, and ultimately helps reduce dependence on fossil-based materials.

Building on this approach, Finland promotes research, innovation and digital solutions, as well as collaboration among forest owners, businesses, research organizations, public authorities and other stakeholders. Scaling up sustainable forest-based solutions also require viable markets, skilled people and a predictable operating environment. The benefits should be shared across the value chain and contribute to sustainable livelihoods and rural vitality.

Looking ahead, Finland encourages FAO to further strengthen its role as a global platform for knowledge, cooperation and policy dialogue on the sustainable forest-based bioeconomy. FAO can support its members by strengthening the global evidence base, facilitating the exchange of experience and building capacity adapted to different national circumstances.

We also encourage FAO to promote coherent policy approaches and collaboration across sectors. Forest-based solutions should be better integrated into wider work on food systems, the circular bioeconomy, climate action, biodiversity and rural development, recognizing its advantages. Particular attention should be given to countries and stakeholders that need support in developing sustainable value chains, accessing knowledge and bringing innovations to market.

Finland stands ready to work with FAO and all partners to turn the potential of the sustainable forest-based bioeconomy into tangible benefits for people, economies and the environment.

Thank you.