

Written Statement by
International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
on Item 7 „Advancing forest-based bioeconomy approaches for sustainable food and
agriculture”

30 September 2026

As reflected in the discussions in this forum, the potential contributions by the forest-based sector to a bioeconomy are manifold and diverse. When grounded in principles of sustainability, equity, and resilience, forest-based bioeconomy strategies can play a central role in addressing interconnected global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource insecurity, among others. Because the bioeconomy has received high international attention, it offers a vibrant platform for action.

Scientific analysis provides evidence-based, differentiated mapping of the opportunities and challenges accompanying bioeconomy strategies. In 2025, IUFRO established a new Task Force on “Building an Integrated Vision of the Forest-Based Sector within a Bioeconomy”, comprised of scientific experts from around the globe, with the aim to describe a comprehensive science-based perspective of a forest-based sector within a bioeconomy. We welcome FAO’s active participation in the work of the Task Force, as referred to in the conference room document for this item.

Through its Science-Policy Programme, together with the IUFRO Task Force, IUFRO produced an Expanded Policy Brief on “Advancing Sustainable Forest-Based Bioeconomy Approaches” which provided a scientific foundation for the COLI Global Summit “Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches” in February 2026. Key findings and conclusions of the Expanded Policy Brief are reflected in the Vienna Call to Action for a Sustainable Forest-based Economy.

In the run-up to the Summit, IUFRO collaborated with FAO in a Global Webinar Series on Sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches. Both activities, the Expanded Policy Brief and the webinar series, build on the project “Wood for Globe”, coordinated by IUFRO and funded by the Austrian Forest Fund, which was completed in June 2025.

Moreover, IUFRO works closely with FAO and CPF partners in the Joint Initiative “Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World” and the “Grow the solution” global advocacy campaign.

Going forward, IUFRO stands ready to continue to work closely with governments, international organizations and stakeholders in jointly advancing forest-based bioeconomy strategies based on the best available scientific knowledge and welcomes the proposal for FAO to assist member states in upscaling related actions and build capacities for practical action on the ground.