

Thank you Chair,

We thank the FAO for their document and their activities under the FAO's Green Cities initiative that encompasses urban as well as peri-urban forestry.

The initiative's goal is to improve the health and well-being of people in 1,000 cities by 2030. We welcome this ambitious goal of Green Cities and also note that it is just one of many urban forestry initiatives and should take advantage of the momentum of other existing initiatives in urban forestry.

There are regional initiatives that FAO could coordinate with, for example in the Pan-European region, enhanced cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe has already been established, namely in the San Marino Urban Forestry Action Plan. Cooperation on action was agreed jointly by UNECE and FAO in 2023. We think that a cooperative effort would add even more momentum to the ongoing engagement, for example in the pan-European region including the UNECE Trees in Cities Challenge, the Trees in Dry Cities Coalition, Forests 4 Food in Cities and Biocities of the European Forest Institute EFI.

In our view, there has never been a time when cooperation, synergies and avoidance of overlaps has been more important. We stand behind FAO and its efforts but our main intervention is to encourage cooperation.

Merci monsieur le président