

Item 8: Accelerating the FAO Green Cities Initiative

Thank you, Chair.

The UK welcomes the progress made under the FAO Green Cities Initiative and recognises the important contribution of urban and peri-urban forests to climate resilience, biodiversity, health and sustainable urban development. We particularly welcome the expansion of the Green Cities Network and FAO's ambition to generate tangible improvements in 1,000 cities by 2030.

In this regard, we would welcome FAO's assessment of the delivery pathway and resources required to achieve the 1,000-city target by 2030.

The UK supports the Committee's call to strengthen the integration of urban forestry into national policy frameworks. In England, our legally binding target to achieve 16.5% tree canopy and woodland cover by 2050 includes urban trees and woodlands, while Scotland's target of 23% woodland cover by 2040 similarly reflects the importance of urban forestry.

We welcome FAO's recognition that cities must move beyond simple tree-planting targets towards integrated planning, monitoring and long-term stewardship. The UK has developed approaches including Trees Outside Woodland methodologies and i-Tree tools, and would be pleased to contribute experience and case studies to the second edition of the Guidelines on Urban and Peri-urban Forestry.

As urban forestry delivery becomes increasingly devolved, we would welcome opportunities through the Green Cities Network to exchange experience on governance models between national, regional and local authorities.

Finally, we welcome the emphasis on sustainable wood-based construction and would be interested to hear how the Building for Forests Acceleration Plan will be translated into practical guidance that Members can adopt.

Thank you.