

WOOD for GLOBE: Leading pathways to carbon neutrality and resilience



Outcome Statement of the High-Level Dialogue “WOOD for GLOBE: Leading pathways to carbon neutrality and resilience” held on 19 July 2024 at FAO Headquarters/hybrid

Background:

In 2022, Ministers from the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Cameroon, the Gabonese Republic, Japan, and the Republic of Peru issued the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood at the XV World Forestry Congress in Seoul, Korea. Since then, awareness of wood harvested from sustainably and responsibly managed forests (“sustainable wood”) as a low- carbon renewable material highly suitable for the circular bioeconomy has increased, though progress remains geographically uneven and far below its potential. Over the last two years, the world has faced the aggravation of the climate emergency as evidence of global warming has accelerated, indicating an immediate need to scale up mitigation and adaptation measures and close the policy and investment gaps. The Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report 2023 highlights the need to redouble efforts to achieve the targets, while also emphasizing the enormous potential for success through political will and partnerships. International cooperation can accelerate solutions to address global challenges.

The event "WOOD for GLOBE: Leading Pathways to Carbon Neutrality and Resilience" brought together high-level forest officials to take stock of progress on sustainable wood as a viable pathway to carbon-neutral and resilient societies. The event generated a common statement to renew and broaden country commitments to implementing sustainable wood pathways and to join forces to promote enhanced policy and technical dialogue and exchange among producer and consumer countries and key stakeholders.

We, the undersigned representatives of countries, international organizations, secretariat of international initiatives, private sector and research institutions, attending the international High-Level Dialogue WOOD for GLOBE: Leading Pathways to carbon neutrality and resilience, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management of Austria, hosted by FAO on 19 July 2024 call for scaling-up sustainable wood-based pathways by

Acknowledging the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood initiated on 3 May 2022, at the XV World Forestry Congress, by the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cameroon, Japan, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Peru, and the Gabonese Republic;

Celebrating the efforts made by the signatories of the Ministerial Call, other countries, and non- state actors around the globe to advance policy, knowledge, data, and practice to increase the adoption of sustainable wood to support progress towards carbon neutrality and more resilient societies;

Expressing concern for the implementation gap in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and reaffirming the commitments under the Paris Agreement to keep the planet's temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius or a maximum of 2 degrees Celsius;

Highlighting the contributions of the wood-based bioeconomy to climate change mitigation derived from the substitution effect of sustainable wood products as well as its carbon storage effect, notably in the building sector;

Taking note of innovations that amplify the role of sustainable wood in advancing the bioeconomy and addressing global challenges, and the need to enhance their adoption and deployment to support increased use of sustainable wood products;

Understanding that the benefits delivered by sustainable wood products are dependent on the sustainable management of natural resources and, therefore, efforts to promote increased use of wood must be accompanied by sustainable forest management, sustainable land-use planning and management, increased reforestation, forest restoration, afforestation and tree planting, as well as enhanced efficiency in forest management, harvesting, and processing of trees;

Recognizing the synergies between the enhancement of sustainable wood value chains and strategies to address forest loss, restore ecosystems, mitigate and adapt to climate change, promote green cities, achieve energy security, eliminate the housing deficit, and eradicate poverty;

Emphasizing the need for policies, adequate legal and institutional frameworks, and technical capacities to promote transformational change leading to carbon-neutral and resilient economies;

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation and policy exchanges to accelerate transformational change and recognizing the role of international organizations in supporting progress at the global level;

Acknowledging the existence of international platforms to advance policy and technical capacities to scale up sustainable wood-based pathways, including the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the associated Grow the Solution initiative, the European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP), the New European Bauhaus, and the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) Greening Construction with Sustainable Wood initiative.

Advancing Sustainable Wood Pathways – A Call for Action

We have come together in the High Level Dialogue “WOOD for GLOBE: Leading Pathways to Carbon Neutrality and Resilience” to strengthen the call to scale up sustainable wood pathways and to join efforts to accelerate the adoption of wood-based solutions to support sustainable rural and urban landscapes and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the commitments under the Paris Agreement, the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, the Global Forest Goals, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the UN Decade of Family Farming.

We stress the importance of wider recognition of sustainable wood pathways as a possible solution to realizing carbon neutrality in the global climate talks and discussion, inter alia, the upcoming IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.

We encourage exchange with the private sector, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, forest communities, women, and youth groups to promote enhanced international policy and technical dialogues and cooperation on upscaling sustainable wood-based pathways.

We invite the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to engage with all relevant stakeholders to mobilize resources and scale up innovation, knowledge and action to implement wood-based solutions, including through the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the associated Grow the Solution initiative.

We also invite members and observers of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to take stock of progress and exchange lessons learned periodically, including, when possible, on the margins of the Committee on Forestry of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

We recognize that responsible action to increase the use of sustainable wood and strengthen sustainable wood value chains will deliver substantive and timely contributions to addressing our global challenges and achieving carbon-neutral and resilient societies.

This event outcome statement from the Pre-9th World Forest Week High-Level Dialogue “WOOD for GLOBE: Leading pathways to carbon neutrality and resilience” is attributed to:

Attributors on 19 July 2024

Countries

Austria	H.E. Norbert Totschnig; Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management
Cameroon	H.E. Jules Doret Ndong: Minister of Forests and Wildlife
Republic of Congo	H.E. Rosalie Matondo; Ministre de l'Économie Forestière
Slovenia	H.E. Mateja Čalušić; Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Uganda	H.E. Beatrice Anywar Atim; Minister of State for Environment

Heads of Forestry / Technical Experts

Mr. Emilio Gatto; Director General of Forestry of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry, Italy

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Organizations and initiatives

Built by Nature

European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP) Forest

Stewardship Council (FSC)

International Sustainable Forestry Coalition (ISFC) International

Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Programme for

the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)

Subsequent Attributors**Organizations and initiatives**

International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), 22 July 2024

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