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WIMUN NEW YORK 2026

ZERO DRAFT

UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of major international processes related to forests, climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 13 on climate action and Goal 15 on protecting, restoring, promoting and sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss,

Reaffirming the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 and its Global Forest Goals, in particular the goals to reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide and increase the area of sustainably managed forests,

Recognizing that forests cover approximately one third of the Earth's land surface and provide essential benefits that support life on Earth, including carbon storage, biodiversity protection, water regulation, soil conservation, and livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people,

Expressing deep concern that deforestation and forest degradation continue at alarming rates due to unsustainable land use, illegal logging, agricultural expansion, forest fires, and the impacts of climate change,

Acknowledging that forest loss and degradation significantly contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions, while sustainable forest management can play a vital role in climate change mitigation and adaptation,

Acknowledging also the important contributions of indigenous peoples, local communities, small-scale forest producers, women, and youth in the sustainable management, conservation, and restoration of forests, and recognizing the value of traditional knowledge and community-based forest management,

Recognizing the need to respect national sovereignty over forest resources while strengthening international cooperation to address transboundary challenges related to deforestation, forest degradation, and climate change,

Acknowledging the role of forests in achieving a just transition to sustainable economies, including through green jobs, sustainable value chains that ensure forest products are produced, processed and traded in ways that protect ecosystems, respect the rights of workers and local communities, and reduce environmental harm, and nature-based solutions that use healthy forest ecosystems to address climate change, biodiversity loss and disaster risks,

Recognizing the importance of mobilizing financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic, and international financing, to support sustainable forest management, forest conservation, and forest restoration efforts,

Acknowledging the need for improved data collection, monitoring, and reporting on forest cover, forest quality, in order to provide the information needed to make fair, effective, and accountable decisions about how forests are managed and protected.

Emphasizing the importance of education, awareness-raising, and knowledge-sharing to improve public understanding of the value of forests, the threats they face, and the benefits of sustainable forest management, and to facilitate the exchange of scientific research, traditional knowledge, and best practices among all stakeholders in protecting and restoring forest ecosystem,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Forum on Forests as the central platform for policy dialogue, coordination, and cooperation on forests within the United Nations system, Acknowledging the important contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations in supporting countries in implementing sustainable forest management and forest-related commitments,

Stressing the urgency of strengthening global efforts to reverse forest loss, prevent further forest degradation, and enhance the contribution of forests to addressing climate change for present and future generations,

1. Invites the United Nations Forum on Forests and its members:

- (a) To strengthen national policies, strategies and action plans aimed at reversing deforestation and forest degradation through sustainable forest management, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;
- (b) To integrate forests more fully into national climate plans, including commitments made under international climate agreements, such as nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, which outline how each country plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change, as well as national adaptation plans and long-term strategies for low-emission development;
- (c) To promote afforestation, reforestation and forest landscape restoration in ways that protect biodiversity, maintain healthy and functioning forest ecosystems, avoid harm to native species, and take into account the rights and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
- (d) To take measures to protect carbon stored in trees and forest soils by preventing illegal logging, reducing forest fires and addressing unsustainable harvesting practices that release carbon into the atmosphere;
- (e) To restore degraded forest lands in order to strengthen the ability of forest ecosystems to withstand and recover from climate-related impacts such as droughts, floods, pests and fires, while continuing to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation;

- (f) To strengthen monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest conditions by using clear and open methods that allow results to be understood, verified, and shared among governments, scientists and the public, including through the use of satellite data and other appropriate technologies;
- (g) To promote regular and structured exchanges between scientists, policymakers, forest managers and other stakeholders at the local, national and international levels, so that decisions on forest management are informed by the best available scientific evidence and practical experience;
- (h) To ensure the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth in forest-related decision-making and implementation;
- (i) To share best practices, lessons learned and successful experiences related to sustainable forest management through the Forum;

2. Requests the Forum secretariat:

- (a) To continue supporting Member States through capacity-building, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing activities related to sustainable forest management and forest restoration;
- (b) To facilitate access to information on forest-related financing opportunities, including through the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network;
- (c) To support voluntary reporting by Member States on progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and other relevant targets of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests;
- (d) To enhance outreach and efforts to raise awareness on the role of forests in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation;
- (e) To strengthen coordination with relevant international processes and conventions in order to promote coherence across forest-related policies;

3. Invites the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations:

- (a) To support countries, upon request, in implementing sustainable forest management policies and forest restoration initiatives;
- (b) To enhance coordination and cooperation among member organizations to address the drivers of deforestation linked to activities across different sectors, including agriculture expansion, road and infrastructure construction, mining, energy projects, urban growth, and unsustainable logging;
- (c) To assist in mobilizing financial resources from public and private sources to support forest-related actions, particularly in developing countries;
- (d) To contribute scientific, technical and policy expertise to strengthen the knowledge base for forest-related decision-making.
- (e) To support partnerships among governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia to advance sustainable forest management globally.