

**Statement by the Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) to the ITTO 58th Session held in
Yokohama, Japan from 7-11 November 2022**

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

CSAG would like to thank the Government of Japan, the City of Yokohama and the ITTO for hosting this Council session.

On Tuesday we had the Plenary session where CSAG was invited to make a presentation, although the CSAG Statement had to be made at the end of Council session as usual instead of earlier in the week where we believe our inputs can enrich and guide the deliberations of Council. We applaud to the ED, Council and the Secretariat for giving CSAG this opportunity. The CSAG presentation in Plenary session is also appropriate, on the role of Women in supporting the achievement of ITTO's objectives. We urge Council to make a CSAG plenary event into a regular Council agenda. We can work together on the topics of interest to both parties to provide relevant advice and inputs to Council's deliberations. In addition, we urge ITTO members to increase stakeholder engagement in policy elaboration and implementation at the national level.

We note the Annual Market Discussion 2022 that focus to Carbon Trade and Tropical Forests – Carbon markets and the timber industry: an opportunity for a paradigm shift. CSAG recommends that ITTO commission a paper that outlines how ITTO members, the Secretariat, private sector and TAG, civil society, including CSAG, can contribute towards adaptation and mitigation in suitable technologies and how each can contribute to address this issue in concrete ways. It will support what the World Bank stated that carbon pricing is a powerful tool to put economies on low-emissions paths. Also, CSAG continues to advocate to Council that the Market Discussion should be a joint session with CSAG. The views of the panellist are very business oriented, while we know business and markets do not work in isolation from health, conservation, sustainability, livelihood, IPLCs, etc. CSAG brings our expertise and knowledge that can enhance the knowledge sharing and recommendations from such a platform to Council. Our collective work on forestry supply chains and the best ways to promote the sustainable use and management of forest resources makes us well placed to assist the international community in developing nature-based solutions that harness the power of the natural world to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and also help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.

There are other interventions beyond climate change considerations. ITTO can play a role in implementing global commitments, especially in the implementation and delivery of the current Aichi Targets under the CBD Strategic Plan 2021-2030 and, under other conventions such as CITES, assessing and monitoring CITES Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) implementation. We note ongoing negotiations in the finalization of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including relevant draft targets such as Target 10 on ensuring forestry is managed sustainably and target 15 on businesses moving towards the full sustainability of extraction and production practices, and sourcing and supply chains. We urge that consideration be given to examine how we can support governments implement the ambitious and transformative targets. Addressing timber and forest resources over-exploitation and amplifying conservation and livelihood benefits from sustainable use and trade should be integrated in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

ITTO Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2022 – 2026 – is a very comprehensive document. We are concerned about the increase in deforestation and illegal and unsustainable trafficking. The prevailing economic development policy towards extractive in the Strategic Action Plan, on the economic results of the member countries and not necessarily regional and national conservation and species range states preclude the development of a comprehensive vision of their conservation status and without accounting for actual/ sustainable levels of extraction according to the resilience of the ecosystem and species. The ITTO, on the one hand, must strengthen and / or generate some mechanism or establish agreements or alliances with other instruments or arrangements that can supply information, results and articulate these needs. There is an urgent need to incorporate and promote the development of diversified sources of timber and non-timber forest products, based on the regenerative capacity of the species and ecosystems and not on business sustainability.

ITTO has now adopted the Policy Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowering Women (GEEW), in addition to the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) guidelines. CSAG will continue to advocate and share the Guidelines widely. We also recommend Council to prepare a decision for the Secretariat to conduct a regular monitoring and evaluation in collaboration with CSAG, perhaps through an annual questionnaire survey of ITTO members on progress towards implementation of the guidelines developed by ITTO, including the GEEW Guidelines and to share the results with Council yearly. CSAG is committed to being involved in the roll out of the Policy on Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowering Women by ITTO and we look forward to working with the Council and Secretariat to do this.

CSAG strongly support the initiatives of Council to develop a new fundraising strategy. CSAG representative was actively involved in the Ad-hoc Working Group on Financing Infrastructure. CSAG would like to be among the partners with ITTO to pilot a fundraising initiative. As highlighted by all presentation at the Annual Market Discussion, carbon projects involve various types of business, including a million small households in the worlds. The CSAG network involves women, local communities, Indigenous Peoples groups, who face tenure, access and rights issues within their forest, and they aspire to access the international markets for their legal and sustainable wood products. Tens of millions of women that live in a marginalised forest landscape around the world require a sustainable livelihood, building on the use of their natural resources; including timber and NTFPs, to be able to send their children to schools, and get themselves out of the poverty trap. We should not forget the men in the families also have the same aspirations. Local communities, small-holders, and other forest communities can also have a huge impact on ensuring the ITTO objective of sustainable forestry management and sustainable trade in timber products.

We look forward to working with ITTO on all these issues.

Thank you.

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