



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# **WOOD for GLOBE: Leading pathways to carbon neutrality and resilience**



Pre-WFW High-Level Dialogue

9:30-17:00, 19 July 2024

Sheikh Zayed Center, FAO Headquarters,

Rome, Italy

## Concept Note

## 1. Background

The Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood issued by Austria, Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Korea, Japan, and Peru in May 2022, during the World Forestry Congress in Seoul, Korea, called for scaling-up sustainable wood-based pathways. It highlighted the critical role of sustainable production and consumption of wood to enhance the value of forests and mitigate climate change building on sustainable forest management and addressing the risk of trade-offs through enhanced management, restoration, and afforestation efforts. Focused on the need of cost-effective solutions at scale for value-added and carbon-neutral products, and emphasizing the importance of working collaboratively, the Ministerial Call named four areas of work to unlock the full potential of sustainable wood contributions to achieve carbon-neutrality and more resilient economies:

- Awareness raising.
- Global and regional policy dialogues on sustainable wood pathways, related synergies and trade-offs, and enhanced investments.
- Technical exchanges, sharing of experiences and learning to drive innovations, from sustainable forest management, efficient wood value chains, and sustainable wood use.
- Significantly increase the use of sustainable wood-based solutions within Nationally Determined Contributions by 2030.

In recent years, many initiatives were launched at national or global level with the aim of promoting sustainable wood, particularly in the construction sector. For instance, a Google search on “wood buildings initiatives” returns more than 100,000 results. Architects, engineers, urban planners, and other related professionals, together with wood-processing companies and policymakers, are advancing wood in construction based on technological innovations that support safe, cost-effective, and climate-friendly buildings. Wood as energy source demands attention, as it can be an efficient source of clean energy in certain circumstances. Additionally, wood energy will continue to support livelihoods in some rural and energy-deprived urban landscapes, where combination of sustainable feedstock and efficient technologies can deliver affordable clean and renewable energy, while contributing to forest restoration and agroforestry development. Expanding the industrial use of wood fiber and circularity are also areas experiencing fast development.

Following the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML) engaged with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Centre for Bioeconomy at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) through the WOOD for GLOBE project. Acknowledging the wealth of experiences accumulated in countries, international organizations, research centers, and private companies, the

project's primary goal is to promote systematic knowledge and policy exchanges, including through the establishment of a Global Wood Policy Platform to support the increased use of sustainable wood with a view to creating a carbon-neutral bioeconomy worldwide.

## 2. Objective

In advance of the opening of the 9th World Forest Week (WFW 2024), which will be held in conjunction with the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the COFO (COFO27) from 22 to 26 July 2024, under the theme “Accelerating Forest Solutions through Innovation”, this pre-WFW high-level dialogue **“WOOD for GLOBE: Leading Pathways to Carbon Neutrality and Resilience”** will provide a platform for countries and other stakeholders to review progress on implementation of the sustainable wood pathways identified in the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood launched in 2022 at the XV World Forestry Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

This high-level event will be an opportunity to explore emerging partnerships, synergies, and critical needs to achieve the objectives of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement. A Ministerial segment will be chaired by the High Excellency H.E. Norbert Totschnig, Austrian Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, where countries will renew commitments to collaborate and invite new countries to join efforts towards scaling up contributions of wood to the development of strong environmentally friendly and carbon-neutral economies.

## 3. Outputs

- Review of progress on sustainable wood use since the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood.
- Global exchange of knowledge, experiences and lessons learned among initiatives and projects.
- Identification of opportunities for international cooperation and collaboration among initiatives.
- Renewed and broadened country commitments to implement the sustainable wood pathways and to join forces together to promote enhanced policy and technical dialogue and exchange among producer and consumer countries and key stakeholders.

#### 4. Preliminary Programme

Time	Item	Speakers
8:30-9:30	<b>Welcome Coffee</b>	
9:30-9:35	<b>Welcome by the Moderator</b>	<b>Henry Bonsu</b> International Broadcaster
9:35-9:50	<b>Opening</b>	<b>Zhimin Wu</b> Director, Forestry Division, FAO  <b>Georg Rappold</b> Head of Department Wood Policy, Bioeconomy and Innovation, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Austria  <b>Alexander Buck</b> Executive Director, IUFRO
9:50-11:00	<b>Panel I:</b> Advancing Sustainable Wood Pathways: cooperation for policy, science, innovation, knowledge, and investments	<b>Sheam Satkuru</b> Executive Director, ITTO  <b>Maureen Whelan</b> Manager, International Affairs, Canadian Forest Service – Co-Chair Forest Carbon Leaders Partnership.
		<b>Veronika Juch</b> Coordinator of the Secretariat, European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP)  <b>David Brand</b> Chair, International Sustainable Forestry Coalition  <b>Kim Carstensen</b> Director General, Forest Stewardship

		<p>Council (FSC)</p> <p><b>Michael Berger</b> CEO, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)</p> <p><b>Paul King</b> CEO, Built by Nature</p>
<b>11:00-12:00</b>	<b>Panel II:</b> Advancing Sustainable Wood Pathways: Country experiences	<p><b>Nelly Paredes</b> Executive Director SERFOR, Peru</p> <p><b>Song Hee Nam</b> Director General of International Affairs Bureau · Korea Forest Service, Republic of Korea</p> <p><b>Marcus Vinicius Alves</b> Deputy Director General, Brazilian Forest Service, Brazil</p> <p><b>Paulette Ebina Taraganzo</b> Directrice de la Valorisation des Ressources Forestières, Ministère de l’Economie Forestière, Republic of Congo</p> <p><b>Elikana Maige John</b> Senior Conservation Officer, Department of Forest Resource Assessment Tanzania Forest Service (TFS), Tanzania</p>
<b>12:00-14:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>14:30-15:00</b>	<b>Panel III:</b> WOOD for GLOBE: key findings	<p><b>Martin Greimel</b> Head of Centre for Bioeconomy, Boku University, Austria</p> <p><b>Tahiana Ramananantoandro</b> Head of the Forestry and Environment Department, School of Agronomy, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar</p>

		<p><b>Thaís Linhares Juvenal</b> Senior Advisor Governance, Economics and Production, Forestry Division, FAO</p>
<p><b>15:00-15:30</b></p>	<p><b>Panel IV: Grow the Solution:</b> Creating the enabling environment for sustainable wood pathways</p>	<p><b>Maria De Cristofaro</b> Outreach and Capacity Building Officer, Forestry Division, Forestry Division, FAO</p> <p><b>Gerda Wolfrum</b> PR &amp; Communication Coordinator, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and Deputy Leader of FAO/UNECE Forest Communicators' Network</p> <p><b>Kai Lintunen</b> Head of International Communications, Finnish Forest Association</p> <p><b>Jennifer Hayes</b> National Sustainable Operations Coordinator, U.S. Forest Service and Leader of the North American Forest Communicators' Network</p>
<p><b>15:30-16:45</b></p>	<p><b>Panel V: Advancing Sustainable Wood Pathways - A Call for Action</b></p>	<p><b>Chaired by H.E. Norbert Totschnig</b> Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Austria</p> <p><b>Honorable Beatrice Anywar Atim</b> Minister of State for Environment, Uganda</p> <p><b>Honorable Rosalie Matondo</b> Ministre de l'Économie Forestière, Republic of Congo</p> <p><b>Maureen Whelan</b> Manager, International Affairs, Canadian Forest Service - Co-Chair Forest Carbon Leaders Partnership, Canada</p> <p><b>Zentaro Kosaka</b> Deputy Director General of the Japan Forestry Agency, Japan</p>

<b>16:45-17:00</b>	<b>Closure</b>	<b>Maria Helena Semedo</b> Deputy Director General, FAO (to be confirmed)
<b>17:30-19:30</b>	<b>Reception</b>	

#### 5. Contact and meeting website/project website

- Contact: **sustainable-wood@fao.org**
- Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) Initiative website **Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (fao.org)**
- Wood for Globe website **IUFRO: Wood for Globe / Partnership Projects / Science in IUFRO**
- The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) website **https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/en**