
Statement of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)
27th Session of the Committee on Forestry and 9th World Forestry Week
Rome, 22-26 July 2024

Agenda item 4: State of the World's Forests 2024: Forest-sector innovations towards a more sustainable future

Thank you, Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

I am privileged to address you on behalf of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), represented here by delegates from Chile, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Slovenia, Uganda, and the United States of America.

We applaud the launch of SOFO 2024, which provides an in-depth analysis of forest-sector innovations towards a more sustainable future.

Today, youth are gravely concerned about the impacts of unsustainable land use and growing population on our forests.

We urge all member states to commit to reforestation, sustainable forest management, and the continual adoption of cutting-edge technologies for forest monitoring and assessment. Advances in remote sensing and artificial intelligence are transforming our ability to accurately and precisely track changes in carbon stocks and forest cover. Additionally, they expand analyses to encompass areas beyond those covered by field-based inventories. I'm pleased to highlight that young people are playing a key role in the development of these innovative solutions.

Furthermore, we would like to emphasize the importance of trees outside forests that not only host valuable wood resources but are also vital to the livelihoods of many young people. To achieve sustainable development and global forest goals, we feel it is essential to include these areas in monitoring and policy frameworks.

Honoured excellencies and esteemed delegates, we are grateful for the increasing recognition of the importance of youth in global processes, and invite you to join us in our collaborative efforts: firstly, by increasing opportunities for youth in all international processes; secondly, engaging civil society in the co-design and inception stage of forestry projects; thirdly, promoting inclusive and equitable access to high-quality forest education; and finally, providing technical and financial support for youth-led initiatives.

In conclusion, by empowering the youth to lead various innovative approaches, we can foster a future where our forests, including trees outside traditional forest boundaries, are preserved and managed sustainably for future generations.

Thank you.