

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil

Environment Department

Biodiversity Division

Brazil's statement on COFO Item 5 – Scaling up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages

Thank you, Chair.

Brazil appreciates the efforts of FAO to strengthen collaboration between COFO and COAG.

As the most **biodiverse** country in the world

- and at the same time one of the largest **producer and exporter** of agricultural commodities,
- Brazil stands ready to share best practices
- that will help enhancing the productivity and efficiency of our production systems, contributing to food security
- While also conserving and fostering sustainable use of forests and biodiversity

Under the first edition of our national Low Carbon Agriculture Plan, we have expanded the areas of degraded pasturelands **under restoration** to 26 million hectares;

- areas under integrated systems now account for more than 17 million hectares;

- planted forests now account for 3 million hectares and we expect to add another 4 million hectares by 2030.

Those measures have improved the implementation of integrated landscape management and compliance with Brazil's forest code, thus enabling producers to retain and increase native vegetation within working landscapes.

Chair,

We will be submitting our comments to the suggested actions in writing.

I will nevertheless emphasize some of those comments.

FIRST, we acknowledge that Brazil's different policies and actions are reflected in paragraphs 9.c through 9.g of document COFO/2024/3 and

are anchored in the understanding that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to address the interlinkages between agriculture and forestry.

In that regard, we would welcome further technical cooperation from FAO's National Offices on actions and policies related to restoration of degraded areas that can contribute to food security and mitigate pressures on forests.

SECOND, at the same time, we take note with concern of the parts of the document COFO/2024/3 about trade.

There, we see an unbalanced approach to the interlinkages between

forestry,

agriculture and

international trade,

as it assumes international trade will inevitably generate negative impacts on forests.

Also, the document does not provide reflections on the impacts of tariff and non tariff trade barriers to forest timber and non timber products, many of which are detrimental to the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities, in particular smallholders and indigenous peoples and local communities.

We do notice that the document contains several references to due diligence requirements and that many of those measures have been adopted in a unilateral and discriminatory manner, and do not consider the different national legislations and monitoring systems.

FINALLY, we would strongly encourage the FAO secretariat to refrain from using expressions that lack multilaterally-agreed upon definitions, such as “deforestation-free”, “climate smart” or “planet friendly”.

Brazil's comments to the draft suggested actions:

The Committee is invited to:

a. encourage Members to promote policies, strategies and programmes to strengthen positive agriculture and forestry linkages in land management and throughout value chains, contributing to the efficiency and productivity of productive systems and to food security and considering that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach, and

mitigate the trade-offs, while recognizing the need to refrain from adopting measures to combat climate change and protect the environment, including unilateral ones, that constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade;

b. encourage Members to consider establishing incentive mechanisms, including innovative public and private financing mechanisms, to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration and support sustainable value-chain development, in line with relevant international obligations;

c. recommend FAO to support Members, upon request, to improve their capacity for crosssectoral policymaking, integrated land-use planning and monitoring to achieve

sustainable agricultural and forestry production while conserving and sustainably using natural forests and biodiversity; and

c.bis recommend FAO to support Members, upon request, in the implementation of programmes and activities on the restoration of degraded areas that can contribute to food security;

d. recommend FAO to support Members, upon request, in their actions to scale up agroforestry by continuing, among other activities, to produce knowledge products, tools and capacity development materials.