

Statement from Republic of Korea

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Thank you for giving me the floor.

I highly appreciate FAO's initiatives aimed at promoting and expanding agroforestry as part of strengthening ties between agriculture and forestry.

Agriculture and forestry are naturally interconnected, and I believe strengthening ties between these two sectors will contribute to solving global poverty issues. In the past, Korea's economy heavily relied on agriculture, but low agricultural productivity led to destroying forests to produce crops. However, by changing the overall direction of policy to enhance agricultural productivity and restore forests, we were able to achieve economic growth alongside forest restoration.

Agroforestry has gained international attention as a method to simultaneously conserve forests while sustaining local livelihoods. However, many agroforestry projects are small-scaled or short-termed, making data collection and monitoring challenging and I hope FAO's efforts can contribute to solving these issues.

The Republic of Korea shares its experience and technologies in restoring degraded forests with developing countries and implements agroforestry projects for forest restoration. For example, since 2007, Korea has been implementing the Greenbelt Project in collaboration with Mongolia. Now entering its third phase, this project encourages voluntary community participation in protecting and managing its forests by applying agroforestry through producing tomatoes, cabbages, and other crops together.

In 2021, the Korea Forest Service successfully implemented an agroforestry project for coffee and forest ecosystem restoration in conflict areas of Ethiopia, contributing to peace-building in the region.

Through these initiatives, Korea is implementing numerous cooperative projects that contribute to balancing agriculture and forestry through forest restoration and management. Thank you.