

Intervention Notes of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)

Agenda COFO/2024/4 Enhancing the contribution of forestry to bioeconomy-opportunities and challenges

Thank you, Chair, distinguished delegates, and colleagues.

On behalf of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization, I am honored to have this opportunity to express our support for the agenda. AFoCO is driven by the mission to promote action-oriented cooperation for sustainable forest management and climate-resilient landscapes, and we fully support the FAO's agenda on bioeconomy.

Last year, together with 16 member countries in Asia, AFoCO's new strategy 2024-2030 was endorsed, and it places significant emphasis on developing a sustainable bioeconomy. This plan aligns seamlessly with FAO's goals, particularly in enhancing resource efficiency, promoting climate-smart practices, and fostering resilient and inclusive agrifood systems.

Our initiatives in forest land restoration and conservation contribute directly to the bioeconomy by ensuring the sustainable use of forest resources and enhancing biodiversity. These efforts support the protection and management of natural forests, which aligns with FAO's objective of leveraging biological resources sustainably.

We are committed to developing green villages and enhancing forest-based value chains through our Community and Circular Bioeconomy initiatives. This approach not only improves local livelihoods but also ensures the sustainability of forest ecosystems. By promoting circular bioeconomic activities such as eco-tourism, non-timber forest products, and climate-smart agriculture, we aim to create resilient and adaptive communities.

Our focus on Climate–Forest Disaster Risk Management is integral to maintaining the health and productivity of forest ecosystems. By employing early warning systems and risk assessment models, we enhance the resilience of forests and forest-dependent communities, thereby supporting the broader goals of the bioeconomy.

AFoCO welcomes and is ready to support in advancing the bioeconomy agenda. We are committed to leveraging our strategic initiatives to enhance the sustainable management of forest resources, promote inclusive economic growth, and build resilient communities.

Thank you.