

Chair,

Forest and wood industries, as well as other bioeconomy sectors are of the priority areas in the Norwegian governments green industrial initiative, aiming at increased productivity and value creation in an economy less dependent of the oil and gas industries. It is a goal that timber from Norwegian forests shall contribute to the greatest possible value creation through further processing the value chain.

The Government's bioeconomy policy targets sustainable, effective, and profitable production, extraction, and use of renewable, biological resources.

Priority will be given to measures with an effect on both value creation and employment as well as reduced climate gas emissions and/or more efficient and sustainable use of renewable biological resources.

The possibilities from utilising wood and other biomass are endless. As the demand for wood easily could exceed a sustainable supply, we will have to respect the principles of sustainable forest management. A prerequisite for further development of the bioeconomy is the safeguarding of the resource bases and climate and environmental values.

We will also need achieve more from less, by developing new ways to use the resources effective and increase circular use of wood where possible.

Forestry must be profitable to secure investments in sustainable forest management and a predictable supply for the forest industries.

Other challenges are related to private finance involvement in innovation and untested technologies, and regulatory issues. Here governments have a role in risk relief to encourage establishment and development of new industries.

Development of a sustainable bioeconomy have the potential to enhance the overall value of forests for society, and we appreciate that FAO has put forests and bioeconomy on the agenda, and we encourage further work on the topic. Thank you.