

**Statement from Republic of Korea**

**Song Hee NAM, Director General**

**Korea Forest Service**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

On behalf of the Republic of Korea, I express my respect to FAO for leading the transition to the bioeconomy. I am pleased to discuss this topic at this Committee on Forestry in light of bioeconomy issues further gaining international attention.

We share FAO's views and like-minded member countries that the bioeconomy will be the key to humanity's sustainable future.

The Republic of Korea underlined the significance of wood in the transition to the bioeconomy and adopted the Ministerial Call for Sustainable Wood at the 15th World Forestry Congress in 2022, along with Cameroon, Japan, Austria, Peru, and Gabon. In this light, we deeply appreciate Austria's efforts in proposing the Wood for Globe outcome statement.

At the 42nd FAO Conference, the definition of the bioeconomy was adopted stating, "The bioeconomy is the production, utilization, conservation, and regeneration of biological resources." Given that forests comprise a significant portion of these "biological resources," the importance of forests cannot be emphasized enough.

To successfully transition to the bioeconomy, it is crucial to sustainably utilize forest resources such as timber, fiber, energy, and non-wood forest products and to fully realize their potential.

This is particularly true for Korea, where forests cover 63% of the land area and provide habitats for 92% of plant, insect, and microbial species.

Since the bioeconomy is closely related to almost every industry, Korea works towards incorporating the bioeconomy in different sectors such as forestry, energy, construction, agriculture, and healthcare are separately implemented across government agencies.

Looking forward, international collaboration must also be enhanced to share regional bioeconomy experiences. A global framework encompassing various industrial sectors will be essential to guide countries in transitioning to the bioeconomy, and we look to FAO to lead with this significant role.

Thank you.