
**Statement of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)
27th Session of the Committee on Forestry and 9th World Forestry Week
Rome, 22-26 July 2024**

**Agenda item 7: The FAO Forestry Roadmap – From Vision to Action 2024-2031 and
FAO's work on forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31**

Thank you, Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

I am privileged to address you on behalf of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), represented here by delegates from 10 Member States. We stand committed to advancing FAO's vital role in international forest governance, as well as the implementation of the FAO Forestry Roadmap 2024-2031 and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. As proactive contributors to the Global Forest Goals, youth initiatives have been instrumental in galvanizing forestry education, implementing sustainable grassroots forestry actions, and forming impactful partnerships with international organizations.

We commend FAO for bringing youth to the forefront through various initiatives aimed at promoting intergenerational conversation to improve the collaborations and support to youth. We appreciate efforts such as the development of the COFO27 Youth Task Force and the Youth Call for Action. We applaud the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, which embraces "youth, gender and inclusion" as a cross-cutting theme for all FAO projects. We value FAO's ongoing support towards the inclusion of Youth in its conferences such as the biannual sessions of COFO as well as the six Regional Forestry Commissions. Such endeavors empower us to strengthen community engagement worldwide.

Together we can work collectively to offer solutions to the greatest challenges facing our world. We appreciate the FAO Road Map, and as youth we remain committed to actively supporting the Regional Forestry Commissions as the main instruments in forestry for linking the global and regional levels.

We would like to ensure full youth inclusion in the implementation of the Forestry Roadmap, and ask FAO to support in the following ways:

1. Recommend member states to integrate young people and civil society in national strategies and action plans to catalyze actions in achieving the objectives of the roadmap.
2. Ensure youth engagement in providing technical backstopping throughout project development and implementation stages.
3. Encourage Member States to financially support youth constituencies, through IFSA and other youth liaison, for enabling self organization and participation in multi-stakeholder engagement processes

In conclusion, we look forward to continuing work alongside FAO and Member States. By investing in our collaborative efforts, we can ensure a resilient and sustainable future for our forests and communities worldwide.

Thank you.