

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil

Environment Department

Biodiversity Division

Brazil's statement on COFO Item 8.1 - FAO's work on urban forestry and its contribution to urban agrifood systems transformation

Brazil welcomes the document prepared by FAO.

Last year, during the Amazon Summit hosted by Brazil in Belém, we had the opportunity to bring together the 8 Heads of State and Government of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization to launch the Amazonian Cities Forum, where we hope to foster discussions to improve cooperation amongst subnational governments and improve access of Amazonian populations to public services and public policies.

Brazil has several examples of major cities that have managed to scale up the restoration of urban forests and that have enhanced native biodiversity, and our country has some of the largest urban forests in the world. From our perspective, our efforts to integrate sustainably managed urban forests and trees into urban planning need to consider the needs of groups in vulnerable situations, promote access to adequate, inclusive and quality public services; and access to income-earning opportunities. We will be submitting some amendments in that regard.

We are overall supportive of the proposed actions. We will suggest a more nuanced approach to some elements in paragraph (a), such as the reference to the SDGs and climate change. We would also welcome some clarification on the expression “green urban regeneration”.

Brazil's written comments to the proposed actions

The Committee is invited to:

a. encourage countries to integrate sustainably managed urban forests and trees into urban planning, as important contributions for achieving the SDGs, contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, increasing the sustainability of agrifood systems in urban areas, and ensuring people's health and wellbeing, addressing the needs of people in vulnerable situations and promoting access to adequate, inclusive and quality public services;

b. recommend that Members join the FAO Green Cities Initiative and the Tree Cities of the World programme, and that they promote knowledge transfer through active participation in regional technical networks;

c. recommend that FAO develop capacity-building programmes and tools to assist governments and other actors, upon their request, in the planning and sustainable management of urban and peri-urban forests, to contribute to the sustainability of agrifood systems and promoting income-generating opportunities, in particular for people in vulnerable situation; and

d. recommend that FAO, through the FAO Green Cities Initiative and other ongoing programmes and projects, provide technical assistance on urban and peri-urban forestry, urban and peri-urban agriculture, and bioeconomy for green urban regeneration, with the aim of increasing the resilience, health and well-being of urban and peri-urban dwellers, in particular of those in vulnerable situations, improving the sustainability of agrifood systems, and supporting sustainable urban development.