

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil**

**Environment Department**

**Biodiversity Division**

**Item 8.2 - Contribution of forestry to FAO's work on climate change and integrated water management**

Brazil appreciates the collaborative effort between the OCB and the Forestry and Land & Water divisions in preparing document 6.2.

As we had the chance to mention in the first day of our discussions, Brazil has reduced the annual deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon by 50% in 2023 compared to the previous year. It is estimated that the decrease in deforestation rates in the Brazilian Amazon has prevented 250 million tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.

Regarding document 6.2, we understand that the document could have addressed in a more consistent manner the importance of promoting the adaptation of forest ecosystems and water-related ecosystems to the effects of climate change.

Since the document refers to the IPCC's sixth assessment report, we must recall that the same report acknowledges the fact that 79% of anthropogenic GHG emissions arise from the energy, industry, transportation and construction sectors.

Hence, although important, climate actions relating to agriculture, forestry and other land use changes will have limited effect in the absence of urgent, deep and sustained reduction of emissions deriving from the use of fossil fuels.

The document reflects conclusions of the same IPCC report estimating the costs of reducing deforestation and restoring forests in up to USD 400 billion annually by 2050. This demonstrates the priority of establishing robust financing instruments aiming to ensure a steady flow of resources to support the efforts of developing countries in fighting deforestation and restoring degraded forest ecosystems, in line with the Principle of Common, But Differentiated Responsibilities.

This urgency is behind Brazil's announcement, during COP 28, of the Tropical Forests Forever facility, an initiative aiming to raise USD 250 billion in investments to finance the conservation of tropical rainforests. We have been working with developing forest countries in order to finalize the structure the fund by COP 30, to take place in Belem, in the Amazon.

Regarding the suggested actions, on paragraph "a", Brazil suggests replacing the term "vast potential" with "potential contributions", as this would need to be assessed on a case by case basis.

On a.ii, we suggest replacing the expression "enhancing forest and water-related ambition", as this language has not been agreed upon under the UNFCCC COP or the FAO Strategy on Climate Change. As NDCs and NBSAPs are to be developed on country-basis, we will suggest

a more flexible approach, encouraging countries, as appropriate and according to national circumstances, priorities and capacities, to explore potential contributions of forests and water in those policy instruments. We also suggest eliminating the reference to the national pathways for food systems transformation, once the pathways have a voluntary nature and therefore should not be equated with NDCs and NBSAPs.

On suggested action “b”, we suggest replacing “solutions” with “actions”. We would also prefer to eliminate the term “forest-water-food-climate nexus”, due to the lack of an agreed definition. Alternatively, we could use language encouraging FAO to promote actions to strengthen the adaptation of forests and water ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.

*Brazil’s comments to the proposed actions:*

The Committee is invited to:

a. encourage Members to strengthen their efforts to unlock the potential contributions of forests for climate and water services by halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests and landscapes, and promoting sustainable forest management, in line with the principles and objectives of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and recognizing the need for enhanced support to developing countries, via:

i. implementing REDD+2 to halt deforestation and forest degradation and to facilitate access to results-based financing, including through the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other multilateral and bilateral sources, along with carbon markets, and payments for ecosystem services;

ii. enhancing forest- and water-related potential contributions, as appropriate and in line with national circumstances and priorities, in nationally determined contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);;

b. encourage FAO to work on integrated actions to [to increase the resilience and adaptation of forests and water resources to the effects climate change](#);

and c. recommend that FAO support Members, upon request, by:

i. enhancing the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022– 2031 through increasing FAO’s activities on climate change and ensuring timely delivery of climate action, including through forestry-related activities;

ii. implementing FAO’s Conceptual framework for integrated land and water resources management and FAO’s Forestry Roadmap through joint forest-water initiatives, and contributing to the FAO’s 2024-25 biennial theme;

iii. bolstering technical assistance, increasing capacity and improving the knowledge base to conserve, restore and sustainably manage and use forests for climate- and water-related services; and

iv. helping access to and mobilizing finance for ecosystem services related to forests, climate and water

