

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil

Environment Department

Biodiversity Division

Brazil's statement on COFO Item 4 – SOFO 2024

I deliver this speech in Brazil's national capacity.

We firmly endorse the statement of GRULAC, delivered by our colleague from El Salvador.

We would also like to refer to the keynote speech by Professor Carlos Nobre, highlighting that the Amazon is fast approaching a tipping point, which requires urgent actions to bring innovation to the tropical forest.

Professor Nobre also acknowledged the transformative potential of restoration and of the sociobioeconomy to that end.

Since the last COFO session, Brazil has taken decisive steps to combat deforestation and support the forestry sector.

FIRST, In August last year, we brought together in the Amazon Summit in Belém the 8 Heads of State and Government from the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization to discuss potential pathways to strengthen ACTO. Intergovernmental regional organizations, such as ACTO, can play a pivotal role in helping countries address shared challenges.

In the last UNFCCC COP, we announced the proposal to establish the “Tropical Forests Forever” Facility, which seeks to leverage resources from sovereign funds to ensure steady financial flows to support developing countries. We look forward to working with our partners in the UK, as was just mentioned by our UK colleague.

SECOND, at the domestic level, we have reenacted the National Plan to Combat and Prevent Deforestation in the Amazon (PPCDAM) and we have managed to reduce the annual deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon by 50% in 2023 compared to the previous year.

THIRD, Regarding the restoration agenda, Brazil reaffirmed its commitment to restore 12 million hectares by 2030, and we have established the “Restoration Arc Program”, which will allocate USD 80 million from the Amazon Fund to restore 6 million hectares of priority areas in the Amazon by 2030. We are confident that developed countries will rise to the task and increase their ambition to leverage new and additional resources to support developing countries in their efforts, fulfilling their commitments under different multilateral environmental agreements.

But forests do not exist if they are not part of a dynamic system. A system where people are central. Brazil strongly believes that our efforts to protect forest ecosystems will not be sustainable in the long run if we fail to address the **needs of forest-dependent communities**, especially indigenous peoples and local communities. Even though those communities play an

indispensable role in the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems, they still struggle with persistent levels of poverty and food insecurity.

In that regard, we welcome the emphasis of SOFO 2024 on innovation and the efforts by FAO to raise awareness on the contributions of forest timber and non-timber products to sustainable development.

The conclusions of SOFO 2024 stress that there is an urgent need to foster a bioeconomy where people and social equity are at the center of our concerns, and Brazil stands ready to cooperation with FAO in this endeavor.

As I firmly believe our time here in this plenary is precious and we should not waste it, we will be submitting written amendments to the proposed actions under document COFO/2024/2.

Brazil's written comments to document COFO/2024/2

The Committee is invited to:

- a. take note of the key findings of SOFO 2024 and invite Members to take advantage of, promote and further elaborate ~~responsible and~~ inclusive innovations for optimizing forest-based-related ~~solutions~~actions to global challenges, in a manner supportive of sustainable development;
- b. recommend FAO to facilitate knowledge exchange and policy dialogue with Members and partners on ways to enhance and apply forest-sector innovations in supporting forest conservation, restoration and sustainable use; and
- c. recommend FAO to support Members' efforts, on request, to increase forest-sector innovation, ~~given escalating forest stressors that necessitate new forest management approaches~~; the shift towards a bioeconomy; and opportunities offered by non-wood forest products.