

## **AFoCO's intervention**

**(Event)** Dialogue entitled: “Achieving globally agreed goals on forests, climate change, and biodiversity.”

**(Time and Venue)** 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm on 9 May 2024, in Conference Room 4 at the United Nations Headquarters.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored to address you today in my capacity as the Vice Executive Director of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO).

Allow me to provide a brief overview of AFoCO. As a treaty-based intergovernmental organization, AFoCO consists of 16 member countries in the Asian region. Our primary mission is to enhance forest cooperation by translating established technologies and policies into tangible actions for sustainable forest management. With a steadfast dedication to mitigating the impacts of climate change, AFoCO has spearheaded over 40 projects across the region, with the aim of preserving and restoring our invaluable forests for future generations.

Climate change presents one of the most urgent challenges to humanity and our planet today. Immediate action is imperative to limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030. Collaboration between the public and private sectors is indispensable to achieving this goal. In response to this urgent need, AFoCO recently initiated the Friends of Asia and Asian Forests (FAAF) initiative. This strategic platform unites diverse stakeholders from corporations and philanthropies, reaffirming our unwavering commitment to advancing Asia's climate leadership.

Now, let us address the question at hand: How can forest-related regional and subregional entities contribute to implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and achieving the Global Forest Goals, the SDGs, and other related objectives?

Forest-related regional and subregional entities play a pivotal role in driving the implementation of key forest-related agendas. By fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among member countries, these entities facilitate the exchange of best practices, innovative solutions, and technical expertise. Due to the geographical similarity and cultural and economic alignment among member countries, regional organizations like AFoCO serve as vital platforms for sharing best practices and representing the region's voice in the field of forestry.

Furthermore, these entities serve as catalysts for mobilizing resources and forging partnerships to advance sustainable forest management initiatives on both regional and global scales.

In conclusion, AFoCO stands ready to collaborate with forest-related regional and subregional entities, leveraging our collective strengths and resources to achieve our shared goals. Together, we can make significant strides towards realizing the vision of sustainable forests for a greener and more resilient future.

Thank you.