



International Day on Forests Statement by Brazil

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate the United Nations Forum on Forests for the organization of the International Day on Forests and for the emphasis placed on issues of forest and energy in this year's event.

Forests cover approximately 55% of the Brazilian territory. Brazil's government fully recognizes the importance of forests for sustainable development, as well as for environmental services, conservation of biodiversity, and protection of water springs.

As we could see from earlier presentations today, the focus on the relationship between forests and energy sheds light on relevant aspects of the issue. First and

foremost, it reminds us that, when celebrating this important day, we must not forget those societies living in forested areas.

Mr. Chairman,

Forests can be an important source of bioenergy, especially for domestic use. Wood extracted from forests constitute the main source of cooking energy in vast areas of the world.

The use of wood and other forest products for energy production, however, can lead to deforestation if not done in a sustainable fashion.

In the Amazon forest, Brazil's largest biome, deforestation was reduced by 79% from 2004 to 2015. As a consequence, the country has ceased to emit 650 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, a significant contribution to the global fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.

Such results over the last decade were made possible by virtue of improved monitoring systems and the adoption of a holistic approach toward forests with the active participation of civil society in different levels of the policymaking process.

Such holistic approach for the sustainable management of forests, which takes into consideration the needs of the populations living in forested areas, is evidenced by the Federal government of Brazil's program "Green Grant" ("Bolsa Verde").

Green Grant is a conditional cash transfer scheme that targets communities in extreme poverty living in areas considered in danger of biodiversity loss and degradation. The beneficiaries receive income support and technical assistance from the Government in exchange for developing activities that promote conservation of natural resources in the areas where they live.

In this program, poverty eradication plays a strategic role as a central element for the promotion of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The monetary incentive to keep the forests intact allows local communities to get access to modern forms of energy, among other benefits, without depleting the natural resources of the surrounding areas.

Green Grant, which was established in 2011, has already benefited more than 32,000 families, especially in the Amazon region.

Mr. Chairman,

At Rio+20 Conference, the international community highlighted the importance of sustainable management of forests with a view to achieving social, economic and environmental benefits for the people who depend on these ecosystems.

In the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, such principle was operationalized through SDG 15, by which our countries agreed to “implement sustainable management of all types of forests by 2020”.

If such commitment is implemented, deforestation and forest degradation could substantially decrease or even be reversed.

Brazil will continue to work constructively domestically and with the international community towards achieving this objective.

Thank you.