

UNECE

Speaking points for the opening remarks at the Workshop on Measuring the value of forests in a green economy

(expected time of speech 5 min)

- 1) [Welcome the speakers and participants to ***Workshop on Measuring the value of forests in a green economy***].
- 2) [Thank the ***Swiss government***, for supporting the organisation of the meeting].
- 3) Today there is no doubt that, forests are of essential importance in the transition to a green economy and to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The forest sector, based on a renewable raw material – wood – which is processed in a way that causes little waste, and is recycled after use, has an important role to play in a green economy.
- 4) Also, the Sustainable Development Goals; notably SDG 15 (related to conservation, restoration and sustainable use and management of forests) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction reiterate the role of forest ecosystem services in achieving their objectives. For that reason, the value of forest ecosystem services, accounting for multiple functions in the areas of: biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, climate mitigation as well as the economic and social importance of various forest products need to be given an appropriate recognition.
- 5) A range of approaches have been developed internationally to assess the progress towards a green economy and the value of natural capital and ecosystem services in that context. Some of them are applicable to forests and could be useful as a basis for measuring the implementation of activities of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy. However, despite the evident role of forests in transition to a green economy, assigning a value to forests as natural capital and the environmental and social services provided by forests, remains a major challenge.
- 6) Therefore it is important to conduct an analysis of the complementarity of present approaches developed internationally in the context of the green economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the existing approaches for measuring the value of natural capital with forest sector valuation systems. Such analysis can contribute to the increase of synergies among the different assessment methodologies. Consequently it will provide better information for policy makers about the evident contribution of forest sector to a green economy and about needs for policy measures necessary to enhance this contribution.
- 7) The today's workshop **Measuring the value of forests in a green economy** will provide you with an opportunity to share knowledge and to discuss these topics. It is meant to provide the first step to the analytical process, essential for evidence-based policymaking to be able to measure progress towards policy goals for the transition towards a green economy.
- 8) [Wish delegates a productive and inspiring discussion]]

