



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



#sw4sw
#woodisgood

European Forest Week

**Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW):
Sustainable wood value chains contributions to advance the bioeconomy and
speed up achievement of the SDGs and climate change objectives**

**Thursday, 7 November 2019 (13.15 to 14.45)
Room XII, Geneva, Palais des Nations-Unies**

Background

The benefits from forests to sustainable development have been widely acknowledged. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places sustainable use of natural resources, including forests, as a key tenet of the development vision. The Paris Agreement and recent scientific findings highlight the contributions of forests to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Technical and methodological progress allows for better monitoring of harvested wood products' life cycle giving them a key role in strategies for transitioning to low-carbon economies. Concurrently, the impact of sustainable forest management on enhancing livelihoods, contributing to sustainable cities and reducing the world's carbon and material footprints is gaining attention.

In 2018, FAO together with Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the World Bank, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) launched the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World Initiative (SW4SW) as a joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The principal goal of this initiative is to strengthen sustainable wood value chains in order to enhance their social, economic and environmental benefits from production to consumption. In particular, the initiative aims to enhance the

contribution of sustainable wood value chains to the more efficient achievement of SDGs and climate change objectives.

The case for cross-sectoral coordination underlies this initiative. Decisions to consume sustainable wood products lie outside the forest sector. Housing policies and construction codes, for example, have a significant impact on demand for wood products. Besides construction, pulp and paper, energy, furniture and fine chemical industries form the bulk of consumers of wood products. For all those industries, demand is outside the forests, as is the decision to commit or not to the use of sustainable products.

Through setting up collaborative activities with a broad range of stakeholders along the value chains, at global and local levels, the initiative shall provide knowledge and support to countries through its four main outcomes:

- Benefits from sustainable wood value chains and sustainable wood products are fully recognized in international policy dialogues, sustainable development and climate change strategies, and national policy frameworks;
- Capacities for managing forests for sustainable wood production and in the context of sustainable landscapes are built at all levels;
- Markets and finance for sustainable wood value chains and sustainable wood products are broadened; and
- Sustainable wood value chains and sustainable wood products contributions to the bioeconomy and the circularity approach are strengthened in both developed and developing countries.

It is expected that successful implementation of this initiative will result in concrete advancement of the bioeconomy through a more integrated approach that will unlock contributions from forests and their products to make achievement of the SDGs, Global Forest Goals and climate change objectives more efficient and with the urgency needed.

Objectives of the event

- Present the SW4SW Initiative and its workplan.
- Promote cross sectoral policies enhancing sustainable wood value chains contributions to the SDGs, Global Forest Goals and climate change commitments.
- Highlight strategies to expand sustainable forest-based circular bioeconomy.
- Discuss forest communication strategies to promote sustainable wood value chains, climate change mitigation through carbon storage in forests and wood products.

Expected outcomes

- Participants fully informed about SW4SW Initiative's objectives, work plan, potential for collaboration and partnerships, and about contributions from sustainable wood value chains to the 2030 UN Agenda.
- Interest raised among participants for building projects dealing with cross-sectoral policies enhancing sustainable forest-based circular bioeconomy
- Shared views on the need for new communication strategies to unlock transition towards sustainable forest-based circular bioeconomy.

Language: English

Preliminary Programme

- 13.15 **Introduction**
- 13.20 **“Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World Initiative”**
- 13.40 **Cross sectoral policies enhancing sustainable wood value chains contributions to the SDGs, Global Forest Goals and climate change commitments**
- 14.00 **How to expand sustainable forest-based circular bioeconomy ?**
- 14.20 **Forest communication strategies to promote sustainable wood value chains, climate change mitigation through carbon storage in forests and wood products**
- 14:40 **Conclusion**

Each speaker will introduce a presentation during 10 to 15 minutes, followed by a questions-answers session with the audience.

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