

Guidance Note – Opening Session

Item 1-4

1. Date & Time

Monday, 23 February 2026, 09:30 – 13:30, Room 10 (“Orangerie”).

2. Context

The idea of this Global Summit is to bring together all relevant stakeholders of the forest-based bioeconomy from different regional contexts and with different backgrounds. The exchange is set within a framework encompassing the policy, scientific and practical dimensions, thereby ensuring a thorough consideration of all the pertinent approaches and experiences.

For setting the scene, in **Item 1. High-Level Session** representatives from policy, mainly Ministers in charge of Forestry, Environment, and Industry, among others, will share their national and regional perspectives on forest-based bioeconomy and their ambitions to enhance bioeconomy, which forms the basis to understand the different approaches globally.

Item 2. Business Talk brings in the private sector perspective. Industry leaders outline best practices, current investments and market opportunities in bio-based products, including wood construction, and non-wood innovations. They share their experiences on common barriers and potential opportunities to scaling up forest-based bioeconomy.

To further enrich the discussion, **Item 3. Science Talk** incorporates scientific knowledge providing the basis for the thematic exchange. By showcasing the latest research findings and providing cutting-edge insights into how forests contribute, among others, to carbon neutrality, material substitution, biodiversity conservation, and socio-economic benefits, the scientific basis will be formed for the further discussion.

In **Item 4. Mission of the CLI**, the scope and vision for the following days will be presented by providing an organizational overview of the Global Summit itself as well as guidance for the interactive thematic discussions.

3. Objectives

- showcasing the engagement of the different sectors to enhance forest-based bioeconomy approaches at subnational, national, regional and global levels
- demonstrating the importance of broad, interdisciplinary involvement of all sectors
- providing an overview of the obstacles and opportunities encountered by all relevant sectors on the path to implementing forest-based bioeconomy

4. Draft programme

Item 1. High-Level Session	
<p>Moderator: Tiina Ryttilä-Broere Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland</p>	
<p>Speaker</p>	
09:30	<p>Host</p> <p>Norbert Totschnig Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria</p>
09:40	<p>Co-Chair</p> <p>Pumeza Nodada Deputy Director-General: Forestry Management Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa</p>
09:50	<p>European Commission</p> <p>Jessika Roswall (tbc) Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy</p> <p>Christophe Hansen (tbc) Commissioner for Agriculture and Food</p>
10:00	<p>Co-Convener</p> <p>İbrahim Yumaklı (tbc) Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Türkiye</p> <p>Qu Dongyu (tbc) Director-General of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</p> <p>Hon. Julie Collins (video) Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry, Australia</p> <p>Sari Essayah (video) Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland</p> <p>Eiji Tanimura (online) Deputy Director-General, Forestry Agency, Japan</p> <p>Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo Director of Secretariat United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFFS)</p>
10:25	<p>Statements by Chairs of UNFF & COFO</p> <p>İsmail Belen Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)</p> <p>Pierre Taty (tbc) Chairperson of the 28th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)</p>
10:40	<p>Keynote - One vision many approaches: Forest-Based Bioeconomy</p> <p>Emmanuel de Merode (tbc) Director of Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo</p>

Item 2. Business Talk		
	<p>Moderator: Derek Nighbor President and CEO Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC)</p>	<p>Speaker</p>
11:30	<p>Opening</p>	<p>Moderator</p>
11:35	<p>Private sector panel: ‘From vision to value: how the forest-based private sector can scale up a sustainable bioeconomy’</p> <p><i>Each panellist delivers a 3-minute presentation summarizing a key perspective from their sector, highlighting examples of best practices and solutions that, if scaled up, could accelerate the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy. Panellists should focus on the thematic area of the Summit:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Meets Practice • Sourcing Wealth and Financing Opportunities • Advancing Forest-Based Value Chains • Exploring Forest Potentials Beyond Wood • Building the Future with Wood • Fostering Forest-Based Innovation <p>Interactive discussion "Deep Dive" Building a common ground (15')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator-led round of follow-up questions to both panel and audience (through polls). – e.g.: • What are common barriers and opportunities to scaling? What are next priorities for action to operationalize the statement/commitments? 	<p>Christopher Davidson (tbc) Vice President, Sustainability Engagement at Smurfit Westrock, US</p> <p>Beto Abreu (tbc) CEO Suzano, Brazil</p> <p>Christoph Kulterer CEO Hasslacher Group, Austria</p> <p>Yuuko Iizuka (tbc) Executive Officer, Sumitomo Forestry, Japan</p> <p>Dimitri Vouayemadé (tbc) CEO Congolaise Internationale des Bois, Republic of the Congo</p> <p>Meltem Jurtsan CEO HerbaFarm Academy, Türkiye</p>
12:25	<p>Wrap up + Closing</p>	<p>Moderator</p>

Item 3. Science Talk	
<p>Moderator: Peter Mayer Austrian Research Centre for Forests</p>	
<p>Speaker</p>	
12:30	<p>Science panel: “Scientific insights”</p> <p><i>Each panelist delivers a 5-minute presentation (max. 2 slides) answering the following question:</i></p> <p><i>IIASA, IUFRO, CIFOR-ICRAF: “Where do you see the biggest potential and main leverage points to advance forest-based bioeconomy globally?”</i></p> <p><i>FFG: “Please give insights on the cooperation between support and funding organizations globally (best practices, potentials,...)?”</i></p> <p><i>Follow-up questions from moderator regarding the contribution of their organisation.</i></p>
	<p>Hans Joachim Schellnhuber International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)</p> <p>Daniela Kleinschmit International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)</p> <p>Eliane Ubalijoro Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)</p> <p>Henrietta Egerth (tbc) Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)</p>

Item 4. Mission of the CLI	
<p>Moderator: Tiina Rytälä-Broere Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland</p>	
<p>Speaker</p>	
13:10	<p>Scope and introduction to the Global Summit</p>
	<p>Lisa Lehner Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria</p>