



## From Vienna to Rome: Implementing the Vienna Call for Action on sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches

**Wednesday, 30 September 2026**

**12.15 – 13.45 CEST**

**FAO HQ - Sheikh Zayed Centre (Atrium)**

### Context

The sustainable bioeconomy is emerging as a key model for creating economic value from biological resources while supporting environmental and social goals. Within this context, sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches (SFBA) are gaining prominence as integral components of broader agrifood systems transformation, contributing to sustainable development while addressing interconnected challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Advancing SFBA is essential for the transitioning to nature positive, resilient, diverse, equitable and inclusive economies and societies. SFBA has the demonstrated and proven capacity to enable societies and the planet to derive greater benefit from sustainably managed forests.

Aiming to create a useful multilateral dialogue to foster the exchange on SFBA by connecting as many interested actors as possible and making best use of synergies, the Country and Organization-Led Initiative on SFBA (COLI) was initiated by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management of Austria, together with partner countries and organizations. Organized in the context of COLI and in support of the work of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the Global Summit on “Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches” was convened on 23-25 February 2026 in Vienna to further contribute to discussions on advancing SFBA.

### Event

Hosted by Austria, Finland and South Africa in collaboration with the friends of COLI<sup>1</sup>, the event aims at presenting the key outcomes of COLI and its Global Summit and facilitating a dialogue among policymakers, regional representatives, private sector and other stakeholders, on the implications for scaling SFBA. The event will highlight the results of the Global Summit, the Co-Chairs’ Summary and the Vienna Call for Action (VCA). The respective recommendations will be discussed among countries and organizations. Relevant actors are brought together so that forest-based value chains can be advanced, and a new momentum for cooperation can be created.

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<sup>1</sup> Australia (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), Japan (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries), Türkiye (General Directorate of Forestry), Sweden (Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure), FAO (Forestry Division), IUFRO and UNFF Secretariat.



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# 10<sup>th</sup> World Forest Week

Rome | 28 September – 2 October 2026



## Objectives of the event:

- Present the outcomes of COLI, including its Global Summit;
- discuss global and regional perspectives on upscaling SFBA, including strengthening forest-dependent livelihoods, enhance ecosystem resilience, and create inclusive economic opportunities; and
- strengthen political visibility, support coordinated follow up and mobilize commitment and partnerships needed to accelerate SFBA at all levels.

## Draft Programme

**Chair:** Ms. Elfriede Moser, Director General for Forestry and Regions, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria.

**Moderator:** Ms. Tiina Rytilä-Broere, Senior Ministerial Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland.

**12:00 – 12:15 | Light lunch**

**12:15 – 12:25 | Opening remarks**

**H.E. Mr. Niall Collins**, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine with special responsibility for Forestry, Farm Safety and Horticulture, Ireland.

**12:25 – 12:40 | Leadership and policy pathways**

**Ms. Joyce Henry**, Director General, Trade Economics and Industry Branch, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, Canada.

**Mr. Makoto Kondo**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Rome.

**Mr. Derek Nighbor**, President and CEO at Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC), UNFF Major Group Business and Industry, FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries.



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## 12:40 – 12:55 | Making bioeconomy inclusive and investable

**Mr. Preecha Ongprasert**, Director of Forestry Foreign Affairs Royal Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand.

**Ms. Aulikki Hulmi**, Director, Head of Unit of EU coordination and International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland.

**Mr. Josep Gari**, Head of Climate, Forests and Land, UNDP.

## 12:55 – 13:15 | Build collaborative partnerships

**H.E. Ms. Carla Barroso Carneiro**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO.

**Ms. Daniela Kleinschmit**, President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, Professor at the University of Freiburg.

**Mr. Zebulun Otaigbe Ojo**, Head of FAO Sub-Commission, International Forestry Students' Association.

**Mr. Kai Lintunen**, Leader of the Forest Communicators Network Europe, Head of International Communication, Finnish Forest Association.

## 13:15 – 13:40 | Interventions from the floor

## 13:40 – 13:45 | Closing remarks

**Mr. Ewald Rametsteiner**, Deputy-Director, Forestry Division, FAO.

**Ms. Pumeza Nodada**, Deputy Director-General for Forestry Management, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa.

