

Global Summit on “Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches”

23–25 February 2026, Vienna, Austria

Guidance Note

Item 5.1 — Policy meets practice

1. Date & Time

Monday, 23 February 2026, from 15:00 to 18:30 CET

2. Context

The policy landscape for forest-based bioeconomy is undergoing a transformation as governments and institutions work to integrate forest-based priorities into broader bioeconomy strategies and sustainability frameworks. Ensuring policy coherence remains a central challenge—particularly in harmonizing regulations across jurisdictions and fostering inclusive governance that reflects the needs and rights of all stakeholders, especially smallholder farmers and Indigenous communities

Taking into account the outcomes of COLI webinars no. 1 “From policy to practice scaling up sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches” and no. 6 “Bioeconomy cooperation: next steps to upscale forest-based bioeconomy”, the session will spotlight recent global policy achievements, showcasing effective national and regional strategies, and sharing proven practices, in order to provide actionable insights to shape international discussions and strengthen the forest sector's pivotal role in advancing the broader bioeconomy agenda.

3. Objectives

This thematic session aims to identify:

- i. Effective strategies and policy measures, addressing key gaps, challenges and policy barriers in advancing forest-based bioeconomy.
- ii. Opportunities and priority actions at the national and international levels to scale up forest-based bioeconomy, and to ensure their economic, environmental, and social benefits are achieved in a balanced and mutually reinforcing manner.

4. Guiding questions

- i. Which **strategies** and **key factors** have most effectively driven scalable approaches to a forest-based bioeconomy?
- ii. Which policies and regulatory **barriers at the national and international levels** prevent countries, and relevant **stakeholders** from widely adopting sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches?
- iii. Which **measures** within existing international and national policy frameworks should be prioritized to advance the large-scale implementation of sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches?



- iv. Which **actions** at the national and international level should be prioritized to close the gap between policy and practice, enabling rapid progress towards sustainable and scalable bioeconomy initiatives?

5. Format and modalities

The thematic session will be hosted by a session lead and will begin with a keynote presentation, followed by stakeholder perspectives and facilitated discussions in breakout groups (World café), both on site and online. During these discussions, participants will have the opportunity to reflect on and respond to the four guiding questions outlined above. The key messages emerging from the parallel discussions will then be presented in plenary, followed by an open exchange of views, allowing all participants to engage with and contribute to the full range of topics.

6. Programme

Item 5.1 Policy meets practice	
Time	15:00-17:00 CET
Thematic Session	Policy meets practice
Location	Room 8 “Sophie”
Session Lead	Erno Jarvinen (FIN)
Moderator	<i>Hossein Moeini-Meybodi (UNFFS)</i>
Opening by session lead	Erno Jarvinen Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
Keynote	Marcelo Behar (online) COP30 Special Envoy for Bioeconomy, Brazil
Stakeholder views	Ivana Zivojinovic BOKU University, Austria
	Silvia Melegari European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois), Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI)
	Pooja Pokharel UNFF Major Group Children and Youth
World café	<i>Breakout group discussion on guiding questions</i> <i>Facilitated on-site: Sven Walter (FAO), Damiano Cilio (BOKU University), Janice Burns (IUFRO), Visnja Koscak (Holzcluster Styria)</i>



	<i>Facilitated online: Thomas Timmel (Bioeconomy Austria)</i>
	Summary by facilitators & Closing by session lead
Coffee break (17:00-17:30) Reconvene in Room 10 “Orangerie”	
Time	17:30-18:30 CET
Plenary	Policy meets practice & Sourcing wealth and financing opportunities
Location	Room 10 “Orangerie”
Co-Chairs	Georg Rappold (AT) Pumeza Nodada (ZA)
Moderator	<i>Tiina Ryttilä (FIN)</i>
Discussion & Exchange	<i>Pitch of key points from Item 5.1 and 5.2 by session leads</i>
	<i>Exchange of views</i>
	<i>Conclusion by Co-Chairs</i>



7. References

- i. **Albinelli, I., Gomez San Juan, M., Lester, G., Nijmeijer, M. & Neretin, L.** 2024. *Bioeconomy for food and agriculture: A global stocktaking study*. Environment and Natural Resources Management Working Paper, No. 101. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd2490en>
- ii. **FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).** 2025. *Summary report of Webinar 1. From Policy to Practice: Scaling Up Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches*. Rome, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd5558en>
- iii. **FAO.** 2025. *Indicators for sustainable bioeconomy – Towards building a monitoring and assessment framework*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6761en>
- iv. **FAO & Korea Forest Service.** 2022. *Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood*. Seoul, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/74ffc465-498a-46ce-bea6-c7839c9c4be3/content>
- v. **G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy.** 2024. *G20 High-Level Principles on Bioeconomy*. <https://www.gov.br/g20/en/tracks/sherpa-track/bioeconomy-initiative>
- vi. **IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations).** 2025. *Wood for Globe*. <https://www.iufro.org/wood-for-globe>
- vii. **IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations).** 2026. *Policy Brief*. https://www.bmluk.gv.at/dam/jcr:b84f3abe-3b1f-451b-9644-971e954084a1/COLI_01_Policy_Meets_Practice-FINAL.pdf
- viii. **Nature Finance.** 2025. *Growing a Sustainable Bioeconomy Through Trade and International Cooperation*. <https://www.naturefinance.net/resources-tools/growing-a-sustainable-bioeconomy-through-trade-and-international-cooperation/>

