

## Guidance Note

### Item 5.1 — Policy meets practice

#### 1. Date & Time

Monday, 23 February 2026, from 15:00 to 18:15 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. Policy coherence is a critical challenge, including related to harmonizing regulations across jurisdictions and ensuring inclusive governance that considers the needs of all stakeholders, particularly 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 **quick-win measures** within existing international and national policy frameworks should be leveraged/prioritized to advance the large-scale implementation of sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches? What new measures have to be taken?
- iv. Which **actions** at the national and international level should be prioritised to close the gap between policy and practice, enabling rapid progress towards sustainable and scalable bioeconomy initiative, while maintaining the economic, environmental and social benefit from forest-based bioeconomy in a balanced manner?

## 5. Format and modalities

The thematic session will be hosted by the session lead. The session comprises a keynote presentation, followed by stakeholder views and facilitated discussions in breakout groups on site and online. During the facilitated discussion, participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the above-mentioned four guiding questions. Time allows for approximately 15 minutes of discussion per guiding question within the breakout groups.

The key points from the parallel sessions will be presented in the plenary followed by an exchange of views giving participants the opportunity to contribute to the discussion of all topics.

## 6. Draft programme

<b>Location: Room 1 (“Maria Theresia”)</b>		<b>Speaker</b>
<b>Moderator: UNFFS</b>		
15:00	Opening by session lead	<b>Erno Jarvinen</b> Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
15:05	Keynote	<b>Carlos Nobre</b> University of Sao Paulo, Brazil
15:20	Stakeholder views	<b>Ivana Zivojinovic</b> (tbc) BOKU University  <b>Silvia Melegari</b> (tbc) Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries, ACSFI  <b>Pooja Pokharel</b> (tbc) International Forestry Students' Association, IFSA
15:35	World café	<i>Breakout group discussion on guiding questions</i>  <i>Facilitated by: Sven Walter (FAO), Damiano Cilio (BOKU), Janice Burns (IUFRO), Visnja Koscak (Holzcluster Styria)</i>
16:35	Summary by facilitators	
16:50	Closing by session lead	
16:55	Coffee break	<i>Reconvene in plenary</i>

<b>Location: Room 10 (“Orangerie”)</b>	
<b>Moderator: Tiina Ryttilä-Broere</b> <i>Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland</i>	
17:25	<i>Pitch of key points from Item 5.1 and 5.2</i>
17:45	<i>Exchange of views</i>
18:05	<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.
- 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 [link will be provided upon availability]
- 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/>