



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
BRAZIL, H.E. AMBASSADOR RONALDO COSTA FILHO**

**UNFF 17 - HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE - "UNFF RESPONSE TO, ROLE IN,
AND EXPECTATIONS FROM FOREST-RELATED MULTILATERAL
DEVELOPMENTS"**

May 9, 2022

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

As the largest megadiverse country and home to the world's largest tropical rainforest, Brazil is fully aware that forests play a major role in the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals and in many biodiversity-related conventions.

If we want the United Nations Forum on Forests to continue to play a fundamental role in addressing those interlinkages, we need to reflect upon the challenges that have prevented us from scaling up sustainable forest management.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed many of the development gains we have achieved over the past years, we need to remind ourselves that forests are best protected when we address the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced and integrated manner, and when countries, in particular developing countries, have access to adequate and predictable means of implementation.

The UNFF provides an essential platform to improve the exchange of best practices for the implementation of sustainable forest management and in doing so it can help us address multiple environmental, social and economic challenges. Between now and 2030, we believe the UNFF should place additional emphasis on how to increase access to and transfer of environmentally-sound technologies, foster scientific and technical cooperation and enhance capacity-building for the benefit of forest-dependent people.

All those tools prove fundamental to map innovative timber and non-timber products that will stimulate sustainable bioeconomy value chains, thus contributing to the well-being of local

communities while preventing environmental degradation. Brazil has been strengthening the value chains of non-timber forest products, such as açai and Brazilian nuts, which generate over USD 300 million a year for small and family-based producers, and we are confident that our national experiences could be scaled up and replicated with adequate means of implementation.

In addition, the Forum could also provide a platform to share lessons on innovative financial mechanisms to support forests protection, such as payments for environmental services (PES). Ongoing national experiences with payments for environmental services demonstrate the potential of such mechanism to stimulate conservation, restoration, sustainable management and sustainable use activities, by engaging the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities. We hope the UNFF will contribute to increasing the visibility of those mechanisms and help us leverage new and additional resources for forest ecosystems.

Supporting bioeconomy and innovative financial mechanisms such as schemes of Payments for Environmental Services point out to the same direction: if we are committed to protecting our forests, we need to unlock long-term investments in scientific research and innovation to add value to forest-based products and forest ecosystem services.

I thank you.