

**Item 3: Policy discussions on the Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017- 2030
(UNSPF)**

High Level Round Table

Statement from Japan

Good morning, Good afternoon, Good evening, I am Tetsuo Tanimoto, Director of the International Forestry Cooperation Office, Forestry Agency of Japan.

I would like to thank UNFF Secretariat for convening a full UNFF 17 session in this difficult situation. Japan also condemns Russia's aggression against Ukraine and continues to stand in full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

(Japan's contributions in international cooperation)

To safeguard the environment, Japan places a high importance on contributing globally toward the promotion of sustainable forest management. We have shown our commitment through our engagement with various international bodies.

At COP26 of the UNFCCC held last year, Japan participated in the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, and pledged for the conservation of global forests through the use of advanced technologies and through many international organizations.

In terms of substance, we have engaged in discussions on promoting sustainable agricultural supply chains that are not associated with deforestation at the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade Dialogue.

Just last week, at the 15th World Forestry Congress, we presented our pioneering mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement --- the JCM-REDD+ initiatives --- and helped deepened discussions at the ministerial forum on the importance of sustainable wood use as a means toward achieving carbon neutrality and the 2030 Agenda.

In addition, as a host country of the International Tropical Timber Organization, we have continued to highlight the importance of promoting sustainable forest management and legal and sustainable trade in tropical forests, where climate and biodiversity benefits are exceptionally large.

(Expectation of UNFF's contribution to initiatives such as Glasgow Leaders' Declaration)

Japan believes that UNFF, in its Secretariat role to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, can play a valuable role in efficiently coordinating initiatives aimed at halting and reversing forest loss by 2030.

We look forward to UNFF leveraging its expertise and networks in these efforts.

(Expectation of the conference)

Finally, I hope that this Forum will have a constructive debate in catalyzing the achievement of the UNSPF and SDGs.