

Speaking notes Peo UNFF17 HLPF 11.15-13.00 9 May 2022

Thank you Mr. / Madame Chair.

Dear Mr. / Madame Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

We are making this statement on behalf of the Major Group Workers and Trade Unions, in addition to the joint statement that has been made on behalf of all Major Groups.

We want to express our gratitude for the UNFF Secretariat for the ongoing support they provide to Major Groups and other stakeholders to be part of the forest forums activities. We do note however that recourses are lacking to include full and in person participation of all Major Groups and we implore on the member states to ensure that the voices of the forest depended people represented by the major groups are still being heard.

We would also like to thank the member states for their Voluntary National Contributions whether they are new or updates, as well as for their interventions made during this 17<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFF, because they give the global forest community new insights and can be an inspiration for new actions to achieve our global and common forests goals.

It will not surprise you, that as representative of the Major Group Workers and Trade Unions, our main interest is in Global Forest Goal 2 : “Enhancing forest-based economic social and environmental benefits”; which happens to be a thematic priority for this session. “Mainstreaming and upscaling of forest related actions” sound to me as President of GS Facket, the Swedish Wood and forestry workers Union and as president of the Global Union Federation “Building and Wood Workers’ International” as music to my ear.

However, we have noted that exciting inequalities have been extraverted during the global pandemic and that the vulnerable people in many of rural parts have been left alone.

You may have noted the appeals for the youth and women in our joint statement.

We, the trade unions have also seen, on global and national level, that there where governments were able to contribute to support industries, the workers were protected against the most adverse impacts. But we still note job losses, lack of prope wage developments, especially if we take the rising inflation in to account, and even an increased number of precarious workers in our industries. And that is not only in the developing countries, were the overall majority of the still 75% informal workers in the global industry are.

We see it also closer to home, in my own country where workers are replaced by so-called seasonal labour-migrants, or Finland were one of the leading companies refused to recognise the right of collective bargaining.

And I would like to ask the member states to consider what they can do to foster decent work and formal employment in our sectors, stimulate social dialogue at all appropriate levels. Because without that I think we cannot face the enormous challenge that lies ahead, how to mainstream, up scale the responsible forest-based activities if the people that depend on the forest for their livelihoods find more rewarding employment and decent work outside of our fantastic sector that could contribute so much in achieving our sustainable global developments goals and combat climate change.

Thank you for your attention.