

## **Intervention Notes to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

**<Monday, 11 July 2022, 09:10 AM - 12:00 PM, CR4>**

### **SDG 15 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Life on land**

Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)

Thank you, distinguished Moderator, for allowing the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) to be part of the SDG discussion, particularly for SDG 15 Life on Land.

As the intergovernmental organization representing forests and forestry concerns and issues of the sixteen (16) member countries of the organization, AFoCO highly recognizes the importance of SDG 15 Life on Land in the region. AFoCO is implementing 26 projects that directly and indirectly contribute to achieve SDG 15 through forest restoration, livelihood improvement and capacity development in its 13 member countries. The programs and activities share common approaches, which ensure community and multi-stakeholder participation, address socio-economic needs and environmental concerns, and provide a platform for exchange of expertise, and capacity building. Recently, AFoCO launched a regional project “Capacity Building on Enhancing Resilience to Forest Fire, and Local Livelihood and Market Linkages for the Mekong region”, sponsored by the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Meanwhile, AFoCO encourages private participation through AFoCO Green Partnership as a private sector engagement platform of the organization fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the 1.5 °C Paris Agreement goal under the UNFCCC. As a part of the efforts, private entities are engaging in improving local livelihoods through community-based Non-Timber Forest Product enterprises, and enhancing carbon sequestration to serve needs and interests of the participating partners.

In the end, to achieve SDG 15 and interlinked Goals, we would like to further emphasize the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation and broader coordination and coherence among the countries and organizations.

Thank you.