

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

<Tuesday, 5 July 2022, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, General Assembly Hall>

Building back better and advancing the SDGs

by

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Thank you, distinguished moderator, for allowing the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization to be part of the SDG discussion. Forest of Asia consists of 549 million hectares and contributes to 14 % of the global forest cover, which plays a vital role in biodiversity conservation and global carbon balance and achieving sustainable development goals.

On behalf of our 16 member countries in Asia, we would like to share the outcome of the recently concluded 15th World Forestry Congress held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea. The Seoul Forestry Declaration demonstrates the importance of forests, forestry, and forest stakeholders offering major nature-based solutions to climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, prevention of zoonotic diseases, food security, and poverty reduction. But we need to act now and include forests as part of our plan and solution to build back better.

Investment in forests, a very important natural capital, will take time, but the benefits and return will be national, regional, global, and inclusive. Thank you.