

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

<Thursday, 7 July 2022, 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM>

SDG 5 and interlinkages with other SDGs - Gender equality

by

Soozin Ryang (Ms.)

Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)

Thank you, distinguished madam moderator, for allowing the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) to be part of the SDG discussion, especially for SDG 5 gender equality. Forest of Asia consists of 549 million hectares and contributes to 14 % of the global forest cover, playing a vital role in biodiversity conservation and global carbon balance. As the inter-governmental organization representing forests and forestry concerns and issues of 16 member countries in Asia, AFoCO would like to strongly reiterate the importance of gender equality that contributes to sustainable forest management and carbon neutrality.

For that, capacity development is our cross-cutting investment, as contained in our strategic plan. We have invested in capacity building for local livelihood enhancement since 2014, and more than 40 % of the participants are women. Our project portfolio, valued at 77.9 million US dollars invested in 26 ongoing projects in the member countries in Asia, involves investment in forest-dependent communities, most especially women's involvement in utilization of non-timber forest products, community-based forest enterprises development, forest and eco-tourism, and mangrove ecosystem restoration. From the recently concluded 15th FAO World Forestry Congress held last May in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, we observed that all the worldwide forest colleagues shared their sincere views on the vital roles of women in achieving the SDGs.

In the end, we believe that capacity-building activities committing to gender equality in the forest and forestry sector encourage policymakers of our member countries well-reflect, document, and communicate for addressing relevant matters through knowledge and communications products. We would like to further emphasize that it finally contributes to the achievements of the multiple SDGs toward a resilient society.

Thank you.