

Delegation of the United States of America

The United States expresses our support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people and echoes the comments of the European Union and Australia.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates and colleagues. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening.

In the United States, and elsewhere, conserving and restoring forests and combating nature crimes are indispensable elements of our broader climate and biodiversity goals.

At COP26, the United States was pleased to join with more than 140 other countries to sign the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

We reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable management and restoration of forests, with the expectation that we will work together to halt forest loss and land degradation by 2030.

Just two weeks ago, on Earth Day, President Biden signed a new executive order to strengthen U.S. forests, boost wildfire resilience, and combat global deforestation.

The new order will safeguard mature and old-growth forests on federal lands, strengthen reforestation partnerships across the country, combat global deforestation, and enlist nature-based solutions to address the twin crises of climate change and nature loss.

Wildfire management is an urgent national priority. In January, we launched the ten-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy. The core of our strategy is picking up the pace and scale of our fuels and forest health treatments to match the actual scale of wildfire risk.

With \$131 million from the new U.S. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we will fund this work across millions of hectares of high-risk landscapes in the drought-prone Western states, creating new jobs and resilient landscapes.

The U.S. approaches to forest conservation, restoration, and our wildfire strategy are inclusive. We recognize the importance of consultation with all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, subnational governments, and civil society.

We commend the work of the Forum in becoming a more visible player in the forest sector.

The UN International Day of Forests, the Global Forest Goals Report 2021, and Phase I of the GFFFN Clearing House are good examples of the Forum's outreach and achievement in the past year.

We are all stronger when we work together through multilateral fora such as the UNFF, which is uniquely positioned to be the leading voice on forest issues.

Thank you for your attention.