

Opening remarks presented on behalf of

Rene Castro Salazar,

ADG Forestry and Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Co-chairs,

Distinguished experts, dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure for me to address the 1st meeting of the Ad-hoc Expert Group on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. On a more personal note, I am very grateful for this opportunity because this is the first time that I can address a meeting under the International Arrangement on Forests in my new capacity as Assistant Director-General for Forestry in FAO and chair of the Partnership. Needless to say that I consider both designations as an enormous honour and opportunity to make a contribution to promoting our common quest, the sustainable management of all types of forests of the world. I am taking inspiration from the commitment of all members of CPF, from the invitations and guidance from you, the member States, and the great support and interest of a broad range of stake-holders, and I will work tirelessly in both capacities, together with all of you, to make our goals and objectives a reality.

Dear Colleagues,

Last year we witnessed two milestone agreements in the global dialogue: the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Both are ground-breaking in their respective fields, and the overarching nature of the 2030 Agenda makes it

