

Thank you Chair and thank you to the UNFF Secretariat for the excellent note for the High Level Roundtable discussion.

On behalf of the Indian delegation, I would like to put on record our appreciation for the steps the UNFF is taking towards achieving the goals of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF). I would like to highlight that India's efforts and actions in regard to its forestry sector are in harmony with the Global Forest Goals. Increasing the country's forest and tree cover is high on the country's agenda and we have over the years increased our forest and tree cover, trees outside forests and carbon stocks. Our protected area network has also increased and covers about 173 thousand sq km , which is more than 5 percent of the country's area, with a total of 987 protected areas in the country.

We would like to point out that India has not endorsed the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use due to

