

UNITED NATIONS



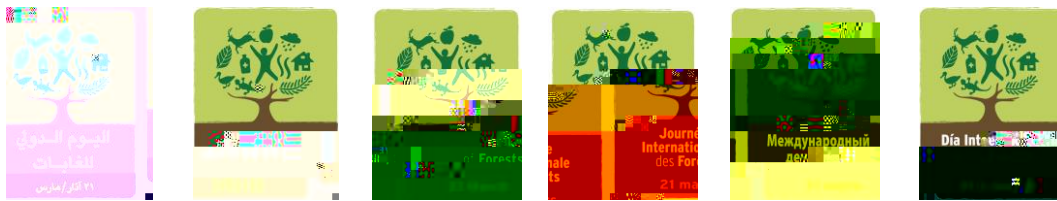
NATIONS UNIES

**MESSAGE FROM DR. MANOEL SOBRAL FILHO
DIRECTOR, UN FORUM ON FORESTS SECRETARIAT**

**Celebration of the 2018 International Day of Forests
21 March 2018 | UN Headquarters, New York**

Throughout history, the rise and fall of human civilization has been linked to the sustainability of the environmental resources which we depend on. There are many examples of ancient societies which inadvertently undermined their future through deforestation and habitat destruction, mismanagement of soil and water, overhunting, overfishing, and population growth.

Today, for the first time in our history, more than half of the



Today, some 40% of population in less developed countries, an over 2 billion people still rely on wood fuel for cooking and heating. Nearly 90 per cent of all fuelwood and charcoal use takes place in developing countries, where forests are often the only energy source available to the poor. At the same time, urban forests, parks and trees in cities can provide significant savings on reducing energy use for heating and cooling homes and buildings.

In the past two years, we have seen a groundswell of support for forests. Starting with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs in 2015, and culminating in the adoption of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 by the UN General Assembly last year.