

## UNFF17 High Level Round Table: UNFF response to, role in, and expectations from forest-related multilateral developments

Madam chair,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member states.

1. More than ever, forests are under the pressure of increasing threats and disaster risks such as forest fires, droughts and storms, but also wars and violent aggressions.
2. Let me first express the full solidarity of the EU and its Member States with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified act of aggression against Ukraine, which is a flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter, and with dramatic human as well as environmental consequences in this region. The EU demands that Russia immediately cease its military actions, withdraw all its

prosperity. We encourage the UNFF to step up action, promote and implement more cross-sectoral coordination of the UNFF with the agricultural sector.

6.

