Resolution: Combating Global Deforestation

Submitted by: Namibia

The Environmental Committee,

Recognising that approximately 15 billion trees are cut down annually, releasing up to 5 billion tonnes of CO_2 and accelerating global climate change

Alarmed that deforestation results in the loss of approximately 137 species per day, threatening biodiversity and ecosystem stability vital for human food security,

Acknowledging that 10% of global biodiversity is contained within the Amazon Rainforest alone, which remains under acute threat from illegal and unsustainable logging,

Recalling the commitments made under Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land) which seeks to halt deforestation and promote sustainable forest management,

Recognising further that approximately 30% of logging activity in the Russian Federation is illegal, undermining global sustainable timber trade efforts,

Concerned by the growing contribution of charcoal production, agricultural expansion, urbanisation, and road building to global deforestation rates,

Emphasising the essential role of indigenous peoples, whose lives and cultures are deeply embedded in forest ecosystems, in maintaining biodiversity and managing forests sustainably,

Affirming that timber, when managed responsibly, constitutes a renewable and sustainable resource, capable of supporting both environmental integrity and economic development,

Recognising the need for economic mechanisms that offset income losses from displaced agricultural or extractive activities due to reforestation or conservation,

Acknowledging that voluntary commitments alone are insufficient to address the global deforestation crisis, and that stronger accountability and enforcement mechanisms are required,

1. Establishes a new UN sub-body under the United Nations Environment Programme, entitled the Forum for Oversight, Regeneration, and Environmental Sustainability Taskforce **(FOREST)** which shall:
    a. Serve as a global platform for sharing best practices on sustainable forest management, reforestation, and afforestation;
    b. Collect, analyse, and publish data on global deforestation using satellite-based monitoring and regional partnerships;

c. Provide technical and financial assistance to developing Member States seeking to enhance forest conservation capacity.

2. Mandates that all Member States submit biennial forestry and biodiversity reports to **FOREST**, detailing:

    a. National deforestation and reforestation rates;
    b. Measured biodiversity indicators;
    c. The extent of indigenous participation and local community engagement in forest management;
    d. Financial mechanisms employed to support sustainable forestry.

3. Calls for the formal inclusion and representation of indigenous peoples in all national and international decision-making processes concerning forest governance, ensuring:

    a. Free, prior, and informed consent before any development or extraction activity on indigenous land;
    b. Equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms from sustainable forestry projects;
    c. Integration of traditional ecological knowledge in environmental management frameworks.

4. Encourages Member States to expand national forest action plans to address additional causes of deforestation beyond illegal logging, including:

    a. Charcoal harvesting for heating and cooking;
    b. Agricultural land expansion;
    c. Urban development and road-building activities that fragment habitats.

5. Calls for the creation of economic incentive schemes designed to balance income losses from displaced agricultural or extractive industries, such as:

    a. Payments for ecosystem services to communities engaging in reforestation;
    b. Global carbon credit schemes recognising verified reforestation;
    c. Certification and preferential trade terms for sustainably produced timber and non-timber forest products.

6. Further Calls for the introduction of a progressive enforcement mechanism based on measurable compliance, stipulating that:
    a. Member States failing to demonstrate progress on deforestation reduction after three reporting cycles shall face graduated trade sanctions on timber, charcoal, and high-deforestation agricultural exports;
    b. States demonstrating measurable progress shall receive preferential trade access and development funding via **FOREST** - administered incentive programmes;
    c. Sanctions and incentives shall be reviewed annually by **FOREST** and may be lifted upon verified compliance with sustainable forest management standards.

7. Urges international organisations and development banks to tie financial aid, trade agreements, and investment eligibility to verified adherence to sustainable forest management practices.

8. Encourages the formation of public-private partnerships (PPPs) aimed at:

    a. Developing markets for certified sustainable timber and alternative renewable materials;
    b. Promoting cleaner, affordable energy alternatives to reduce reliance on charcoal-based heating.

9. Supports research and pilot programmes focusing on drought and fire-resistant afforestation techniques, particularly in regions where wildfires are a primary cause of deforestation.

10. Calls for comprehensive education and awareness campaigns to reduce global consumer demand for illegally sourced wood products and promote sustainable consumption patterns.