



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States**  
**174th session of the FAO Council**  
**(4-8 December 2023)**

**Item 9.1: Report of the 137th session of the Programme Committee, bioeconomy for sustainable agrifood systems transformation**

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. [XXX, XXXX, XXXX align themselves with this statement.]
3. We welcome the information provided on FAO's work on bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture.
4. We appreciate the progress made on the implementation of the priority programme area 'Bioeconomy for Sustainable Food and Agriculture'. The bioeconomy has great potential for innovation in terms of sustainable production and consumption, as well as high job creation potential, contributing through bio-based solutions to progress towards reaching the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda.
5. In the EU's understanding, the concept of bioeconomy comprises all sectors and associated services and investments that produce, use, process, distribute or consume biological resources (animals, plants and micro-organisms, including organic waste), including ecosystem services.
6. The EU has a bioeconomy strategy and action plan, including 14 well-defined actions, under three priorities:
  - a strengthen and scale up bio-based sectors, unlocking investments and markets,
  - b deploy local bioeconomies rapidly across the whole of Europe,
  - c understand the ecological boundaries of the bioeconomy.
7. We think that this strategy can be helpful in the further development of the concept of bioeconomy within the scope of FAO's mandate.
8. Finally, having regard to the importance of the bioeconomy could play in a future national economies, members could consider the chance to eventually foster we agree to encourage member states to the adoption of national strategies and action plans on sustainable and circular bioeconomy.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.