

**Statement of Ms Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director of the International Tropical
Timber Organization (ITTO)
at the high-level segment of UNFCCC COP 30:**

Your Excellencies, Honorable Ministers and distinguished delegates,

The International Tropical Timber Organization congratulates the host government of COP30, BRAZIL, for placing the future viability of tropical forests at the core.

These precious ecosystems are crucial to both climate mitigation and adaptation, and the conservation of global biodiversity. Equally important for long-term conservation are economic development and social benefits for forest owners, local communities and Indigenous People who live in and depend on tropical forests, estimated at 1.6 billion people.

Being the foundation of climate-smart circular bioeconomies, STFM conserves natural resources, provides a wide range of goods and services, enriches livelihoods, reduces poverty, stores and sequesters carbon and enhances resilience to climate change challenges.

The full potential of tropical forests on all fronts needs to be empowered by paradigm shifts and immediate change to worn narratives. Most importantly, funding should flow to those who sustainably manage them. Sustainable harvesting is *not* deforestation.

International, regional and domestic markets are critical in balancing the supply and demand of legal and sustainable wood - one of the most environmentally friendly and naturally renewable materials versus others with more significant carbon footprints. Integrated forest value chains bolster transformational climate impacts and materializes inclusive sustainable development.

Sustainably managed tropical forests are a clear solution for a climate-resilient future. Deliberations at this COP must go beyond the recognition of tropical forest's crucial contributions. The formulation of innovative partnerships and sustainable financial mechanisms are critical, to reach people where it matters most - on the ground.

The ITTO urges further investments and incentives to continue sustainable tropical forests underpinning the most effective contributions to global climate & development goals.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.