



**Closing Session: Presentation of Congress outcomes & adoption of Congress Resolution**  
**May 6, 2022 | 13:00 PM KST – 15:00 PM KST**

Excellencies, distinguished fellow panelists, delegates, colleagues and friends.

On behalf of IUFRO and the forest science community, thank you for this opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of this historic 15<sup>th</sup> World Forestry Congress. This Congress has provided an open forum for the exchange of knowledge, perspectives and visions among the diverse communities that comprise the forest sector, including scientists, educators, forest managers, civil society, youth, policy makers, communicators and the public. This dialogue has enriched us all and expanded our understanding of how – by working together – we can – and will - raise the profile of forests and their contributions to many of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Covid-19 recovery measures at this critical time.

The Congress Declaration presents a clear set of messages regarding the critical roles that forests and trees outside of forests play in enhancing food security and nutrition, providing abundant and clean water for people, making our cities more livable, halting and reversing land degradation, promoting sustainable production and consumption, and of course, helping to address both the climate and biodiversity crises that threaten our survival.

Forest science has a crucial role to play in all of this. The vast pool of knowledge, experience, insights and innovation that is currently available from Western science, Indigenous science, and the traditional knowledge of local communities is fundamental to effective conservation, sustainable management and restoration of the world’s forests in the face of the many challenges we face. This priceless knowledge, and the social and cultural capital that underpins it, must be fully engaged.

The forest research community stands ready to work shoulder to shoulder with our colleagues in all natural resource sectors, including agriculture, as well as with policy makers, the private sector, civil society organizations, communities, and youth to tackle the urgent challenges before us.

Our efforts will also require the support and engagement of the public whose personal and collective decisions have significant direct and indirect impacts on forests and their governance. Therefore, effective communication about the importance of forests is critical. So too is forest education at all levels, from school children to university students and forestry professionals. These priorities are clearly articulated in the Seoul Forest Declaration.

In closing, I would like to thank both the Korea Forest Service and FAO for making this amazing Congress possible. I believe that I speak for many of us who have participated both physically and virtually in this very important event, that it has been an inspiring and energizing experience. One that reminds us that by learning and working together, we will succeed in building a greener, healthier and more resilient future with forests.

Thank you.

*Statement by IUFRO President Dr. John Parrotta*

