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Youth Statement on Bioeconomy

Bioeconomy holds immense potential and value across forestry, fisheries, rural farming and urban environments. By integrating diverse youth perspectives, transformative change can be driven through innovation and inclusivity. That said, in order to continue playing a central role in work towards a sustainable and circular bioeconomy, it is vital that the youth voice is heard and acted upon.

On this basis, the World Food Forum (WFF) Youth Assembly has gathered the youth's voice through an open and inclusive consultation process with over 200 participants from all six regions, identifying fifteen key demands to empower change for a sustainable future.

The WFF Youth Assembly calls on all stakeholders, particularly policymakers, to:

- 1. Establish** youth-centered educational programmes that focus on technology and innovation within the forestry, agriculture and bioeconomy sectors to equip individuals with necessary skills for a sustainable future.
- 2. Facilitate** partnerships between academia, government and the private sector that create practical learning opportunities, mentorship programmes and career pathways in bioeconomy fields, ensuring active contributions and deliverables from these initiatives.

- 3. Support** sustainable forestry practices, exemplified by Costa Rica's Payment for Ecosystem Services and India's Joint Forest Management, to promote economic growth and environmental resilience.
- 4. Advocate** for the digitalization of forestry practices and the incorporation of circular economy principles, enabling the creation of eco-friendly products and diversifying bioeconomy materials that are essential for a sustainable future.
- 5. Urge** the implementation of policies that incentivize sustainable practices, ensure fair access to resources and prioritize inclusivity, particularly for marginalized communities in both urban and rural areas.
- 6. Emphasize** the need for incentives for rural bio-based businesses and increased awareness of biodigesters to enhance resource efficiency and engage youth in sustainable rural development.
- 7. Promote** initiatives that support biodigesters and educate communities on waste-to-energy practices, leveraging agricultural residues to enhance energy efficiency and food security.
- 8. Advocate** for enhanced training in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through public-private partnerships focusing on innovative techniques and resilient infrastructure to ensure long-term sustainability.

- 9. Recognize** rural youth's barriers to financing and market access and call for targeted support to empower full participation in bioeconomy initiatives.
- 10. Ensure** that urban bioeconomy efforts incorporate waste management, reforestation and circular economy principles to create holistic and sustainable urban environments.
- 11. Urge** governments to promote digital technologies that integrate urban agriculture with bioeconomy solutions to optimize resource use and enhance food production efficiency.
- 12. Emphasize** the importance of engaging local communities in bioeconomy projects, fostering collective ownership and ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth.
- 13. Establish** dedicated government programmes that support youth-led innovations in the urban bioeconomy, focusing on leveraging digital tools and sustainable practices.
- 14. Advocate** for investments in essential infrastructure and technology that enable both rural and urban bioeconomy scalability, providing the necessary tools for sustainable productivity.
- 15. Emphasize** the need for integrated planning and cross-sector collaboration to effectively scale bioeconomy solutions in diverse settings.