Training on the Guidelines on Nature-based Solutions (NbSs) to Combat Negative Impact of Climate Change on Forestry in FAOSEC Countries

26-30 September 2023 Antalya, Türkiye

Hasan Turkyılmaz

President of the Chamber of Forest Engineers of Türkiye (OMO)

September 27, 2023

Time 10:00-10:10

Dear Regional Forest Manager,

Dear Representatives of FAO

Dear guests from home and abroad who came to our program,

Dear colleagues

I greet you with my most heartfelt feelings on behalf of myself and the Chamber of Forest Engineers of Türkiye, and I hope that our training program will be beneficial.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations on food, agriculture, natural resource management and forestry. Within the framework of the agreement signed between the Government of Turkey and FAO in 2006, FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia (FAOSEC) was established in Ankara.

Working under the European Regional Directorate, FAOSEC provides services in 7 countries, including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The Chamber of Forest Engineers (OMO), which has approximately 20 thousand members, is a "professional organization in the nature of a public institution" according to the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey. OMO carries out its activities within the scope of "Law No. 6235 on the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects" and "Law No. 5531 on Forestry Engineering, Forest Industry Engineering and Woodworking Industrial Engineering" and " Main Regulation of OMO which was published in the Official Gazette dated 12 July 2006.

In addition to its national activities, OMO also operates internationally with the authority it receives from its legislation and its worldwide technical capacity.

In this context, a cooperation agreement was signed between OMO and FAO on 16 February 2023 to prepare the " the Guidelines on Nature-based Solutions (NbSs) to Combat Negative Impact of Climate Change on Forestry in FAOSEC Countries" and to organize a training.

In this context, the Guidelines, prepared with the participation of national experts, academics and officials from 7 countries, was approved by FAO and published on 12 September 2023.

Turkish and Russian versions of the guidelines were prepared and sent to institutions in order to reach the relevant parties and thus provide more benefit.

The guidelines, which aims to strengthen the technical capacities and cooperation opportunities of the FAOSEC region and countries, will contribute to common development goals by introducing examples of nature-based solutions to combat the negative effects of climate change on forestry and by encouraging local, cost-effective and proven solutions.

The guidelines is a guiding document to support knowledge and evidence-based policy and strategy development.

We have organized this training program to support the implementation of the prepared Guide.

This training was organized in cooperation with the General Directorate of Forestry, the Chamber of Forest Engineers and FAO. Representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and FAO are participating.

Additionally, our colleagues from Spain will share their experiences with us.

Using this opportunity, I would like to thank once more;

* To Mr. Peter Pechacek, who has provided all kinds of support since the beginning of the process and his team,
* To İsmail Belen who coordinated the preparation with a group of wonderful team
* To Prof. Dr. Yusuf Serengil, invited speaker
* To the representatives of the Countries,
* And sure, I would like to thank our host, General Directorate of Forestry, especially Mr. Vedat Dikici, the Regional Manager.

I hope and believe that this training program will be beneficial for all of us.