

“The Vancouver Declaration for the UN SDGs and FSC Certification”

Business has a crucial role in achieving a sustainable future and responsible use of natural resources as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals the UN adopted in 2015.

Forest products are an essential part of the goods we produce and our success is dependent on long term access to those raw materials. Without forest materials we would not be able to serve our customers with products meeting their expectations on functionality, quality, volume and sustainability performance. Therefore, we recognise the special responsibility we have in ensuring that the world’s forests are managed sustainably. These forests play an essential role in mitigating climate change, protecting biodiversity and providing livelihoods to hundreds of millions of people.

We want to ensure that our use of forest materials contributes to sustainable development, not least to local people who are dependent on the forests. We believe that most forest owners and managers share these aspirations, whether they are public authorities, companies, family owners or indigenous communities.

We have chosen to give visible and credible assurance of our commitments to our customers and other stakeholders by sourcing FSC-certified and controlled wood combined with re-claimed material for our products. Some of us have already achieved this for very high shares up to 100% of sourced materials, others are underway to that objective.

We are actively engaged in the development of the FSC certification scheme. The Forest Stewardship Council is a participatory multi-stakeholder and membership organisation where we work together with environmental and social organisations, with forest managers and indigenous peoples to reach consensus on the principles of responsible forest management. The FSC standards set bold but necessary requirements for forest management, and their implementation is overseen by a robust system of third party verification led by an independent, specialized accreditation organisation.

Therefore, currently, we see FSC as the most credible and widely acceptable choice.

FSC has been successful, it already covers more than 15% of the global industrial wood production. But we can do better. And we have to do better all together if we want to achieve sustainable production and consumption in near future and rescue our planet. All stakeholders need to support the growth of FSC to increase its impact. We commit to do our share by continuing to increase our sourcing of FSC-certified materials. We call upon forest managers to join this effective global scheme. And we call upon other companies to support this movement by sourcing FSC-certified materials as we do, because market transformation can only succeed if we all commit and make the effort.