

Beijing Declaration

- *Launched at the Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress*

25-27 June 2018, Beijing, China

We, ministers, senior officials and participants, attending the Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress (BARC2018), the first ever high-level policy-oriented global meeting on bamboo and rattan, organised by the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) and National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China on 25-27 June 2018 in Beijing, China,

Acknowledging the important role and great potential of bamboo and rattan in achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Calling for new partnerships to strengthen South-South collaboration in the spirit of extensive consultation, joint contributions and shared benefits in order to build a community with a shared future for mankind;

Recognising that bamboo and rattan are two of the most important non-timber forest resources widely distributed across the world and can contribute significantly to achieving many of the social, economic and environmental goals and targets of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to the creation of an ecological civilisation, particularly:

- Poverty alleviation - Bamboo and rattan have an estimated 10,000 uses which can create jobs, empower women and contribute to green growth;
- Addressing climate change - Bamboo stores carbon at a fast rate, making it a strategic tool for climate change mitigation and adaptation actions;
- Sustainable construction and human habitats - Bamboo's strength and light weight make it an excellent construction material for affordable, disaster-resilient housing and infrastructure;
- Environmental protection – Bamboo and rattan make up a critical part of forests and ecosystems, and bamboo is a very effective resource for restoring degraded land and managing water;
- Clean energy - Bamboo can provide a sustainable, renewable source of bioenergy which reduces pressure on forest resources and energy-poor communities;
- Sustainable production and consumption – Bamboo and rattan provide a low-carbon, renewable alternative to a number of materials used in construction, furniture, paper and packaging;

Acknowledging the opportunity for shared benefits through consultation among bamboo and rattan

consumer countries, with their expertise in value-added production and trade;

Further acknowledging that technical innovation will promote the sustainable use and development of bamboo and rattan and facilitate industrial advancement;

Reaffirming INBAR's important contributions to facilitating South-South and trilateral cooperation via bamboo and rattan, and looking forward to its greater role in advancing the achievement of SDGs and international development cooperation as Observer to the United Nations General Assembly;

Recognising that most countries in the Global South have yet to realise the full potential of bamboo and rattan due to a lack of awareness, technical capacity, and political and financial support;

Further recognising that the Global Assessment of Bamboo and Rattan, 'GABAR', as INBAR's flagship programme, is working to tap the potential of these strategic plants by providing inventories, comprehensive assessments and policy-relevant information.

Commit to calling upon national governments and other relevant parties to implement the following recommendations:

1. *Develop* appropriate policy frameworks and allocate domestic resources to support the sustainable management of bamboo and rattan resources, development of local industry, and production and trade of bamboo and rattan goods, for the achievement of related SDGs and the building of an ecological civilisation;
2. *Carry out* inventories, natural capital accounting and assessments so as to get a better understanding of bamboo and rattan's distribution, availability, properties and uses;
3. *Strengthen* coordination and collaboration among INBAR Member States and partners to ensure that bamboo and rattan are included in and contribute to the implementation of relevant regional and global policies, programmes and initiatives regarding the SDGs, climate change mitigation, adaptation and green growth;
4. *Establish* value chains with access to local, regional, and international markets *via* appropriate standards setting, implementation and monitoring of sustainable forest management guidelines, and maintenance of quality control;
5. *Encourage* bamboo and rattan technology innovation and the establishment of formative partnerships which connect research institutes, technology centres and the private sector;
6. Participants attending the plenary session on South-South Cooperation and Belt & Road Initiative encourage interested countries and international organisations to work together to replicate successful bamboo and rattan projects that are easily scalable and replicable to advance South-South and trilateral cooperation for common and sustainable development, including in the context of development cooperation initiatives such as Belt & Road Initiative announced by individual countries;¹

¹ The Indian delegation did not attend the plenary session on South-South Cooperation and Belt & Road Initiative.

7. *Encourage* bamboo and rattan knowledge sharing and technology transfer to promote collaboration and enhanced local participation for common development;
8. *Call for* investment from bilateral and multilateral financing mechanisms to support bamboo and rattan programmes and initiatives, and resolve to work together to jointly mobilise resources;
9. *Call upon* all nations to recognise the high value of bamboo and rattan, to join INBAR as new Member States, and to contribute to a more sustainable world *via* bamboo and rattan;
10. *Encourage* the use of this Declaration to work together to support tangible examples of South-South and trilateral cooperation to help developing countries achieve economic, social and environmental sustainability and build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.