



The Alliance for the Conservation of Rainforests
Briefing for all delegations to the United Nations in New York
Thursday February 4th 2021, 10 am to 11:30 am (New York time)

- Let me begin by thanking Ambassador Nicolas de Rivière, for conving this meeting and for his leadership on this important issue.
- Also, let me recognize the participation and presentation of Ambassador Pierre-Henri Guignard, Special Envoy of France for the Alliance, and underscore his presentation on the history, principles, objectives and mission of the Alliance and the progress made so far.
- The Alliance for the Conservation of Rainforest is a good example of the commitment of the international community with the conservation of rainforests with a global vision. Focusing not only in the management of crises associated with biodiversity loss but also in prevention, taking into account the sovereignty of every member state.
- Within that general context, it is important that the Alliance continues to seek collaborative ways to join efforts with other existing initiatives such as the New York Declaration of Forests and its information sharing platform to mobilize cooperative resources effectively, efficiently and without duplication.

Dear colleagues,

- As a megadiverse country, biodiversity is an essential part of Colombia's DNA and the Government has the firm interest in protecting its rich environment.
- Colombia has about 52% of its territory covered with forests. Water, biodiversity and the well-being of our communities depend on these ecosystems.
- Deforestation is one of the main challenges that Colombia faces in terms of preserving its biodiversity and promoting sustainable development. For this reason, the Government of President Duque has the ambition to stop and reverse the trend of forest loss in 30% by 2022.
- Bearing in mind this goal, Colombia gives high importance to the Leticia Pact, a regional initiative for the conservation and use of the Amazon's biodiversity and rainforest. This Pact seeks to reduce deforestation and protect this region from illegal practices such as illegal mining and trafficking of timber species.

COLOMBIA



- As a co-founding member, Colombia is strongly committed with its purpose and all members

Dear friends,

- To conclude, Colombia trusts that this Alliance will raise the importance of forests on the global agenda in order to achieve the goals that we have set under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Regarding the question about the Annex proposed by France, our technical teams are ready to have an open discussion with all members to reach a consensual document that takes into account the point of views of everyone and the regional context.
- You can all count on Colombia to fulfill the goals of this multilateral effort and to continue working hand in hand with forestry countries, cooperating countries, international agencies, and global partners to tackle this challenge in a coordinated fashion.

Thank you.