



Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use

Why in News

Recently, an ambitious declaration was initiated by the United Kingdom to “halt [deforestation](#)” and **land degradation by 2030**.

- It is being referred to as the [Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use](#).
- **India did not sign** this, as it objected to “trade” being interlinked to [climate change](#) and forest issues in the agreement.

Key Points

▪ **About the Declaration:**

- **Integrated Approach:** The declaration recognises that to meet our land use, climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals, both globally and nationally will require **transformative further action in the interconnected areas:**
 - Sustainable production and consumption.
 - Infrastructure development; trade; finance and investment.
 - Support for smallholders, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, who depend on forests for their livelihoods and have a key role in their stewardship.
 - To help achieve a **balance between anthropogenic [greenhouse gas emissions and removal by sinks](#)**; to adapt to climate change; and to maintain other [ecosystem services](#).
- **Signatories:** The declaration has over **105 signatories including the UK, US, Russia and China**.
 - These countries represent **75% of global trade and 85% of global forests** in key commodities that can threaten forests – such as palm oil, cocoa and soya.
 - They have also committed **USD 12 billion in public funds from 2021-25**.
- **Commitment to Multilateral Agreement:** It reaffirmed respective commitments to the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) and the [Paris Agreement](#), the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#), the [UN Convention to Combat Desertification](#), the [Sustainable Development Goals](#); and other relevant initiatives.

▪ **Major Highlights of the Declaration:**

- **Conservation:** Conserve forests and other terrestrial ecosystems and accelerate their restoration.
- **Sustainable Development:** Facilitate trade and development policies, internationally and domestically, that promote [sustainable development](#), and sustainable commodity production and consumption.
- **Building Resilience:** Reduce vulnerability, build resilience and enhance rural livelihoods, including through empowering local communities.
- **Recognising Indigenous Rights:** The development of profitable, sustainable agriculture, and recognition of the multiple values of forests, while recognising the rights of Indigenous.
- **Financial Commitments:** Reaffirm international financial commitments and significantly

increase finance and investment from a wide variety of public and private sources.

▪ **India's Stand:**

- **India, Argentina, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and South Africa** are the only **G20** countries that did not sign the declaration. The **declaration interlinks trade to climate change and forest issues**. Trade falls under the **World Trade Organization** and should not be brought under climate change declarations.
- India and others had **asked the word "trade" to be removed**, but the demand was not accepted. Therefore they didn't sign the declaration.
 - The **issue of deforestation in India is a hotly contested one**. The **government has repeatedly said that the tree cover and forest cover in India have increased** over the past few years.
 - However, **environmentalists have long pointed out that the government is busy diluting existing environmental protections** to open them up for mining and other infrastructure projects that will alter the forests, wildlife, and the people living around it forever.

Source: IE

PDF Referenece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use>