

EU Recommendations for Key Messages of the HLPF 2018

1. We underline that World's forests are fundamental to life on the planet, play a vital role in tackling current global challenges such as biological diversity, land degradation and climate change and are a key renewable resource for improving quality of life, for providing multiple benefits to environment, society and the economy.
2. Despite this crucial role, deforestation and forest degradation continue in many regions of the world. Over 6 million hectares of natural forest are lost each year.
3. Considering the increase in world population, we stress the importance of the role of forests and trees to food security and nutrition, and the need for countries to maintain and make a stronger use of this potential.
4. We stress that sustainable forest management is crucial to unfold the full potential of all types of forests in contributing to the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In particular for the SDGs which are reviewed at HLPF 2018 we highlight the importance of forests and their sustainable management:

5. to rainwater infiltration, to watershed management and to protect soil against erosion, to protect natural water reservoirs and to contribute to assure drinking-water supply and its quality; to increase overall resilience against the effects of floods and droughts as well as other extreme meteorological phenomena as a result of climate change (SDG6);
6. to contribute to security of energy supply, to sustainability and to the accomplishment of energy/climate-related targets (SDG7);
7. to improve living environment and human health and well being in urbanised societies and the resilience of rural-urban interfaces, by enhancing air quality, maintaining the protective function of forests, preventing and fighting against wild fires and thus enhancing the safety of populations (SDG11);
8. to promote a rational use of wood as a natural renewable resource, minimizing waste including by recycling wood products, and striving towards a circular economy while eliminating illegal and unsustainable practices (SDG12).
9. With reference to **SDG15**, we underline the importance of the UNSPF as a global framework for action of all forest-related sectors, with a view to the sustainable management of forests and to halting deforestation and forest degradation and to strengthening international cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues. We stress the importance of mutually supportive implementation of the UNSPF and the policies and programmes of the different United Nations bodies, organizations and specialized agencies, the Rio Conventions and other forest-related intergovernmental organizations and processes.
10. We call upon all these actors and invite the private sector to jointly strengthen efforts to fully implement the UNSPF and its vision: "A world where all types of forests and trees outside forests are sustainably managed, contribute to sustainable development and provide economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits for present and future generations".
11. We request the CPF to strengthen collaboration amongst its members, including in the form of joint activities.
12. We stress the need to involve all relevant stakeholders, including Major Groups, regional and sub-regional bodies and processes, the scientific community, civil society organizations and the private sector and to strengthen multi-stakeholders partnerships and fora to this end.

In addition, we stress:

13. the need and our responsibility for an implementation of the UNSPF in a way which enhances the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account its cross-cutting issues, including human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, ending poverty and combating inequalities as well as combating climate change and its impacts and protecting and enhancing biodiversity;

14. that the promotion and implementation of sustainable forest management require good governance at all levels, including forest law enforcement and effective and accountable institutions;
15. the call for cooperation on risk assessment, prevention and combat, namely on natural hazards, wild fires and phytosanitary issues, with a view to enhancing the protection of populations, human settlements, forests as well as other natural resources.