

Submission from the United States

Input to the HLPF 2018 should:

- Reference 2015, 2016, 2017 UNFF input to HLPF and reiterate important points as necessary. There are key messages from those submissions that bear repeating, given the cross-sectoral contributions of forests. For example:
 - Recognizing the need for more coordination to address forest-related issues within the UN system and beyond, including in areas related to poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, food security and agriculture, energy, clean water and watershed protection, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity conservation, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, as well as combating desertification and land degradation, sustainable consumption and production, among others. (2016 input)
 - Adopt cross-sectoral approaches and foster collaboration to achieve development aims, and to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in a coherent and coordinated way (2016 input)
 - Increase the valuation and recognition of the full value of forest goods and services, which create opportunities to address many of the most pressing sustainable development challenges and can help attract financing from all sources (2016 and 2017 input)
 - Strengthen national capacities for forest-related reporting to review progress in achieving SFM while further streamlining and harmonizing reporting among forest-related processes, as well as reducing reporting burdens and synchronizing data collection. Improve data collection and availability, including on how forests contribute to food security and other development goals. (2016 and 2017 input)
 - Stress that implementation of SFM is critically dependent upon good governance at all levels, including by promoting secure land tenure rights and stakeholder participation. (2016 input)
 - Give financing for SFM greater priority and increased relevance, including through the recognition of the public goods and services that forests deliver. They invited existing and emerging forest-related financing initiatives, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, to support the implementation of SFM, consistent with their mandates.
 - Recognize the complementary role of forests, agriculture and other sectors in multi-functional landscapes. (2017 input)
- Emphasize the cross-sectoral contributions of forests to the SDGs: multiple use approaches, integrated land management, and recognition of range of services that forests provide. (Reiterates 2016 and 2017 input)
- In addition to emphasizing SDG15 forest targets, highlight that forest industry has a lot to offer under energy, consumption and production, and partnerships—all of which are themes under HLPF 2018. This can be a good complement to the conservation focus of SDG 15.
- As more than half of the world's population resides in urban areas, include a strong focus on urban forestry, which links well to HLPF 2018 themes of water, energy, cities, and partnerships, as well as the FAO World Forum on Urban Forests scheduled next November in Mantova, Italy, and the 2018 UN International Day of Forests theme "Sustainable Cities". From cleaner air and watersheds to higher property values and quality of human health, urban trees benefit residents in a myriad of ways.

- Consider that agroforestry and ecosystem services for food security could be another good focus, including for water and energy aspects. There may be some useful information in the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS) High Level Panel of Experts Report *Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition*, which has information on ecosystem benefits that support agriculture, resilience, and disaster risk reduction.