

UNFF13 Omnibus Resolution

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling ECOSOC resolution 2000/35 establishing the UN Forum on Forests as an intergovernmental body with universal membership supported by a compact secretariat constituted in accordance with established rules and procedures of the UN, and ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 on the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015 in which the IAF was strengthened and extended to 2030,

Also recalling ECOSOC resolution 2017/4 on the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (hereinafter referred to as the strategic plan) and the Forum's Quadrennial Programme of Work 2017-2020, which recognizes that communication and outreach is an essential component of the Strategic Plan and the need to raise awareness, within and outside the forest sector, of the vital contribution of all types forests and trees to life on earth and human well-being,

Further recalling the resolution from the 12th session of the Forum,

Implementation of the UNSPF

1. *Welcomes* the announcements by several Members of the Forum of their initial voluntary national contributions to achieving one or more of the global forest goals and targets set out in the Strategic Plan and *encourages* other Members to make their announcements at the fourteenth session of Forum and communicate them beforehand to the secretariat through appropriate channels;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile all announcements of voluntary National Contributions communicated to the Secretariat in a publicly accessible and centralized repository;
3. *Emphasizes* the importance of communication efforts related to the strategic plan, including highlighting and sharing best practices and success stories on implementation of the strategic plan and the United Nations forest instrument and creating synergies with other multilateral communication platforms and strategies, and to this end, *adopts* the communication and outreach strategy as contained in annex 1 to the present resolution;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on progress in implementing the communication and outreach strategy to the Forum at its 14th and subsequent sessions and to produce, from within existing resources, a short concise print and online publication on the global forest goals and targets, featuring infographic elements, to be used in outreach to a range of audiences within and outside the forest community;
5. *Reiterates* the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to implementation of the Strategic Plan in order to accelerate sustainable development;
6. *Reaffirms* that the effective implementation of sustainable forest management depends on the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including forest owners, indigenous peoples and local communities, local authorities, the private sector, including small, medium and large forest-based

enterprises, non-governmental organizations, women, children and youth, and scientific, academic and philanthropic organizations at all levels;

6bis. Recognizes that by 2050 at least two thirds of the world's population will be living in urban areas and stresses the need to integrate forest areas and trees into urban landscapes as an essential aspect of urban planning and development;

Monitoring, assessment and reporting

7. Welcomes the pilot testing of the draft format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum on progress towards implementation of the Strategic Plan, including the UNFI and VNCs, and other relevant intersessional work and on this basis, *adopts* the format for initial voluntary national reporting contained in Annex 1 of the Note by the Secretariat in document E.CN.18/2018/4, recognizing that the format is an evolving document that can be improved and refined based on experience gained;

8. *Decides* that the Forum will consider the results of the first round of voluntary national reporting at its 15th session in 2020 and *invites* Members of the Forum to submit their voluntary national reports to the Secretariat by mid-November 2019 using the format referred to above;

9. *Decides also* that the Forum at its 15th session will consider the timing of the next round of reporting, bearing in mind the Forum's mid-term review of the IAF in 2024;

10. *Emphasizes* the value of making effective use of the information provided by Members through their voluntary national reporting and, to this end, *requests* the Secretariat to prepare, based on the initial round of reporting and in consultation with Members of the Forum, member organizations of the CPF and relevant stakeholders, a concise "flagship" publication on progress towards achieving the global forest goals and targets for release by the end of 2021, using existing resources, suitable for a range of audiences within and outside the forest sector, and *also requests* the Secretariat to report on planning in this regard to the 15th session of the Forum;

11. *Welcomes* the progress made in developing a global core set of forest-related indicators aligned with the seven thematic elements of SFM and *acknowledges* the value of a core set in assessing progress towards achieving the GFGs and targets and other internationally-agreed forest-related goals and targets and in better focusing data collection efforts to reduce duplication;

12. *Encourages* member organizations of the CPF and other relevant bodies to apply the indicators from the global core set which are ready for use and *requests* the Partnership to continue developing the remaining indicators and report on progress in this regard to the Forum at its 14th session;

Means of implementation

13. *Welcomes* the opportunity for enhanced forest funding under the 7th replenishment of the GEF trust fund (July 2018 - June 2022), as well as additional opportunities provided under the focal area strategies for the Rio Conventions;

14. *Welcomes also* the funding made available through the Green Climate Fund's forests and land use results area, as well as the launching of the pilot program for REDD+ Results Based Payments, and *invites* the Fund to designate a staff member to liaise with the Forum Secretariat to promote cooperation under the GFFFN, consistent with the Fund's mandate;
15. *Welcomes further* the progress made in operationalizing the Network and the intersessional work on enhancing the Network's effectiveness and, on this basis, *adopts* the guidelines for operation of the Network as contained in annex 2 to the present resolution;
16. *Requests* the Secretariat, in consultation with interested Members of the Forum and members of the CPF, to initiate development of the Network's on-line clearing house mechanism referred to in the guidelines, bearing in mind the benefits of a step-wise approach, and to undertake the following additional measures to improve the Network's effectiveness and efficiency and build capacity in financing sustainable forest management:
 - a. Develop a generic guide and modular training package to assist countries in developing national forest financing strategies; and
 - b. Share information on lessons learned and best practices on resource mobilization for forests;
17. *Stresses* the importance of the Network in facilitating national efforts to accelerate implementation of the global forest goals and forest-related SDGs and the need for continued and increased funding for the Network, and in this regard *invites* Members of the Forum and others in a position to do so to provide voluntary contributions to the Forum Trust Fund to meet the growing demand by Members and to scale up the activities of the Network;
18. *Notes* with appreciation the offer of the Government of the People's Republic of China to establish and make operational a UNFF Secretariat office on the GFFFN in Beijing, and requests the UNFF Secretariat to provide further details and regular reporting on possible arrangements for, and operation of, the proposed office, taking into account the ongoing broader UN DESA reforms and budget implications;

UN system-wide contribution to the implementation of the UNSPF

19. *Welcomes* the outcome of the International Conference on Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area organized by the CPF (February 2018, Rome)
- 19.bis *Welcomes also* the CPF Work Plan 2017-2020, *invites* the governing bodies of CPF member organizations to support implementation of the work plan, consistent with their mandates, and *requests* the CPF to report progress in implementing the work plan to the 14th and 15th sessions of the Forum;
20. *Welcomes further* the addition of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora as a member of the Partnership;

21. *Invites* UNFF national focal points to engage their national-level counterparts responsible for the Rio Conventions and the Ramsar Convention to seek to enhance collaboration and synergies in the implementation of their respective commitments;
22. *Welcomes* initiatives taken at regional and subregional levels to implement the strategic plan and *invites* regional and subregional organizations and processes to make full use of the regional fora on sustainable development organized in preparation for sessions of the HLPF,
- 22bis. *Invites* the FAO of the UN to provide the Forum at its 14th session an update of the consideration by the 24th session of the Committee on Forestry of the potential offered by the Regional Forestry Commissions, as appropriate, for enhancing regional/subregional involvement;
23. *Welcomes also* the joint workplan developed by major groups to accelerate achievement of the GFGs and the complementary workplan developed by the Children and Youth Major Group and *invites* major groups to inform the Forum at its 14th session on progress made in implementing their workplans, and *also invites* Members in a position to do to support MGs in this regard;

Contribution of the Forum to the HLPF review in 2018

24. *Recognizes* that the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 lays a solid foundation for accelerating sustainable development and that its implementation will make a crucial contribution to the transformation towards resilient and sustainable societies, both rural and urban;
25. *Invites* the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018 to recognize the implementation of the Strategic Plan and achieving its Global Forest Goals and targets as an effective means to accelerate progress in achieving the SDGs and associated targets;
26. *Emphasizes* the relevance of the Forum's policy dialogue at its thirteenth session to the review by the HLPF and *requests* the Chair to finalize and transmit his summary of the dialogue to the HLPF as an input to its 2018 review;
27. *Welcomes* the initiative of the UNFF13 Bureau to organize a one-day event on forests prior to the session of the HLPF in July 2018 to stimulate partnerships and synergies among stakeholders to accelerate achievement of SDG15 as well as the other SDGs under review, and *invites* interested Members of the Forum to contribute to and participate in this event;

Preparations of for the HLPF review in 2019

28. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with members of the CPF, a document containing proposals on the contributions of forests to accelerating progress in achieving SDG13, as well as background analytical studies on the contribution of forests to other SDGs under review by the HLPF in 2019, for the Forum's consideration at its fourteenth session;
29. *Invites* Members of the Forum, the CPF and its member organizations, UN system partners, and regional, subregional and major group partners to undertake initiatives that accelerate the contribution of forests to achieving the SDGs under review in 2019 and inform the Forum of progress made at its next session;

30. *Decides* that the Forum at its fourteenth session will finalize its substantive input to the High-level Political Forum in 2019, taking into account the inputs provided to the Forum;

Information on DESA reform pertaining to UNFF

31. *Mindful of and without prejudice to* the reform process on the UN development system and ECOSOC resolution 70/299 on the Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level;

32. *Recalling* ECOSOC resolution 2000/35 which established the UNFF as an intergovernmental body with universal membership serviced by a compact secretariat, with funding for the functioning of the Forum and its Secretariat provided from the regular UN budget, within existing resources, resources from organizations participating in the CPF and extra-budgetary resources provided by interested donors;

33. *Also recalling* the GA resolution 57/282 in 2003 which established a new subprogram entitled Sustainable Forest Management of the Economic and Social Affairs;

35. *Recalling further* ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 on the International arrangement on forests beyond 2015, composed of the United Nations Forum on Forests and its Member States, the secretariat of the Forum, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests, with a view to strengthen the international arrangement on forests and extend it to 2030;

36. *Recalling* that one of the objectives of the international arrangement on forests is to enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

37. *Notes* the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the UN Forest Instrument in 2007 and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, with the mission to promote sustainable forest management and the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by strengthening cooperation, coordination, coherence, synergies and political commitment and actions at all levels;

38. *Recognizes* the progress on implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, as well as achievements to date of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network;

39. *Stresses* the importance of maintaining the current and future ability of the UN Forum on Forests and the UN Subprogram 8 on Sustainable Forest Management of the Economic and Social Affairs, to fulfil the Forum's important mandate and role, and reaffirming their intergovernmentally agreed mandates.

Annex 1:

Draft communication and outreach strategy

I. Introduction

1. As outlined in the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, communication and outreach are essential components of the strategic plan.¹ The present strategy could assist in planning communication and outreach activities for all actors with roles and responsibilities in implementing the strategic plan.
2. The communication and outreach strategy aims to:
 - (a) **Raise awareness of forests and trees as being vital to life on earth and human well-being.** Activities should aim at raising awareness, within and outside the forest sector, of the vital contribution of all types of forests and trees to life on Earth and human well-being.
 - (b) **Promote sustainable forest management.** Communication efforts should highlight best practices and success stories on the implementation of the strategic plan and the United Nations forest instrument, promote greater common understanding of sustainable forest management, within and outside the forest sector, and provide inspiration with regard to where additional action is needed.
 - (c) **Raise awareness of the Global Forest Goals and encourage implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.** To achieve the Global Forest Goals and targets, and implement the strategic plan, all actors with roles and responsibilities in implementing the plan need to be aware of the Strategic Plan and its goals and targets are, and how to engage and take action to foster implementation. In this regard, communication and outreach activities to disseminate information on capacity development and means of implementation in support of the Strategic Plan could be useful.
 - (d) **Amplify communications from the forest community.** The strategic plan encourages the United Nations system, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations and other partners to enhance cooperation and synergies on communication and outreach to increase the impact of their messaging within and outside the forest sector, and to consider joint events and products with national, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations and processes.

II. Target audiences

Member States

¹ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/4, annex I.

3. The actions and commitments of member States are decisive for the implementation of the strategic plan and the achievement of its goals and targets. National focal points to the United Nations Forum on Forests are ideally positioned to disseminate the strategic plan to national decisions-makers, other ministries, departments, national political and scientific authorities, and local and municipal authorities involved in forests. Furthermore, the voluntary national contributions announced by member States can serve to raise awareness of the strategic plan, and of actions to achieve the global forest goals and targets.

United Nations system, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and international and regional organizations

4. The goals and targets of the strategic plan aim to galvanize action and enhance collaboration on forests within the United Nations system and among members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as other forest-related international, regional and subregional organizations and processes. Those organizations are target audiences and should be encouraged to integrate those goals and targets into their forest-related plans and programmes, disseminate the strategic plan to their networks within and outside the forest sector, and promote greater recognition of forest contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Major groups and other stakeholders

5. The strategic plan recognizes the importance of action by major groups and other stakeholders, including forest owners, indigenous peoples, local communities, local authorities, the private sector (including small, medium and large forest-based enterprises), non-governmental organizations, women, children, youth, and scientific, academic and philanthropic organizations in raising awareness, fostering the exchange of information and disseminating the plan. In that regard, communication and outreach should encourage all stakeholders to promote their activities in the context of the national implementation of the strategic plan. At the same time, success stories and best practices from local communities can provide inspiring messages for action on the ground.

Influencers/opinion-makers/communication networks

6. Influencers, opinion-makers, media and communication networks can spread the word and identify communication gaps, niches and opportunities. Various networks of communicators already exist within the United Nations system and at the regional level that can be important target audiences, including the regional forestry networks of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the communicators group of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the United Nations Information Centres of the Department of Public Information.

The public

7. Communication efforts should promote public awareness and action towards the national achievement of the global forest goals and targets. It is important to note that public perceptions on forests tend to vary on the basis of national circumstances and factors such as gender, socioeconomic level and language.

III. Messages

8. Messages should highlight efforts of Member States, the United Nations system, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional organizations, major groups and other stakeholders in implementing the strategic plan. Messages should create connections and communicate the idea that forests sustain the daily lives of people everywhere, including in urban environments. Messages should also raise awareness of threats that impact forests and the benefits of sustainably managing them.

9. Messages should support the overarching vision of the strategic plan and the central role of the UN Forum on Forests in providing a voice for SFM and in promoting awareness of the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 contains many such messages on contributions of forests, for example:

(a) An estimated 1.6 billion people, or 25 per cent of the global population, depend on forests for subsistence, livelihood, employment and income generation;

(b) Forests provide essential ecosystem services, such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products and shelter, and contribute to soil and water conservation and clean air;

(c) Forests prevent land degradation and desertification and reduce the risk of floods, landslides, avalanches, droughts, dust storms, sandstorms and other natural disasters.

(d) Forests are home to an estimated 80 per cent of all terrestrial species.

(e) Forests contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to the conservation of biodiversity.

(f) When sustainably managed, all types of forests are healthy, productive, resilient and renewable ecosystems, providing essential goods and services to people worldwide.

11. Messages could focus creating “brand recognition” of the six Global Forest Goals, showcase voluntary national contributions and efforts by all actors that are made in support of the goals and targets.

IV. Methods and activities

12. Key determinants for successful communication activities often include the need for political will, the capacity to communicate effectively, adequate resources, a clear communication strategy with aims and objectives, messages based on solid evidence, stakeholder engagement and partnerships. Methods and activities to carry out the communication and outreach strategy could include the measures set out below.

Websites

13. In the digital age, websites provide a cost-effective platform for information dissemination to global audiences. The website of the United Nations Forum on Forests could be redesigned and restructured including graphic elements on forests, to provide a central platform for targeted communications on the strategic plan for different audiences, within and outside the forest sector, in a manner consistent with United Nations website standards. Member States, the United Nations system, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional organizations, major groups and other stakeholders would also be encouraged to create dedicated webpages on their organizational websites that showcase their actions to implement the strategic plan, including through translating the plan into local languages. The Forum website could then link to those national and organizational pages.

Social media

14. Social media offers a direct channel to share and exchange information with large audiences, in particular civil society networks and the public. The Forum secretariat provides a core set of social media messaging for the sessions of the Forum, in consultation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Public Information, to be adapted and retransmitted by all actors. Member States, the United Nations system, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and stakeholders would be encouraged to share their social media advisories to enable greater amplification of such campaigns.

Logo/branding

15. The Graphic Design Unit of the Department of Public Information has prepared a logo for the global forest goals that is based on branding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The logo forms the core visual for branding purposes, and should be consistently utilized in messaging and communication products at all levels.

Events

16. **International conferences and meetings.** Large international environmental conferences have traditionally been the focus of forest communications; however, it is also important to target meetings that attract other relevant sectors, such as agriculture, energy and water. Given the mission of the strategic plan to highlight the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the annual meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and other high level intergovernmental forest related bodies, provide an important opportunity

to raise awareness of the Strategic Plan and its relevance to the discussions at these fora. Organisation of “forest days” at such conferences and meetings could provide an opportunity to showcase the cross-sectoral benefits and services provided by forests.

17. **International days.** The International Day of Forests on 21 March provides a powerful platform for public outreach activities on forests. Other United Nations international days also provide an opportunity to highlight the multifaceted contributions of forests, including World Environment Day, International Mother Earth Day, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, World Water Day, World Wetlands Day and World Wildlife Day.

18. **International decades.** There are a number of international decades on topics relevant to forests that could provide opportunities for coordinated communication and outreach. They include the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028; the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028; the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016–2025; the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014–2024; and the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011–2020.

19. Cultural events featuring forests in the visual arts, literary arts and the performing arts, such as music, theatre, dance, and film, could provide useful communication and outreach opportunities.

20. Educational events aimed at children and youth could provide useful communication and outreach opportunities.

Advocates/messengers

21. Engaging celebrities, opinion-makers and community leaders, including United Nations Goodwill Ambassadors, United Nations Messenger of Peace, to lend their voices to mobilize support from the public can help amplify messages and make them relevant to contemporary culture.

V. Success criteria

22. Monitoring the impact of communication and outreach activities carried out in relation to the GFGs and targets of the Strategic Plan is critical for the long-term success and effectiveness of such activities. At the global level, voluntary national reporting to the Forum contains a wealth of information that can be used to track communication and outreach activities being conducted by member States in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The information could also be useful to identify gaps and challenges where more work is needed.

23. The strategic plan serves as a reference framework for the forest-related work of the United Nations system. In this regard, it is important to share information on the

communication and outreach activities of the UN system and partners in support of the GFGs and targets of the strategic plan.

24. Different target audiences respond to different methods of communication, so repackaging communications in different ways, from multimedia campaigns to publications, as part of communications campaigns would make it possible to compare which types of content were most utilized.

25. Given the changing landscape of communication methods, the communication and outreach strategy is an evolving document which could be reviewed and updated, as needed.

Advance Unedited version

Draft guidelines for operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network of the UN Forum on Forests ²

Rationale

The essential contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to sustainable development is recognized in Sustainable Development Goal 15 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable forest management is widely considered vital to achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty eradication. The adoption by the General Assembly of the first ever United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 underscores this contribution through six global forest goals and 26 targets which build on the United Nations forest instrument adopted in 2007. These global forest commitments can be achieved only through enhanced financial resources from all sources and at all levels. While significant international public financing for forests has become available in the past decade, primarily in the climate change context, many countries lack the resources and capacity needed to implement sustainable forest management. To help unlock and facilitate access to these resources as well as enhance the use of existing resources and build the capacity needed, the United Nations Economic and Social Council launched the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network in 2015 on the basis of a recommendation of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its eleventh session.

1. Purpose and priorities

The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in close cooperation with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, contributes to the scaling up of sustainable forest management by facilitating access for countries to resources to implement the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and to achieve its global forest goals and targets. To this end, the priorities for the Network are the following:

- To promote and assist members of the Forum in designing national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management, including existing national initiatives, within the framework of national forest programmes or other appropriate national frameworks.
- To assist countries in mobilizing, accessing and enhancing the effective use of existing financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management, taking into account national policies and strategies.
- To serve as a clearing house and database on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities and as a tool for sharing lessons learned and best practices from successful projects, building on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests online sourcebook for forest financing.

² The United Nations Forum on Forests is a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network was launched by the Council in its resolution 2015/33.

- To contribute to the achievement of the global forest goals and targets, as well as priorities contained in the Forum's quadrennial programmes of work.

2. Principles

- The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (hereinafter referred to as the Network) is an integral part of the United Nations Forum on Forests. It operates under the auspices and general guidance of the Forum and is accountable to the Forum.
- As its name clearly implies, the Network is a facilitation mechanism. It complements the work of funding institutions but does not fund programmes or projects directly.
- The Network's priorities will be carried out in a balanced, transparent and effective manner.
- The operation of the Network will be consistent with the applicable rules and regulations of the United Nations.
- The Network will also promote cross-sectoral and integrated approaches to domestic and international forest financing, including with the private sector, and capacity building in this regard.
- The Network's activities will promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the involvement and participation of major groups and other stakeholders where appropriate.
- The Network's activities will be guided by the principles set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including the principle of national ownership.

3. Management

- The Secretariat of the Forum manages the Network under the leadership of the Director of the Secretariat and implements the Network's activities in collaboration with relevant members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

4. Eligibility

- All Members of the Forum which are developing countries or countries with economies in transition are eligible to request assistance through the Network.
- Special consideration should be given to the special needs and circumstances of Africa, the least developed countries, countries with low forest cover, countries with high forest cover, countries with medium forest cover and low deforestation, and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in gaining access to funds.

5. Procedures

(a) Requests for assistance:

- Eligible Members interested in receiving assistance through the Network will submit expressions of interest to the Secretariat from their Ministers responsible for forests or their designee or,

where appropriate, through diplomatic channels.

- The Secretariat will respond to such expressions of interest in a timely manner, advising on the consistency of requests with Network priorities and principles and on the availability of resources.
- Where requests are consistent with Network priorities and principles and resources are available, the requesting country will share with the Secretariat information on its national strategies and priorities.
- In line with these national strategies and priorities and on the basis of a preliminary appraisal mission if needed, the Secretariat and requesting country will agree in writing on the specific terms of the assistance and any follow up advice, including responsibilities, time frame, expected outputs, and possible involvement of major groups and other stakeholders.

(b) Allocation of Network resources:

- In allocating resources, the Secretariat will take into account the need to assist as many countries as possible and equitable geographic distribution.
- If sufficient resources are not available, the Secretariat will maintain a waiting list of pending requests and will periodically confirm the continued relevancy of such requests with the requesting country.
- The Secretariat may propose for the Forum's consideration additional procedures as needed to ensure the effective, efficient and transparent allocation of resources, including eligibility criteria for priority setting;
- Management of Network resources will be consistent with the financial rules and accounting standards of the United Nations.

6. Partnerships

- The Secretariat may develop collaborative arrangements and partnerships with organizations at various levels to facilitate and enhance Network operations from all sources. These may include:
 - The Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, international financial institutions, development assistance agencies and philanthropic and private investment organizations;
 - The Rio Conventions and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and United Nations organizations;
 - Regional and subregional organizations and processes; and
 - Major groups and other stakeholders.
- Where relevant, such partnerships will aim to strengthen collaboration at national, subregional and regional levels.

7. Clearing house

- The Secretariat will develop, without duplicating existing efforts, the Network's online clearing house in consultation with interested members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, with a view to providing:
 - A comprehensive up-to-date database on forest financing opportunities from all sources for sustainable forest management, drawing and building on existing initiatives and sources of information, including information on procedures for accessing resources;
 - A web-based interactive platform for the exchange of data, lessons learned and best practices among users, including, for example, on project conceptualization.
 - A source of data for assessing progress on target 15.b of the Sustainable Development Goals and Global Forest Goal 4.
- The Secretariat will establish and maintain a network of regular data providers to the clearing house which will not entail new national reporting requirements.

8. Funding and resource mobilization for the effective functioning of the Network

- The Network will be supported by, *inter alia*, extrabudgetary resources provided through the Forum Trust Fund.
- The Forum:
 - Recognizes that sufficient financial, technical and human resources will help ensure effective functioning of the Network, including timely responses to requests for assistance.
 - Will encourage Members and others in a position to do so to provide voluntary contributions to the Forum trust fund to support enhanced activities under the Network.
 - Invite Members of the Forum and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to provide secondments to the Secretariat to support the work of the Network.
- The Secretariat will:
 - Work closely with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including through the Partnership's work plans, and other cooperating organizations and financing mechanisms, to identify opportunities to leverage co-financing and in-kind contributions.
 - Actively explore opportunities for funding support from other sources, including United Nations technical assistance programmes, regional and subregional organizations, the private sector and philanthropic organizations.
 - Seek the Forum's guidance as needed on measures for mobilizing adequate resources for effective Network operations.
 - Ensure the efficient and effective use of the Network's resources.

9. Reporting and communication

- The Secretariat will provide an annual report to the Forum on the Network's activities,

partnerships, lessons learned, financial management and administrative arrangements, and the workplan for the coming year.

- The Forum will provide guidance on the content of annual reports as needed to ensure transparency.
- The Secretariat, as requested, will provide donors with information on the use of their voluntary contributions to the Forum trust fund earmarked for the Network.
- The Secretariat will highlight the Network in its communication and outreach strategy and through various communication tools, including posting regular updates of Network activities on the Forum website.

10. Follow-up and evaluation of the Network's activities

- The Forum will annually:
 - Monitor and assess the work and performance of the Network, including reviewing and advising on the availability of Forum trust fund resources.
 - Ensure that the operation of the Network is consistent with these guidelines.
- Based on guidance provided by the Forum, the Secretariat will arrange for a transparent independent evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Network's operations as part of the mid-term review in 2024 referred to below and will develop indicators, including stakeholder-specific indicators, in this regard.

11. Review of the guidelines

The Forum will review these guidelines in 2024 in the context of the mid-term review of the international arrangement on forests and revise them as needed.