



## **CONCEPT NOTE**

### **UNFF13 Panel Discussion on the UN System-Wide Contributions to the Implementation of the**

#### **United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests**

**Thursday, 10 May 2018, 3:00pm**

#### **I. Introduction**

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the first ever United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) in April 2017. This Strategic Plan provides a global framework for actions at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests and halt deforestation and forest degradation. At the heart of the Strategic Plan are six voluntary and universal Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and 26 associated targets that are to be achieved by 2030. The GFGs and targets aim to contribute to progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Paris Agreement adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other international forest-related instruments, processes, commitments and goals.

The UNSPF serves as a reference for action to achieve the GFGs and targets for all forest-related actors. Member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) have a key role to play in UNSPF implementation. The Plan encourages them to integrate relevant GFGs and targets into their forest-related plans and programmes, where appropriate and consistent with their respective mandates. They are invited to support the Forum in advancing the GFGs and targets, including through cooperation and partnership among themselves, implementing a joint workplan which is aligned to the Forum's Quadrennial Programme of Work (4POW).

Regional and subregional bodies and process, are encouraged to build and strengthen synergies between the UNSPF and their policies and programmes, including in the context of their contributions to the implementation of the SDGs. They are further invited to consider strengthening regional and subregional forest development, dialogue and coordination to advance the UNSPF.

Further to this, the strategic plan states that effective implementation of sustainable management of forests (SFM) depends on the contributions of all relevant 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 at all levels.

The Forum at its twelfth session welcomed initiatives undertaken by the CPF, regional and subregional organizations and processes and major groups in contributing to the development and implementation of the UNSPF and its 4POW. The Forum invited the CPF to present its joint workplan to the thirteenth session of the Forum. It further encouraged major groups and other relevant stakeholders to continue their involvement in the Forum's work, including by elaborating proposals or work plans on how they can contribute to UNSPF implementation, and to present such proposals or plans to the Forum at its thirteenth session.



## **II. Objective**

The objectives of this panel discussion are:

- To promote and share experiences on UNSFP implementation among member organizations of the CPF, regional and sub-regional entities and Major Groups.
- Present the joint CPF workplan and Major Groups proposals/workplan(s).

More detailed information on the above-mentioned issues is contained in the Note by the Secretariat<sup>1</sup>.

## **III. Modality**

The discussion will be facilitated by a moderator who will invite panelists to provide their views and input before opening the floor for an interactive discussion. Representatives of member States of the Forum are strongly encouraged to engage in the interactive discussion. Due to the interactive nature of the discussion, there will be no need to prepare statements prior to the start of the discussion.

## **IV. Moderator and Panelists**

Moderator: TBD

Panelists:

- Eva Muller, FAO Director for Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division
- Dampha Almami, Senior Policy Officer, African Union Commission (TBC)
- Fatima Denton, Director, UNECA Special Initiatives Division (TBC)
- Steffen Dehn, International Forestry Students' Association
- Cecile Ndjebet, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests

---

<sup>1</sup> E/CN.18/2018/3

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/047/83/PDF/N1804783.pdf?OpenElement>