

## Questionnaire on the Mid-Term Review of the International Arrangement on Forests

### Introduction

In accordance with its programme of work, the UN Forum on Forests at its seventeenth session (UNFF17) adopted an [omnibus resolution](#). The annex to this resolution contains the actions to be taken in preparation for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). The resolution calls for these actions to be implemented in a transparent and independent manner, and in close consultation with Members of the Forum, as well as the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) member organizations and other relevant stakeholders. To facilitate the process, the UNFF Secretariat has hired several consultants to assist in the preparation of background papers and assessments. This questionnaire is prepared by the consultants to solicit views from UNFF national focal points and representatives of relevant stakeholders, for use in their assessments. You are kindly invited to send your responses to the UNFF Secretariat at: [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org), with copy to [yan.lang@un.org](mailto:yan.lang@un.org) by **30 September 2022**.

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### A. Questions related to the United Nations Forum on Forests and its members

**Question A-1:** Considering the objectives of the [IAF](#), what progress has been made by the UNFF and its Members towards:

- a. Implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests?
  - Several member states have continuously submitted voluntary national reports through which actions towards achieving SFM & global forest goals are assessed.
  - The forum discussed impacts, challenges faced, and recovery strategies for coping with the disruptions attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic on the forest sector as an emerging issue.
  - Countries recognise the importance of forests in combating climate change (as a carbon dioxide sink) and emphasise the need for further actions adapted to local circumstances.
  - Various organisations have incorporated the strategic plan, global forest goals and targets within their work plans and have combined this with awareness and capacity building initiatives.
- b. Enhancing cooperation, coordination, coherence, and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels?
  - Members have committed to participation in global policy discussions and awareness-raising programmes regarding forests.
  - Member states have called for the recognition in national and international policies of the potential contribution of forests to inclusive and sustainable economic growth for example through forest bioeconomy.
  - UNFF and members have reiterated the need to enhance synergies at the national level in approaches to achieve internationally agreed goals together with complementarities across voluntary national contributions, nationally determined contributions, as well as land degradation neutrality targets.

- The forum has embraced collaboration with other United Nations international days and international decades, as well as cultural events on topics relevant to forestry. These are viewed as opportunities for coordinated communication and outreach.
- c. Promoting North-South, South-South, triangular cooperation, public-private partnerships, and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels?
- Regular formal discussions have been held between member states, organisations, major groups, and other stakeholders at intersessional events thereby yielding multi stakeholder inputs into resolutions.
  - There has been vivid participation in the reporting cycles through voluntary national contributions by member states to identify avenues for collaborative actions towards achievement of global forest goals.
  - UNFF has provided inputs into frameworks/ work plans of various member organisations for example through written submissions and participation in thematic and working group meetings.
  - International, regional, subregional and national organisations have made commitments to support the work of stakeholders such as major groups and committed to financing initiatives such as the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network.
- d. Strengthening forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI)
- Continuous support through the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network for expanded funding sources and development of national financing strategies for sustainable forest management & achievement of global forest goals.
  - Some members have made voluntary contributions to the Forum trust fund to support activities of the secretariat
  - The forum adopted a communication and outreach strategy for the strategic plan
- e. Strengthening long-term political commitment to the achievement of the IAF objectives?
- The forum adopted the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests, a global framework that supports sustainable forest management and aims to enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
  - Adoption of and support for the implementation of international forest-related commitments like the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use Seoul Forest declaration by delegations from members of the forum.

**Question A-2:** Could you list the objectives that have not been achieved, and how can this be improved?

*NONE*

**Questions A-3:** Has the IAF beyond 2015 been operating in a transparent, effective, efficient, and accountable manner?

Yes. The IAF has offered opportunities for the periodic review of work done in various initiatives thereby welcoming both criticism and new perspectives on how work should be done. There has been wide participation of forestry sector stakeholders, from countries, organisations, private sector, international observers, and local communities which ensured inclusivity. Furthermore, these stakeholders have continuously held interactive discussions through which they shared ideas and lessons learned with statements kept on record and shared publicly.

**Question A-4:** Considering the functions of the UNFF in paragraph 3 of resolution [2015/33](#), what has been the progress made by UNFF towards:

- a. Providing a coherent, open, transparent, and participatory global platform for policy development, dialogue, cooperation, and coordination on issues related to all types of forests, including emerging issues, in an integrated and holistic manner through cross-sectoral approaches?
- Forum sessions and intersessional activities have provided an opportunity through which stakeholders highlight issues unique to them and offer perspectives that can shape the global forest policy discourse.
  - UNFF has supported involvement in their processes and efforts of regional and sub-regional entities, women, children and youth, indigenous and local communities. This is geared towards promoting practices such as community-based sustainable forest management.
  - The forum encouraged integration of the global forest goals and targets into regional and subregional forest-related programmes, plans and policies together with multi stakeholder dialogues which promote forest policy coherence by major groups.
  - UNFF major groups developed a joint Work Plan which highlighted the main types of interventions through which they could add value to efforts by other stakeholders in implementing the UNSPF. In addition, the Children and Youth Major group developed a complementary work plan to accelerate the achievement of global forest goals.
- b. Promoting, monitoring, and assessing the implementation of SFM, in particular, the UNFI?
- UNFF welcomes voluntary national reports from member states through which actions towards the attainment of various forest-related goals and targets are examined.
  - Launch of the Global Forest Goals Report 2021 at UNFF 16 which provided an evaluation of where the world stood in implementing the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.
  - Intersessional activities have been planned to review the progress of various initiatives such as the effectiveness of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network.
  - Development and implementation of the communication and outreach strategy by integrating different communication strategies, targeting non-forestry audiences, integrating human interest stories, designing visually appealing products, and effectively utilising social media.
- c. Mobilizing, catalyzing, and facilitating access to financial, technical, and scientific resources?
- UNFF rolled out the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network which aimed at increasing access to financial resources to support achievement of the Global Forest Goals as well as the design and redesign of national forest financing strategies.
  - The forum has promoted the science-policy interface by participating in preparation of scientific studies and papers as well as inviting scientific experts to engage in panel discussions.
  - Development of phase I of the UNFF Clearing House on Forest Financing online database, which provided access to financing opportunities and best practices to promote SFM
- d. Promoting governance frameworks, enabling conditions at all levels to achieve SFM?
- The forum recommended the following actions by member states to catalyse good governance: clear, secure, and consistent land tenure rights; removal of subsidies that harm forests; strengthening corporate zero deforestation commitments; and strengthening of forest sector laws.
  - Recognition by member states of the need for: inclusion of local people, small landholders, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, and informal sector; strengthening of forest tenure and rights of use; improved understanding of the value of

- forest ecosystem services; better access to forest-related education; and addressing challenges unique to post conflict areas.
    - The forum highlighted the role the private sector can play in SFM by their contribution to plantation forests, chain of custody certification, provision of forest products and services, their key role in forest financing together with the need for safeguards.
- e. Strengthening high-level political engagement, with the participation of major groups and other stakeholders, in support of SFM?
  - The forum called for empowering and strengthening the role of women, indigenous people and local communities to accelerate achievement of the global forest goals.

**Question A-5:** Are you satisfied with the current level of engagement of Members and stakeholders in the Forum’s intersessional activities, and what are your suggestions to improve the use of the UNFF’s annual sessions, including intersessional activities?

Yes. Presently, UNFF offers the opportunity for various stakeholders to engage in intersessional activities thereby welcoming a broad spectrum of inputs. However, discussions are dominated by member states, with some stakeholders restricted to making joint statements or contributions to discussions. Although member states are key custodians of the means of implementation, it is important to allow for balanced contributions as other groups represent different perspectives from key members of the society, many of whom are frontline actors in forest management.

**Question A-6:** What do you suggest could be done to encourage more Members of the UNFF to submit voluntary national reports and voluntary national contributions?

- Develop a standardised reporting toolkit which can serve as a template to encourage systematic reporting.
- Conduct capacity building sessions to improve competencies of members in preparing reports to standards required by the UNFF.
- Improve transparency in reporting the utilisation of financial resources to encourage more voluntary contributions.
- Identify particular projects and initiatives that require support and encourage members to channel contributions to directly support these.

## **B. Questions related to the Forum secretariat**

**Question B-1:** What are the achievements of the Secretariat in carrying out its functions and in making progress towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, as defined in ECOSOC resolution 2015/33?

- Annually organised five-day sessions, as well as high level segments, in hybrid format allowing for discussions which highlight emerging issues and address forest-related global challenges.
- Organisation of Expert Group Meetings together with Major Group workshops to foster synergies geared towards strengthening forest governance frameworks in addition to sharing lessons learned and best practices.
- Established an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group to review work related to the midterm review of the forum with the report to be tabled at UNF19
- Continuous facilitation of involvement of member states, organisations, major groups and other stakeholders in activities including intersessional activities within the scope of resources.
- Made public all documentation and resolutions regarding the discussions on forest management thereby ensuring transparency
- Implementation of the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

**Question B-2:** What are the gaps in and the existing capacity of the secretariat with a view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, strengthening its capacities, gaining a better understanding of its decision-making processes and procedures, and amplifying the impact of its activities?

- Has a small digital footprint, no dedicated social media channels or mailing list, unlike other UN agencies which affects its visibility outside policy actors.
- Single location in New York hence difficulty in involvement with relevant regional and sub-regional mechanisms, institutions and processes.

**Question B-3:** What are your suggestions to enhance the effectiveness of the UNFF Secretariat in carrying out its functions and in making progress towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, and enhance collaboration and synergies, and reduce duplication?

- Enhance multilingual communication to increase visibility of its work and further highlight the benefits of forests.
- Increase UNFF presence across the globe through presence of staff or liaison officers based at United Nations Economic Commission regional offices like Addis Ababa, Bangkok, and Santiago, to improve collaboration with relevant regional and sub-regional mechanisms, institutions and processes.
- Promptly rollout the implementation of the next phase of the UNFF Clearing house on forest financing and integrate databases which highlight funding sources that target women, youth, indigenous communities, lessons learned and best practices.
- Harmonise the data variables and methodologies of the national voluntary reporting on global forest goals to account for country differences and improve participation.

### C. Questions related to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

**Question C-1:** Since 2015 what is your assessment of the extent of progress on CPF’s contribution to the IAF objectives as defined in ECOSOC resolution 2015/33?

- CPF has provided scientific and technical advice through development of the Global Forest Goals Report 2021 which outlined challenges, success stories and best practices by countries aimed at achieving sustainable management of forests among several other publications.
- CPF members have integrated global forest goals into their programmes and promoted coordination and coherence on forest-related issues at the global level.
- CPF has contributed to discussions on proposals at forum sessions.

**Question C-2:** In the table below kindly indicate your assessment of the effectiveness, impact and added value of the activities, in particular, Joint Initiatives of the CPF as outlined in its workplan (2017-2020).

| Item | Key CPF activities as outlined in its 2017-2020 Workplan | In your view what has been the effectiveness of CPF in the following areas (please explain)  | In your view what has been the Impact and value-added of the CPF in the following areas (please explain)   |
|------|--|--|--|
| 1    | Contributions to UNFF documents & sessions               | -Members have actively engaged in discussions and sent senior representatives to deliver interventions<br>-Provided suggestions on themes for forth-coming international day of forests celebrations | -Through their expertise, they have offered scientific insights into the status of forest management through coordinating the reporting from various member states<br>-Ideas on how to raise awareness regarding forests |

|   |                                   |   |   |
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|   |                                   | -Provided thematic priorities for discussions of interlinkages  | and to promote the international day of forests<br>-Share activities done in their organisations with lessons that can be adopted by other members  |
| 2 | Streamlining forest reporting     | -Supported countries in collection analysis and transparent use of forest data  | -Having standardised forest reporting mechanisms which harmonise national parameters through conversion factors allows for better comparison of practices between different states  |
| 3 | Global Forest Expert Panel        | Has prepared global reports and associated policy briefs on key issues regarding sustainable forest management such as REDD+, Illegal Timber Trade, Forests and Poverty | Results from the assessments have been valuable in highlighting the current status of key issues in forest management thereby   |
| 4 | Global Forest Information Service | Established a robust one stop centre aimed at sharing forest information resources to stakeholders across the globe   | GFIS tool was unique because of its focus on forest-related information thereby promoting the delivery of accurate and reliable information regarding forest-related activities. The collaborative action of various CPF members on this initiative ensured its utility to the forest sector could be maximised. Unfortunately it presently isn't commonly used in forestry circles and the website is seemingly inactive |
| 5 | CPF meetings, side events & OLI   | Meetings have been consistently held and promoted the overarching aim of cross-sectoral collaboration, policy coherence and integrated approach among others            | Side events have held discussions aimed at developing strategies towards attainment of Global Forest Goals, interventions presented at UNFF sessions, promoted science-policy interface while encompassing multi-stakeholder participation from various practitioners across the globe  |
| 7 | CPF Communicators network         | Not very effective because of a relatively small digital footprint of the partnership with most initiatives communicated through  | The partnership has been relatively efficient in making activities public through their website where updates on the meetings, publications, and  |

|    |                              |   |   |
|----|------------------------------|---|---|
|    |                              | channels of the member organizations  | progress of various initiatives are shared for the public   |
| 8  | Forest Landscape Restoration | CPF agencies and partners have promoted integration of forest landscape restoration into national, regional, and international policy frameworks and backed synergies for its implementation at national and subnational levels   | Supported the development of bankable national forest landscape restoration projects which have influenced sustainable forest management at the grassroots, showcased linkages with protected areas, and improved its financing   |
| 10 | Forest Finance Facilitation  | -CPF members have developed a mechanism to incentivize deforestation - free landscapes and value chains for green growth, including the process for engaging with Governments for input<br>-Enhanced cooperation and has the potential to be a tool for fundraising and collaboration with donors | CPF has enhanced the availability of forest finance information through the clearing house database, enabled countries develop bankable projects that can access funding, supported the Global Forest Financing Network, as well as support for mobilisation of financial resources |

**Question C-3:** The CPF Policy Document recognises the need for periodic review of its membership given the evolving nature of its mandate. In your view what should be:

- a. the key elements in setting criteria for membership of the CPF (take into account CPF rules of procedure as annexed to the CPF policy document<sup>1</sup>)
  - Organisations with substantial work in forestry
  - The international scope of the work of organisations (big global footprint in their work)
  - Level of independence of the organisation in their work
  - Organisations focused on special issues of interest in forestry
- b. the frequency for review of the criteria (e.g., below 5 years; 6-10 years; etc.)
  - Every one or two years
- c. the process for triggering a review of the CPF membership
  - Membership review can be biennial and discussed as an agenda item at the Committee on Forestry (COFO) Sessions

**Question C-4:** In your view, how can the CPF provide greater support for policy development and implementation of UNFF resolutions/decisions and in particular assist countries in the implementation of the UNSPF.

#### **D. Questions related to the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network**

**Question D-1:** Have you requested assistance from the GFFFN for mobilizing forest financing? If yes, how long did it take to receive a response and what was the outcome of your request?

<sup>1</sup> CPF Policy Document: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/cpf-policy-document/index.html>

No, we haven't previously requested assistance from GFFN

**Question D-2:** If you participated in GFFFN capacity building/training workshops, did forest financing improve for your country as a result? If yes, how did it improve?

Haven't previously participated

**Question D-3:** Was your country able to develop or update its forest financing strategy with the support of the GFFFN?

Not Applicable to the Major Group

**Question D-4:** What funding sources have you targeted for forest financing with the support of the GFFFN and how successful were your efforts?

Not Applicable to the Major Group

#### **E. Questions related to the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests**

**Question E-1:** What are the contributions of your country /organization to the UNFF trust fund?

None previously

**Question E-2:** What is the impact of voluntary contributions to the UNFF trust fund on supporting the core activities of the UNFF?

Support the administrative work of the secretariat and enable financing of meetings through logistical support and travel grants for some delegates and the activities of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network. Thus they are a fundamental intervention that enables robust action of the secretariat and UNFF in general.

**Question E-3:** What are the options to encourage sustained and adequate contributions to the trust fund?

- Transparency in the use of existing resources to build confidence in the utility of the fund.
- Aligning contributions directly with particular initiatives that require support as opposed to financing without particular targets in mind.

**Question E-4:** What are the key challenges and constraints with regard to mobilizing adequate resources for the trust fund?

- Limited awareness of the scope of initiatives supported by the trust fund makes it difficult to attract new/additional support.
- UNFF trust fund may not be formally recognised by member states, organisations, and other entities thereby limiting continuous financial contributions.
- Limited awareness of collaboration opportunities between UNFF and other stakeholders, particularly in situations where activities can be supported directly without direct financial contributions, for example the proposed GFFFN office in Beijing costs covered through extrabudgetary resources.

#### **F. Questions related to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030**

**Question F-1:** What significant actions has your country or organisation undertaken since 2020 to implement the UNSPF?<sup>2</sup> What are the main challenges and constraints your country or organisation is facing in implementing the UNSPF?

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<sup>2</sup> There is no need to repeat information which has already been supplied to UNFF, notably in your country's voluntary national report.



- Developed the World Forestry Congress Youth Call for Action following a global consultation process together with promoting it to various stakeholders in the forest sector.
- Designed and facilitated a three day interactive workshop (60 participants from various UNFF Major Groups) on cross-sectoral collaboration for inclusive forest landscapes
- Conducted an online workshop during GLF 2020 Youth Forum on cross-sectoral collaboration for ecosystem restoration
- Implemented the Young African Forestry Professionals Publication Project to raise awareness about career opportunities in the sector.
- Made an update to the UNFF MGCY Work Plan for 2022-2026.
- Provided opportunities for youth involvement in international forest policy events together with local interactions where best practices and lessons learned are shared

**Regarding challenges:** limited financial resources hinder full scale implementation of initiatives, especially in developing countries. Furthermore, opportunities for youth participation in key decision making spaces are very limited.

**Question F-2:** What challenges and constraints did your country face in the preparation of its voluntary national report? If it did not prepare a report, what were the reasons?

Not applicable to Major Group

**Question F-3:** Do you agree with the submission of voluntary national reports to UNFF, 6 to 12 months after the publication of the next Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) in order to reduce reporting burdens and take full advantage of FAO's data?

Not applicable to Major Group

**Question F-4:** What, in your view, are the main "regional and global issues of concern with regard to forests" in the early 2020s?

- Limited role of children, youth, women, indigenous communities, and persons with disabilities in decision making in the forest sector.
- Conversion of forests to commercial and subsistence agriculture.
- Impact of COVID-19.
- Conflict between conservation and production values.
- Emergence of threats such as fires, insects and disease.
- Urbanisation and rapid population growth.

## G. Questions related to the contributions of the Forum to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**Question G-1:** In your view, how well on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being very well) have the Forum's annual inputs to the HLPF on forest benefits and interlinkages with other SDGs been reflected in the HLPF declarations:

  5   HLPF ministerial declarations in 2018 and 2022 (SDG15 theme years)<sup>3</sup>

  5   HLPF ministerial declarations in 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (non-SDG15 theme years)<sup>4</sup>

**Question G-2:** In your view, which of the following should be considered to enhance the visibility of forest contributions at HLPF sessions and better reflect the interlinkages between forests and the SDGs in HLPF declarations (check all that may be useful):

<sup>3</sup> See para 27 of HLPF 2018 declaration and paras 66, 67, 69 and 71 of HLPF 2020 declaration.

<sup>4</sup> No forest-related references in HLPF 2017 declaration. See para 34 of HLPF 2019 declaration; paras 7 and 19 of HLPF 2020 declaration; para 36 of HLPF 2021 declaration.

Earlier input into relevant aspects of the HLPF preparatory process<sup>5</sup> by the UNFF, its members, secretariat and partners (CPF, Major Groups, regional/subregional organizations).

Increased role for the UNFF Bureau in representing the Forum and promoting forest/SDG interlinkages at HLPF regional and global preparatory meetings.

Enhanced coordination in capitals between UNFF focal points and those responsible for the HLPF and preparation of Voluntary National Reviews.

Enhanced consultations between the UNFF and its secretariat and UN Regional Economic Commissions, particularly their Forums on Sustainable Development.

Enhanced coordination between the UNFF Secretariat and DESA's Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, which supports the HLPF process.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Question G-3:** In your view, which of the following should UNFF pursue to increase the political relevance of forests to the broader sustainable development agenda (check all that may be useful)?

Preparation of a report and associated targeted communication products on the multiple contributions of forests/SFM to the SDGs, including in the context of COVID-19 recovery.

Building on the momentum of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, foster enhanced coordination among forestry, agricultural and other sectors at all levels (GFG 6.3).

Enhanced coordination in capitals between focal points for UNFF and the Rio conventions.

Increased role for the UNFF Bureau in representing the UNFF and promoting forest/SDG interlinkages at key meetings of the Rio conventions.

Enhanced coordination in capitals on the preparation of Nationally Determined Contributions (UNFCCC), Voluntary National Contributions (UNFF) and Voluntary National Reviews (HLPF).

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **H. Questions related to the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030**

**Question H-1:** What progress has your Government/organisation made since 2015 in implementing the UNSPF communication and outreach strategy, as contained in Annex 1 of UNFF Resolution 13/1 (see [E/2018/42](#))? How could any challenges, including achieving greater visibility of the UNSPF and the global forest goals, be addressed?

- MGCY has integrated aspects of the UNSPF into its own work plan and organisational communication strategy as a means to raise awareness.
- Designed capacity building and awareness webinars, together with social media campaigns around forest-related international days such as the International Day of Forests every year.
- Delegates at various events have led social media campaigns to highlight the best practices, success stories, and key actors.

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<sup>5</sup> The annual HLPF preparatory process is launched in March of each year with significant regional and global activities: <http://hlpf.un.org/2022>

- MGCY has developed synergies with other organisations (participated in joint communication activities) to increase the impact of messaging about key achievements in the forest sector.
- Have a dedicated team tasked with production and relaying of attractive visual materials to promote awareness of the role of youth in contributing to sustainable forest management.

Challenges can be addressed through choosing appropriate communication channels such as social media, expanding the delivery of content to non forestry audiences, translating policy proposals into messages that ordinary people identify with and collaborating with various organisations on campaigns across the year.

**Question H-2:** When considering the overall impact of communication and outreach activities, including the International Day of Forests, undertaken since 2015 by members of the Forum, the secretariat, the CPF, regional organizations and relevant stakeholders, to promote the UNSPF and global forest goals, what do you regard as (i) the main successes and (ii) the main shortcomings?

- Successes: Consistent content delivery across various channels, especially around events enables easy follow up of activities conducted.
- Shortcomings: The strategy has not aggressively pursued the possibility of targeting non-forestry audiences thus not visible in conventional media and to non-forestry practitioners in general.

**Question H-3:** What additional communication opportunities, platforms and channels, including those that have come into prominence in recent years, should be used more effectively to better reach target audiences and achieve greater impact?

- Dedicated newsletter and YouTube channel together with the other prominent social media channels to share updates regarding the UNSPF.
- Working alongside conventional media houses such as news websites to promote various activities of the UNSPF

**Question H-4:** What opportunities are there to make better use of the capacities of members of the Forum and other players and partners at the global, regional, and national levels to strengthen advocacy on the implementation of the UNSPF?

- Formalise the collaborations between communication networks of members to allow for more committed participation.
- Have educational outreach seminars focused on communication capacity building training.
- Creating social media advisories shared in the lead up to events to harmonise communication and drive traffic to event content.
- Engaging organizations outside the UNFF membership that engage in similar activities as well as other United Nations Agencies.
- Engage in communication activities on policy priorities of importance to forestry for example water and climate change to highlight the UNSPF's potential contribution
- UNFF high-level dialogues should integrate experts from various spheres of science of significance to forestry to discuss linkages
- Vividly engage stakeholders outside forestry for example environmentalists and agriculturalists whose activities complement one another
- Extensively reaching out to children and youth to utilise their competencies as digital nomads to highlight progress of activities of UNSPF

#### I. Questions related to the involvement of regional and subregional partners

**Question I-1:** In your view, what are the top three areas in which regional and subregional partners have made the most important contributions to SFM policy development and dialogue since the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFF?

- Delivered policy proposals through statements at UNFF sessions.

- Delivered interventions on issue-specific expert group meetings together with other intersessional events.
- Members have participated in national voluntary reporting and made national voluntary contributions to support policy development initiatives.

**Question I-2:** What are prime examples of regional and subregional partners successfully contributing to the practical achievement of GFGs under the UNSPF 2017-2030? [*alone or in partnership with governments or business community*]

- Members have made legislations aimed at reducing and halting deforestation and forest degradation.
- Employed measures to increase the area of protected forests and improve traceability of products to limit utilisation of those from sources under unsustainable forest management.
- Developed improved financing mechanisms that support achievement of global forest goals together with increased allocations for forest management and efforts to attract external funding for various activities.
- Regional and sub-regional processes have regularly convened to discuss how to coherently approach contemporary issues affecting forest management in their localities.

**Question I-3:** Given the power for good of the business and philanthropic communities, what are the key efforts of regional and subregional partners to partner with them? [*both within and outside the Business Council for Sustainable Development (UN-BCSD)*]

#### J. Questions related to the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

**Question J-1:** In your view, what are the top three areas in which major groups and other relevant stakeholders have made the most important contributions to SFM policy development and dialogue since the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFF?

- Delivered interventions at UNFF sessions together with other intersessional events seeking to integrate their actions in various forestry initiatives following effective consultation processes within their memberships.
- Major Groups developed a joint work plan aimed at building consensus and identifying priority actions for major groups implementation of the UNSPF.
- Contributed to the development of scientific assessments which inform policy development.

**Question J-2:** What are prime examples of major groups and other relevant stakeholders successfully contributing to the practical achievement of GFGs under the UNSPF 2017-2030? [*alone or in partnership with governments or business community*]

- MGCY developed a Youth Call for Action which outlined mechanisms through which stakeholders could create enabling conditions that enhance youth contribution to the forestry sector.
- Held a major group initiative meeting under the theme “Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for Inclusive Forest Landscapes” in which recommendations on the Quadrennial Programme of Work were developed.

**Question J-3:** Given the power for good of the business and philanthropic communities, what are the key efforts of major groups and other relevant stakeholders to partner with them [*both within and outside the Business Council for Sustainable Development (UN-BCSD)*]?

- Increase visibility of initiatives of major groups and other stakeholders which can be supported by the philanthropic and business communities.
- Initiate discussions on joint projects through which the business communities can enhance their profile and social acceptance while supporting goals of the major groups.

**Question J-4:** What degree of funding independence have you achieved for participation in (a) policy development and dialogue or (b) practical SFM contribution? What improvements would you prioritise?

The activities of the Major Group are strongly independent of affiliations with any influencing parties. Funding support for policy development and SFM is often availed through collaborations with other organisations or alternatively through funding from support directly to the activities of the major group.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

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