

**Suggested Talking Points for Amb. Kitty Sweeb
Chair of the UNFF16 Bureau**

**Annual Meeting of the ECOSOC Bureau with the
Chairs of the ECOSOC Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies**

**1 February 2021, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. New York time
Virtual format**

- This meeting provides a critical window of opportunity for the chairs of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to consider how we can further strengthen the synergies of our work with that of the Council, particularly ways in which we can substantively contribute to the work of the Council and the HLPF, and how the inputs of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies could be fully taken into account in the planning and deliberations of the Council and HLPF.
- The UNFF is the only intergovernmental body that provides a global framework for policy development, coordination and implementation on all types of forests at all levels, as embodied in the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 adopted by the Council and the General Assembly in 2017.
- The current Programme of Work of the UNFF is fully aligned with the work of the Council and the HLPF since the UNFF considers its thematic priorities at its annual sessions, taking into account the annual theme of the Council and the HLPF.
- The UNFF is expected to adopt its new programme of work for 2022-2024 at its sixteenth session to be convened from 26-30 April 2021 in a virtual format, taking into account the new programme of work of the HLPF as it becomes available.
- The UNFF at its sixteenth session in April 2021 will hold technical discussions that includes an interactive exchange of experiences and lessons learned on thematic priorities among Member States, partners stakeholders. The output of the sixteenth session will be a Chair's summary that includes proposals for consideration at the UNFF's policy session in 2022.
- In this respect, the Bureau of the UNFF decided the thematic priorities for the sixteenth and the seventeenth sessions of the Forum to be as follows, taking into account interlinkages between the Global Forest Goals and the

thematic review of the 2021 HLPF and other international forest-related developments:

- (i) Reversing the loss of forest cover (based on Global Forest Goal 1);
 - (ii) Enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits (based on Global Forest Goal 2); and
 - (iii) Mobilizing financial resources and strengthening scientific and technical cooperation; promoting governance frameworks to advance implementation; and enhancing cooperation, coordination and coherence for sustainable forest management (based on Global Forest Goal 4, 5 and 6).
- The UNFF during UNFF16 will also consider impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and the forest sector as an emerging issue, and hold a high-level round table on major forest-related developments to consider forward-looking messages to address global challenges facing forests, people, and the planet with the participation of senior officials from Member States and the UN system.
 - In addition, the UNFF during UNFF16 will launch its first-ever flagship publication “the Global Forest Goals Report 2021”, which provides an overview of the status of the progress made towards the achievement of the 6 Global Forest Goals and 26 targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.
 - As the main outcome of the session, the Chair’s summary of discussions of UNFF16 will include, among others, the UNFF’s input to the 2021 session of the HLPF for submission to the Council in response to the President’s invitation to address the 2021 theme of the Council and the HLPF.
 - In addition to the outcome of UNFF16, the Bureau of UNFF16 will also prepare its initial input to provide its substantive contribution to the 2021 session of HLPF to keep the deadline for the submission of inputs set on 15 March 2021.
 - In the context of the review of the implementation of GA resolution 72/305, there are some cross-cutting issues that are of particular importance to the work of the Council and HLPF in light of their impacts on sustainable development.

- One of such cross-cutting issues is a focus on the relationships between people and nature, particularly on forests and other ecosystems, since these issues entail full consideration of its economic, social and environmental impacts and long-term bearings on people and the planet, including in the context of the sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and reducing the risks against future pandemics.
- On this point, the UNFF addresses a full range of issues related to forests across all three dimensions of sustainable development. It would be mutually beneficial to ensure that the outcomes of the UNFF deliberations inform the deliberations of the Council on these matters, and that the UNFF is able to draw on the deliberations of the Council.
