

**Expert Panel Discussion on the Strategic Plan of the International Arrangement on Forests
7-11 March 2016, Tokyo, Japan**

According to section XI of the Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) beyond 2015 , the Forum should develop a concise strategic plan of the IAF for the period 2017-2030, incorporating a mission and vision, the global objectives on forests and the forest-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account significant forest-related developments in other forums, as well as identify the roles of different actors, the framework for reviewing implementation, and a communication strategy to raise awareness of the work of the arrangement.

The IAF strategic plan should also include: (a) clear priorities for the GFFFN; (b) contribution of the Forum to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; and (c) a quadrennial programme of work for 2017-2020 with priority actions and resource needs. The IAF strategic plan together with quadrennial programmes of work for the period 2017-2020 are going to be developed through in-depth consultations by an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group (AHEG) whose proposals are subsequently submitted to the working group of the Forum for consideration.

Upon the initiative by the Government of Japan, the Secretariat of the UNFF is collaborating with the Forestry Agency of Japan to hold an expert panel discussion on the strategic plan of the IAF from 7 to 11 March 2016 in Tokyo, Japan. Approximately 35 invitees from countries, CPF members, regional/subregional organizations, Major Groups and other stakeholders are expected to participate in the expert panel in their personal capacity.

The invited participants are expected to exchange views and brainstorm on possible content and elements of the IAF strategic plan. The discussion among experts will provide an additional input to the ongoing UNFF intersessional activities related to the development of the IAF strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020. There will be no official outcome for the expert panel, and only, a summary of key ideas and proposals will be prepared.