



## CONCEPT NOTE

### Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learned in UNSPF Implementation

#### among UNFF Major Groups in the region

Songdo Convensia Convention Center, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Friday, 21 June 2019 | Room 118 at 11:00 – 12:30

## BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The Fourth Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW2019), *Forests for peace and well-being*, will be held alongside the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC). As with previous APFWs, APFW2019 will be organised along five parallel thematic streams, including **Innovating governance and institutions** (stream 5). The UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) in coordination with FAO will co-lead stream five and organise a panel discussion on “Diverse multi-level stakeholder participation for inclusive and equitable governance”. The panel discussion will be participatory and allow major groups and other relevant forest stakeholders to share their experiences in implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests (UNSPF) in the Asia-Pacific Region.

According to resolution E/2000/35 that established the Forum, the participation of a wide range of forest-related stakeholders, including major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, is considered a key component of sustainable forest management (SFM). Through this resolution, accredited major group organizations with ECOSOC and the former Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) are encouraged to participate in Forum sessions.

In April 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the UNSPF: the only global framework for action at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests, and to halt deforestation and forest degradation. The UNSPF states that effective implementation of sustainable forest management (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 (NGOs), women, children, youth and scientific, academic and philanthropic organizations at all levels.

In addition, the Forum endeavours to work with major groups and other relevant stakeholders to identify ways to enhance their contributions to the achievement of the 6 global forest goals (GFGs) of and associated targets of the UNFSP at all levels and their interactions with the Forum and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), including through networks, advisory groups and other mechanisms, to raise awareness, foster information exchange and dissemination and facilitate coordinated inputs.

## PANEL OBJECTIVE, FORMAT AND COMPOSITION

### Objective

The purpose of this panel is to provide an opportunity for Major Groups based in the Asia-Pacific region to share experiences and lessons learned in implementing the UNSPF that has been elaborated through the major groups work plans, as well as other initiatives taken to advance the GFGs and other forest related agreements in the region. This includes experiences and knowledge of other forest-related stakeholders in streamlining women's participation in decision making in the forest sector and the youth as both influencers and decision makers in forest policy and governance.

### Format

The panel will open with a brief introduction by the Moderator followed by presentations by the panellists. These presentations and the subsequent interactive discussions among APFW2019 participants and the panelists may address one or more of the following questions.

- Where are the gaps in streamlining women's participation in forestry decision making?
- How are youth influencing forestry dialogues and other stakeholders to take action now for the future?
- How can major groups contribute to synergies in efforts of various stakeholders and organisations working towards improvement of forest governance?

### Panel composition

Moderator: Ms. Kalpana Giri, Senior Programme Officer, Centre for People and Forests (RECOFTC)

Panellists:

- Karen Khoo, Head of International Policy Commission at the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA).

*Presentation: how are youth influencing forestry dialogues and other stakeholders to take action now and for the future?*

- Go Takahashi, Project Team Leader, Karenni Evergreen, Myanmar and ASEAN Green Justice Network.  
*Presentation: How can major groups contribute to synergies in efforts of various stakeholders and organisations working towards improvement of forest governance?*

- Ms. Bharati Pathak, Chairperson, Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)

*Presentation on where are the gaps in streamlining women's participation in forestry decision making?*