

**Discussion Paper on
Possible Draft Elements for Forum 4POW 2021-2024**

UNFF Expert Meeting, 14-15 November 2019, Geneva

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

4POW	Quadrennial programme of work
C&O	Communication and outreach
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLI	Country-led initiative
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
GFFFN	Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network
GFG	Global Forest Goal
HLPF	High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
HLS	High level segment
IAF	International Arrangement on Forests
IDF	International Day of Forests
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
MAR	Monitoring, assessment and reporting
MG	Major Group
MOI	Means of implementation
MS	Member State
NGO	Non-governmental organization
Q	Question
R&D	Research and development
RO	Regional/subregional organization
S&T	Science and technology
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFM	Sustainable forest management
UN	United Nations
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNFF	UN Forum on Forests
UNSPF 2030	UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030

A. Introduction

1. The UNFF14 Chair's summary contains an indicative list of intersessional activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat in preparation for UNFF15 (May 2019). One activity is to "elaborate draft elements for the 4POW 2021-2024 in consultation with Members of the Forum, taking into account the post-2020 cycle of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development". To take forward this activity, the Secretariat has organized an Expert Meeting to be held 14-15 November 2019 in Geneva.

2. As input to the meeting's deliberations, the Secretariat circulated the brief survey contained in [Annex 1](#) on 19 August 2019 to gather Members' initial thoughts on possible elements for the 4POW 2021-2024¹. The survey included four questions focused on:

1. Thematic priorities for the 2021-22 and 2023-24 bienniums
2. Operational priorities for the quadrennium
3. Other elements to be considered during the quadrennium
4. Improved organization of technical sessions (UNFF 16 and UNFF18)

3. As noted in the meeting's Concept Note², the purpose of the Expert Meeting is to provide "an opportunity for Members of the Forum, as well as partners, to review and discuss the results of the survey and elaborate possible elements for the next 4POW, with a view to making a proposal on the 4POW 2021-2024, taking into account lessons learned from the implementation of the 4POW 2017-2020 as set out in Annex II of ECOSOC resolution 2017/4 (paragraphs 1-6 and tables 1-4)."

4. In this context, the consultant was asked to analyze responses to the survey, consider lessons learned from the current 4POW and on this basis suggest possible elements for the 4POW 2021-2024, in consultation with the Secretariat. The discussion paper is organized in three parts:

Section B analyzes survey responses to Questions 1-3 which relate directly to the next 4POW

Section C offers observations on the current 4POW 2017-2020

Section D suggests possible draft elements for the 4POW 2021-2024 based on B and C

5. Question 4 on improved organization of the Forum's technical sessions does not relate directly to the content of the next 4POW and is therefore not discussed here. The key findings based on responses to Question 4 will be helpful to the Secretariat and Bureau in organizing the Forum's future technical sessions.

¹ The Secretariat requested survey responses by 23 September 2019.

² The concept note can be found at <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/index.html>

B. Analysis of survey responses to Questions 1-3

6. As of mid-October 2019, the Secretariat had received 35 responses from 28 Member States, 3 members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), 1 regional organization and 3 Major Group (MG) focal points. Raw responses to the survey by respondent are contained in [Annex 2](#).³ An overview of responses by question is provided below.

Q 1: Thematic priorities for the 2021-22 and 2023-24 bienniums

7. Responses to Question 1 on GFG thematic priorities are summarized in [Table 1](#). Respondents were fairly evenly divided between having the 4POW specify the GFGs to be focused on each biennium and leaving the decision on GFG themes to the Bureau. Several respondents suggested a combined approach whereby the Bureau would retain the flexibility to specify GFG themes but would do so in close consultation with Members States. One respondent suggested such consultations could take place at UNFF15 in May 2020.

8. Whatever approach is taken, it may be useful to note that the six GFGs vary somewhat in character. GFGs 1-3 focus on specific elements, while GFGs 4-6 tend to be cross-cutting in nature. Past Forum discussions and decisions also suggest a close link between GFG 4 (financial resources) and GFG 5 (governance frameworks).

Table 1 - Q1: Thematic priorities for the 2021-22 and 2023-24 bienniums

Q1 – Thematic Priorities	Yes	Suggestions/comments
a. Identify 3 GFGs as the themes for each biennium (all 6 GFGs addressed during the 4POW)	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on GFGs 1, 2 and 5 • Focus on GFGs 1, 2 and 4 • Focus on GFGs 4, 5 and 6 • Focus on GFGs 1, 2 and 3 in 2021-2022 and GFGs 4, 5 and 6 in 2023-2024 • It is odd to submit the outcomes of certain GFGs that were focused on during the 2022 political discussion for the mid-term review in 2024. Instead, conduct a “preliminary mid-term review” of the 4POW in the 2021-22 session targeting all GFGs from each biennium.
b. Leave decision on which GFGs to focus on to the Bureau	14	<i>No specific comment</i>
c. Other	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine 1.a and 1.b within a bilateral framework • Combine 1.a and 1.b with the Bureau deciding most themes but leave open the possibility for UNFF to identify additional topics • Use a hybrid of 1.a and 1.b where the Bureau decides thematic

³ The full responses as submitted to the Secretariat can be found at:

<https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/programme-of-work/questionnaire-4pow-21-24/index.html>

		<p>priorities based on a plenary discussion at UNFF15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau has the flexibility to decide thematic priorities but with greater inputs from MSs • Review the agenda and outcomes against initial expectations for each session under 4POW 2017-2020 in order to identify GFG priorities • Themes should continue to follow the HLPF review of SDGs • Develop a permanent rotating youth position on the bureau to bring in another perspective (participation could be virtual with no added costs)
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Q 2: Operational priorities for the quadrennium

9. Responses to Question 2 are summarized in [Table 2](#). As can be seen, the majority of responses supported work elements in areas (a) through (e), recognizing that specific priority tasks under these elements may vary from year to year or biennium to biennium. It was noted that progress on VNCs is explicitly covered under voluntary national reporting (MAR) and does not need to be a separate priority.⁴ It was also noted that the mid-term review of the IAF was a planning activity rather than an operational priority.

10. Less than half of respondents considered preparations for a high level segment in 2024 to be a priority. One respondent suggested that preparations could be handled at an appropriate time through intersessional work as is the case with preparations for the high-level segment at UNFF15.

Table 2 - Q2: Operational priorities for the quadrennium

Q2 - Operational priorities	Yes	Suggestions/comments
a. MOI for SFM (including GFFFN operations and resources)	29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat should communicate milestones reached with mobilising resources and MSs to which support has been rendered to raise the profile of this work.
b. MAR (follow up on flagship publication and timing for 2 nd round of reporting)	25	<i>No specific comment</i>
c. VNCs (announcements, implementation support and follow up)	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a platform for countries to indicate progress on VNCs or have the Secretariat collect and present such data • VNC implementation capacity can be addressed under 2.a. Progress and publicity can be captured in 2.b and 2.d.
d. Communication and outreach (including IDF)	25	<i>No specific comment</i>
e. Preparations for mid-term review of IAF in 2024	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mid-term review is one item that will need to be prioritized • The IAF segment should be a 10-minute issue, not a protracted discussion. It is a technical requirement. • The mid-term review is a planning activity, not operational

⁴ The current reporting format is entitled “Progress towards the implementation of the UNSPF 2030, the UN Forest Instrument and Voluntary National Contributions”.

f. Preparations for a high-level segment (HLS) at the Forum's session in 2024	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a planning activity, not operational
a. Other	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNCs, communication and the HLS are also priority activities which should be followed in a horizontal perspective, the first two in the course of the UNSPF agenda point of each session and the last one in the form of an intersessional activity Cross pollination of UNSPF with other UN bodies/processes to improve uptake of GFGs through cross-sectoral integration and collaboration Global set of C&I, including its parameters and possible accommodation in international forest-related reporting

Q 3: Other elements to be considered during the quadrennium

11. Responses to Question 3 are summarized in [Table 3](#). The vast majority of respondents considered the contributions of CPF and regional, subregional and MG partners to the UNSPF and GFGs to be important elements of the next 4POW. Most respondents also favored having the 4POW include elements on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the first "global stocktake" under the Paris Agreements at an appropriate time during the quadrennium. Other elements were suggested which the Expert Meeting may wish to consider.

Table 3 - Q3: Other elements to be considered during the quadrennium

Q3 – Other elements	Yes	Suggestions/comments
a. Contribution of CPF and its member organizations to UNSPF 2030 implementation	31	<i>No specific comment</i>
b. Contribution of regional/ subregional and Major Group partners to UNSPF 2030 implementation	29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a specific session on regional best practices on specific topics
c. Post-2020 global framework for biodiversity under the CBD	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The global framework for biodiversity is not entirely under the CBD
d. Initial global stock-taking under the Paris Agreement (to be conducted in 2023)	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We should have a clear understanding of our objectives (i.e. what we want to do with the information from the stock-taking exercise?)
e. Other elements	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nagoya Protocol Contribution of private and philanthropic communities to achieving the GFGs and SDGs Contribution of GFFFN to UNSPF 2030 Promoting deforestation-free supply chains Effect of the global illegal wildlife trade on SFM (CITES) Emerging issues and challenges

C. Observations on the 4POW 2017-2020

12. While survey responses provide a useful initial indication of views on themes and elements for the next work program, experience under the current 4POW may also be instructive. As the Forum's first quadrennial work program, the 4POW 2017-2020 was transitional in various ways:

- It piloted the new system of annual Forum meetings of one-week duration, alternating between technical and policy sessions thematically linked on a biennial basis, as well as the linkages between the outputs of technical and policy sessions.
- It was largely "programmed" by specific tasks and timelines set out in ECOSOC resolution 2015/33. Other than the mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), these tasks have been or soon will be completed (as noted by the Secretariat in the cover email to the survey circulated 19 August).
- It was adopted at the same time as the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF 2030) so may not have fully reflected the Forum's potential contribution to implementation of the plan.⁵

13. Recent guidance on the Forum's 4POWs can be found in the UNSPF (para 34) and Annex II of ECOSOC resolution 2017/4 as shown in [Table 4](#)⁶. Tables 1-4 of Annex II of ECOSOC resolution 2017/4 set out the agendas for UNFF12-15 based on this guidance.

Table 4: Recent guidance on the Forum's 4POWs

Guidance	Source
The 4POWs are to reflect the Forum's contribution to the GFGs and targets for each quadrennium	UNSPF 2030, para 34
The 4POW represents the Forum's contribution to implementing the UNSPF and sets the agenda for each Forum session	E/2017/4, Annex II para 1
The 4POW identifies "thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resources needs"	E/2017/4, Annex II para 2
The 4POW reflects the linkage between odd-year and even-year Forum sessions. As a general rule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Odd-years focus on implementation and technical advice, including exchange of experiences among Members, CPF organizations, regional and subregional organizations, MGs and other stakeholders, and the science-policy interface. The output is a chair's summary, including 	E/2017/4, Annex II para 3.a-c

⁵ The UNSPF 2030 and the Forum's 4POW 2017-2020 were both adopted by ECOSOC resolution 2017/4 and are contained, respectively, in Annex I and Annex II of the resolution.

⁶ Early guidance in para 40 of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 (UNFF11) states that "The Forum will operationalize the UNSPF through 4POWs which set out priority actions and resource needs, beginning with the period 2017-2020".

<p>proposals, reported to the next Forum session for further consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even-years focus on policy dialogue, taking into account the outcome of the previous technical session. The output is a concise resolution on next steps. • Odd- and even-year sessions for a biennium are thematically linked. The Forum identifies “thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs” for each biennium on the basis of the GFGs and targets, taking into account the annual themes and SDGs under review by the HLPF. 	
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14. [Annex 3](#) looks at how the structure and content of tables 1-4 under the current 4POW have taken forward the guidance in [Table 4](#) above thus far. The following observations may be made in this regard:

- a. The GFGs and targets are not prominent in the 4POW. References to the GFGs are limited to item 3.c of tables 1-4.
- b. Technical and policy sessions of the Forum have yet to be thematically linked based on the GFGs. Forum themes have changed annually in response to the SDGs under review by the HLPF.
- c. The phrase “thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs” (item 3.a of tables 1-4, paras 2 and 3.a of Annex II) may benefit from review and clarification regarding, for example, the distinction between thematic and operational priorities and between “priorities” and “priority actions” and the meaning of “resource needs”.
- d. The structure of tables 1-4 implies that much of the Forum’s work does not support implementation of the UNSPF (e.g. GFFFN, Forum Trust Fund, coordination with CPF and regional, subregional and MG partners). However, these elements are all included in Section III (Implementation Framework) of the UNSPF.

15. These observations suggest areas that might benefit from further emphasis and/or clarification in the next 4POW, particularly regarding the Forum’s contribution to the UNSPF 2030 and the central role of the GFGs and targets in this regard.

D. Possible draft elements for the 4POW 2021-24

16. The 4POW 2021-24 offers an opportunity to further enhance the Forum’s work in support of the UNSPF 2030 and the GFGs and targets, as well as the linkages between odd- and even-year Forum sessions. Based on responses to the 19 August 2019 survey and observations regarding the 4POW 2017-2020, [Annex 4](#) suggests possible draft elements for the next 4POW as a starting point for the Expert Meeting’s discussions. These draft elements include general guidance for the 4POW (drawing

on paragraph 34 of the UNSPF and paragraphs 1-3 of Annex II of ECOSOC resolution 2017/4) and four tables corresponding to UNFF16-19. The tables aim to:

- Mainstream the GFGs and targets into the 4POW 2021-24 consistent with paragraph 34 of the UNSPF 2030
- Thematically link odd- and even-year sessions within a biennium on the basis of the GFGs and targets
- Highlight interlinkages between the GFGs and SDGs⁷
- Reflect that all of the Forum's work is supportive of the UNSPF 2030
- Reflect that technical session outputs (advice, proposals) are intended to feed into the subsequent policy session
- Reduce duplication across agenda items

17. It should be noted that UNFF15 is expected to decide the timing of the second round of voluntary national reporting. Tables 1-4 assume the outcome of this second reporting will feed into the mid-term review of the effectiveness of the IAF in 2024, which will include an assessment of progress in implementing the UNSPF 2030.

⁷ To date, annual HLPF reviews have focused on different clusters of SDGs. At the time of this writing, the President of the General Assembly had not yet appointed co-facilitators to consider the future HLPF process. Therefore, it is unclear at this stage if the HLPF will engage in a second cycle of annual reviews of SDG clusters or will take another approach to SDG review and follow up.

ANNEX 1

Questionnaire circulated by the Secretariat on 19 August 2019

1. Thematic priorities: The 4POW 2021-2024 consists of two technical-policy biennium: 2021-2022 and 2023-2024. Consistent with Annex II of ECOSOC resolution 2017/4, the Forum's odd- and even-year sessions for each biennium will be thematically linked on the basis of the GFGs and targets, taking into account the post-2020 programme of work of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). In order to carry out this guidance, would it be useful for the work programme to (check one):
 - a. Identify three GFGs and associated targets as thematic priorities for a technical exchange of experiences among Member States and partners and a subsequent policy review in each biennium (progress on all GFGs are reviewed in the four-year period), taking into account the post 2020 HLPF programme of work? OR
 - b. Leave the decision on which GFGs will be the themes for each biennium to the Bureau (current practice) in order to take into account, the post-2020 HLPF programme of work, which is expected to be agreed upon before the end of 2019? OR
 - c. Other (please explain - Maximum 100 words)

1. Operational priorities: The 4POW 2021-2024 represents the Forum's contribution to implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF). In your view, what are the Forum's main operational priorities in support of the UNSPF during this timeframe (check all that apply):
 - a. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management (including GFFFN operations and resources)
 - b. MAR (follow up on the flagship publication and timing for 2nd round of national reporting)
 - c. VNCs (announcements, implementation support and follow up)
 - d. Communication and outreach (including International Day of Forests)
 - e. Preparations for mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests in 2024⁸
 - f. Preparations for the High-Level Segment at the Forum's session in 2024,
 - g. Other (please list)

2. Other elements: In addition to the Forum's thematic and operational priorities, what other elements should be reflected during 4POW 2021-2024 (check all that apply):
 - a. Contribution of CPF and its member organizations to UNSPF 2030 implementation
 - b. Contribution of regional/subregional and Major Group partners to UNSPF 2030 implementation

⁸ Consistent with section XII of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 and paragraph 66 of the UNSPF 2030

- c. Post-2020 global framework for biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity
 - d. The initial global stock-taking under the Paris Agreement (to be conducted in 2023)
 - e. Other (please list)
3. Technical sessions: Based on the experience of the 4POW 2017-2020, how could the Forum's technical sessions in 2021 and 2023 be organized to enhance the exchange of experiences and interaction among Member States, CPF and its member organizations, and regional/subregional and Major Group partners, and to address the science-policy interface (check all that apply):
- a. Reduce the number of panels to allow more time for exchange of experiences among participants
 - b. Include a panel on the science-policy interface on the thematic priorities identified for each biennium
 - c. Minimize/eliminate the time allocated for opening general statements
 - d. Provide space for exhibits and/or training activities to highlight best practices
 - e. Other (please list)

ANNEX 2
Raw responses to Questions 1-3 of the survey on the 4POW 2021-2024

Respondent	Q1 Thematic priorities	Q2 Operational priorities							Q3 Other elements				
	a b or c	a MOI	b MAR	c VNC	d C&O	e IAF	f HLS	G Other	a CPF	b RO/MG	c Biodi	d Paris	e Other
Algeria	b-c ⁹	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x ¹⁰
Argentina	b	x							x				
Australia	b		x		x		x	x ¹¹		x		x	
Bangladesh	a			x	x				x	x	x	x	
Botswana	b	x	x			x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Burkina Faso	b	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Burundi	a					x					x		
Canada	a ¹²	x	x		x	x ¹³	x		x		x	x ¹⁴	x ¹⁵
Cote d'Ivoire	b	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
Dominica	b	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	
Finland	c ¹⁶				x	x ¹⁷	x		x	x	x	x	
Gabon	b	x	x	x	x	x			x	x			x ¹⁸

Note: Footnotes may abbreviate responses. For full text, see <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/programme-of-work/questionnaire-4pow-21-24/index.html>

⁹ Algeria: Study possibility of combining (a) and (b), but to develop them in a bilateral framework, for countries that wish.

¹⁰ Algeria: Consider possibly the Nagoya Protocol.

¹¹ Australia: Cross-pollination of UNSPF with other UN bodies/processes to improve uptake of GFGs through cross-sectoral integration and collaboration.

¹² Canada: Option (a) with proviso that all technical sessions include an external stakeholder from another land use sector to initiate dialogue outside UN/forest arena. Member States (beyond Bureau) could help organize specific panels.

¹³ Canada: The IAF segment is a technical requirement and should be 10-minute issue. It should not take time away from forward looking discussion.

¹⁴ Canada: Important, relevant topic but we need clear understanding of our objectives, i.e. what do we want to do with information on the stock-taking exercise?

¹⁵ Canada: Contribution of private and philanthropic communities to achieving GFGs and SDGs

¹⁶ Finland: Bureau should have flexibility in choosing thematic priorities but MSs should have possibility to express preferences.

¹⁷ Finland: The IAF mid-term review will need to be prioritized.

¹⁸ Gabon: Contribution of GFFFN to UNSPF 2030 implementation.

Respondent	Q1 Thematic priorities	Q2 Operational priorities							Q3 Other elements				
	a b or c	a MOI	b MAR	c VNC	d C&O	e IAF	f HLS	g Other	a CPF	b RO/MG	c Biodi	d Paris	e Other
Germany	c ¹⁹	x	x			x		x ²⁰	x		x		x ²¹
Israel	b	x		x		x			x	x	x		
Japan	c ²²		x		x	x			x	x			
Lebanon	a	x			x	x				x		x	
Liberia	a	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	
Madagascar	a	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Malawi	a	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	
New Zealand	c ²³	x	x		x	x			x		x		
Nigeria	a ²⁴	x		x	x		x			x	x	x	x ²⁵
Romania	b	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Serbia	a	x	x	x		x	x		x	x		x	
Slovak Rep.	b	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x ²⁶
South Africa	a ²⁷	x ²⁸	x	x ²⁹		x			x	x	x		

¹⁹ Germany: Themes should continue to follow HLPF review cycle based on SDGs. This depends on post-2020 HLPF programme will. Also see a need to include potential further themes, e.g. post-2020 global framework for biodiversity (see Q3).

²⁰ Germany: VNCs, C&O and HLS are also priority activities which should be followed in a horizontal perspective, the first two in the course of the UNSPF agenda point of each session and the last one in the form of an intersessional activity like for this time's HLS

²¹ Germany: Promoting deforestation-free supply chains to reduce drivers of deforestation

²² Japan: First we need to review the agenda and outcomes against initial expectations for each technical/political session for the 4POW through 2020 to identify GFGs to be prioritized. Regarding (a), it is odd to submit outcomes of certain GFGs focused on during the 2022 political session for the mid-term review in 2024. This may entail revision in the format of voluntary national reports since the mid-term review is based on these reports. We prefer conducting a "preliminary mid-term review" of current 4POW in the 2021-2022 session targeting all GFGs from each biennium. After such an assessment, MSs could consider necessary updates/amendments to the GEFs during the 2023-2024 session.

²³ New Zealand: Hybrid of (a) and (b) where 1) the issue is discussed by MSs and partners in UNFF15 plenary and 2) Bureau decides which GFGs based on discussion.

²⁴ Nigeria: Proposes GFGs 1, 2 and 5 and associated targets as priorities. These resonate with and have the potential to address GDGs 3, 4 and 6 respectively.

²⁵ Nigeria: Consider including CITES given the effect of the global illegal trade in wildlife on SFM.

²⁶ Slovakia: Emerging issues and challenges (in order to further provide flexibility in the 4POW).

²⁷ South Africa: Proposes GFGs 1, 2 and 4 as priorities.

²⁸ South Africa: Progress is currently insignificant and/or there is no adequate means of communicating progress. Secretariat should communicate milestones reached with mobilising resources and MSs to which support has been rendered to raise the profile of the Forum's work.

²⁹ South Africa: Create a platform for countries to indicate progress on their VNCs or the Secretariat should collate such data and give feedback during the session.

Respondent	Q1	Q2							Q3				
	Thematic	Operational priorities							Other elements				
	a b or c	a MOI	b MAR	c VNC	d C&O	e IAF	f HLS	g Other	a CPF	b RO/MG	c Biodi	d Paris	e Other
Sudan	b	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	
Ukraine	c ³⁰	x	x	x	x	x	x	x ³¹	x	x	x	x	x ³²
USA	a ³³	x	x	³⁴	x	³⁵			x	x	³⁶		
CPF - IUFRO	b	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
CPF - UNDP	b	x			x	x	x		x		x		
CPF - WB	c ³⁷			x	x		x		x	x	x	x	
Forest Europe	a	x	x	x					x	x			
MG NGOs	a	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
MG S&T	b	x	x	x	x				x	x			
MG Women	a	x	x	x					x	x	x		
TOTALS	a = 13 b = 14 c = 8	29	25	22	25	23	17	3	31	29	25	22	7

³⁰ Ukraine: Combine (a) and (b). Most thematic priorities will be defined by the Bureau but UNFF can also decide during the session what issues should be discussed. Have a specific session expressing regional best practices.

³¹ Ukraine: Global set of C&I, including its parameters and possible accommodation in international forest related reporting.

³² Ukraine: Have a specific session expressing regional best practices on specific topics.

³³ USA: GFGs 1-3 and 4-6 are reasonable divisions for the sessions. UNFF input to the HLPF program may be addressed through panels. HLPF input should continue to be a Chair's Summary, not a negotiated outcome.

³⁴ USA: VNCs are important but implementation and capacity are captured by 2(a) while progress and publicity are captured in 2(b) and 2(d).

³⁵ USA: This is not operational. The IAF mid-term review and HLS are planning for sessions, not part of UNSPF.

³⁶ USA: The global framework for biodiversity is not entirely under or restricted to the CBD.

³⁷ WB: Propose regular teleconferences in the run up, where we agree on the thematic and policy priorities.

ANNEX 3

Comparison of current guidance on the 4POWs and tables 1-4 of Annex II of E/2017/4

UNSPF 2030, para 34	Tables 1-4 of E/2017/4 Annex II (Forum agendas)
The Forum's quadrennial programmes of work are to reflect its contribution to the GFGs and targets for each quadrennium	1. The GFGs and targets are explicitly mentioned only in item 1(c) of tables 1-4.
E/2017/4 Annex II, paras 1-3	
<u>Para 1:</u> The Forum's 4POW represents its contribution to implementing the UNSPF.	2. As noted in 1 above, only item 1 of tables 1-4 is labeled "implementation of the UNSPF 2030". This implies that MAR, GFFFN, etc. do not contribute to UNSPF implementation.
<u>Para 1:</u> The Forum's 4POW sets the agenda for each Forum session within the quadrennium.	3. Tables 1-4 set the agendas for UNFF12-15.
<u>Para 2:</u> The 4POW identifies thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resources needs.	4. Item 1(a) refers to "thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs" but these are not specified. The Forum has yet to distinction between thematic and operational priorities or between "priorities" and "priority actions" or identify resource needs.
<u>Para 3.a:</u> As a general rule: Odd-year sessions focus on implementation and technical advice, including exchange of experiences among Forum Members, CPF member organizations, regional/subregional organizations, MGs and other relevant stakeholders, and the science-policy interface.	5. UNFF12 and 14 hosted technical exchanges under item 1(a), including panel discussions. The science-policy interface was not explicitly addressed.
<u>Para 3.a:</u> The output of odd-year sessions is a chairs summary report of technical discussions, including possible proposals, that is reported to the subsequent Forum session.	6. UNFF12 did not produce a chair's summary report for UNFF13. (UNFF12 outputs were a resolution and a chairs summary of Forum input to HLPF 2017.) UNFF14 produced a 40-page chair's summary containing a lengthy summary of technical discussions (Part 1.a, 25 pp), list of key proposals for transmission to UNFF15 (Part 1.b), Forum input to HLPF 2019 in the ECOSOC format (Part II), Information on DESA reform (Part III, 8 pp), and an indicative list of intersessional activities (Part IV).
<u>Para 3.b:</u> Even-year sessions focus on policy dialogue, development and decision-making, taking into account the outcome of the previous technical session.	7. The technical-policy link between odd and even sessions is a work in progress. UNFF15 will be the first policy session to consider the report from the previous technical session.
<u>Para 3.b:</u> The substantive output of even-year sessions is a concise resolution or decision on next steps.	8. UNFF12 and 13 each produced a 5-page resolution (not counting annexes).
<u>Para 3.c:</u> Odd- and even-year sessions for a given biennium are thematically linked.	9. Forum sessions within a biennium have not been thematically linked. Themes have changed each year to focus on the contribution of forests to the SDGs under review by the HLPF.
<u>Para 3.c:</u> The Forum identifies thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for each biennium on the basis of the GFGs and targets, taking into account the annual themes and SDGs under review by the HLPF.	10. See 4 and 9 above.

ANNEX 4

Possible draft elements for the 4POW 2021-2024 (Tables 1-4)

General guidance³⁸

1. The UNFF quadrennial programme of work (4POW) for the period 2021-2024 represents the Forum's contribution to implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and achieving the Global Forest Goals and associated targets and sets the agenda for annual sessions within the quadrennium.
2. The 4POW 2021-2024 includes two thematically-linked bienniums: 2021-22 (UNFF 16 and 17) and 2023-24 (UNFF 18 and 19). UNFF 16 and 18 are technical sessions which will include an exchange of experiences on thematic priorities among Members of the Forum, CPF and its member organizations, and regional/subregional and Major Group partners.
3. The output of the technical sessions will be a concise chair's summary, including proposals, for consideration by the respective policy discussions in 2022 and 2024. The output of the policy sessions will be a concise Forum resolution on next steps.
4. Thematic priorities for each biennium will be based on the GFGs and associated targets, taking into account the post-2020 programme of the HLPF. The GFG thematic priorities may be decided by the Forum or by the Bureau.
5. The Forum's work programme/agenda for the 2021-22 and 2023-24 bienniums are contained in tables 1 and 2 and tables 3 and 4, respectively.

³⁸ Based on paragraph 34 of the UNSPF 2030 and paragraphs 1-3 of Annex II of ECOSOC resolution 2017/4

UNFF 4POW 2021-2024: 2021-22 Biennium

Table 1 – UNFF16 (2021) Technical session

Priorities in support of implementation of the UNSPF 2017-2030
<p>1. Thematic Priorities for the 2021-22 biennium: 3 GFGs and associated targets (TBD)</p> <p>2. Technical discussion (thematic and operational priorities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Contributions of Members of the Forum to achieving the thematic priorities: New VNC announcements and updates b. Contributions of/ enhanced cooperation with, partners to achieving the thematic priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Contributions of CPF, its member organizations and the UN system to achieving the thematic priorities, including progress on the CPF work plan ii. Contributions of regional, subregional and Major Group partners, including private and philanthropic communities, to achieving the thematic priorities c. Interlinkages between GFGs and SDGs under review by HLPF 2021 and between the GFGs and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework d. Implementation of the UNSPF 2030 Communication and Outreach Strategy, activities regarding International Day of Forests (IDF) 2021 e. Means of implementation, including GFFFN operations and resources f. Monitoring, assessment and reporting: (i) Forum flagship publication (for release by end of 2021); (ii) Global core set forest-related indicators g. Forum Trust Fund

Table 2 – UNFF17 (2022) Policy session

Priorities in support of implementation of the UNSPF 2017-2030
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thematic priorities for the 2021-22 biennium: 3 GFGs and associated targets (<i>per UNFF16</i>) 2. Policy discussion (thematic and operational priorities) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consideration of proposals contained in the UNFF 16 Chair’s summary b. New VNC announcements/updates, including related to the GFG thematic priorities c. Interlinkages between GFG thematic priorities and SDGs under review by HLPF 2022 d. Implementation of UNSPF 2030 Communication and Outreach Strategy, activities regarding IDF 2022 e. MOI, including GFFFN operations and resources f. MAR: 2nd round of voluntary national reporting on progress in implementing the UNSPF, UN Forest Instrument and VNCs (input to 2.g) g. Preparations for mid-term review of effectiveness of the IAF in achieving its objectives in 2024, (consistent with section XII of ECOSOC res. 2015/33 and paragraphs 66-68 of the UNSPF) h. Forum Trust Fund

UNFF 4POW 2021-2024: 2023-24 Biennium

Table 3 – UNFF18 (2023) Technical session

Priorities in support of implementation of the UNSPF 2017-2030
<p>1. Thematic Priorities for the 2023-24 biennium: 3 GFGs and associated targets (TBD)</p> <p>2. Technical discussion (thematic and operational priorities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Contributions of Members of the Forum to achieving the thematic priorities: VNC announcements/updates b. Contributions of, and enhanced cooperation with, partners to achieving the thematic priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Contributions of CPF, its member organizations and the UN system to achieving the thematic priorities, including progress on the CPF work plan ii. Contributions of regional, subregional and Major Group partners, including private and philanthropic communities, to achieving the thematic priorities c. Interlinkages between GFGs and SDGs under review by HLPF 2023 d. Implementation of UNSPF 2030 Communication and Outreach Strategy, activities regarding IDF 2023 e. MOI, including GFFFN operations and resources f. MAR: (i) Progress in implementing the UNSPF, UN Forest Instrument and VNCs; (ii) Global core set of forest-related indicators. (input to 2.g) g. Preparations for mid-term review of the IAF in achieving its objectives in 2024, (consistent with section XII of ECOSOC res. 2015/33 and paragraphs 66-68 of the UNSPF) h. Forum Trust Fund

Table 4 – UNFF19 (2024) Policy session

Priorities in support of implementation of the UNSPF 2017-2030
<p>1. Thematic priorities for the 2023-24 biennium: 3 GFGs and associated targets (<i>per UNFF18</i>)</p>
<p>2. Policy discussion (thematic and operational priorities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Consideration of proposals contained in the UNFF 18 Chair’s Summaryb. New VNC announcementsc. Mid-term review of effectiveness of the IAF in achieving its objectives (consistent with section XII of ECOSOC res. 2015/33 and paragraphs 66-68 of the UNSPF)d. High-level segmente. Adoption of the Forum’s 4POW for the period 2025-2028