

Questionnaire on the Forum's 4POW 2021-2024

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):
- 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
 - 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
 - Other (please explain- Maximum 100 words) In GER's view the hitherto practice, where themes for the UNFF sessions were aligned with the HLPF review cycle based on the SDGs, should be followed in future. This, however, depends on how and when the post-2020 HLPF programme of work will be decided upon. We nevertheless see a need to include potential further themes, as e.g. the post-2020 global framework for biodiversity (see question 3).
2. 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):
- Means of implementation for sustainable forest management (including GFFFN operations and resources)
 - MAR (follow up on the flagship publication and timing for 2nd round of national reporting)
 - VNCs (announcements, implementation support and follow up)
 - Communication and outreach (including International Day of Forests)
 - Preparations for mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests in 2024¹
 Preparations for the High-Level Segment at the Forum's session in 2024,
 - Other (please list)
Please allow a comment: the checked operational priorities above do not mean that VNCs, Communication and preparation of the HLS in 2024 is of no priority. On the contrary, GER is of the view that these three activities should be followed in a horizontal perspective, the first two in the

¹ Consistent with section XII of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 and paragraph 66 of the UNSPF 2030

course of the UNSPF-agenda point of each session and the last one in form of intersessional activity like for this time's HLS.

3. **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
- 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): Promoting deforestation-free supply chains to reduce drivers of deforestation

4. **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)

Building on our past comments, GER renders important the enhancement of exchange of experiences and interaction at the Forum's technical sessions. Recognizing past achievements in this regard, we see several options to further enhance the interactivity of the Forum.

- There should be time allocated for VNC reflections, both announcements and lessons-learned. This could be addressed by a specific time slot or agenda item.
- Panels should further be introduced with guiding questions leading to discussions about and outcomes on coherence of actions, potential CPF-activities, up-scaling of activities and potential South-South cooperation.
- In our view, it is not the question to reduce the number of panels but the number of panelists to allow more time for exchange of experiences among participants.
- Furthermore, the practice to invite panelists from outside the usual forest policy "world" should be intensified.
- Possibilities to work with modern moderation and communication tools in order to strengthen exchange among participants should be further explored.

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