

Questionnaire on the Forum's 4POW 2021-2024

UNITED STATES RESPONSE, 20 SEPTEMBER 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. **Yes** 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
GFGs 1-3 and 4-6 are reasonable divisions for the sessions. UNFF input to the HLPF POW may be addressed through panels. HLPF input should continue to be a Chair's Summary, not a negotiated outcome.
 - b. **no** 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. **no** Other (please explain- Maximum 100 words)

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):
 - a. **Yes** Means of implementation for sustainable forest management (including GFFFN operations and resources)
 - b. **Yes** MAR (follow up on the flagship publication and timing for 2nd round of national reporting, as well as the CPF core set of indicators)
 - c. **no** VNCs (announcements, implementation support and follow up)
VNCs are important, but implementation and capacity are captured by a., while progress and publicity are captured in b. and d.
 - d. **Yes** Communication and outreach (including International Day of Forests)
 - e. **no** Preparations for mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests in 2024¹
 no Preparations for the High-Level Segment at the Forum's session in 2024,
 - This is not operational, they are planning for sessions, not part of UNSPF.
 - f. **no** Other (please list)

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):

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

- a. **Yes** Contribution of CPF and its member organizations to UNSPF 2030 implementation,
 - b. **Yes** Contribution of regional/subregional and Major Group partners to UNSPF 2030 implementation
 - c. **Yes** Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
Please note the global framework for biodiversity is not entirely under or restricted to the CBD.
 - d. **no** The initial global stock-taking under the Paris Agreement (to be conducted in 2023)
 - e. **no** Other (please list)
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. **Yes** Reduce the number of panels to allow more time for exchange of experiences among participants
 - *There were generally two panels per session at UNFF 14, which did not leave time for important discussion. One panel per session, with a maximum of three in a day, would work better.*
 - *Panels should address the science-policy interface on the thematic priorities. Science-policy interface should be integrated into the design of panel questions and panelist selections in both technical sessions and policy sessions.*
 - *Panels can be used to address the HLPF themes.*
 - *Also, we suggest reducing the number of panelists on each panel to create ample time for comments from the floor.*
 - b. **no** Include a panel on the science-policy interface on the thematic priorities identified for each biennium
 - *Please view comment above integrating the science-policy interface on thematic panels.*
 - c. **Yes** Minimize/eliminate the time allocated for opening general statements
 - d. **no** Provide space for exhibits and/or training activities to highlight best practices
 - *As a very limited approach, perhaps there could be space specifically to highlight VNCs.*
 - e. **no** Other (please list)