



CONCEPT NOTE | Panel Discussions

Items 3 (a) Thematic priorities for 2021-2022 in support of the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests & 3 (c) Contribution of, and enhanced cooperation with partners to achieving the thematic priorities¹

Sixteenth session of the UN Forum on Forests

Tuesday 27 April 2021, 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. EDT

I. Background

The Forum at its sixteenth session (UNFF16) will hold a technical session that includes an interactive exchange of experiences and lessons learned on thematic priorities among Members of the Forum, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and its member organizations, regional and subregional organizations and processes, and major groups and other relevant stakeholders. The interactive exchange will include consideration of the science-policy interface and cross-sectoral and emerging issues, and will take into account youth, gender and regions perspectives.

For the biennium 2021-2022, the Bureau of the Forum decided to focus on Global Forest Goal (GFG)1 and GFG2 as the substantive goals, along with GFG4, 5 and 6 as cross-cutting goals. In this respect, the Bureau decided the thematic priorities for UNFF16 and UNFF17 to be: (i) reversing the loss of forest cover (GFG1); (ii) enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits (GFG 2); and (iii) mobilizing financial resources and strengthening scientific and technical cooperation; promoting governance frameworks to advance implementation; and enhancing cooperation, coordination and coherence, for sustainable forest management (GFG 4, 5 and 6)². As part of this panel discussions, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), UNFF regional and sub-regional partners, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including private sector representative will inform the Forum of their contributions to the achievement of the UNFF16 thematic priorities (items 3a and 3c). Major groups are also expected to provide a progress report on their workplans for implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF).

During the panel discussions, the CPF Chair will also report on the implementation of Partnership's work plan for 2017-2020, including its Joint Initiatives, and CPF Joint Statement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the CPF Chair will inform the Forum on the Partnership activities in relation to its new work plan for 2021-2024³. The Secretariat Note, contained in document E.CN.18/2021/3 contains detailed background information of the intersessional activities of the UNFF stakeholders and partners, and provides a basis for the discussions during this panel⁴.

II. Context of the Discussions

The UNSPF points out that CPF member organizations play an important role in implementing the strategic plan and invites them to support the Forum and its members in advancing the GFGs and targets, including through cooperation and partnership among its members, implementing a joint workplan with the Partnership which is aligned with the Forum's quadrennial programmes of work and identifying collective actions by all or subsets of the Partnership's members, as well as associated resource needs. The UNSPF also stresses that regional and subregional bodies and processes provide a crucial bridge between international policies and national actions and are important partners in efforts to implement the strategic plan and achieve its GFGs and targets. The UNSPF emphasizes that the effective implementation of sustainable forest management depends on the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, and endeavors the Forum to work with major groups

¹ Item 3 (c) includes its sub-items: (i) Contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, its member organizations and the United Nations system to achieving the thematic priorities; progress on the workplan of the Partnership; (ii) Contributions of regional and subregional organizations and processes to achieving the thematic priorities; (iii) Contributions of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the philanthropic community, to achieving the thematic priorities; progress on major group workplans.

² Further information about UNFF16-UNFF17 thematic priorities is available at: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/UNFF16-17-Thematic-Priorities-rev.pdf>

³ The CPF work plan 2021-2024 is available at <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>.

⁴ Note by the Secretariat on Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: Contributions of and enhanced cooperation with partners towards achieving the thematic priorities of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Forum is available at: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>



and other relevant stakeholders to identify ways to enhance their contributions to the achievement of the GFGs and targets at all levels. Since the adoption of the ECOSOC resolution 2020/14 and despite the pandemic, CPF member organizations, and UNFF regional and subregional partners, as well as major groups and other relevant stakeholders continued to support the work of the Forum and provided inputs on their contribution to the UNFF16 thematic priorities. In a step towards enhanced engagement of major groups and private sector in the work of the Forum, cooperation with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and FAO's Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI) has been strengthened. The Forum's private sector partners were asked to provide input on the linkages between their work and the UNFF16 thematic priorities and the Brazilian Tree Industry provided input in this regard. The major groups also held virtual consultations in preparation for the current session and continued to implement their individual workplan in support of implementation of the UNSPF.

III. Objectives and modalities of the Panel

The main objectives of the panel discussions are to discuss the ways and means that:

1. CPF and its member organizations can support countries to achieve the GFG1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, including in respect to science, technological innovations and data sharing and data collection.
2. Enhance contributions of UNFF regional and subregional partners, major groups and other stakeholders, including private sector to the achievement of the GFG1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 and targets.

After the initial address by the panelists, the moderator will open the floor for interactive discussion on the above-mentioned objectives. There will be no pre-determined list of speakers for the interactive discussions. Delegations who wish to speak should request the floor using a dedicated speaker request form. The link to the form will be circulated in advance of the panel and will be made available in the chat board of the virtual platform.

The form will only be activated during the panel when the moderator opens the floor for questions or comments. The maximum duration of each intervention is five minutes for national delegations and 7 minutes for delegations, speaking on behalf of a group. In the event of high number of requests for the floor, the Chair may further limit the duration of the interventions. The time limit will be strictly enforced. Due to the interactive nature of the discussions, prepared statements are strongly discouraged. Interested delegations, if they so wish, could submit their prepared statements to the Secretariat, in advance of the session, for posting on the UNFF website. Key points and proposals on the way forward from the panel discussion will be reflected in the Chair's summary of discussions.

IV. Composition of the Panel

Moderator: Mr. Musah Abu-Juam, UNFF16 Vice-Chair

Panellists:

1. Ms. Mette Wilkie, Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) (seven minutes)
2. Ms. Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Head, Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section (seven minutes)
3. Professor Lu Wenming, Deputy Executive Director, International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) (seven minutes)
4. Mr. José Carlos da Fonseca Junior, Executive Director, Brazilian Tree Industry (seven minutes)
5. Mr. Frederik Buchholz, Wageningen University, International Forestry Student Association (IFSA) (seven minutes)
6. Mr. Joseph Cobbinah, Forestry Network of Sub-Saharan Africa (seven minutes)

Panel Coordinator

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