

**Preparations for the Midterm Review of the International Arrangement on Forests
Organization-Led Initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on the
Assessment of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
22-23 February 2023, FAO headquarters, Rome (Hybrid Meeting)
Concept Note**

I. Background

In its resolution 2015/33, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) strengthened the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) and extended its mandate to 2030. The Council further requested the Forum to undertake a midterm, and final review of the effectiveness of the IAF in achieving its objectives in 2024, and 2030. In accordance with the programme of work of the Forum for 2021-2024, the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF17), which took place in May 2022, considered, and decided the actions to be taken in preparation for the IAF midterm review in 2024 (ECOSOC Resolution 2022/17¹). These actions are contained in ten sections in annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, which include Section C: Actions related to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). In response to paragraph C.6 of annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, the UNFF Secretariat and FAO recruited two consultants to conduct an assessment on actions contained in Section C.

In accordance with paragraph C.6 of annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, the results of this assessment should be presented at the CPF Organization-Led Initiative (OLI) for discussion, with a view to making proposals regarding the Partnership to the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the preparations for the midterm review of the IAF, referred to in paragraph 30 of the above-mentioned resolution. In response, the UNFFS and FAO, in collaboration with other CPF member organization are planning to jointly organize the CPF -OLI from 22 to 23 February 2023 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

II. Objective

The objective of the OLI is to provide an opportunity for experts from Members of the Forum, CPF and its members, regional and subregional partners, and major groups to review and discuss the result of the work of the consultants, namely their assessment report on Section C, and provide any input, as relevant, within the mandate of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17.

III. Format and the Expected Outcome

The OLI will be held from 22 to 23 February 2023 in a hybrid format. The daily meetings will be held from 10.00 - 13.00 and 14:30 - 17:30. The agenda and programme of work of the OLI is contained in the annex to this concept note. The meeting will be conducted in English with interpretation in French and Spanish. The meeting will be co-chaired by two Co-Chairs to be elected by the experts. Specific time will be allocated for consultants to present their assessment report during the OLI. These presentations will be followed by interactive discussions among participants regarding the findings, conclusions, and suggestions in the assessment, as well as the views and insights of participating experts on the issues under consideration. The outcome of the OLI will be a concise Co-Chairs' summary of the discussions, which will be presented to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the preparations of for the midterm review of the IAF.

IV. Participants and Meeting Registration

The meeting will bring together designated experts from Members of the Forum, CPF member organizations, regional and subregional partners, as well as major groups and other relevant stakeholders. Members of the

¹ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/438/29/pdf/N2243829.pdf?OpenElement>

Forum, CPF and its members, regional and subregional partners, and major groups are invited to nominate their respective expert(s) to the UNFF Secretariat and to FAO **by 15 December 2022** through an official communication. The nomination of experts of Members of the Forum should be sent to the UNFF Secretariat and FAO by an official communication by the respective Permanent Mission in New York or Rome; for the member organizations of the CPF and regional/subregional partners by the respective head of entity on the entity's official letterhead, and for major groups by the respective group focal point. All communications should be sent to the UNFF Secretariat at unff@un.org and OLI@fao.org, with cc to Ms Ninon Williams at thermidor@un.org, Mr Ryo Nakamura at nakamura@un.org and Ms Dominique Rozas at Dominique.Rozas@fao.org.

V. Travel support

Limited resources are available to support the travel of one expert from eligible countries, and stakeholders on a first-come, first-served basis and until the resources are available. Request for such travel support should be included in the official letter of nomination of expert and should be sent to the above-mentioned e-mail addresses at UNFF Secretariat and FAO **no later than 15 December 2022**. Due to administrative constraints, requests for travel support received after 15 December 2022 will not be considered for provision of possible travel support.

VI. Health insurance coverage, and visa related matters

Those experts who are planning to join the OLI are responsible for making all necessary arrangements to obtain their visas. Experts are also expected to be in good health to travel and to ensure that they have their own health insurance arrangement, including experts whose travel will be financed by the United Nations. No health insurance coverage, or visa related fees or services will be provided by the UN. COVID-19 Protocol for access to FAO headquarters and related safety measures shall be observed during the meeting.

VII. Background documents

- ECOSOC resolution 2022/17 (UNFF17 resolution) is available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/438/29/pdf/N2243829.pdf?OpenElement>. The consultants' assessment report on Section C of annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17 will be made available upon its completion. Additional document are available at the CPF homepage: (<https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/en>):
- CPF Strategic Vision Towards 2030²
- COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS (CPF) WORK PLAN 2021-2024³
- The CPF Policy Document (2019)⁴

VIII. Contact Persons

For all issues related to the registration and travel support, please contact the UNFF Secretariat at unff@un.org with cc to Mr Ryo Nakamura at nakamura@un.org and Ms Dominique Rozas at Dominique.Rozas@fao.org.

² <https://www.cpfweb.org/49203-0a134fd638bca1e59881fede4a1e73904.pdf>

³ <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CPF-Work-Plan-2021-2024-update-June-2022.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CPF-Policy-Document-2019-rev3.pdf>

**Preparations for the Midterm Review of the International Arrangement on Forests
Organization-Led Initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on the
Assessment of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
22-23 February 2023, FAO headquarters, Rome
Draft Agenda and Programme of Work**

Time	Wednesday 22 February	Thursday 23 February
10:00-13:00	<p>Item 1. Opening Remarks by CPF Chair and UNFFS Director</p> <p>Item 2. Election of the Co-Chairs and opening remarks by the Co-Chairs</p> <p>Item 3. Adoption of agenda and programme of work</p> <p>Item 4. CPF's preparations and input to the midterm review of the IAF, and consultants' assessment report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation by the UNFF Secretariat - Presentation of joint CPF statement by the CPF Chair - Presentation of the assessment report prepared by the consultants <p><i>(Interactive discussion on the presentations of the assessment report by the consultants, and reactions/inputs from experts)</i></p>	<p>Item 5. Discussions and inputs from experts regarding actions related to the CPF in Section C of annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17 <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>d. Assessment on how the Partnership could provide greater support to the work of the Forum and countries in strengthening their implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF)</p> <p>e. Contribution of the CPF to the policy development work of the UNFF and to countries in strengthening their implementation of the UNSPF</p> <p>f. Promoting awareness of the multiple benefits of forests and the effectiveness of internal communications within the CPF</p>
	Break	Break
14:30-17:30	<p>Item 5. Discussions and inputs from experts regarding actions related to the CPF in Section C of annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Progress made by CPF in carrying out its functions towards the objectives of the IAF, including provision of scientific and technical advice to the Forum, including on emerging issues b. Effectiveness, impact and added value of the CPF's activities as outlined in its work plan⁵ c. Consideration of the suitability of establishing criteria for membership in the Partnership 	<p>Item 6. Co-Chair's Summary key point of the discussions on item 4 & 5</p> <p>Item 7. Next step and the closure of the meeting</p>

⁵ <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CPF-Work-Plan-2021-2024-update-April-2022.pdf>