



CONCEPT NOTE | Panel Discussions

UNFF 18 panel on Forests, Energy, and Livelihoods

Item 5: Emerging Issues

11 May 2023, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. EDT, CR4, UNHQ, New York

I. Background

Forests and their role in addressing challenges have gained more attention in recent years, in particular, at major UN intergovernmental meetings and conferences. In September 2023, the High-Level Political Forum under the auspices of the UN General Assembly Summit on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Summit) will be held in New York. The Summit aims to review the progress towards SDGs and provide policy recommendations for accelerating their achievement. This Summit offers an opportunity to raise awareness, strengthen political commitment, and catalyze greater action on forests, especially given the critical role of forests in advancing multiple Goals and relevant global agreements, including the Paris Agreement, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

In accordance with its programme of work for 2022-2024, the Forum should consider emerging issues of major concerns to forests in each session. As a technical session, UNFF18 discussions will include interactive exchange of experiences and lessons learned on thematic priorities, including the emerging issues, among members of the Forum, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations, regional and subregional organizations and processes, and major groups and other relevant stakeholders. During UNFF18, emerging issues will be considered under agenda item 5. Under this item, the Bureau of UNFF18 has decided to organize panel discussions on “Forests, Energy, and Livelihoods”. In this respect, the discussions on emerging issues will provide an important opportunity to highlight the interlinkages of forests and sustainable development, in particular, energy, and livelihoods.

II. Intersessional Work

To seize the opportunity of the ongoing preparations for the SDG Summit in September 2023, the Bureau of UNFF18 convened an event on 4 April 2023 at UNHQ in New York, entitled: “Building on the nexus of forests, energy, and livelihoods to accelerate achievement of the SDGs”. In preparation for this event, the UNFF Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, IUFRO and UNDP prepared a concise Issue Brief to inform the discussions at the event. This Issue Brief, and the concept note for this event are available at: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/unff18-bureau-event-forests-energy-livelihoods/index.html>

The Secretariat Note, contained in document [E.CN.18/2023/2](#), also includes further background information that provides additional basis for the discussions during this panel.

III. Objectives and modalities of the Panel

The main objectives of the panel discussions are to showcase the important contributions of forests and sustainable management of forests to energy, livelihoods, and the SDGs. The event also provides an opportunity to suggest effective means to move towards integrated approaches to the forests-energy-livelihoods nexus in support of the SDGs.

The presentations by the panellists will be focused on the following guiding questions:

- What are the current experiences in building the nexus forests, energy and livelihoods, including opportunities and challenges?
- What are the key nexus of forests, energy, and livelihoods, and how integrated policies in forests and energy sector would make difference in improving livelihoods of people?
- What actions and measures, and sectoral policies should be put in place to advance integrated policies on forests and energy in support of the SDGs?
- What are the pros and cons of bioenergy, and how could the nexus approach offset the potential negative impacts of the use of bioenergy?

After the initial presentation by the panelists, the moderator will open the floor for interactive discussion on the above-mentioned questions, and reactions to the presentation by the panelists. There will be no pre-determined list of speakers for the interactive discussions. Delegations who wish to speak should request the floor during the interactive discussions. The maximum duration of each intervention is three minutes. Delegations are requested to e-mail a copy of any prepared statement to estatements@un.org at least two hours before the meeting, including the title and date of the meeting as well as the name and delegation of the speaker. 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. Interactive discussions are strongly encouraged. Key points of the panel discussion will be reflected in the Chair's summary of discussions.

IV. Composition of the Panel

Moderator: Ms. Paola Deda, Director, Forest, Land and Housing Division, UNECE

Panellists:

1. Mr. Zhimin Wu, Director of the FAO Forestry Division / Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (7 minutes)
2. Ms. Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director, International Tropical Timber Organization (7 minutes)
3. Mr. John Parrotta, President, International Union of Forest Research Organisations (7 minutes)
4. Mr. Tim Scott, Senior Policy Advisor, United Nations Development Programme (7 minutes)
5. Ms. Mirey Atallah, Head of Nature for Climate Branch, United Nations Environment Programme (7 minutes)

V. Panel Coordinator

For further information, please contact Ms. Yan Lang (yan.lang@un.org) at the UNFF Secretariat.