

## **“Unlocking the Potential: Public-private Sector Collaboration for Advancing Global Forest Goals”**

Tuesday, 6 May 2025

13:15 – 14:30 EDT

UNHQ – Conference Room E

### **Context**

The forest sector and its wide variety of products offer solutions vital for carbon-neutral economies and inclusive development. However, such contributions often remain undervalued in international climate discussions. The successful implementation of sustainable forest management as a means to build resilient forests and support the growth of related industries relies on the active participation of all key stakeholders including the private sector.

The importance of the forest-based private sector for sustainable economic development in support of a transition towards a sustainable bioeconomy is remarkably increasing. It can significantly contribute to the achievement of the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) as well the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a better, more sustainable, and inclusive future, targeting in particular GFG1, GFG2, GFG3 as well as GFG5, and SDG7, SDG8, SDG9 SDG12, SDG13 and SDG15.

The forest-based private sector is vital for achieving net zero emissions economies, aligning with the Paris Agreement's goal to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius. It also plays a unique role in facilitating global efforts towards ecosystem restoration. Given their long experience of sustainably managing land, forests, water, and biodiversity, many representatives in the forest-based private sector possess scientific expertise on ecological processes and rich insights into the protection of ecosystems. Additionally, the forest-based private sector, both in developing and developed countries, comprises both large companies and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises that generate living wage jobs, invest in socioeconomic development projects for local communities, and support the livelihood of forest-dependent communities.

The [Advisory Committee on Forest-Based Industries](#) (ACSF) is a statutory body of the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) (FAO) composed of senior executives from the private industry sector worldwide. It guides FAO's activities and programme of work on issues relevant to the forest products industry and provides a leading platform to advocate for sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches, particularly by fostering cross-sectoral collaboration, raising policy ambitions, and identifying strategic priorities for joint action between the private sector and other stakeholders.

The [International Council of Forest and Paper Associations](#) (ICFPA) provides a forum of global dialogue among national and regional industry associations and their leadership to cooperate in the development of common positions on issues of mutual interest representing the forest, paper, wood

and forest fibre-based industries. It also serves as focal point for UNFF's major group on Business and Industry.

Co-hosted by the ICFPA and ACSFI, the event will spotlight the private sector efforts and the potential of innovative solutions to meet the Global Forest Goals. This will include knowledge-sharing of applied initiatives of forest-based bioeconomy approaches at regional and global levels.

### Objectives:

- Highlight the critical role of private sector involvement in achieving Global Forest Goals and sustainability targets.
- Strengthen global collaboration and stakeholder engagement in sustainable forest management.
- Explore practical pathways for increasing the sustainable production and consumption of forest products.
- Increase public-private partnerships for a transition to a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy.
- Identify national and regional bioeconomy frameworks that promote adopting forest-based bioeconomy strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and economic growth.

## Agenda

**Moderator:** Mr. Derek Nighbor, Chief Executive Officer, Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) – ICFPA & ACSFI member and focal point for UNFF major group on Business and Industry

Time	Item	Speaker
13:15 – 13:20	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
13:20 – 13:30	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Zhimin Wu</b>, Director, Forestry Division, FAO</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Jose Carlos da Fonseca Junior</b>, Executive Director Brazilian Tree Industry (Ibá), and CEO, Brazilian Paper Packaging Association (Empapel), ACSFI Chair</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Heidi Brock</b>, President and CEO of the American Forest &amp; Paper Association, ICFPA President</li> </ul>
13:30 – 14:00	<b>Experts Panel</b>	
	Sustainable Forest Management mechanisms: pathways for the development of an African forest-based bioeconomy	<b>Ms. Françoise Van de Ven</b> , President, Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT). ASFI member
	Europe's wood sector as a green transition to a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy	<b>Ms. Silvia Melegari</b> , Secretary General, European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bòis), ACSFI Vice-Chair
	Pulp and Paper Industry: challenges, sectoral achievements and cooperation in accomplishing a	<b>Ms. Jane Molony</b> , Executive Director, Paper Manufacturers Association, South Africa

Side event to UNFF20

	transition towards a sustainable bioeconomy	
	Leveraging Synergies: Public-private Sector Collaboration	<b>UNFF member country representative (Türkiye)</b>
	Leveraging Synergies: Public-private Sector Collaboration	<b>Ms Sheam Satkuru</b> , Executive Director, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
14:00 – 14:20	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	<b>All</b>
14:20 – 14:25	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<b>Ms. Barbara Tavora Jainchill</b> , United Nations Forum of Forests Secretariat
14:25 – 14:30	<b>Close</b>	<b>Moderator</b>