

United for Our Forests: Renewed Impetus towards COP 30

Trusteeship Council Chamber, 8 May 2025, 13:15-14:30 PM

- Background

The United for Our Forests Group brings together 18 developing countries that hold more than 62% of the world's tropical forests. The Group made important commitments and expressed its views in the Joint Communiqué issued in Belém in August 2023. Since then, the Group's governments have made important new commitments to conserve forests and halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, as set out in the Ministerial Declaration of the 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in 2024, as well as in the final decision of the First Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement (GST) in 2023. Several members of the Group have also taken on ambitious commitments to restore and plant new extensive areas of tropical forests. In light of these important environmental commitments, the Group is well placed to play a significant role in the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference, to be held in Belem in 2025.

2. The Group's commitments are a good example, in practice, of synergy between the main international environmental regimes. In addition to the UNFF and the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, these commitments are also in consonance with the Ministerial Declaration of the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity. They are also in line with several UN General Assembly resolutions, notably those that instituted the Pact for the Future (79/1); the UN Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation in line with Sustainable Forest Management (2027–2036, 79/283); the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030, 73/284); and the Sustainable Development Goals (70/1).

- Objectives

3. Building on four successful public meetings in 2024, including in UNFF 19, this event will be an opportunity to share information, views and experiences about the efforts of the group to conserve forests, halt and reverse deforestation, sustainably manage and restore extensive areas of tropical forests. It will also be an occasion to share updated analyses about economic instruments to finance our efforts in this domain, such as grants, credit, equities, risk sharing, payment for ecosystem services, results-based payments, and the carbon market.

Draft Programme

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13:15-13:28 Opening Session

- Representative of Brazil
- Representative of the Republic of the Congo
- Representative of Papua New Guinea
- Juliette Biao Koudoukou, Director, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFF)

13:28-13:35 Forest Conservation and Restoration Financing: Overview

- Giovanna Miranda, Climate Policy Initiative

13:35-13:42 Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF): Current Status and Future Prospects

- Garo Batmanian, Director-General, Brazilian Forest Service

13:42-13:49 Debt for Nature Swap: Experience from Ecuador

- Speaker to be defined

13:49-13:56 Forest Conservation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Local Experiences, Universal Lessons

- Joseph Malassi, Climate Change Advisor, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development

13:56-14:03 Joint mitigation and adaptation for the integral and sustainable management of forests in the context of non-market based approaches

- Diego Pacheco Balanza, Charge d'affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the UN

14:03-14:10 Sustainable Forest Management in the Republic of the Congo

- Dieudonné Sita, Director for Forests, Ministry of Forest Economy, Republic of the Congo

14:10-14:17 Payment for Ecosystem Services: Experiences from Brazil

- Virgilio Viana, General Superintendent, Foundation for Amazon Sustainability

14:17-14:24 Fostering Sustainable Livelihoods and the Bioeconomy: Lessons from Colombia

- Speaker to be defined

14:24-14:30 Closing Remarks

- Marco Tulio Cabral, Head of the COP 30 Forests Unit, Brazil