

At a time of unprecedented dimate, health and economic crises, forests offer hope to heal people, the environment, and the economy. Yet, we are not on track to meet the goals of halting deforestation and forest degradation. An estimated 420 million hectares of forest an area the size of India and Nigeria combined have been lost through deforestation since 1990.

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Turning the tide on deforestation is a top priority for the UN Secretary-General, who in 2019, called to accelerate efforts to halt deforestation and restore forests, through ambitious, concerted action and advocacy across and beyond the UN system. At the World Leaders Summit at COP26 more than 100 world leaders promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030 pledging more than \$20 billion of public and

Forests have a massive climate change mitigation potential which can only be realised by reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation while at the same time storing carbon from the atmosphere through conservation, restoration, and sustainable management as encouraged through Article 5 of the Paris Agreement. A range of nature-based solutions can cost-effectively provide up to one-third of the climate-change mitigation needed between now and 2030 to stabilize global warming below 1,5 °C. Of these, reducing deforestation and forest degradation are among the most effective and mature options.

A strong implementation ally is the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), consisting of 15 international organisations, who are spearheading the efforts to halt deforestation globally. The existing global forest goals and targets, as well as the outcomes and recommendations of the International CPF Aspiration to Action

Leadership Dialogue on Halting Deforestation during the UN Oimate Change Conference COP25 in Madrid, are setting the frame for these efforts. In 2021, the CPF released the latest scientific findings and key Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation

16th session of the UN Forum on Forests.

Much progress has been made since, despite the restrictions of the pandemic: FAO published the 2020 Global Forest Resources Assessment providing the latest data on changes in forest area over time and for forest-related SDG indicators; new remote sensing technology improved our data and understanding about forest cover; and a coalition on Halting Deforestation and Conversion from Agricultural Commodities was formed under the UN Food Systems Summit.

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Leaders of UN agencies and other OPF members will outline their enhanced ambition and individual and joint actions to accelerate efforts in turning the tide on deforestation. The discussion will be based around Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation and highlight existing and planned actions to accelerate addressing deforestation, including the announcement of the launch of the OPF Joint Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation.

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The event is planned as a high-level moderated 75-minutes dialogue. The High-level Dialogue will be moderated by the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The session will be held in a hybrid format. The COP26 Presidency will be invited to frame the event and highlight COP26 efforts in addressing

Heads of the participating CPF member agencies will address the event as panellists responding to the following framing questions:

- 1. What are the most urgent actions for the CPF and its members to scale up efforts to halt deforestation and degradation?
- 2. Which incentives have to be placed throughout value chains to enhance deforestation-free production?
- 3. What needs to change to enable us to fully use the massive mitigation and adaptation potential of forests as envisaged in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement?

### Opening remarks:

- , UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (virtual)
- , FAO Director-General (virtual)

### Special guest speaker:

- HL representative of the COP26 Presidency, United Kingdom (tbc)

High-level panel:

, UNEP Executive Director
, Global Environment Facility (GEF) ŒO and Chairperson
, OFOR-ICRAF Executive Director and ICRAF Director General
N , OBD Executive Secretary (virtual)

### Moderation:

- , Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and Director of the FAO Forestry Division

Links: Event website, event livestream, OOP26 Platform for registered delegates

Organizers: Collaborative Partnership on Forests

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#### www.cpfweb.org

has more than 30 years of experience in the diplomatic service, with a strong focus on the promotion of bilateral, regional and global issues. He was deeply involved for 10 years in climate change negotiations including the conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. He also widely participated in the international activities on the protection of our planet including Antarctica and the oceans. He served as Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China and as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent

# Mr. Liu Zhenmin



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is a lawyer by profession, politician by choice, and conservationist at heart. He was elected as CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility by its governing body, the GEF Council, in June 2020. The former Costa Rican Environment and Energy Minister was a pioneer in the development of Payment for Ecosystem Services initiatives and strategies for forest restoration, ocean conservation, and de-carbonization, and is an internationally recognized expert on environmental policy, multilateral environmental negotiations, and financing for nature conservation. During his three terms as Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica doubled the size of its forests, made its electric sector 100 percent clean and renewable, and consolidated a National Park System that has positioned the Central American country as a prime ecotourism destination. Since the 1992 UN Sustainable Development Summit in Rio, he has participated in all multilateral environmental negotiations, as an expert negotiator in UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD, and participated in negotiations for the creation and implementation of the GEF and the Green Climate Fund.

s Between 2015 and 2019, she was the Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). She has more than 30 years of experience in international development economics, environmental sustainability, strategy and operations. She has led work on a range of issues including agriculture, environmental management, biodiversity conservation, dimate change, infrastructure, energy, transport, and water resources management and hydro-diplomacy. Between 1999 and 2014, Ms. Andersen held several leadership positions at the World Bank including Vice President of the Middle East and North Africa; Vice President for Sustainable Development and Head of the CGIAR Fund Council.

## Ms. Inger Andersen

Mr. Carlos Manuel

Rodriguez

has worked for over thirty

Mr. Tony Simons

