



**Expert Group Meeting on Strengthening the Engagement of the  
United Nations Forum on Forests  
with Regional Partners, Major Groups, and other Stakeholders**

New York, 16-17 December 2021 (virtual)

**1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING**

The United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) 2017-2030 provides a reference point for ambitious transformational actions by all actors, including regional and subregional organizations and processes and major groups and other stakeholders, to achieve its Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and targets. Accordingly, one of the core functions of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is to strengthen high level political engagement, with the participation of major groups and other stakeholders in support of sustainable forest management.

York on 9-13 May 2021. UNFF17's draft agenda item 3 (a) (v) includes, among the issues to be debated under the framework of the implementation of UNSPF, the "interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2022 and international forest-related developments".

In this regard, the Bureau of the sixteenth session of the Forum decided that GFGs 1 and 2, together with three cross-cutting goals (namely, goals 4, 5 and 6), should be the main thematic priorities for the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Forum. Accordingly, the thematic priorities for UNFF17 are: (a) reversing the loss of forest cover; (b) enhancing forest-based economic, social, and environmental benefits; and (c) mobilizing financial resources and strengthening scientific and technical cooperation; promoting governance frameworks to advance implementation; and enhancing cooperation, coordination, and coherence for sustainable forest management.

The 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), to be held in July 2022, will undertake an in-depth review of SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 14 on life below water, SDG 15 on life on land, and SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals. The HLPF 2022 will also consider the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all SDGs and the integrated, indivisible, and interlinked nature of the Goals.

Moreover, in accordance with the general guidance provided in annex I to Economic and Social Council resolution 2020/14 of 17 July 2020, the proposals contained in the Chair's summary of the discussions of the sixteenth session of the Forum will be submitted for consideration by UNFF17. Among the proposals is "(g) Emerging issues: impact of COVID-19 on forests and the forest sector". The UNFF Secretariat is currently conducting a global assessment of the challenges faced by countries, and the strategies, recovery measures and best practices implemented for reducing the impact of COVID-19 on forests and the forest sector. The assessment will identify and elaborate on:





## **B. Discussions**

### **B.1. Linkages between thgnI-6 tGI-3(on)-3(eal)8 tFor5(e)4(est)-4297(Goal-3(s)9 )ITJETQ0.00000912**





- x **Goal 1** and its targets are linked and contribute to the achievement of SDGs 14.2,15.1- 15.4 and 15.8 as well as Aichi Biodiversity targets 5,7,9,11,14 and 15.
- x **Goal 2** and its targets are linked and contribute to the achievement of SDG 4.4,5a,15.6 and 15c as well as Aichi Biodiversity targets 4,14 and 18
- x **Goal 4** and its targets are linked and contribute to the achievement of SDGs 15a,15b,17.1-17.3, 17.6, 17.17-17.19 as well as Aichi Biodiversity target 19
- x **Goal 5** and its targets are linked and contribute to the achievement of SDGs 15.9, 15c and 17.14 as well as Aichi Biodiversity targets 2 and 3.
- x **Goal 6** and its targets are linked and contribute 17.14

**Guiding Question 2: What actions need to be taken to accelerate the progress in the implementation of UNSPF?**

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effective governance, in order to ensure that the best science-based evidence & technological solutions are available in crisis response and recovery measures.

**Other key findings included:**

- x The importance of increasing resources from all sources. The response to the pandemic provides a unique opportunity to accelerate actions to tackle the drivers of deforestation & forest degradation. In order to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and future zoonotic diseases, minimize their impacts on global trade and supply chains of forest products, leverage action to build more sustainable production & resilient supply chains, & provide more diverse livelihoods, it is important to build momentum to halt deforestation and unsustainable forest practices.





## AGENDA

### Strengthening the engagement of the United Nations Forum on Forests with Regional Partners, Major Groups, and other stakeholders

New York, 16-17 December 2021 (virtual)

#### Thursday, 16 December 2021 (8:00 ±11:00 a.m. New York Time)

1. Opening:
  - x Remarks by **Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild**, Chief, Policy Coordination and Partnerships Section, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS)
  - x Welcome address by UNFFS Officer-in-Charge, **Alexander Trepelkov**
  - x Setting the scene by facilitator, **Joseph Cobbinah**
2. Linkages between the Global Forest Goals – GFGs and the Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs under review by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2022 Session - HLPF 2022 (Barbara Tavora Jainchill)
3. Briefing on the International Arrangement on Forests midterm review Expert Group Meeting findings (Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild)
4. Interactive discussion
5. Summary of first day discussions by the facilitator

#### Friday, 17 December 2021 (8:00 ±10:00 a.m. New York Time)

1. Remarks by facilitator
2. Presentation on status of study coordinated by UNFFS on the pandemic effect on forests and the forest sector (Njeri Kariuki)
3. Interactive discussion
4. Final summary of discussions by the facilitator
5. Final remarks

**ANNEX 2: LIST OF  
PARTICIPANTS**

France (Observer, attending in view of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union)	<b>Justine De Boisfleury</b>	<a href="mailto:justine.de-boisfleury@diplomatie.gouv.fr">justine.de-boisfleury@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
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