



**Submission from Canada regarding
“Building Blocks/Options for the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030” and
the “Quadrennial Programme of Work for 2017-2020”**

Canada thanks the UNFF Secretariat for the documents: “*Building Blocks/Options for the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030*” (herein referred to as the “zero draft”) and the “*Quadrennial Programme of Work for 2017-2020*” (herein referred to as the “4POW”), and we appreciate the work involved in pulling together the views expressed at the AHEG1 meeting in April in order to produce these documents.

Canada’s submission is centred on recommendations which are focussed on producing a final Strategic Plan that is **concise, clear and easy to communicate**, and enables **concrete actions over the 13 years** of its lifespan.

Concise

- We propose a new annotated Table of Contents, based on many aspects of the zero draft, but removing some of the duplicative text (while remaining true to Resolution E/RES/2015/33 from UNFF12) and presenting the narrative in a more succinct manner. The annotated Table of Contents is enclosed as **Attachment 1**.
- We recommend that the Strategic Plan be no longer than 10-15 pages in length, not including Annexes which can be used for critical reference or support material.
- We recommend removal of text found in previously negotiated documents. For example, remove the four pages in the zero draft (pages 12 to 16) which re-iterate text from the UN Forest Instrument.

Clear and easy to communicate

- We have enclosed as **Attachment 2**, a one-page visual representation of both the Strategic Plan (based on the above mentioned new Table of Contents) and the 4POW.
- This visual representation is an example of something that could be used to easily and quickly communicate the work of the IAF and in that way, address some of the communication and outreach objectives that have been discussed.
- Using a one-page format, the reader is able to view at a glance, the entirety of the Strategic Plan, its constituent components, and how the 4POW is situated relative to the Strategic Plan action areas.
- We put this visual forward as an example and acknowledge that its visual appeal and simplicity (and thus effectiveness) could be further aided by professional graphic design.

Enables concrete action over the 13 years

- Based on the action areas proposed by experts at the AHEG1 meeting and included in the zero draft, Canada recommends that the Strategic Plan focus on the following five:
 1. (new) SDGs, in particular 15 and 6
 2. (from AHEG1) Addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
 3. (from AHEG1) Improved valuation of forest goods and services, including NWFPs
 4. (from AHEG1) Governance, including land tenure
 5. (from AHEG1) Forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation

- The five above areas include the cross-cutting horizontal areas of (from AHEG1 list):
 - Stakeholder engagement at global, regional and national levels
 - Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation (Paris Agreement) (SDG 13)
 - Science-policy interface, science-based advice and policies
- The five areas would then be inserted into a 4POW table, similar to the original draft table suggested by the UNFFS (see **Attachment 3**), for further detailed description of the concrete activities carried out under each.
- Operational principles would also form part of the SP and 4POW.

Lastly, as we view the Strategic Plan as the critical foundational piece, we recommend that it be **the priority item for discussion** during the AHEG2 meeting in Bangkok in October, versus dividing attention and time to also finalizing the 4POW.

Attachments: (3)

- 1. Annotated Table of Contents for the UN Strategic Plan for the IAF 2017-2030*
- 2. Visual Representation of the Strategic Plan and 4POW*
- 3. 4-year Program of Work (4POW) 2017-2020*

September 9, 2016
NRCan-CFS-PEIB-TIAD/mc
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

ATTACHMENT 1

United Nations Strategic Plan for **the International Arrangement on** Forests 2017-2030
Suggested Annotated Table of Contents
 (See also: 4POW and the 1-page visual representation of the Strategic Plan and 4POW)

(Based on "Building Blocks/Options for Strategic Plan for 2017-2030" UNFFS Draft of 28 July 2016 herein referred to as the "zero draft")

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Message from the UNSG

(To be inserted)

I. Introduction

- Limit entire Strategic Plan to maximum 10-15 pages
- (from zero draft): In 2015, based on recommendations by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) at its 11th session, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted Resolution 2015/33 to strengthen the functioning of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), including calling for the preparation of an IAF Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030. The purpose of the Strategic Plan (SP) (insert full title once agreed) is to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the IAF and its components in advancing the vision, mission and objectives of the IAF. The Strategic Plan will also guide UN System wide work on SFM.

- This section should include a line about **scope** i.e. it is the SP for the IAF and not meant to be a plan for all SFM worldwide. It also segues well into the next recommended section “value-added” or “comparative advantage” of the IAF
- Should also include a text box with text from Resolution (E/RES/2015/33), clearly outlining what was decided at UNFF11 concerning contents of the SP:

XI. Strategic plan (page 10 of Resolution 2015/33)

38. *Decides* that the Forum should develop a concise strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 to serve as a strategic framework to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components;

39. *Also decides* that the plan should be aligned with the objectives of the international arrangement on forests and should incorporate a mission and vision, the global objectives on forests and the forest-related aspects of the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account significant forest-related developments in other forums, as well as identify the roles of different actors and the framework for reviewing implementation, and outline a communication strategy to raise awareness of the work of the arrangement;

40. *Requests* the Forum to operationalize the strategic plan through quadrennial programmes of work which set out priority actions and resource needs, beginning with the period 2017-2020.

- Recommend omitting zero draft sections A, B and C as the importance of forests is already well-established and uses valuable space in the Plan.
- See also: **visual representation** (separate document) which illustrates the SP and 4POW in one table

II. IAF Vision, Mission, Comparative Advantage

A. IAF Vision

- To help set context, include the agreed upon definition of “vision”: the vision describes our ideal future state.
- Based on that and the four options presented in the zero draft, Canada’s preference is for:
 - 1) mix of Option 2 (*A world where forests are protected and sustainably managed, providing economic, social and environmental benefits for all*), and Option 3 (*A world where forests are protected, sustainably used and restored and their services are recognized and valued by all*):

Mix of Opt 2+3: A world where forests are sustainably managed, providing economic, social and environmental services which are recognized and valued by all.
 - (or)
 - 2) modified **Option 4: A world where forests are healthy, secure, productive and benefit all.**

B. IAF Mission

- To help set context, include the agreed upon definition of “mission”: the mission describes our reason(s) for existence.
- Based on that, and the already existing five objectives of the IAF which fit well, use those:

1. To promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument;
2. To enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. To enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels;
4. To foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels;
5. To support efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the UN Forest Instrument, in order to achieve sustainable forest management.

C. Comparative Advantage of the IAF (or “value added” / “niche role”)

- Excellent section to have to illustrate niche role of the UNFF. For instance, if the UNFF did not exist, what would be lost or missing from global dialogue? (the singular place for global forestry discussion)
- Use mix of zero draft language + Caswell paper language + former UNFF reports

III. Aspirational Objectives

- Zero draft suggested “Strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets”
- Suggest using “Aspirational Objectives” as we already have the ideal future state (vision), the reasons for existence (mission), so now need the aspirational objectives to act upon
- Also, no need for “strategic” as the assumption is that the UNFF would not engage in non-strategic objectives
- There are already 4 objectives in place and agreed upon aka the GOFs. And they are already drafted in a way which fits here:

Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

GOF 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

GOF 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;

GOF 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

GOF 4: Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

- The above most closely aligns with option 2 in the zero draft

IV. Areas of Action for 2017 to 2030

- This section could simply touch on national plans and measures, and international cooperation, but should NOT cut and paste them from the 2008 NLBI resolution – takes up valuable real estate and adds little value. The NLBI could be appended as an annex

- To achieve, as best possible, each of the above GOFs over the next 13 years, these are the specific areas where action will be focussed:
 1. (new) SDGs, in particular 15 and 6
 2. (from zero draft) Addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
 3. (from zero draft) Improved valuation of forest goods and services, including NWFPs
 4. (from zero draft) Governance, including land tenure
 5. (from zero draft) Forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation
- The five above areas include the cross-cutting horizontal areas of (from zero draft list):
 - Stakeholder engagement at global, regional and national levels
 - Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation (Paris Agreement) (SDG 13)
 - Science-policy interface, science-based advice and policies
- Include caveat that regardless of what thematic areas of action are selected, there must be inherent flexibility to change them in accordance with changing global priorities

Section on Example Actions

- This section would include some examples of concrete activities that could be undertaken by the IAF in each area of action
- For example:
 1. (new) SDGs, in particular 15 and 6
 - E.g. report regularly on IAF actions on implementing SDG 15 and 6, being mindful of existing reporting obligations
 2. (from zero draft) Addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
 - E.g. given landscapes are often shared, engage with other sectors who contribute to deforestation (e.g. agriculture, mining, energy) to better understand their perspectives and discuss how to collectively address the issue
 3. (from zero draft) Improved valuation of forest goods and services, including NWFPs
 - E.g. draw from the many existing papers on environmental goods & services
 - E.g. communicate the findings of this paper to a broad non-forestry audience (ie int'l development & poverty reduction agencies) to illustrate importance of forests and generate funding interest
 4. (from zero draft) Governance, including land tenure
 - E.g. hire neutral third-party consultants to develop 4-5 actions the global community could do to combat illegal logging and its related trade in coordination with other groups already working on this issue
 - E.g. gap analysis on existence of adequate, up-to-date forest inventories and monitoring (which enable governments to make informed decisions and improve knowledge of the resource base and the ability to judge the extent of non-compliance)
 5. (from zero draft) Forest and landscape restoration and rehabilitation
 - E.g. draw from the existing literature on forest and landscape restoration and rehabilitation and do a gap analysis on the science and research needed in, for example, plant characteristics (e.g., rate of root growth, reproductive strategy, biomass yield, genetic composition, drought tolerance) that can be used to determine which plant traits and species are best for achieving rapid land reclamation/restoration and potential biomass production.

V. Framework for Reviewing Implementation

- This section should outline the evaluation cycle and review of the progress on:
 - implementation of the Strategic Plan
 - implementation of UNFI (UN Forest Instrument aka Non-Legally Binding Instrument (NLBI))
- And, contribution to Agenda 2030 review process
- Most of the wording in the zero draft is generally ok and can be re-used here
- Add additional: "Operational Principles" (more detail would be seen in the 4POW and cover things like transparency, accountability, alignment.)

VI. Roles and Responsibilities

(The wording in the zero draft is generally okay))

- a) UN agencies, programmes, conventions and relevant secretariats and partners
- b) UNFF
- c) Member States
- d) CPF
- e) Regional/subregional partners
- f) Major Groups and other stakeholders

VII. Means and Resources

(no new funding. Re-prioritise the current envelope of funds)

- a) GFFFN
- b) UNFF Trust Fund
 - a. Canada recommends that the Secretariat produce regular reports on the Trust Fund
- c) GEF, GCF and other forest funding institutions
- d) Global Forest Fund

VIII. Communications and Outreach

(Below orange text is from the zero draft, with CFS comments in track changes)

- The Forum will develop a communication and outreach strategy (by when?) to raise awareness of the importance of forests and the work of the IAF and its components, including the Strategic Plan.
- The strategy will outline the Forum's communication and outreach objectives; target audiences within and outside the forest sector, including policy-makers at all levels, practitioners, stakeholders, donors and the general public; and key communication tools, products and vehicles.
- The Forum may include priority communication and outreach actions in the 4POW as needed to take forward the strategy.
- The Secretariat will develop specific communication and outreach activities based on the strategy and 4POW and report to the Forum on these activities on a regular basis.

Annexes

1. 17 Sustainable Development Goals (should include just 15 and 6)
2. Illustrative diagram on potential contributions of forest-related actions towards achieving the SDGs
3. (Need for this matrix is not clear) ~~Matrix displaying the “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets” and associated actions, responsible actors, resource needs and indicators of achievement~~
4. (When will this be drafted by, and by who?) Communication and Outreach Strategy
5. UN Forest Instrument

ATTACHMENT 2

United Nations Strategic Plan for the International Arrangement on Forests 2017-2030 & 4POW:

VISUAL REPRESENTATION

Vision

(The vision describes our ideal future state)

Mix of Options 2+3 from the zero draft: *A world where forests are sustainably managed, providing economic, social and environmental services which are recognized and valued by all.*

Mission

(The mission describes our reasons for existence)

Existing five objectives of the IAF:

1. To promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument;
2. To enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. To enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels;
4. To foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels;
5. To support efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the UN Forest Instrument, in order to achieve sustainable forest management.

("Mission Statement": Canada does not see a need for a separate Statement, given the 5 objectives above)

Aspirational Objectives

Existing Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

GOF 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation	GOF 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;	GOF 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;	GOF 4: Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.
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Areas of Action for 2017-2030

(To achieve, as best possible, each of the above GOFs over the next 13 years, there are specific areas where action will be focussed)

SDGs 15 & 6	Drivers of Deforestation	Valuation of forest goods and services	Governance/land tenure	Forest & landscape restoration
And, there are 3 horizontal areas that cut across all Areas of Action	Stakeholder engagement at global, regional and national levels			
	Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls			
	Science-policy interface, science-based advice and policies			
	Climate change mitigation and adaptation (Paris Agreement) (SDG 13)			
Framework for Reviewing Implementation Outlines evaluation cycle and review of the progress on: - implementation of SP - implementation of UNFI And, contribution to Agenda 2030 review process Should also include Operational Principles e.g. transparency, accountability etc)	Roles & Responsibilities of Actors and Entities Member states; UN agencies, programmes, conventions and relevant secretariats and partners; UNFF; CPF; Regional/subregional partners; Major Groups and other stakeholders	Means & Resources GFFFN ; UNFF Trust Fund ; GEF, GCF and other forest funding institutions ; Global Forest Fund	Communications & Outreach Raise awareness externally of the work of arrangement Internal comms to IAF members about the strategy and progress on it	

4-year Program of Work (4POW) 2017-2020

Year	UNFF Session	Technical or Policy	Required Actions per Resolution	Areas of Action for 2017-2030				
				SDGs 15 & 6	Drivers of Deforestation	Valuation of forest goods and services	Governance/land tenure	Forest landscape restoration
2017	UNFF12	Technical		<i>(See 4POW document and associated tables for details)</i>				
2018	UNFF13	Policy						
2019	UNFF14	Technical						
2020	UNFF15	Policy						

ATTACHMENT 3

**United Nations Strategic Plan for the International Arrangement on Forests 2017-2030
4-year Program of Work (4POW) 2017-2020**

(Canada's track change comments on text from UNFF zero draft date: 28 July 2016)

THE 4POW 2017-2020

- The Strategic Plan and the 4POWs are closely linked. The Strategic Plan provides general guidance while the 4POWs identify priority actions and associated resource needs and responsible parties for specific period of time, based on the guidance in the Strategic Plan.
- The 4POW 2017-2020 will conform to the guidance in the Strategic Plan in setting out the work to be undertaken at UNFF 12 (2017), UNFF 13 (2018), UNFF 14 (2019) and UNFF 15 (2020).
- The 4POW 2017-2020 will be partly transitional in nature with a focus on operationalizing the guidance contained in ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 for a strengthened IAF, as well as on initial policy actions to operationalize the UNSPF ([United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests](#)).

A. Priority Actions and Resource Needs 2017-2020

- The priority actions and the resource needs for the 4POW will flow from the “strategic objectives” ([the GOFs approach/global goals and targets](#)) and “thematic areas of actions” contained in the Strategic Plan, as well as taking into account the thematic focus and the annual SDG review process under the HLPF ([SDG High Level Political Forum](#)).
- The priority actions and resource needs can be better considered once the “strategic approach/global goals and targets/objectives” and “thematic areas of actions” of the Strategic Plan are agreed.
- One option is to include priority actions and resource needs in the 4POW that are needed to meet SDG 15 targets with a 2020 target date that specifically mention forests:
 - o SDG 15.2: *By 2020 promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.*
 - o SDG 15.1: *By 2020 ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater systems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.*
 - o SDG 6.6: *By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers and lakes.*

B. UNFF 12 (2017) – Operational priorities

- Although UNFF 12 is an odd-year session and therefore focused on “implementation and technical advice”, it would be useful for the session to consider and take decisions as appropriate on the following operational priorities from resolution 2015/33:
 - o Guidelines for the effective and transparent operation of the GFFFN
 - o Revised guidelines for CLIs and similar initiatives to enhance their contributions to the Forum's work
 - o The Forum's contribution to the theme and SDGs of the annual session of the HLPF in 2017
 - o The Forum's communication and outreach strategy (para 39)
- UNFF 12 will also consider a proposal from the Secretariat, developed in consultation with CPF members and C&I processes, on the cycle and format for national reporting (para 16.c).

(Below tables are Canada's suggestions to replace the draft table on page 2 of the UNFFS 4POW draft doc)

- Move "performance indicators" into the above body of the 4POW document.
- Table has been split into two to accommodate the number of columns.
- Note: "Areas of Action" are in no particular order.

UNFF Session	Required Actions per Resolution E/2015/33	a) Lead b) Contributor c) Resources	Area of Action 1 SDGs, in particular 15 and 6	a) Lead b) Contributor c) Resources	Area of Action 3 Addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation	a) Lead b) Contributor c) Resources
2017 4POW year 1 UNFF 12 (Tech/ Implem)	<i>(see zero draft original text) This column would contain those actions prescribed in the ECOSOC Resolution (and) Operational requirements such as reporting.</i>				Example concrete action: Convene outreach workshop to other sectors who contribute to deforestation i.e. agriculture, energy, mining sectors	a) CFP b) MG, all member states c) CFP funds as available, UNFF Trust Fund
					etc	
2018 4POW year 2 UNFF 13 (Policy)						
2019 4POW year 3 UNFF 14 (Tech/ Implem)						
2020 4POW year 4 UNFF 15 (Policy)						
All sessions						

UNFF Session	Area of Action 4 Improved valuation of forest goods and services, including NWFPs	a) Lead b) Contributor c) Resources	Area of Action 5 Governance, including land tenure	a) Lead b) Contributor c) Resources	Area of Action 6 Forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation	a) Lead b) Contributor c) Resources
2017 4POW year 1 UNFF 12 (Tech/ Implem)	Example: Develop a paper on the value of forest goods and services and/or draw from the likely many existing ones					
	Example: Communicate the findings of this paper to a broad non-forestry audience (ie int'l development & poverty reduction agencies) to illustrate importance of forests and generate funding interest					
2018 4POW year 2 UNFF 13 (Policy)						
2019 4POW year 3 UNFF 14 (Tech/ Implem)						
2020 4POW year 4 UNFF 15 (Policy)						
All sessions						