

Comments of Switzerland on Building Blocks/Options for The United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030

General comments:

- We would advise that the next version of the Strategic Plan includes the table initiated in Tokyo as an annex. It would give an overview of goals/targets/indicators and how they relate to each other.
- The Strategic Plan should be a UN-wide plan for forests. Sometimes, it seems it is the UNFF Secretariat Strategic Plan..
- We also feel that repeating the Forest Instrument is not helpful.
- In addition, we feel that we might not innovate much with most of the present topics in the text.
- We need to deal with issues that will lead us beyond the “traditional” forestry field.
- We need to identify the topics that we should be doing together at the global level that will make the difference for SFM implementation in the regions and at national and sub-nationals levels.
- Which topics require the full attention at the global level, which are common to all. Where can the global level make the difference? Many times we admitted we were acting in a silo. It is time to go cross-sectoral as the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation go far beyond the forest sector.

We suggest some topics linking forests in all the pillars of sustainable development, namely :

- Forests and agriculture/extractive industries (food, minerals, fiber) (link to economy)
- Implementation of SFM by private sector (we need to be attractive again and have them participate in our meetings)(link to economy and investments in sfm)
- Implementation of SFM through public, public-private and civil society forest partnership
- Promotion of small forest enterprises and their integration into value chains and markets (link to economy and social dimension)
- Public procurement for forest products (link to economy)
- Trade for forest products from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests (link to economy as well as environment)
- Adapting forests to climate change (link to the environment – in the long run also to economy)

- Reduction of degradation and biodiversity promotion
- Integration of forest values in national planning and accounting (links to the environment and the economy)
- Forests and trees outside forests in the urban context

[Preface by the UN Secretary General](#)

[Foreword by the UNFFS Director.](#)

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Comment [siepa1]: The information provided in the footnote seems to be crucial – and the way how it is currently written does not do justice to the fact that having a preface with a message from the UN Secretary General is not a 'nice-to-have' – but should be an aim . In all the discussions a lot of emphasis was put on the fact that the (new) IAF will provide guidance at the UN-wide level; having such a message from the SG will substantiate this claim; furthermore – this seems relevant also in the light of the fact that it has already been agreed among the member states that the strategic plan for forests up to 2030 will have the reference to the UN in its title.

Comment [VSB2]: ""Partner" is not understandable

Comment [DUC3]: We should distinguish and focus on UN processes and institutions (as in the title), and on CPF members in chapter B4.

¹ The published Strategic Plan may include a preface with a message from the UN Secretary General and a foreword by the UNFFS Director.

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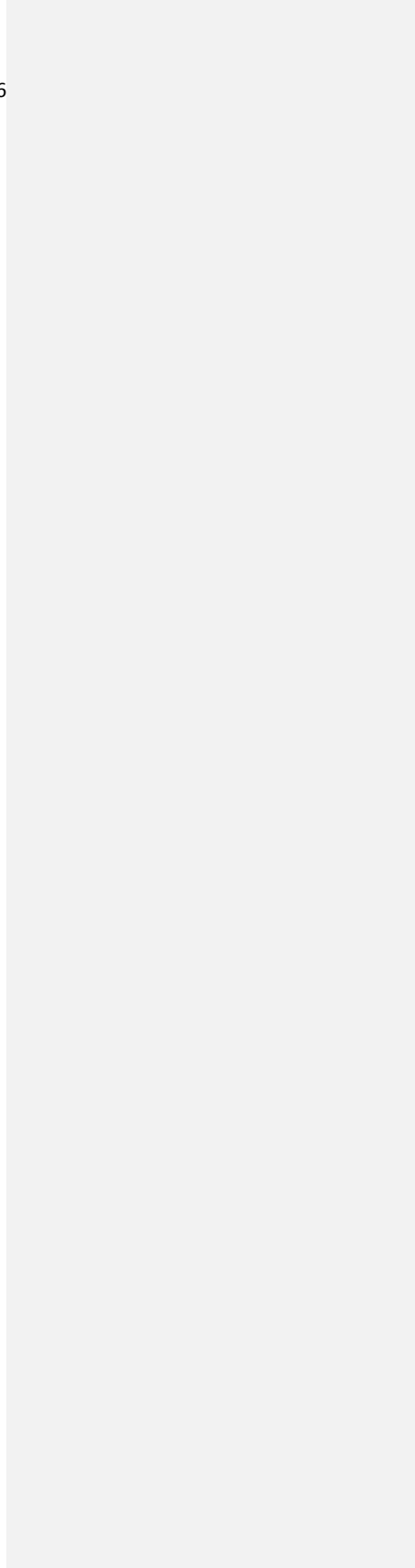
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Comment [DUC4]: Could this 2 be combined to one annex?

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~~28-12 July-August~~ 2016

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I. Introduction

- 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 a Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030.
- The purpose of the Strategic Plan (*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** **implementing** the vision, mission and objectives of the IAF. The Strategic Plan will also guide **the** UN System wide work on **Sustainable Forest Management (thereafter SFM)**.
- The Strategic Plan **will** is meant to **help** guide the UN system and the work of the IAF **in realizing its full potential to add value** in complementing **to** existing forest initiatives through the work of the Forum, Secretariat and CPF through **the meaningful** engagement of stakeholders; and the commitments and initiatives of Member States, both as members of the Forum and as members of the governing bodies of forest-related organizations at the international, regional and sub-regional levels.

Comment [VSB5]: It has to be read with eyes of someone who is not into forest. This a show window that must give a great impression. Therefore some comments of Switzerland

Comment [DUC6]: This follows also the flow of the table of content and is stronger

Objectives of the IAF

1. To promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests **and trees outside forests**, in particular **through** the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument;
Other option: To promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests **and trees outside forests**, **in particular including/ as well as** the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument;
- ~~1-2.~~ 2. To enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- ~~2-3.~~ 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;
- ~~3-5.~~ 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.

- Today, the IAF is composed of the UNFF and its 197 Member States, the UNFF Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), and the UNFF Trust Fund. The CPF is comprised of the executive heads or their designees of 14 international organizations with significant forest-related mandates which are working in association

Comment [VSB7]: Although this was meant to be a copy and paste of the IAF objectives, and we would not want to reopen the discussion, reading them one year later let appear some strange messages. The IAF is primarily for SFM implementation **through, among others**, an instrument. **The FI is a tool, not an end in itself.** It gives a strange balance between SFM and the FI. While we do not deny the FI is very important, the ultimate aim of our work is SFM. The sentence puts the same weight between SFM and the FI. This sends a strange message to the outside world that will read this document. "In particular" in English means "preeminently; above all".

Without the "through", it may be read that the implementation of the instrument nearly more important than SFM. This is putting a strange scale of value.

In addition, it also seems better to complement the first objective with "trees outside forests", rather than letting it appear for the first time in the second point

Another manner to be clear, would be to replace "in particular" by "including" or "as well as".

CH does see the issue of slightly modifying the objectives of the IAF as possible to ensure a more efficient and clearer Strategic Plan. This Plan will be read by other sectors and experts than forest ones.

The first 2 objectives are the most important, presenting the essence of what the SP should support.

to promote the implementation of SFM.² The IAF involves as partners interested international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, Major Groups based on those as identified in Agenda 21³ and other stakeholders.

- Objectives 1 and 5 of the IAF focus on implementation of the UN Forest Instrument, which was first adopted by the UNFF and the UN General Assembly in 2007. The UNFI sets out four shared Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and 44 national and international policies, measures and actions to implement SFM and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Comment [VSB8]: We are sending the wrong message to the outside world if we say that 2 objectives of the IAF are actually the implementation of an instrument (and not SFM). This is alarming.

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.

A. Importance of forests to people and the planet⁴

- Forests cover 30.6% of the Earth's land area⁵ (nearly 4 billion hectares) and are essential to human well-being and sustainable development, including achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁶

² The Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and the World Bank.

³ The nine Major Groups identified in Agenda 21 are: business and industry, children and youth, farmers, indigenous people and their communities, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, scientific and technological communities, women, and workers and trade unions.

⁴ The bullets under Section I A, B, and C are examples of key messages that could be included in the Strategic Plan.

⁵ According to FRA 2015, 4 countries account for nearly 50% of the world's forests: Russia, Brazil, Canada & USA.

⁶ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by world leaders in September 2015. At the center of the 2030 Agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets which are being met within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development supported by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted in July 2015 (A/Res/70/1 and A/Res/69/313).

- An estimated 1.6 billion people – 25% of the global population – depend on forests for their livelihoods. Rural livelihoods in particular depend on productive forests for subsistence, livelihoods, employment and income generation.
- All types of forests – from natural forests to plantations -- are highly productive, resilient and renewable ecosystems. When sustainably managed and used, forests and trees outside forests provide essential goods and services to people worldwide.
- Sustainable forest management, as an evolving concept, aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests for the benefit of present and future generations
- Sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests is vital to transformative change to address development challenges, from poverty eradication and economic growth to food security and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Comment [DUC9]: Not all are highly productive

Contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda: ⁷

- Forests and tree-based systems support agricultural production by protecting soil and water, maintaining soil fertility, regulating micro-climates and providing habitat for wild pollinators and predators of agricultural pests.
- Forested catchments supply 75% of all the freshwater for farms, industry and homes.
- Foods from forests – leaves, seeds, nuts, fruits, mushrooms, honey, insects and wild animals – provide nutrition and health to millions of people who depend on forests for subsistence.
- Forests provide the raw material for a broad variety of everyday uses, including paper, packaging and construction materials -- all of which are widely recyclable.
- Forest products contribute significantly to the shelter of at least 1.3 billion people.
- Wood is an important source of renewable energy providing over 9% of the total global primary energy supply and 27% of the primary energy supply in Africa. More than 2 billion people depend on wood energy for cooking and/or heating.
- Forests control floods, landslides, avalanches, droughts and dust storms, significantly reduce risks of disaster, and are a key factor in achieving the global goal of a land degradation-neutral world.
- Forests sequester more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem. Sustainable management and use of forest products present a highly effective and cost-competitive natural carbon capture and storage system.
- Forests are rich in biodiversity and home to 80% of all terrestrial animals, plants and insects

Comment [siepa10]: Taking into account also the experience in our own country – we need to add a further category of risks that is limited to the temperate zone – which would be the protective function regarding avalanche prevention and protection...

⁷ The following figures and statements are extracted from various UN and other international organizations documents and publications.

- Forests have important cultural and spiritual values for people in many regions of the world.
- Trees outside forests cover 284 million hectares worldwide and provide critical supplies of wood and non-wood products to ~~many~~ local communities.

B. Trends and challenges

- Despite the crucial contribution of forests to life on earth, deforestation and forest degradation continues in many regions of the world.
- Although the rate of deforestation is slowing in some countries, over 6 million hectares of natural forest -- an area the size of Switzerland and Rwanda combined -- are lost each year, often as an unplanned response to demands for food, fuel and fibre.
- The most important challenge is to address the drivers of forest loss and degradation, including economic development, shifting agriculture, conversion to other land use, unclear land tenure, climate change, population growth and poverty. These drivers are often outside the forest sector, and are rooted in wider social and economic issues and policies that favour sectors and land uses which are easier to finance and which produce higher and more rapid/short term financial returns, such as agriculture, energy, mining and transportation.
- In addition, many forests are being degraded due to illegal logging, fire, disease, invasive insects and fragmentation -- all of which threaten forest health and vitality and the ability of forests to function as productive ecosystems.
- The sustainable management of all renewable and non-renewable natural resources, including forests and trees outside forests, is crucial to social and economic development. The demand for forest goods and services continues to increase due to rapid population growth and increasing per capita income and consumption in many countries.
- With world population projected to reach 9 billion by 2050, future demand for forest products and services could outstrip supply unless action is taken urgently to sustainably manage, protect and restore forests everywhere. Annual demand for wood alone is expected to triple by 2050.

• Achieving SFM In all countries, SFM will be enabled by good governance and clear land tenure at all levels.

• Achieving SFM, in particular in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition, depends on the mobilization of new and additional resources from all sources for the sustainable management of all types of forests and taking steps to enhance the ability of countries to access and effectively employ the forest-related funds, ensuring better coordination across the variety of existing and emerging forest financing instruments and mechanisms and the use of such financing in line with the principles of aid effectiveness significantly new and additional financial resources from all sources, as well as good governance at all levels.

• Achieving SFM through good governance and ensured and clear land tenure

Comment [VSB11]: Do not make that type of comparison: so the area must be around 70'000 km2 and a soccer field is 7'000 m2

Comment [siepa12]: As a number of recent processes and analyses regarding this topic have shown (e.g. the work undertaken by the Standing Committee on Finance under the UNFCCC – or more concretely: their 2015 Durban Forum dedicated to the topic of Financing for Forests): so it is not all about making available new and additional financial resources – but in a first instance also to ensure that the existing 'funds' that contain finances for these topics are fully utilized - before new ones are being created.

This paragraph should be revised to include the concepts agreed in the UNFF11 Declaration paragraph 14 (i) "Stressing the importance of mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for the sustainable management of all types of forests and taking steps to enhance the ability of countries to access and effectively employ the forest-related funds, ensuring better coordination across the variety of existing and emerging forest financing instruments and mechanisms and the use of such financing in line with the principles of aid effectiveness;"

C. Opportunities for enhanced action

- The launch of the Strategic Plan comes at a time of unprecedented opportunity for strengthened and decisive action by all actors within and beyond forests at all levels to safeguard the world’s forests and their multiple benefits.
- **Actions to improve productivity of existing agricultural land and restoration of degraded landscapes hold significant potential to reduce the conversion of forests to other land uses.**
- SDG 15 of the 2030 Agenda calls for sustainably managing forests and includes targets 15.2 and 15.b which focus on SFM and related forest financing, and targets 15.1 and 6.6 which include forests among other important ecosystems. Forests and forest-based industries also contribute to the achievement of many other SDGs⁸.
- The landmark Paris Agreement of 2015 “aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty” and opens the door to looking at forest benefits holistically in the climate context, building on existing REDD+ initiatives under the UNFCCC⁹. Forests have been included and are expected to feature in many in the vast majority of those UNFCCC e-Parties’-intended “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) to the aim of the Agreement. In this regard, broader recognition of the values of forests particularly particularly both in their carbon value pricing and as carbon sinks is important.
- Also significant are the positive responses of countries to the 6th replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Strategy for SFM for the period 2014-2018 and the likelihood of future replenishments. The quadrennial GEF replenishment cycle represents an important opportunity to increase resources for forests, including supporting the IAF and in particular through the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the UNFI and the GFFFN.
- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) became fully operational in 2015 and promises to be the single largest global financing source for climate mitigation and adaption measures, including as related to forests. The potential to mobilise GCF resources to support the GFFFN activities is an opportunity to be further explored.
- The GFFFN offers a unique and innovative mechanism to catalyze and facilitate financing for SFM by assisting Member States to develop national financing strategies, facilitating access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms, serving as a clearing house on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities programmes and projects to enhance their access to resources available in forest funding mechanisms and to increase investment opportunities for forests.

Comment [VSB13]: Does not fit in this chapter, it needs to be placed elsewhere.

Comment [siepa14]: This still seems to be a formulation from the pre-COP21 period; in the meantime we know how many countries have decided to focus on forest in their commitment towards the climate goals.

Comment [VSB15]: “Carbon pricing” is a market term and is thus too narrow, there are many other ways to pay for carbon.

Comment [siepa16]: This sounds like pre-empting future decisions – and it might not be appropriate to include such an element into a UN strategic plan for forests 2017-2030...

Comment [VSB17]: If it would be the single one, why mention the GEF. So single is deleted

Comment [siepa18]: Within this chapter, this point presents a turning point: up to here it is a description of ongoing processes and results that have a major implication on the work of UNFF. And from here onward, the GFFFN is brought into play – which is an element that is being 100% guided by UNFF and the UNFFS: not sure if this is the right place to bring these issues up? And if yes – then why isn’t there any mentioning of the future potential role of UNFF with regard to the before-mentioned new elements such as SDGs or Paris Agreement?

Comment [VSB19]: The GFFFN is supposed to facilitate the access to GCF and not the other way around

Comment [VSB20]: The GFFFN has not received a mandate to draft projects for MS to access better funding

⁸ An illustrative diagram on potential contributions of forest-related actions towards achieving the SDGs is included as an Annex.

⁹ The Paris Agreement is a protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). REDD+ adds “forest conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks” to REDD.

D. Value-added of the IAF

- The ~~strengthened~~ IAF ~~has the potential to~~ aims at ~~advancing~~ concerted global actions on SFM while promoting implementation of other international forest-related commitments.
- ~~The IAF encourages and benefits from~~ ~~t~~he broad participation and contributions of a wide variety of stakeholders and civil society representatives ~~from~~ international, regional and sub-regional levels bring a wide range of views and experiences at the benefit of the work of the IAF.
- The Forum, with its universal membership, is the only global intergovernmental body addressing ~~forest-related issues in an integrated and holistic manner~~ challenges and issues relating to forests in a holistic and integrated manner and promoting policy coordination and cooperation to achieve the sustainable management of all types of forests. In this regard, the Forum can play an important ~~niche~~ role in catalyzing actions and resources for SFM, and coherence and synergies across global forest-related policies, programs, conventions and UN organizations, as well as integrated implementation of the forest-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda.
- ~~Through the~~ The CPF, ~~the IAF provides a unique opportunity for CPF member organizations, as a~~ as a key IAF partners, ~~to~~ plays a major role in ensuring the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan and in particular the UNFI and the GFFFN activities, through the provision of scientific and technical advice to the Forum, including on emerging issues and enhancing the coherence as well as policy and programme cooperation and coordination.

~~The Strategic Plan will is meant to help guide the UN system and the work of the IAF in realizing its full potential to add value in complementing to existing forest initiatives through the work of the Forum, Secretariat and CPF through ; the meaningful engagement of stakeholders; and the commitments and initiatives of Member States, both as members of the Forum and as members of the governing bodies of forest-related organizations at the international, regional and sub-regional levels.~~

Comment [VSB21]: What does this mean? It implies it was weak. Not the type of message we want outside

We need to be more affirmative, rather than make suppositions

Comment [VSB22]: this should rather be an introduction paragraph.

And were shifted in Chapter 1 Introduction in the beginning.

II. IAF vision and mission statements- Options

A. A Vision for 2030 - options

- **Option 1:** A world where forests everywhere are sustainably managed, contribute to sustainable development and benefit all.
- **Option 2:** A world where forests are protected and sustainably managed, providing economic, social and environmental benefits for all.
- **Option 3:** A world where forests are protected, sustainably used and restored and their services are recognized and valued by all.
- **Option 4:** A world where forests are healthy, secure and productive.

Comment [VSB23]: Favored Swiss option

B. Mission statement options

The mission of the IAF is to:

Option 1: Promote implementation of SFM and enhance the contribution of forests and forest goods and services for achieving sustainable development throughout the world/

Option 1 bis: Promote implementation of SFM and enhance the contribution of forests and forest goods and services to the 2030 Agenda realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, in the 2030 Agenda,

- **Option 2:** Protect and expand earth's forests and promote equitable sustainable forest-based development.
- **Option 3:** Promote policy dialogue and encourage intersectoral and inter-agency collaboration for the achievement of the sustainable management of all types of forests.
- **Option 4:** Halt deforestation, in cooperation with relevant sectors, and prevent forest degradation, and strengthen long-term political commitment towards those objectives.
- **Option 5:** Enhance cooperation, coordination and political commitment at all levels in order to promote the implementation of SFM and enhance the contribution of forests to sustainable development and the well-being of all/people everywhere/present and future generations.
- **Option 6:** Provide a coherent, effective, transparent and participatory global framework for enhanced policy development, policy implementation, policy coordination and political commitment to halt deforestation and forest degradation, achieve SFM and enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Comment [VSB24]: -Switzerland favors this option 1 bis
- Focus on sfm
- Includes SDG/Agenda 2030

Comment [DUC25]: Option 5+6 too long
Option 4 only conservation
Option 3 only talking
Option 2 sfm missing, only protection and expansion

III. Strategic approach/global goals/objectives/ targets – Options

- The “strategic approach/global goals/ objectives/ targets”¹⁰ set out below are aligned with the five objectives of the IAF, incorporate the four GOFs and the forest-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda, in particular the SDGs, and take into account the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs), provisions of the Paris Agreement, the GEF SFM Strategy and other significant forest-related developments¹¹.
- The “strategic approach/global goals /objectives/ targets” are global in nature and provide a framework for voluntary actions and contributions by Member States and partners at regional, subregional, national and local levels.
- The targets ~~should stimulate action and be ambitious and measurable, are to the extent possible defined in a precise, evaluable, attainable and motivating nature.~~
Alternative:

Comment [VSB26]: This section is very complicated, would it possible to continue to work on the table to have a more logical connection between targets and deliverables?

¹⁰ The phrase “Strategic approach/global goals/ objectives/ targets” is used throughout the text to indicate alternatives and as a placeholder for whatever approach is finally agreed.

¹¹ E/2015/33 para 39

the targets are ambitious and measurable, allowing Member States to stimulate actions at appropriate level and to voluntarily inform UNFF on their contributions to the target's attainment.

- This allows Member States, in addition, international organizations, regional and subregional partners, major groups and other stakeholders are invited to voluntarily inform the UNFF on their voluntary planned contributions to the targets' attainment.

Comment [VSB27]: Evaluable is replaced by measurable. The targets must be ambitious (look at para. 7 of the Agenda 2030.. It is not sure that they should be motivating??? It is preferable to mention that they should stimulate action

A. Options for strategic approach/ global goals/ objectives/ targets

Option 1: 6 global goals linked to the 5 IAF Objectives and encompassing the 4 GOFs¹²:

1. A) Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation. (GOF1) or B) Promote the implementation of SFM, halt deforestation, restore degraded areas and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation. (SDG15.2)

Combination of GOF and SDG 15.2 Combination of A and B :

-Promote the implementation of SFM, halt and reverse deforestation, protect forests and, restore degraded areas and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation. (SDG15.2)

Comment [VSB28]: They will be reporting once they are implementing them, not necessarily on what they intend to do

Comment [VSB29]: Switzerland favors option 1 because generally what we discussed at AHEG is that UNFF needs inasmuch as possible its own goals and targets, should use but not directly adopt from other processes
Switzerland favors a combination of both A and B , including all necessary elements of GOF and SDG 15.2

2. Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people. (GOF2)
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. (GOF3)
4. Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM (GOF 4) and foster N-S, S-S and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships. (IAF Objective 4)
5. Promote sustainable governance frameworks to implement the UNFI and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda. (IAF Objectives 2 & 5)
6. Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues. (IAF Objective 3)

Option 2: 4 GOFs and 2 cross-cutting strategies (CCSs) that apply to all GOFs and link to IAF Objectives 2-5¹³

¹² Option 1 draws on the 6 goals set out in Annex III of the Tokyo Expert Panel Moderator's Summary (March 2016).

¹³ Option 2 draws on the proposal in the Background Paper on Elements for the Preparation of the Strategic Plan 2017-2030 (January 2016).

1. GOF 1 (or replace GOF 1 with SDG15.2)
2. GOF 2
3. GOF 3
4. GOF 4
5. CCS 1: Strengthen the legal, policy and institutional framework to implement the UNFI, achieve SFM and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda. (Covers scientific and technical cooperation, cross-sectoral cooperation/achievement of SDGs, and governance (IAF objective 2, 4 and 5))
6. CCS 2: Ensure the operational effectiveness of the IAF in advancing its mission and objectives (operational strategy)

B. Options for global targets/deliverables¹⁴

Option 1: Replicate SDG 15.2 and 15.b and focus SDG 15.1 and 6.6 and other relevant SDG targets on forests¹⁵. For example:

SDG 15.2 and 15.b:

- 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. (Supports GOF 1 & 3. Contributes/linked to SDG 6.6, 12.2, 15.3; ABT 5, 7, 14, 15; GEF SFM Objectives 2 & 3; provisions of Paris Agreement)
- SDG 15.b: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance SFM and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation. (Supports GOF4. Contributes/linked to SDG 15.a, 17.2, 17.3; ABT 20)

SDG 15.1 and 6.6 modified to focus only on forests:

- SDG 15.1: By 2020 ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forest ecosystems, in line with obligations under international agreements. (Supports GOF 1. Contributes/links to ABT 5, 11, 15)
- SDG 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore forest ecosystems. (Supports GOF 1 & 3. Contributes/links to ABT 14, provisions of Paris Agreement))

Examples/options of how SDG targets could be translated into forest-related targets:¹⁶

¹⁴ Targets/deliverables would be associated with specific global goals/objectives/strategic approach.

¹⁵ A number of SDG targets are written or expressed as objectives or actions rather than targets because they have no target date and/or use elastic language (e.g. promote) rather than action verbs (establish, halt, restore ensure).

Comment [VSB30]: This is very confusing with section A above, should get rid of global and just say targets. These points are not deliverables

Comment [siepa31]: Switzerland would not go along this proposal:

It is no sure if inserting 'forest' in the below elements is doing full justice to the topics we want to consider.

For example: SDG 16.3 and 16.5: the promotion of rule of law related to forests at national and international levels and substantial reduction of corruption and bribery in the forest sector is not sufficient – as the broader context (as for example issues related to spatial planning etc.) is key for promotion of SFM and the long-term conservation of global forestry resources. Otherwise, we risk being stuck again in the forest silo...

We have to address the drivers of deforestation and all the SD pillars:

We need to handle the following themes

- Forests and agriculture/extractive industries (link to economy)
- Implementation of SFM by private sector (partnerships)
- Implementation of SFM through public, public-private and civil society forest partnership
- Promotion of small forest enterprises and their integration into value chains and markets (link to economy and social dimension)
- Public procurement for forest products (link to economy)
- Trade for forest products from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests (link to economy)
- Adapting forests to climate change (link to the environment)
- Reduction of degradation and biodiversity promotion
- Integration of forest values in planning and accounting (links to the environment and the economy)

- SDG 1.4: By 2030, ensure all men and women have equal rights to forest¹⁷ economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over forest land and resources. (Supports IAF Objective 5. Contributes/links to SDG 5.a)
- SDG 2.4: By 2030 implement resilient agricultural practices that help maintain forest ecosystems. (Supports IAF Objective 2)
- SDG 4.4: By 2030 substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship in the forest sector. (Supports GOF2)
- SDG 9.3: Increase the access of small-scale forest-based enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets. (Supports GOF2. Contributes/links to SDG 8.3)
- SDG 12.5: By 2030 substantially reduce waste generation in forest harvesting, production and processing through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse. (Supports IAF Objective 4. Contributes/links to SDG 8.2, 12.2)
- SDG 12.7: Promote public procurement practices for forest products that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities. (Supports GOF 3)
- SDG 12.a: Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production of forest products. (Supports IAF Objective 4. Contributes/links to SDG 2.2, ABT 19)
- SDG 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of forests to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. (Supports GOF1. Contributes/links to SDG 13.2, ABT 15, GEF SFM Objective 2, provisions of Paris Agreement)
- SDG 13.3: Improve education, awareness and human and institutional capacity on forest-related climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction. (Contributes/links to SDG 16.6, provisions of Paris Agreement)
- SDG 14.5: By 2020 conserve at least 10% of coastal forests, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information. (Supports GOF3. Contributes/links to SDG 14.2, ABT 11)
- SDG 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural forests, halt loss of forest biodiversity and by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of forest-dependent threatened species. (Supports GOF 1 & 3. Contributes/links to ABT 5 & 15)

¹⁶ A number of the examples/options of modified SDG targets are similar to actions contained in the UNFI.

¹⁷ Underlined words indicate how the target has been adapted or disaggregated to focus on forests.

- SDG 15.8: By 2020 introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on forest ecosystems and control or eradicate priority species. (Supports GOF1. Contributes/links to ABT 9, GEF SFM Objective 3)
- SDG 15.9: By 2020 integrate forest values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts. (Supports IAF Objective 5, all GOFs. Contributes/links to SDG 13.2, ABT 2, GEF SFM Objective 2.4)
- SDG 15.c: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected forest species, including by increasing the capacity of forest dependent local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities. (Supports GOF 2)
- SDG 16.3 and 16.5: Promote the rule of law related to forests at national and international levels and substantially reduce corruption and bribery in the forest sector. (Supports IAF Objective 5, all GOFs)
- SDG 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent forestry institutions at all levels. (Supports IAF Objective 5, all GOFs)
- SDG 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative forest-related decisionmaking at all levels. (Supports IAF Objective 5, all GOFs)
- SDG 16.10: Ensure public access to forest-related information, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. (Supports IAF Objective 5, all GOFs)
- SDG 17.6: Enhance N-S, S-S and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to forest-related science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms. (Supports IAF Objective 4. Contributes/links to SDG 17.7, 17.9; ABT 19; GEF SFM Objective 4)
- SDG 17.7: Promote the development, transfer, and dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound forest-related technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed. (Supports IAF Objective 4, SDG 17.9, GEF SFM Objective 4)
- SDG 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for SFM. (Supports IAF Objective 3, 4, 5. Contributes/links to SDG 17.13, GEF SFM Objective 4)
- SDG 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society forest partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of existing partnerships. (Supports IAF Objective 4. Contributes/links to SDG 17.16)
- SDG 17.19: By 2030 build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on SFM and support capacity building in developing countries to monitor, assess and report on forests. (Supports IAF Objective 4. Contributes/links to SDG 17.18)

- Adopt cross-sectoral approaches and foster collaboration to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in a coherent and coordinated way. (UNFF11 Ministerial Declaration para 14.e) (This also supports IAF Objective 4, 5. Contributes/links to GEF SFM Objective 5)
- ABT 3: By 2020, eliminate, phase out or reform incentives and subsidies harmful to forests and develop and apply positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable management of forests. (Supports IAF Objective 5, all GOFs)

Option 2: Identify quantifiable time-bound global targets/deliverables for the GOFs, forestrelated SDGs and other commitments. For example:

By 2030:

- The Earth's forest cover is increased by X%. (Supports GOF 1, SDG 15.2 and related commitments¹⁸)
- 150 million hectares of forest land are restored worldwide. (Supports GOF 1, SDG 15.1 and related commitments)
- Reduce the area of forests affected by fire by X%. (Supports GOF 1, SDG 15.1 and related commitments)
- The world's carbon stocks are increased by X%. (Supports GOF 1, ABT 15, Paris Agreement)
- The share of the world's population that rely on unsustainably produced forest biomass for cooking and heating is halved. (Supports GOF 3, SDG 7)
- Reduce the extreme poverty of forest-dependent people and local communities by X%. (Supports GOF 2, SDG 1)
- X% of the world's timber-producing forests are under sustainable management. (Supports GOF 1 & 3, SDG 15.2 and related commitments)
- X% of high value conservation forests are effectively protected, including Y% of coastal forests. (Supports GOF 3, SDG 14.5 and related commitments)
- Forest-related ODA is increased X% and investment in SFM and forest-based industries is increased by Y% globally. (Supports GOF 4, SDG 15.b and related commitments)
- Illegal logging is reduced by X% worldwide. (Supports IAF Objective 5, SDG 16.3, 16.5)
- X% of countries include forests/forest sector in their national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. (Supports IAF Objective 5, SDG 15.9 and related commitments).

The above options could also include operational targets/deliverables related to the IAF itself. For example:

By 2020:

Comment [siepa32]: Switzerland goes for Option 2 – considering also the below remarks regarding the operational targets/deliverables as described further below.

These seem more like goals not deliverables. This is an easier option to work with than A, where different countries will have their priorities, yet here the link to SDGs not defined. However, these targets seem a bit too ambitious and general for this process

Comment [VSB33]: This is building in the Bonn Challenge... maybe should mention it

Comment [VSB34]: Keith:

if we go with option 2 above, it seems more useful to include deliverables, otherwise option 1 could be like goals on top of goals. At least some of these operational targets are generally reasonably feasible, concrete- I highlighted some that were stressed by Switzerland

¹⁸ Related commitments are those listed for typically similar targets/deliverables under option 1.

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- Significantly enhance coherence, cooperation and synergies among global and regional forest-related organizations, institutions and processes, including through a strengthened CPF.
- ~~Significantly increase the resources [of the UNFF Trust Fund] by X % to fund:~~
 - ~~i) Activities of the GFFFN to enhance capacity of countries to access to funding for forests,~~
 - ~~ii) Increased participation of Member States in the work of the IAF, including the Forum's sessions and intersessional activities,~~
 - ~~iii) Enhanced contribution and involvement of regional and sub-regional organizations and processes, and major groups and other stakeholders in the work of the IAF and the Forum, iv) Preparation of a quadrennial global report on the state of implementation of the UNFI in cooperation with CPF member organizations.~~
- Increase the number of countries implementing the UNFI and the number of countries reporting to the UNFF on their progress in this regard.
- ~~Fully operationalize the GFFFN, including through joint initiatives with the GEF and GCF to enhance access by countries to forest related financing.~~
- Significantly increase public awareness of the importance of forests to people and the planet and the contributions of the IAF and UNFI.

Comment [siepa35]: It will be important not to lose sight about the other financing instruments. None of the other strategic plans have targets for their own secretariats. This is a voluntary process and should not entail such targets.

IV. Implementation framework

- The Strategic Plan is intended to enhance the UN system's ability to support Member States in implementing sustainable forest management and provides a framework for voluntary actions and contributions by Member States and international, regional and sub-regional organizations and processes, Major Groups and other stakeholders. The framework for implementing the Strategic Plan consists of actions, actors, and means and resources.

The following action areas/thematic priorities were proposed by various experts at AHEG 1 (April 2016):

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation (Paris Agreement)
- Enabling environments for private sector investment, including by small holders and communities and small and medium forest enterprises
- Addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- Stakeholder engagement at global, regional and national levels
- Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
- Science-policy interface, science-based advice and policies
- Improved valuation of forest goods and services, including NWFPs

- Means of implementation, including increased funding and support for implementation of the UNFI
- Governance, including land tenure
- Forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation
- Market and trade including certification, tracking and tracing of forest products

A. Actions to achieve global goals/ objectives/ targets/ strategic approach

The actions set out below are essential for the efficient and successful implementation of the Strategic Plan and for advancing the strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets.

The type and number of actions, roles and responsibilities of actors, as well as the implementing partners will directly depend on the type of strategic approach/global goals/ objectives/ targets/ that are going to be included in the Strategic Plan. In this regard, a matrix could be developed to include the eventual strategic approach/global goals/ objectives/targets of the Strategic Plan, the required actions, the responsible actors and stakeholders, as well as the indicators of achievement and resource needs.

Initial actions to be considered for inclusion are the ones agreed upon in the UN Forest Instrument, as indicated below:

National policies and measures

To achieve the purpose of the UN Forest instrument, and taking into account national policies, priorities, conditions and available resources, Member States should:

(a) Develop, implement, publish and, as necessary, update national forest programmes or other strategies for sustainable forest management which identify actions needed and contain measures, policies or specific goals, taking into account the relevant proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and resolutions of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(b) Consider the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management,¹⁹ which are drawn from the criteria identified by existing criteria and indicators processes, as a reference framework for sustainable forest management and, in this context, identify, as appropriate, specific environmental and other forest-related aspects within those elements for consideration as criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management;

(c) Promote the use of management tools to assess the impact on the environment of projects that may significantly affect forests, and promote good environmental practices for such projects;

(d) Develop and implement policies that encourage the sustainable management of forests to provide a wide range of goods and services and that also contribute to poverty reduction and the development of rural communities;

Comment [VSB36]: The elements of the Forest Instrument should not be part of the strategic plan. It does not belong to such a Plan which should be short and punchy.

Comment [VSB37]: FI, para. 6 a

Comment [VSB38]: FI, para. 6 (b)

¹⁹ The elements are (i) extent of forest resources; (ii) forest biological diversity; (iii) forest health and vitality; (iv) productive functions of forest resources; (v) protective functions of forest resources; (vi) socio-economic functions of forests; and (vii) legal, policy and institutional framework.

- (e) Promote efficient production and processing of forest products, with a view, inter alia, to reducing waste and enhancing recycling;
- (f) Support the protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices in sustainable forest management with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, and promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international agreements;
- (g) Further develop and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management that are consistent with national priorities and conditions;
- (h) Create enabling environments to encourage private-sector investment, as well as investment by and involvement of local and indigenous communities, other forest users and forest owners and other relevant stakeholders, in sustainable forest management, through a framework of policies, incentives and regulations;
- (i) Develop financing strategies that outline the short-, medium- and long-term financial planning for achieving sustainable forest management, taking into account domestic, private-sector and foreign funding sources;
- (j) Encourage recognition of the range of values derived from goods and services provided by all types of forests and trees outside forests, as well as ways to reflect such values in the marketplace, consistent with relevant national legislation and policies;
- (k) Identify and implement measures to enhance cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination among sectors affecting and affected by forest policies and management, with a view to integrating the forest sector into national decision-making processes and promoting sustainable forest management, including by addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and by promoting forest conservation;
- (l) Integrate national forest programmes, or other strategies for sustainable forest management, as referred to in paragraph 6(a) above, into national strategies for sustainable development, relevant national action plans and poverty-reduction strategies;
- (m) Establish or strengthen partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and joint programmes with stakeholders to advance the implementation of sustainable forest management;
- (n) Review and, as needed, improve forest-related legislation, strengthen forest law enforcement and promote good governance at all levels in order to support sustainable forest management, to create an enabling environment for forest investment and to combat and eradicate illegal practices, in accordance with national legislation, in the forest and other related sectors;
- (o) Analyse the causes of, and address solutions to, threats to forest health and vitality from natural disasters and human activities, including threats from fire, pollution, pests, disease and invasive alien species;

- (p) Create, develop or expand, and maintain networks of protected forest areas, taking into account the importance of conserving representative forests, by means of a range of conservation mechanisms, applied within and outside protected forest areas;
- (q) Assess the conditions and management effectiveness of existing protected forest areas with a view to identifying improvements needed;
- (r) Strengthen the contribution of science and research in advancing sustainable forest management by incorporating scientific expertise into forest policies and programmes;
- (s) Promote the development and application of scientific and technological innovations, including those that can be used by forest owners and local and indigenous communities to advance sustainable forest management;
- (t) Promote and strengthen public understanding of the importance of and the benefits provided by forests and sustainable forest management, including through public awareness programmes and education;
- (u) Promote and encourage access to formal and informal education, extension and training programmes on the implementation of sustainable forest management;
- (v) Support education, training and extension programmes involving local and indigenous communities, forest workers and forest owners, in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests, particularly fragile ecosystems;
- (w) Promote active and effective participation by major groups, local communities, forest owners and other relevant stakeholders in the development, implementation and assessment of forest-related national policies, measures and programmes;
- (x) Encourage the private sector, civil society organizations and forest owners to develop, promote and implement in a transparent manner voluntary instruments, such as voluntary certification systems or other appropriate mechanisms, to develop and promote forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested in accordance with domestic legislation, and to improve market transparency;
- (y) Enhance access by households, small-scale forest owners, forest-dependent local and indigenous communities, living in and outside forest areas, to forest resources and relevant markets in order to support livelihoods and income diversification from forest management, consistent with sustainable forest management.

International cooperation and means of implementation

To achieve the purpose of the UN Forest Instrument, Member States should:

- (a) Make concerted efforts to secure a sustained high-level political commitment to strengthen the means of implementation of sustainable forest management, including financial resources, to provide support, in particular for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as to mobilize and provide significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from private, public, domestic and international sources to and within developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition;

- (b) 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;
- (c) Take action to raise the priority of sustainable forest management in national development plans and other plans, including poverty-reduction strategies, in order to facilitate increased allocation of official development assistance and financial resources from other sources for sustainable forest management;
- (d) Develop and establish positive incentives, in particular for developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, to reduce the loss of forests, to promote reforestation, afforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests, to implement sustainable forest management and to increase the area of protected forests;
- (e) Support the efforts of countries, particularly developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, to develop and implement economically, socially and environmentally sound measures that act as incentives for the sustainable management of forests;
- (f) Strengthen the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed forests;
- (g) Enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation with a view to promoting international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested according to domestic legislation;
- (h) Enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance at all levels; (i) Strengthen, through enhanced bilateral, regional and international cooperation, the capacity of countries to combat effectively illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources;
- (j) Strengthen the capacity of countries to address forest-related illegal practices, including wildlife poaching, in accordance with domestic legislation, through enhanced public awareness, education, institutional capacity-building, technological transfer and technical cooperation, law enforcement and information networks;
- (k) Enhance and facilitate access to and transfer of appropriate, environmentally sound and innovative technologies and corresponding know-how relevant to sustainable forest management and to efficient value-added processing of forest products, in particular to developing countries, for the benefit of local and indigenous communities;
- (l) Strengthen mechanisms that enhance sharing among countries and the use of best practices in sustainable forest management, including through freeware-based information and communications technology;
- (m) Strengthen national and local capacity in keeping with their conditions for the development and adaptation of forest-related technologies, including technologies for the use of fuelwood;

- (n) Promote international technical and scientific cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, in the field of sustainable forest management, through the appropriate international, regional and national institutions and processes;
- (o) Enhance the research and scientific forest-related capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, particularly the capacity of research organizations to generate and have access to forest-related data and information, and promote and support integrated and interdisciplinary research on forest-related issues, and disseminate research results;
- (p) Strengthen forestry research and development in all regions, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, through relevant organizations, institutions and centres of excellence, as well as through global, regional and subregional networks;
- (q) Strengthen cooperation and partnerships at the regional and subregional levels to promote sustainable forest management;
- (r) As members of the governing bodies of the organizations that form the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, help ensure that the forest-related priorities and programmes of members of the Partnership are integrated and mutually supportive, consistent with their mandates, taking into account relevant policy recommendations of the United Nations Forum on Forests;
- (s) Support the efforts of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to develop and implement joint initiatives.

B. Roles and responsibilities

- The Strategic Plan will be implemented by the UN wide system, including the IAF, with the support of government and non-government partners at all levels.

B.1 Global, regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes~~UN agencies, programmes, conventions and relevant secretariats, and partners~~

- The Strategic Plan is intended to ~~enable~~ contribute to enhance the coherence and collaboration on forests among the global, regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes ~~UN system organizations, their secretariats and partners to work more coherently and collaboratively on forests~~ with a shared strategic approach/~~toward a shared set of global goals/objectives/targets~~.
- Global, regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes ~~UN organizations and partners~~ are encouraged to implement the Strategic Plan, consistent with their mandates, to help ensure forest policy coherence and program coordination and to more effectively respond to and support the efforts of Member States to implement SFM.

Comment [VSB39]: The regional dimension has been transferred from B5 here. Here we specifically. It will increase in importance

Comment [VSB40]: This is too ambitious

Comment [VSB41]: Both paras are quite similar. See how to merge them

B.5 Regional/subregional partners

In particular, Regional and subregional bodies such as UN regional economic commissions, FAO forestry commissions, regional development banks and other relevant regional and subregional bodies and processes are the nexus between global forest policies and national actions and have an important role to play in advancing implementation of the Strategic Plan, UNFI and forest related aspects of the 2030 Agenda.

- The Forum and Secretariat will work with ~~them these bodies~~ UN regional economic commissions, FAO forestry commissions, regional development banks and other relevant regional and subregional bodies to facilitate implementation of the Strategic Plan, consistent with their mandates.
- Specific actions and options to enhance engagement of regional and subregional bodies in the work of the IAF are as follows²⁰:
 - Regional/subregional partners are encouraged to develop or strengthen programmes on SFM, including facilitating the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument and relevant aspects of the 2030 agenda, and provide coordinated inputs and recommendations to sessions of the Forum.
 - Member States may consider establishing or strengthening regional and subregional processes or platforms for forest policy development, dialogue and coordination to promote SFM.
 - .

Comment [siepa42]: Key element – but does not yet fully incorporate all the different structures that need to be considered: they also include the political institutions such as an ASEAN or the regional economic commissions (RECs) in the case of Africa

Comment [VSB43]: This is brought from the text further down, as some of those regional groupings are actually also UN org.

Comment [VSB44]: Invites relevant regional and subregional mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes in a position to do so to consider, consistent with their mandates,

B.2 UNFF

- The Forum will carry out its core functions on the basis of this Strategic Plan.²¹

Core Functions of the UNFF

- To provide a coherent, open, transparent and participatory global platform for policy development, dialogue, cooperation and coordination on issues related to all types of forests, including emerging issues, in an integrated and holistic manner, including through cross-sectoral approaches;
- To promote, monitor and assess the implementation of sustainable forest management, in particular the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of its global objectives on forests, and mobilize, catalyse and facilitate access to financial, technical and scientific resources to this end;
- To promote governance frameworks and enabling conditions at all levels to achieve sustainable forest management;
- To promote coherent and collaborative international policy development on issues related to all types of forests;
- To strengthen high-level political engagement, with the participation of major groups and other stakeholders, in support of sustainable forest management.

²⁰ This section will be reviewed based on the outcome of the expert meeting to be convened on this matter in Sept. 2016.

²¹ E/2015/33 para 6.a

- The Forum will operationalize the Strategic Plan through quadrennial programmes of work (4POWs), beginning with the period 2017-2020.
- The Forum will meet annually and undertake intersessional activities as needed to advance implementation of the Strategic Plan and 4POWs, using its unique role as a global forest policy body to foster coherence in meeting the “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets” and associated actions set out in the plan.
- The Forum also has the responsibility to review and follow up on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and 4POWs.
- The primary role of the UNFF Secretariat²² is to:
 - i) Service and support the Forum in promoting, reviewing and following up on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and 4POWs.
 - ii) Manage the GFFFN and UNFF Trust Fund and report regularly to the Forum on operation of the GFFFN and the status and sufficiency of Trust Fund resources, including for the activities of the GFFFN.
 - iii) Support countries and other stakeholders in developing strategies and programmes related to mobilising financing for SFM.
 - iv) Assist countries in the preparation of national progress reports on implementing the UNFI for submission to the Forum.

B.3 Member States

- ~~Forests are sovereign resources.~~ Each Member State is responsible for the sustainable management of its forests and for the enforcement of its forest-related laws.²³
- Member States are the most important component of the IAF. Their individual and collective actions and commitments are decisive for successful implementation of the Strategic Plan. In this regard, Member States, taking into account the ~~isovereignty on their forest resources and~~ national circumstances, policies and priorities and forest conditions, will, on a voluntary basis, determine and inform the UNFF on the ~~voluntary contributions actions~~ they intend to make towards implementing the Strategic Plan and attaining its targets. These voluntary ~~contributions Actions~~ are referred to as ~~Voluntary Planned Contributions (VPCs).~~

Comment [VSB45]: Unusual wording. Is it really needed?

Comment [VSB46]: This should be highlighted. Member States are in charge of the implementation of SFM

Comment [VSB47]: Find a more catchy word! Such as “Forest Strategic Actions”

B.4 Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

- The primary role of the CPF is to support the Forum and its Member States in achieving the IAF objectives, implementing the Strategic Plan and the UNFI, and contributing to the Forum’s 4POWs.

²² The Secretariat is responsible to carry out all its functions, as stated in paragraph 17a and 17b of the ECOSOC resolution 2015/33.

²³ UNFI para 2.b

Core functions of the CPF

1. Support the work of the Forum and its member countries.
2. Provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum, including on emerging issues.
3. Enhance coherence as well as policy and programme cooperation and coordination at all levels among its member organizations, including through joint programming and the submission of coordinated proposals to their respective governing bodies, consistent with their mandates.
4. Promote the implementation of the UNFI, including the achievement of its GOFs, and the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda.

- In carrying out its functions, the CPF will develop **jointly** a work plan to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, UNFI and the 4POW
- The CPF and its members will collaborate in implementing **and funding** the activities of the **GFFFN**.
- **CPF members will advise and assist the Forum to build synergies between the 4POWs and the forest-related actions and priorities of CPF member organizations which are implementing agencies and institutions.**
- Member States, as members of the governing bodies of CPF member organizations, will promote the integration of the Strategic Plan into the strategies and programs of CPF member organizations, consistent with their mandates, and consider dedicated funding for CPF activities as an essential strategy for improving cooperation, synergies and coherence in support of the Strategic Plan.

Comment [siepa48]: Also this would deserve to be highlighted in one way or the other – as it represents one of the more fundamental changes compared to the situation to date...

Comment [VSB49]: It is not a function from the CPF to fund the GFFFN.

Comment [VSB50]: Difficult to see how the CPF members can do this given the decisions on their actions and priorities are made by their Members States/ Parties

B.5 Regional/subregional partners

- ~~Regional and subregional bodies are the nexus between global forest policies and national actions and have an important role to play in advancing implementation of the Strategic Plan, UNFI and forest related aspects of the 2030 Agenda.~~
- ~~The Forum and Secretariat will work with the UN regional economic commissions, FAO forestry commissions, regional development banks and other relevant regional and subregional bodies to facilitate implementation of the Strategic Plan, consistent with their mandates.~~
- ~~Specific actions and options to enhance engagement of regional and subregional bodies in the work of the IAF are as follows²⁴:~~
- ~~Regional/subregional partners are encouraged to develop or strengthen programmes on SFM, including facilitating the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument and relevant aspects of the 2030 agenda, and provide coordinated inputs and recommendations to sessions of the Forum.~~
- ~~Member States may consider establishing or strengthening regional and subregional processes or platforms for forest policy development, dialogue and coordination to promote SFM.~~

Comment [VSB51]: Placed further up

²⁴ This section will be reviewed based on the outcome of the expert meeting to be convened on this matter in Sept. 2016.

B.6 Major Groups and other stakeholders

- Implementation of the Strategic Plan, including its “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/ targets” can be fully achieved with the help of a wide range of non-State actors.
- The Forum will explore innovative mechanisms for greater engagement of private sector companies, major environmental NGOs, philanthropic organizations, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders in the work of the IAF, including in Forum sessions and intersessional work. Examples of specific actions and options include, pertaining the availability of financial resources.²⁵
 - Creating joint initiatives or networks to support implementation of specific aspects of the Strategic Plan in line with the expertise of individual stakeholder groups.
 - Facilitating the creation of networks on cross-cutting issues, such as poverty reduction, trade and illegal logging, land tenure and land use policies, incentive measures, and women’s and youth and children’s rights.
 - Establishment of a multi-stakeholder advisory group.
- The Forum and Secretariat will encourage MGs and other stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned and provide technical advice and inputs during odd-year Forum sessions on their activities in support of the Strategic Plan and current 4POW.²⁶

Comment [VSB52]: Why only environmental

Comment [VSB53]: Not quite sure what is meant here? Who manages such a network? Resources?

Comment [VSB54]: Not quite sure what is meant here? Who manages such a network? Resources?

Comment [VSB55]: Risk: A silo like the multistakeholder dialogue?

Comment [VSB56]: This must be deleted as it contradicts the para of the resolution of UNFF 11 on the IAF:

Decides, in this regard, that the provisions of paragraphs 14 to 16 of General Assembly resolution 67/290 apply mutatis mutandis to the Forum in view of the existing modalities and practices of the Forum;

C. Means and Resources for Implementation of the Strategic Plan

- Achieving SFM, in particular in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition, depends on the mobilization of significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources, as well as on implementing on good governance at all levels.²⁷
- There is no single solution to address all of the needs in terms of forest financing. A combination of actions is required at all levels, by all stakeholders and from all sources, public and private, domestic and international, bilateral and multilateral.²⁸
- Domestic mobilization of funds from national budgets is going to be the major source of funding for SFM
- Foster international cooperation including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, through financial support, technology transfer, capacity building and education, as well as public-private

²⁵ This section will be reviewed based on the outcome of the expert meeting to be convened on this matter in Sept. 2016

²⁶ E/2015/33 6.b and g

²⁷ UNFI paras 2.d and e

²⁸ ECOSOC resolution 2015/33, paragraph 11

partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels; ~~International cooperation, including financial support, technology transfer, capacity building and education~~, plays a crucial role in supporting the efforts of all countries, particularly developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, to ~~achieve~~ implement SFM.²⁹

- Provision of adequate, ~~predictable and sustainable~~ resources ~~from all sources~~ and capacity development of countries is the prerequisite for the Implementation of the Strategic Plan during the period of 2017-2030.
- Adequate resources should be provided to the UNFF Trust Fund at the beginning of each 4POW to ensure: wide participation of eligible country representatives in meetings, sustained operation of the GFFFN, capacity development of countries in the area of MAR, and enhanced stakeholders' involvement in the work of the IAF.
- Resources should be also made available to fund CPF, major groups and other stakeholders' joint activities which support the work of the Forum.

C.1 GFFFN

- To ensure effective operation of the GFFFN in advancing implementation of SFM, in particular, the UNFI, the following should be the priorities for the GFFFN ~~during the 4POW of 2017-2020~~.
 1. ~~Assisting countries to~~ Promote the design of national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for SFM, including existing national initiatives, within the framework of NFPs or their equivalent to facilitate access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms, including the GEF and Green Climate Fund (GCF), consistent with their mandates.³⁰
 2. ~~Assisting countries in designing programmes and project proposals for submission to the GEF, GCF and as appropriate other forest financing institutions.~~³¹
 2. ~~2bis. Assisting countries to establish contact with organizations specialized in designing programmes and project proposals for submission to the GEF, GCF and as appropriate other forest financing institutions".~~
 3. Serving as a clearing house on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities and as a tool for sharing lessons learned and best practices from successful projects, building on the CPF online Sourcebook for Forest Financing.³²
 3. —

Comment [DUC57]: this is the first time to mention 4POW – no need to mention it here. Here is a description of GFFFN for 2017-2030

Comment [VSB58]: UNFF is not a consultancy compagny - this is hanging the decision of UNFF11

²⁹ UNFI, para 2.f

³⁰ E/2015/33 para 13.b

³¹ AHEG 1 proposal

³² E/2015/33 para 13.c

4.—Advising countries on enabling environments to attract public and private sector investment in SFM.³³

- ~~The Forum will review these priorities in 2020 and make adjustments as needed based on experience gained and external developments.~~
- ~~This review by the Forum will also include the review of sufficiency of resources for the operation of the GFFFN, and related decision on provision of resources, as appropriate.~~
- In managing the GFFFN, the Forum Secretariat will ensure that special consideration is given to the special needs and circumstances of Africa, LDCs, SIDs, and low-, medium-, and high-forest cover developing countries, ~~medium-forest cover low-deforestation countries and small island developing States as well as countries with economies in transition~~, in gaining access to funds.³⁴
- ~~The Secretariat will also strengthen its collaboration with the GEF and GCF secretariats and, as appropriate, other financing institutions, to support eligible countries in accessing funding for SFM.~~³⁵
- The Forum will, during its even year sessions, monitor and assess the work and performance of the GFFFN, including the availability and sufficiency of UNFF Trust Fund resources for its operation, and makes decisions to further increase the effectiveness, efficiency and resources of GFFFN.³⁶

Comment [VSB59]: The IAF is to be reviewed in 2024; that includes the GFFFN. We cannot have different dates for reviews. Nevertheless we expect the GFFFN to report at every session of UNFF on its work. See below

Comment [VSB60]: Stick to decision text

~~To assist the Forum in its assessment, the Secretariat will identify a set of quantifiable outputs or indicators to evaluate the performance of the GFFFN, including indicators on the availability and sufficiency of Trust Fund resources for the operation of the GFFFN.~~³⁶

Comment [VSB61]: This is not necessary

C.2. GEF, GCF and other Forest Funding Institutions

- ~~Member States, taking into account the cross-sectoral nature of SFM, should seek to make full use of the potential of the GEF resources, and invite the GEF to consider establishing a new focal area on forests³⁷; providing financial support to the GFFFN; and to Members of the Forum on preparation of their national reports to the Forum during its next replenishment.~~
- ~~Member States should seek to make full use of the resources under the GCF to reduce emissions from forests and land use and increase resilience from forest ecosystems and ecosystem services and promote synergies between their REDD+ and investment activities under the FCPF and FIP, and the Strategic Plan.~~

Comment [VSB62]: This is not a text for a strategic Plan but for a resolution

³³ ~~Facilitative Process function~~

³⁴ E/2015/33 para 13.d

³⁵ ~~E/2015/33 para 14.f~~

³⁶ E/2015/33 para 6.f.iii & iv, 14.a ³⁶

Examples: Number of countries assisted, number of financing strategies put in place, value of funds accessed.

³⁷ ~~E/2015/33 para 14.d~~

³⁸ ~~E/2015/33 para 54~~

- Member States should also seek to make full use of the potential of innovative funding sources including payments for environmental services schemes and the UNFCCC carbon pricing mechanisms.
- C.3 UNFF Trust Fund
 - Voluntary contributions to the UNFF Trust Fund will provide crucial funding, in particular for broader participation of country representatives and stakeholders in Forum's sessions and intersessional meeting, successful operation of the GFFFN and capacity development of countries.
 - The Forum Secretariat will consult with Member States on a regular basis on ways and means to attract and enhance voluntary contributions to the UNFF Trust Fund.
 - Member States in a position to do so will make every effort to contribute to the UNFF Trust Fund on an annual basis during the period 2017-2030.³⁸
 - The Forum will review the operation and status of resources of the UNFF Trust Fund³⁹ during its even year sessions and will take necessary decisions to ensure effective operation and sufficient and sustained resources for the UNFF Trust Fund.

Comment [VSB63]: This should not be part of a strategic plan. Do not repeat resolution UNFF11

C.4 Global Forest Fund

- In the context of the IAF mid-term review in 2024, the Forum could consider a full range of financing options, including, *inter alia*, the establishment of a voluntary global forest fund, in order to mobilize resources from all sources in support of the sustainable management of all types of forests⁴⁰.
- The Forum may consider the establishment of a global forest fund prior to 2024 if there is consensus to do so.³⁹

Comment [VSB64]: Not part of a strategic plan. This is in the resolution already

V. Review Framework

- The framework for reviewing implementation of the Strategic Plan has several interrelated aspects and is closely linked to the implementation framework.
- The framework encompasses review mechanisms and processes on the implementation carried out by the UN system-wide partners.
- The results of these reviews and assessments will inform the Forum's deliberations and will be taken into account in the Forum's 4POWs and resolutions.

Comment [VSB65]: All this could be made clearer

³⁸ E/2015/33 para 6.f.v

⁴⁰ E/2015/33 para 42.b

³⁹ E/2015/33 para 43

A. Evaluating progress on the implementation of the Strategic Plan

- In 2024 and 2030, the Forum will conduct mid-term and final reviews of the effectiveness of the IAF in achieving its objectives and may make recommendations to ECOSOC on the future course of the IAF.⁴⁰
- As part of these reviews, the Forum will evaluate progress in implementing the Strategic Plan, in particular the “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets”, associated actions and resources.
- The progress evaluations will:
 - Be based on a set of global forest indicators drawn from the SDG global indicator framework and take into account the results of voluntary national reporting on the UNFI and progress in implementing the Forum’s resolutions and decisions.
 - Include an independent assessment of the views and inputs of the UN Member States
 - Include an independent assessment of the views and inputs of CPF members and regional, subregional and non-governmental partners.
 - ~~Include assessing the sufficiency of resources, identifying future resource needs and deciding on the relevant funding sources.~~
- The Forum may update the Strategic Plan based on the 2024 review of the IAF.

Comment [VSB66]: delete, it is part of GOFs

B. Progress in implementation of the UNFI

- Because the “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets” encompass the 4 GOFs and 44 actions set out in implementation of the UNFI, the implementation and review of the Strategic Plan and UNFI are closely interlinked.
- The Forum will establish a cycle and format for voluntary national reporting at UNFF12 in 2017, taking into account the review cycle of the global FRAs coordinated by FAO, and the SDG review cycle at the global level.
- The Forum may adjust the reporting cycle and/or format as needed over the life of the Strategic Plan to take into account relevant developments.
- Member States will monitor and assess progress towards implementing the UNFI and, beginning in 2018, will submit on a voluntary basis national progress reports to even-year sessions of the Forum.⁴¹
- ~~The Forum will invite the GEF and other forest funding institutions to provide resources to support preparation of national reports of Member States of the Forum.~~

Comment [VSB67]: The actions should not be part of it

Comment [VSB68]: It is not to UNFF to invite other (sovereign) funding mechanisms to support reporting for their own UNFF purposes? Reporting is a few hours work. In the long term, countries must provide the resources to this aim. This is not a very complicated exercise.

⁴⁰ E/2015/33 para 41

⁴¹ E/2015/33 para 16.a

~~The Forum's Secretariat, in collaboration with the CPF member organizations, will prepare a quadrennial global publication on the state of implementation of the UNFI, including progress towards the GOFs and forest-related SDG and targets, beginning in 2021.~~

- To reduce reporting burdens, the Secretariat will establish data sharing arrangements with relevant CPF members and C&I processes and work jointly with them to synchronize data collection and further streamline and harmonize forest-related reporting formats.⁴²

Comment [VSB69]: We are not in favour of a publication. The UNFF secretariat should make an information document to inform on the implementation of FI every 2 years, based on the national reports.

C. Contributions to the Agenda 2030 review process

- As a functional commission of ECOSOC, the Forum will contribute to the follow up and review of the forest-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda at the global level and related work by the HLPF.⁴³
- The Forum will include a standing item in the agenda of all Forum sessions to enable it to contribute to the annual SDG review process undertaken by the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and its themes.
- The Forum will build on the linkages between the "strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets" and the SDG targets to promote coherence and consistency between the IAF and the 2030 Agenda, including through the 4POW, taking into account the HLPF's annual themes and in-depth SDG reviews and will contribute to the annual SDG review process undertaken by the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and its themes.
- The Forum Secretariat will provide inputs to annual progress reports and periodic global sustainable development reports prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with UN system agencies.

Comment [DUC70]: These two bullets are o.k. and make UNFF relevant to the 2030 process

Comment [VSB71]: It is not to UNFF to invite other (sovereign) funding mechanisms to support reporting for their own UNFF purposes?

Comment [VSB72]: It is not to UNFF to invite other (sovereign) funding mechanisms to support reporting for their own UNFF purposes?

Comment [VSB73]: Needs to be redrafted

VI. Communication and outreach strategy

- The Forum will develop a communication and outreach strategy 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.

Comment [VSB74]: The strategic plan is already a communication document.

Adequation between resources and such a communication strategy needs to be looked at.

This should not impair the main duties of the secretariat towards SFM.

⁴² E/2015/33 para 16.b

⁴³ E/2015/33 para 35 & 36