



UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
ON THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017-3505

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United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DC2-2301, Two United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Ref: U.S. Input on the Draft Strategic Plan and QPW for the Period 2017 – 2030

To Whom It May Concern:

The United States appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the draft Strategic Plan on the IAF and Quadrennial Program of Work for the period 2017 – 2030 as outlined in the UNFF11 Resolution, and thanks the UNFF Secretariat for compiling the submissions from UNFF members and other stakeholders.

In our attached submission we have drawn on some of the points in the posted contributions of other members as well as the materials provided for the 2014 Country Led Initiative hosted by China related to drafting a Strategic Plan for the IAF.

We look forward to working further together on the development of an optimal Strategic Plan and Quadrennial Program of Work at the upcoming Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting in April.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stefanie Amadeo", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stefanie Amadeo
Deputy U.S. Representative to ECOSOC

Attachment: United States Input on the Draft Strategic Plan and QPW for the Period 2017 – 2030

U.S. Input for IAF Strategic Plan and Quadrennial Program of Work for period 2017-2030

Scope and Overview:

This section should address questions on the target audience for the strategic plan, definitions of the IAF and UNFF as well as concise explanations of what they do, and do not, encompass/do.

Development of the draft UNFF Strategic Plan on the International Arrangement on Forests (SP) presents an opportunity to clarify the various roles, expertise, and comparative advantages of the IAF—including the CPF, UNFF Secretariat, UNFF members, and other stakeholders.

The SP should be used as a clear guidance and easy reference document for the objectives of the IAF, and as a communication tool for raising awareness and understanding of the IAF by outside stakeholders.

The SP should delineate the UNFF's niche in sustainable forest management policy and promoting SFM implementation, which in turn should allow for a clear process of prioritization of objectives and ensuing actions and activities (through UNFF sessions as well as the quadrennial programs of work).

The SP should include elements of the IAF mission or vision, incorporating trends and emerging issues relevant to international forest policy and sustainable forest management.

As outlined in the China CLI October 2014 discussion paper on possible elements for a strategic plan, summary of Box 5 on the general purpose and principles of a strategic plan.

A Strategic Plan should:

- Provide guidance on the overall direction of an organization to fulfill its mission
- Articulate goals, objectives, and resources needed to achieve mission
- Cover a time horizon long enough to develop a long term vision but still encompass a tangible time line
- Be comprehensive in covering all aspects and components of an organization and its work
- Serve as a communication tool for a range of audiences, both within and beyond the organization
- Provide the framework for the shorter-term operational plans (see section below on quadrennial program of work)
- Serve as a living document with regular reviews and updates as necessary

International Forest Policy Framework:

The framework section should address where the IAF fits in relation to other forest-related policies and frameworks.

The Strategic Plan should take a holistic approach to incorporate key elements and references to existing international forest policy documents and frameworks in other fora in addition to the UN

Forest Instrument and its Global Objectives on Forests, and UNFF 11 resolution and ministerial declaration, namely The Bonn Challenge, Aichi Targets, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, New York Declaration on Forests, Global Environmental Facility program on sustainable forest management, UNFCCC Paris Declaration links, and others as appropriate.

The SP should clarify the roles of the IAF and UNFF, and differentiate the entities responsible for facilitating the implementation of SFM, international forest policy, and appropriately outline work streams, ideas and actions through the IAF framework.

The SP should consider the roles of relevant regional and sub-regional organizations and processes and provide some guidance and/or context for how these groups fit with the IAF.

Monitoring, Assessment, Reporting (MAR): The SP framework should allow for a clear understanding of how and where MAR issues are managed as overarching guidance, including references to existing mechanisms such as FAO's Forest Resources Assessment and ITTO's Sustainable Forest Management Tropics reports. More specific MAR questions would fall to the Quadrennial Program of Work (QPW) level.

Operational Aspects:

The operational section should answer questions regarding how SFM is addressed and implementation is facilitated through the IAF and UNFF (keeping in mind the purview of UNFF members and inability to direct actions to all of the IAF). This section should clearly help guide the work of the UNFF and member states, and assist with prioritization.

Operational aspects of the IAF SP include cross-cutting and overlapping issues such as financing, prioritizing objectives, incorporating legal frameworks, and promoting transparency.

Financial and Budgetary Elements:

The SP should clearly define how funding and budgetary needs are addressed for the mission/vision and associated resource needs.

The SP should elaborate the role of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (G3FNet) especially.

Quadrennial Program of Work 2017-2020:

Elements to be included in QPW:

- Clear objectives, timelines and themes
- Identify possible resources to cover activities
- Help identify specific contributions or roles of IAF actors
- Define role of other forest program/forest policy entities in relation to QPW (ITTO, CITES, CBD, etc.)
- Focus on a limited subset of actions in defined timeframe, and some detail about how it will be executed