



## INFORMATION NOTE

### PANELS on UNFF14 THEMATIC PRIORITIES

#### Item 3 (a) of the UNFF 14 Provisional Agenda<sup>1</sup>

6-7 May 2019

#### **Background**

As provided in the 4POW 2017-2020, thematic and operational priorities for each biennium are identified by the Forum on the basis of the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and targets contained in the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF 2030)<sup>2</sup>, taking into account the annual themes and SDGs under in-depth review by the HLPF.

The theme of HLPF 2019 under auspices of ECOSOC is "*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*". This will include a review of the following SDGs:

- SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (reviewed annually)

The theme of the International Day of Forests (IDF) 2019 was "Forests and Education" which supported and contributed to SDG 4 and provided an opportunity to highlight the interlinkages between SDG 4 and SDG 15 ("Life on land").

In this respect, UNFF14 Bureau has identified three thematic priorities for UNFF14, which will be discussed, under Agenda item 3(a), "Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030":

1. Forests and climate change
2. Forests, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment
3. Forests, peaceful and inclusive societies, reduced inequality, education, and inclusive institutions at all levels

UNFF14 discussions on these thematic priorities will be conducted in three panels, as per the following concept notes.

---

<sup>1</sup> UNFF14 provisional agenda: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/440/99/PDF/N1844099.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>2</sup> UNSPF 2030: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/184/62/PDF/N1718462.pdf?OpenElement>



**CONCEPT NOTE | UNFF14 Panel**

**“Forests and climate change”**

**Item 3(a) of the UNFF 14 provisional agenda**

***Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 –***

***Technical discussion and exchange of experiences***

**Monday, 6 May 2019, 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**Introduction**

“Forests and climate change” is one of three thematic priorities to be discussed at UNFF14 under Agenda item 3(a), “Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030”. As shown below, the theme encompasses several interrelated targets under the GFGs and relates to two SDGs under review by HLPF 2019”<sup>3</sup>.

<b>Thematic priority</b>	<b>GFGs</b>	<b>Most relevant GFG targets</b>	<b>SDGs</b>
Forests and climate change	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.5, 3.1 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 6.4	13, 17

This thematic priority also relates to the objectives of the Paris Agreement adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which, as acknowledged under SDG 13, is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

**Rationale**

Land use and land use changes are contributing to climate change, along with emissions from the energy and transport sectors. While industrial greenhouse gas emissions are primary factors in climate change, forests have an important role to play in both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Forests constitute a vital part of the carbon cycle, absorbing, removing, recycling and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide through trees, understory vegetation and soils. Wood products also store or “fix” significant amounts of carbon. The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests helps reduce the risks of natural disasters and climate change. Deforestation and forest degradation reduce these forest-based contributions. Forests are also impacted by climate change. Boreal and temperate forests are increasingly affected by rising temperatures and related changes in rainfall patterns, storm and fire frequency and intensity, and increased vulnerability to infestations.

<sup>3</sup> See page 1 of this Information Note for the list of SDGs under review in 2019.



### **Intersessional work**

Consistent with paragraph 31 the UNFF13 resolution<sup>4</sup>, the Secretariat commissioned a background analytical study on this thematic priority which was prepared by Mr. Duncan Brack of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, UK (Chatham House).<sup>5</sup> Paragraphs 17-30 of the Note by the Secretariat on Agenda items 3 and 8 (E/CN.18/2019/2)<sup>6</sup> indicate some findings and suggestions from the study. Paragraph 96 of the Note contains additional suggestions and proposals.

### **Panel objective, modalities and outputs**

The purpose of this panel is to inform and facilitate an interactive technical discussion and dialogue among Forum participants on the thematic priority. The panel will open with an introduction to the background analytical study. Presentations by the panelists and the subsequent interactive discussions among UNFF14 participants and the panelists will address the following questions:

1. What are the most critical interlinkages between SDG 13 and the GFGs and associated targets in terms of co-benefits or trade-offs?
2. How can meeting the GFG targets leverage and accelerate progress on SDG 13?
3. How can Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs) under the UNSPF 2030 be linked to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement?
4. What measures can be taken to enhance the role of forests in mitigating, adapting to and building resilience against the effects of climate change?
5. How can forest policies and actions, at all levels, be better aligned with climate policies and actions, and vice versa?

Key points and proposals emerging from the panel discussion and dialogue will be reflected as appropriate in the Chair's summary of UNFF14 input to HLPF 2019 and the Chair's summary report to UNFF15.

### **Panel composition**

Moderator: Chair or Vice-Chair of UNFF14 (TBD)

Panelists:

1. Mr. Duncan Brack, Independent environmental policy analyst/Senior Research Fellow, Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) (author of background analytical paper)
2. Ms. Elena Paoletti, Italian Society of Silviculture and Forest Ecology/Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Forest Institute
3. Mr. Igor Viszlai, Forest Europe

### **Panel Coordinator**

For further information, please contact Mr. Ryo Nakamura ([nakamura@un.org](mailto:nakamura@un.org)) at the UNFF Secretariat.

---

<sup>4</sup> UNFF13 res.: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/162/00/PDF/N1816200.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>5</sup> Background Analytical Study on Forests and Climate Change: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/UNFF14-BkgdStudy-SDG13-March2019.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Secretariat Note: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N19/043/69/PDF/N1904369.pdf?OpenElement>



**CONCEPT NOTE | UNFF14 Panel**

**“Forests, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment”**

**Item 3(a) of the UNFF 14 provisional agenda:**

***Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) –***

***Technical discussion and exchange of experiences***

**Monday, 6 May 2019, 4:30 - 6:00 pm**

**Introduction**

“Forests, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment” is one of three thematic priorities to be discussed at UNFF14 under Agenda item 3(a). As shown below, the theme encompasses several interrelated targets under the GFGs and relates to two SDGs under review by HLPF 2019.<sup>7</sup>

<b>Thematic priority</b>	<b>GFGs</b>	<b>Most relevant GFG targets</b>	<b>SDGs</b>
Forests, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment	2, 4, 6	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 4.3, 6.3	SDG 8, 17

**Rationale**

Forests are among the world’s most productive renewable natural resources, influencing the sustainable paths to development as a key driver of economic growth while providing livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people, particularly in rural areas. When sustainably managed, forests also provide an irreplaceable and lasting foundation for economic activities across sectors through provision of wood and non-wood products, as well as ecosystem services, to meet the growing demand for food, fuel, fodder, shelter, clean air, soil and water as the global population is projected to reach 9.8 billion by 2050.

**Intersessional work**

Consistent with paragraph 31 the UNFF13 resolution, the Secretariat commissioned a background analytical study on this thematic priority which was prepared by Mr. José Joaquín Campos Arce, Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees of the CIFOR-ICRAF Merger.<sup>8</sup> Paragraphs 31-45 of the Note by the Secretariat on Agenda items 3 and 8 (E/CN.18/2019/2) summarize the main findings and suggestions from the study.

<sup>7</sup> See page 1 of this Information Note for the list of SDGs under review in 2019

<sup>8</sup> Background Analytical Study on Forests, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/UNFF14-BkgdStudy-SDG8-March2019.pdf>



### **Panel objective, modalities and outputs**

The purpose of this panel is to inform and facilitate an interactive technical discussion and dialogue among Forum participants on the thematic priority. The panel will open with an introduction to the background analytical study. Presentations by the panelists and the subsequent interactive discussions among UNFF14 participants and the panelists will address the following questions:

1. What are the most critical interlinkages between SDG 8 and the GFGs and associated targets in terms of co-benefits or trade-offs?
2. How can meeting these GFG targets leverage and accelerate the progress on SDG 8?
3. How can the provision of wood and non-wood products and ecosystem services be enhanced to help sustain economic activities across sectors?
4. How can forest policies and measures, at all levels, be better aligned with other sectoral/economic policies and measures, including employment, and vice versa?
5. How can SDG 4, 16 and 17 contribute to create an enabling environment for a sustainable economic growth in the forest sector?

Key points and proposals emerging from the panel discussion and dialogue will be reflected as appropriate in the Chair's summary of UNFF inputs to HLPF 2019 and the Chair's summary report to UNFF15.

### **Panel composition**

Moderator: Chair or Vice-Chair of UNFF14 (TBD)

Panelists:

1. Mr. José Joaquín Campos Arce, Senior Forester/Co-Chair, Board of Trustees of the CIFOR-ICRAF Merger (author of background analytical paper)
2. Ms. Pia Katila, Coordinator of World, Forest, Society and Environment Assessment, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
3. Ms. Gill Shepherd, Visiting Professor, London School of Economics and Political Science

### **Panel Coordinator**

For further information, please contact Mr. Ryo Nakamura ([nakamura@un.org](mailto:nakamura@un.org)) at the UNFF Secretariat.



**CONCEPT NOTE | UNFF14 Panel**

**“Forests, peaceful and inclusive societies, reduced inequality, education and inclusive institutions at all levels”**

**Item 3(a) of the UNFF 14 provisional agenda**

***Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 –***

***Technical discussion and exchange of experiences***

**Tuesday, 7 May 2019, 10:00 - 11:30 am**

**Introduction**

“Forests, peaceful and inclusive societies, reduced inequality, education, and inclusive institutions at all levels” is one of three thematic priorities to be discussed at UNFF14 under Agenda item 3(a). As shown below, the theme encompasses several interrelated targets under the GFGs and relates to four SDGs under review by HLPF 2019<sup>9</sup>, as well as the theme of IDF 2019 (“Forests and Education”).

<b>Thematic priority</b>	<b>GFGs</b>	<b>Most relevant GFG targets</b>	<b>SDGs</b>
Forests, peaceful and inclusive societies, reduced inequality, education, and inclusive institutions at all levels	3, 5, 6	3.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 5.4, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 6.4, 6.5	4, 10, 16, 17 plus IDF 2019

**Rationale**

Forests play a central role in providing subsistence benefits and social safety nets for over 1.6 billion people, including an estimated 300 to 350 million people who live within and around forests and depend almost entirely on forest resources for their subsistence. Many populations living in and around forests, particularly the rural poor, derive a considerable share of their household income from forest products.

For populations mainly relying on forest products, income inequalities among households and individuals is a threat to sustainable forest management and is most often due to inequalities in access to forests and other land, as well as in access to financial resources and other institutional support, including education and training. Secure land and forest tenure rights of indigenous peoples and local communities provide a critical foundation for local economic development, rural livelihoods and social inclusion.

<sup>9</sup> See page 1 of this Information Note for the list of SDGs under review in 2019.



### **Intersessional work**

Consistent with paragraph 31 the UNFF13 resolution, the Secretariat commissioned a background analytical study on this thematic priority which was prepared by Ms. Monica Gabay of the National University of San Martin, Argentina, and Ms. Mika Rekola of the University of Helsinki, Finland.<sup>10</sup> Paragraphs 46-60 of the Note by the Secretariat on Agenda items 3 and 8 (E/CN.18/2019/2) summarize the main findings and suggestions from the study. Paragraph 96 contains additional suggestions and proposals.

### **Panel objective, modalities and outputs**

The purpose of this panel is to inform and facilitate an interactive technical discussion and dialogue among Forum participants on the thematic priority. The panel will open with an introduction of the background analytical study. Presentations by the panelists and the subsequent interactive discussions among UNFF14 participants and the panelists will address the following questions:

1. What are the most critical interlinkages between SDGs 4, 10 & 16 and the GFGs and associated targets in terms of co-benefits or trade-offs?
2. How can meeting the GFG targets leverage and accelerate progress on SDGs 4, 10 & 16?
3. How can forest education be enhanced for people of all ages? What are the benefits of improving the quality of and access to forest-related education and training?
4. How can the role of forests be enhanced in reducing inequality within and among countries?
5. What can be done to establish governance structures that support forest-based contributions to the SDGs?

Key points and proposals emerging from the panel discussion and dialogue will be reflected, as appropriate, in the Chair's summary of UNFF inputs to HLPF 2019 and the Chair's summary report to UNFF15.

### **Panel composition**

Moderator: Chair or Vice-Chair of UNFF14 (TBD)

Panelists:

1. Ms. Monica Gabay, Independent Researcher, School of Politics and Government, National University of San Martin, Argentina (co-author of the background analytical paper)
2. Mr. Mika Rekola, Lecturer, Department of Forest Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland (co-author of the background analytical paper)
3. Ms. Maureen Whelan, Manager of International Affairs, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada

### **Panel Coordinator**

For further information, please contact Mr. Ryo Nakamura ([nakamura@un.org](mailto:nakamura@un.org)) at the UNFF Secretariat.

---

<sup>10</sup> Background Analytical Study on Forests, peaceful and inclusive societies, reduced inequality, education, and inclusive institutions at all levels: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/UNFF14-BkgdStudy-SDG4-10-16-March2019.pdf>