



CONCEPT NOTE – PANEL on

“Actions by Regional and Subregional Partners in support of the UNSPF 2030”

Item 7(d) of the UNFF 14 provisional agenda¹:

***Enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues –
Regional and subregional partners***

Thursday, 9 May 2019, 3:00-4:30 pm

Introduction

Paragraph 45 of the UNSPF 2030² recognizes that regional and subregional bodies and processes provide a crucial bridge between international policies and national actions and are important partners in achieving the GFGs and targets. Paragraph 47 encourages regional/subregional bodies and processes to:

- Exchange information, enhance cooperation, raise awareness, strengthen stakeholder engagement, and build capacity to scale up best practices within and across regions, and
- Build and strengthen synergies between the UNSPF and their policies and programmes, including in the context of their contributions to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Paragraph 24 of the UNFF13 resolution³ welcomes initiatives taken at regional and subregional levels to implement the UNSPF 2030 and invites regional and subregional organizations and processes to make full use of the regional forums on sustainable development held in preparation for HLPF 2019. Paragraph 32 invites regional and subregional partners, among others, to undertake initiatives to accelerate the contribution of forests to achieving the SDGs under review in 2019⁴ and inform UNFF14 of progress made in this regard.

Paragraph 25 of the UNFF13 resolution, also invited the FAO to provide to UNFF14 with an update of the consideration by the Committee on Forestry at its twenty-fourth session of the potential offered by the regional forestry commissions, as appropriate, for enhancing regional and/or sub-regional involvement. Since UNFF13, regional and sub-regional partners have also developed a consistent format for providing written inputs to Forum sessions and agreed on the periodicity and content of such inputs.

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

² For the full text of the UNSPF and the 4POW 2017-2020, please see E/RES/2017/4 at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/184/62/PDF/N1718462.pdf?OpenElement>

³ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/162/00/PDF/N1816200.pdf?OpenElement>

⁴HLPF 2019 will review SDG4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all); SDG8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all); SDG10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries; SDG13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts); SDG16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels); and SDG17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).



Intersessional work

The Secretariat also organized an Expert Meeting on “Regional and Subregional Inputs to the UNFF” from 7 to 8 January 2019 in Bangkok.⁵ Paragraphs 69-71 of the Note by the Secretariat on Agenda item 7 (E/CN.18/2019/6) provides information on the meeting, and paragraph 89 contains suggestions and proposals.

Panel objective, modalities and output

The purpose of this panel is to provide an opportunity for regional and subregional bodies to share their actions and initiatives to advance the GFGs and targets, particularly in the context of the SDGs under review in 2019. It will also provide opportunity to share knowledge and lessons learned on the challenges and opportunities in enhancing contributions of forests to empower people and ensure inclusiveness and equality, as well as the means to further enhance global forest policy coherence, coordination and collaboration on sustainable forest management at the national, regional/sub-regional levels. Representative of FAO will also provide update on the COFO24 outcome related to the UNFF13 invitation. Presentations by the panelists and the subsequent interactive discussions among UNFF14 participants and the panelists will address the following questions:

- 1- What actions/steps has your organization taken to integrate the GFGs and targets into its policies and programmes?
- 2- What actions/steps has your organization taken to raise awareness of the contributions of forests and the GFGs to the SDGs under review?

Key points/proposals emerging from the presentations and subsequent discussion will be reflected as appropriate in the Chair’s summary report to UNFF15.

Panel composition

Moderator: Ms. Paola Deda, Officer-in-Charge, UNECE Forests, Land and Housing Division and Chief, UNECE/FAO Joint Forestry and Timber Section

Panelists:

1. Mr. Godwin Kowero, African Forest Forum
2. Mr. Almami Dampha, African Union Commission
3. Mr. Peter Csoka, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
4. Mr. Thang Long Trinh, International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation
5. Mr. David Gritten, The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)

Panel Coordinator

For further information, please contact Ms. Barbara Tavora- Jainchill (tavora-jainchill@un.org) at the UNFF Secretariat.

⁵ Meeting summary: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Summary-EGM-Reg-Bangkok-Jan-19.pdf>