



**CONCEPT NOTE | UNFF14 Panel**

**“Mobilizing private sector action in support of implementation of the**

**UNSPF 2030 and the 2030 Agenda”**

**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, 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**Introduction**

The call for greater private sector engagement in implementation of sustainable development is a cross-cutting issue in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. When it comes to forests, it is widely recognized that the private sector and private financial institutions play an important role in implementing sustainable forest management (SFM), including through mobilizing financing for forests and their direct involvement in commodity supply chains.

This is reflected in the UN Strategic Plan 2017-2030 and its six Global Forest Goals (GFGs) adopted by the UN General Assembly in April 2017. The Strategic Plan recognizes that private business activity, investment and innovation are vital complements to national development efforts and are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation, and private international capital flows, particularly foreign direct investment. The Plan also recognizes that philanthropic organizations and foundations and public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships play important roles in scaling-up resources for SFM and the implementation of the Plan.

GFG 4 aims to mobilize financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management. Target 4.2 specifically calls for forest financing to be significantly increased, and lists private and philanthropic financing specifically in this area. Target 4.3 calls for significantly enhancing and increasing public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector.

It is against this backdrop that this panel discussion on private sector engagement is being organized. Historically private sector organisations have been largely absent from discussions at the Forum, so this panel is intended as a first step in providing space to engage one of the key stakeholders in sustainable forest management.

**Intersessional work**

This panel discussion is being organized in response to an initiative originally proposed by the UNFF13 Bureau, which had expressed its interest in organizing an event on private sector and forests in the sidelines of the session. Since UNFF13, the Secretariat has been part of initiatives involving private sector partners including the Forests for Fashion exhibit held during HLPF 2018 which was spearheaded by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, and organised in collaboration with the UNFF Secretariat; Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC); Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI); and Cittadellarte Fashion B.E.S.T. The Secretariat has also engaged in



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bilateral discussions with private sector representatives that have expressed an interest in engaging with the Forum.

### **Panel objectives, modalities and output**

The purpose of this panel is to highlight private sector initiatives in support of SFM that are already taking place around the world and identify the conditions for successful investment and the challenges in this regard. Following panel presentations, Forum participants are encouraged to share their experiences (successes and challenges) with private sector engagement at national, regional and/or global levels. The discussion will provide an opportunity for panelist and participants to provide their suggestions on how some of the current barriers to private sector finance could be addressed at the policy level. Panelists will address the following questions:

1. How and where does the private sector invest in the forest sector?
2. What are the major barriers to private investment in sustainable forest management?
3. How can the UNFF attract participation of the private sector in the work of the Forum?

Key points and proposals emerging from the presentations and discussion on how to address current challenges and barriers to private sector finance will be reflected as appropriate in the Chair's summary report to UNFF15

### **Panel composition**

Moderator: Mr. Rob Busink, Vice-Chair of the UNFF14 Bureau

Panelists:

1. Mr. José Carlos da Fonseca Junior, Director of Institutional Relations, Indústria Brasileira de Árvores (IBÁ), Brazil
2. Ms. Ana Noriega, Secretary General, PEFC - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, Spain
3. Mr. Kwame Asamoah Adam, CEO, Ghana Timber Millers Organization

### **Panel Co-Coordinator**

For further information, please contact Ms. Mita Sen ([sen@un.org](mailto:sen@un.org)) and Ms. Njeri Kariuki ([kariuki@un.org](mailto:kariuki@un.org)) at the UNFF Secretariat.