

Reply by Finland, 23 September 2019

### Questionnaire on the Forum's 4POW 2021-2024

1. Thematic priorities: The 4POW 2021-2024 consists of two technical-policy biennium: 2021-2022 and 2023-2024. Consistent with Annex II of ECOSOC resolution 2017/4, the Forum's odd- and even-year sessions for each biennium will be thematically linked on the basis of the GFGs and targets, taking into account the post-2020 programme of work of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). In order to carry out this guidance, would it be useful for the work programme to (check one):
  - a. \_\_\_ Identify three GFGs and associated targets as thematic priorities for a technical exchange of experiences among Member States and partners and a subsequent policy review in each biennium (progress on all GFGs are reviewed in the four-year period), taking into account the post 2020 HLPF programme of work? OR
  - b. \_\_\_ Leave the decision on which GFGs will be the themes for each biennium to the Bureau (current practice) in order to take into account, the post-2020 HLPF programme of work, which is expected to be agreed upon before the end of 2019? OR
  - c. x Other (please explain- Maximum 100 words)  
*The Bureau should have flexibility in choosing the thematic priorities, but Member States should be given a possibility to express their preferences.*  
*One item, which will need to be prioritized, is the mid-term review.*
  
2. Operational priorities: The 4POW 2021-2024 represents the Forum's contribution to implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF). In your view, what are the Forum's main operational priorities in support of the UNSPF during this timeframe (check all that apply):
  - a. \_\_\_ Means of implementation for sustainable forest management (including GFFFN operations and resources)
  - b. \_\_\_ MAR (follow up on the flagship publication and timing for 2nd round of national reporting)
  - c. \_\_\_ VNCs (announcements, implementation support and follow up)
  - d. x Communication and outreach (including International Day of Forests)
  - e. x Preparations for mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests in 2024<sup>1</sup>
  - f. x Preparations for the High-Level Segment at the Forum's session in 2024,
  - f. Other (please list)  
*Strengthening good governance is the key and should be prioritized.*

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<sup>1</sup> Consistent with section XII of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 and paragraph 66 of the UNSPF 2030

3. Other elements: In addition to the Forum's thematic and operational priorities, what other elements should be reflected during 4POW 2021-2024 (check all that apply):

- a.  Contribution of CPF and its member organizations to UNSPF 2030 implementation,
- b.  Contribution of regional/subregional and Major Group partners to UNSPF 2030 implementation
- c.  Post-2020 global framework for biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity
- d.  The initial global stock-taking under the Paris Agreement (to be conducted in 2023)
- e.  Other (please list)

4. Technical sessions: Based on the experience of the 4POW 2017-2020, how could the Forum's technical sessions in 2021 and 2023 be organized to enhance the exchange of experiences and interaction among Member States, CPF and its member organizations, and regional/subregional and Major Group partners, and to address the science-policy interface (check all that apply):

- a.  Reduce the number of panels to allow more time for exchange of experiences among participants
- b.  Include a panel on the science-policy interface on the thematic priorities identified for each biennium
- c.  Minimize/eliminate the time allocated for opening general statements
- d.  Provide space for exhibits and/or training activities to highlight best practices
- e.  Other (please list)

*Side events on best practices would be useful.*

*General statements should be allowed/encouraged only in high-level sessions every other year.*