Questionnaire on the Forum's 4POW 2021-2024

1. <u>Thematic priorities</u>: 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 (<u>check one</u>):

   a. x___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?

   Nigeria's choices of the three GFGs is anchored on a prioritization that seeks to ensure that the selected GFGs address to the extent possible the envisaged outcomes of any GFG not amongst these three. Thus GFGs 1, 2 and 5 should engage the attention the the Forum and generic reasons are included below:

   i.   GFG 1 - **Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change.**

   GFG 1 comes top of our suggested priorities as it is sufficiently in line with Nigeria's forestry development and climate extremes amelioration programmes. Most importantly, it provides the foundation for the success of nature-based solutions in reducing the impact of climate change. In addition, the Goal and its associated targets 1.1 – 1.4 have considerably addressed GFG 3 and its associated targets.

   ii.   GFG 2 - **Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.**

   GFG 2 and its associated targets 2.1 – 2.5 should be the second thematic priority more so that this GFG can easily resonate with the intent of GFG 4 in mobilising financial resources to the extent that enhanced economic benefits guarantees both the public and private sector generate enough revenue to be able to plough back into efforts at sustaining such revenue base. A direct corollary to this is that improving livelihoods of the forest dependent people also provides avenues for initiatives that would obviate deforestation and forest degradation challenges associated with unsustainable use by forest dependent communities. This would translate to the efficient and effective use of available limiting financial resources for activities that improve sustainable forest management,

GFG 5 - **Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the UN Forest Instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships.**

In suggesting GFG 5 as the third most important priority, Nigeria is conscious of the fact that the adoption of appropriate, efficient and effective governance frameworks – across all levels (Sub-National, Regional and Internationally) and sectors (Public, Private, CSOs, NGOs etc) provides the foundation for ensuring linkages and complementarities to enhance Sustainable Forest Management. This can also be seen as having the potential of addressing GFG 6.

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. ___Other (please explain- Maximum 100 words)

2. <u>Operational priorities</u>: 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 (<u>check all that apply</u>):

   a. _x___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. __x__VNCs (announcements, implementation support and follow up)
   d. __x__Communication and outreach (including International Day of Forests)
   e. ____Preparations for mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests in 2024[1]
      _x___Preparations for the High-Level Segment at the Forum's session in 2024,
   f. Other (please list)

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

   a. ____Contribution of CPF and its member organizations to UNSPF 2030 implementation,
   b. _x___Contribution of regional/subregional and Major Group partners to UNSPF 2030 implementation
   c. _x___Post-2020 global framework for biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity
   d. _x__The initial global stock-taking under the Paris Agreement (to be conducted in 2023)
   e. __X__Other (please list) Considering the effect of the global Illegal Trade in Wildlife on Sustainable Forest management, it may be necessary to include the Convention on International Trade in

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[1] Consistent with section XII of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 and paragraph 66 of the UNSPF 2030

Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora. More so that a number of countries yield substantial revenue from the exploitation of these resources – which at times are done unsustainably.

4. <u>Technical sessions</u>: 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 (<u>check all that apply</u>):

   a. ___Reduce the number of panels to allow more time for exchange of experiences among participants
   b. _x_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. _x__Provide space for exhibits and/or training activities to highlight best practices
   e. Provide opportunity for participation by proxy or electronically for a broader and more effective expert interaction and experience exchange.