

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 **South Africa is of the view that the Forum should be more specific in terms of identifying priority GFGs, with the country viewing Goals 1, 2 and 4 as the main priorities to focus on.**
 - 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. 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) **It would seem that progress in this regard is currently insignificant and/ or there is no inadequate means of communicating such progress. South Africa is of the view that perhaps the Secretariat should consider a way of communicating milestones reached with mobilising resources and Members to which support has been rendered (this should raise the profile of the work of the Forum/ Secretariat)**
 - b. MAR (follow up on the flagship publication and timing for 2nd round of national reporting)

- c. ___ VNCs (announcements, implementation support and follow up) ✓ **However, a platform should be created during the session for countries to indicate progress on achievement of their VNCs or alternatively, the Secretariat should collate such data and give feedback in the Meetings/ Sessions**
- d. ___ Communication and outreach (including International Day of Forests)
- e. ___ Preparations for mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests in 2024¹ ✓
- ___ Preparations for the High-Level Segment at the Forum's session in 2024,
- f. Other (please list)
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 ✓ **In addition to exhibitions, Solicit best practices/ case studies from Member States prior to the Sessions, analyze and select the best 2 or 3 and provide platform for them to present their cases for knowledge sharing in an all inclusive meeting.**

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

e. ___Other (please list)