

## **Building blocks for a Ministerial Declaration for UNFF 15 (May 2020)**

### **Submitted by Canada**

As per the UNFF Secretariat request for input into the building blocks for the UNFF 15 Ministerial Declaration, Canada suggests the Declaration should commit to:

- Being bold, clear and concise
  - What we mean by that: not using a lot of UN language will make our statement stand out. We should pick one or two key areas we want to advance and not clutter up the statement with a reiteration the content of previous statements.
- Putting forests on the global agenda as important for meaningful and sustainable development
  - What we mean by that: forests need to be seen as part of the Natural Solutions narrative that is increasingly being taken up in international fora.
- Working with the agriculture sector and have a meaningful joint dialogue at UNFF 16-
  - What we mean by that: we need to make a commitment to working with another land use sector so that we can bring the UNSPF into those areas where it has the potential for strong impact. Identifying Agriculture seems like a logical place to start.
- Highlighting that Indigenous peoples, and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, are crucial for realization of the GFGs.
  - What we mean by that: our actions have to support the inclusion of all global citizens, and inclusion will lead to greater success in terms of achieving the SGDs

It should also include a placeholder for inputs to HLPF based on the Ministerial segment of UNFF15, and state the importance of UNFF as the unified policy voice for forests and full support for the UNSPF.

Thank you.