

UNFF 15 High-Level Segment – key elements and building blocks for declaration

Contributions by the International Union of Forest Research Organization (IUFRO)

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In its capacity as a scientific non-governmental organization with a global scope, IUFRO would like to suggest the following key elements and building blocks for the High-Level Segment's (HLS) declaration, for consideration by the Members of the Forum in May 2020:

- The importance of and need for forest-related science by the respective policy and decision makers can be exemplified by the fact that one of the Global Forest Goals, GFG 4, calls explicitly for “*strengthening scientific and technological cooperation and partnerships*”.
- Science plays an important role in informing the development and implementation of forest-related policies. Forest- and tree-related scientific research - across a wide range of disciplines – enhances the understanding of synergies and trade-offs between the different Global Forest Goals and related targets, as well as their relation to and relevance for the SDGs.
- By providing scientific evidence on forest-related topics and by informing policy and decision makers on the most effective actions, the science community significantly contributes to enhancing the effective implementation of the UN Strategic Plan on Forests 2017-2030. The Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative, established jointly by the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), is a showcase of a successful interaction at the science-policy interface.
- A strengthened and fully operational science-policy interface during the future sessions of the UNFF is essential for improving the uptake of scientific knowledge by the Forum and strengthening the thematic links between the odd- and even-year sessions of the Forum.