



**Presentation on IAF MTR --
Assessment G: "Actions related to
UNFF contributions to the 2030 Agenda"
(ECOSOC Res. 2022/17, Annex, item G)**

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Presentation Outline

- **Brief introduction**
- **Conclusions**
- **Recommendations**



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Intro – Assessment G actions (Annex to res. 2022/17, item G)

1. Assess UNFF contributions to HLPF on forest-SDG interlinkages & extent to which UNFF contributions are reflected in HLPF outcomes
2. Identify additional opportunities for enhanced & direct contributions of UNFF, UNFFS & CPF to HLPF sessions, in particular when HLPF reviews “forest-related” SDGs, and to Rio conventions & other relevant global bodies
3. Propose measures to raise visibility & contribution of forests at HLPF meetings & increase political relevance of forests to broader sustainable development agenda, including by highlighting impact of other sectors on forests & the wide range of forest benefits for SDGs

* G-2 & G-3 closely interrelated *



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Intro – Sources of info for G assessment:

1. Review of documents/info on UN-related websites (UNFF, DESA, many others)
2. Review of documents/info provided by UNFFS and
3. Responses to consolidated survey developed by consultants to gather views from UNFF members & partners on actions A to J (Annex to res. 2022/17)
 - Survey included 3 Q's on assessment G
 - Of 26 responses received, 21 responded to G Q's (small sample)



ASSESSMENT



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Intro – G Report outline

- I. Introduction
- II. Assessment methodology
- III. Relevant UN milestones since 2015
- IV. Reviews UNFF contributions** to HLPF sessions & forest/UNFF refs in HLPF declarations
- V. Analyzes responses to 3 Q's in consolidated survey** on assessment G (*pp15-17, Annex 12*)
- VI. Reviews recs. of ECOSOC VP** to better align subsidiary bodies with 2030 Agenda (May 2022)
- VII. Conclusions & recommendations **based on Sections IV, V & VI**

* Several annexes provide supporting info.*



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17 Conclusions – Relate to Action G-1 “Assess UNFF contributions to HLPF...”

- 17 Conclusions cover 4 areas:
 1. Forest-SDGs interlinkages
 2. Challenges inherent in HLPF process
 3. UNFF-related inputs and impacts
 4. Central role of Member States



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Conclusions – 1. Forest-SDG interlinkages:

- a. Widely recognized that many SDGs are “forest-related” in that forests/SFM contribute to, benefit from, or are impacted by progress (or lack) on other SDG targets
- b. Term “forest-related SDGs” is often used in UNFF context, but it may not be commonly understood which SDG targets are forest-related and how/why/to what extent they are forest-related



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Conclusions – 2. Challenges inherent in HLPF process:

- a. Annual HLPF process is massive & complex involving MSs, IGOs & MGoS through various platforms/entry points (*see Figure 1, Annex 5*).
- b. Thematic coherence of annual SDG cluster reviews is often unclear, e.g. SDG15 was reviewed in 2018 & 2022 as part of 2 entirely different SDG clusters.
- c. ECOSOC templates for IGO inputs are challenging to respond to in a concise, targeted politically relevant way. Each year DESA receives 100's of pp of inputs from 60+ IGOs. UNFF & other forest inputs can get lost. (*see Annex 8*)



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Conclusions – 2. Challenges inherent in HLPF process

- d. HLPF declarations (negotiated in NY beginning in March)
- Increasingly long and ponderous (up to 29 pp)
 - Give relatively little attention to interlinkages among SDGs under review
 - Unclear what impact/influence declarations have outside HLPF community



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Conclusions - 3. UNFF related inputs and impacts:

- a. UNFF very active in HLPF: Bureau inputs in March & Chair's Summary in May
- b. UNFFS actively facilitates UNFF inputs and has organized special activities during HLPF in key years (*see Annex 9*)
- c. UNFF Chair's summaries come late in HLPF process: After March deadline for IGO inputs & after declaration negotiations are underway. Earlier Bureau inputs better timed to influence HLPF outcomes.



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Conclusions - 3. UNFF related inputs and impacts:

- d. Impact of UNFF inputs in HLPF declarations has been mixed (*Annex 11*):
- No mention of forests/UNFF: 2016, 2017, 2019
 - Nominal forest refs: 2020, 2021
 - More robust forest refs: 2018, 2022 (SDG15 review years)
- e. Factors contributing to forest visibility in 2018 & 2022:
- Forest/UNFF experts on HLPF delegations
 - Concise “key messages” in UNFF inputs to HLPF
 - Special activities organized by UNFFS
 - UNSPF 2030; Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests & Land Use (2021)



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Conclusions - 3. UNFF related inputs and impacts:

- f. Low/no visibility of forests in other years suggests forest-SDG interlinkages are not yet well-recognized by HLPF community in capitals or NY missions
- g. Low forest visibility extends to VNRs. In 2022 (SDG15 review year), only 12 of 44 VNRs addressed forests -- suggests many UNFF FPs may not be involved in VNR preparations



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Conclusions - 4. Central role of Member States:

- a. MSs are central to HLPF process & influence HLPF outcomes through VNRS, regional/global prep meetings, official HLPF delegations
- b. Visibility of forests in HLPF will only be fully recognized if MSs insist on recognition. Same for Rio conventions & other key bodies.
- c. Relevance of forests to 2030 Agenda will increase when Gov'ts: (i) issue strong, consistent messages on forest-SDG interlinkages across national delegations to IGOs & (ii) prepare complementary, mutually reinforcing VNRs, NDCs & VNCs



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26 Recommendations – Relate to Actions G-2 & G-3

- G-2: Identify additional opportunities for UNFF-related contributions to HLPF & Rio conventions
- G-3: Propose measures to raise visibility of forests in HLPF & political relevance of forests to broader sustainable development agenda
- Recs. are directed to: (1) UNFF Bureau, (2) UNFFS, (3) MSs, (4) CPF & (5) other partners



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1. UNFF may wish to request UNFF Bureau & members to:

- a. Continue to provide timely inputs to HLPF on forest-SDG interlinkages on behalf of UNFF
- b. Ensure such inputs are concise “key messages” that can be inserted “as is” into HLPF declarations (attach supporting text as needed)
- c. Work closely with their countries’ HLPF FPs to help ensure UNFF key messages are reflected in HLP declarations
- d. Promote UNFF key messages at HLPF prep meetings & key meetings of Rio conventions & other relevant bodies



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2. UNFF may wish to request UNFFS to:

- a. Assist/facilitate UNFF Bureau re above tasks
- b. Post UNFF Bureau’s annual key messages to HLPF on UNFF home page
- c. Report to UNFF on how UNFF inputs were reflected in previous HLPF declaration
- d. Prepare concise report/targeted communication products on forest-SDG interlinkages
- e. Engage early with UNFF FPs of MSs conducting VNRs in a given year to highlight national forest-SDG interlinkages
- f. Enhance collaboration with DESA/OISC & regional economic commissions on regional VNR workshops & forest-related IGO inputs to HLPF



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2. UNFF may wish to request UNFFS to:

- g. Coordinate with CPF members whose organizations routinely input to HLPF to send consistent forest-related messages to HLPF
- h. Enhance collaboration with Rio convention secs. on forest issues through MOUs and other joint initiatives
- i. Conduct analysis of a cross-section of recent NDCs, VNCs & VNRs to better understand how forests are contributing to Paris Agreement
- j. Prepare an inventory of forest-related SDG targets & explain how they are forest-related



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3. UNFF may wish to urge Member States to:

- a. Include forest/UNFF experts on delegations to HLPF & key meetings of Rio conventions, other relevant IGOs
- b. Enhance coordination in capitals between UNFF & HLPF FPs and with NY missions to highlight forest-SDG interlinkages throughout HLPF process
- c. Enhance coordination in capitals among relevant FPs to develop mutually supportive NDCs, VNCs & VNRs



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3. UNFF may wish to urge Member States to:

- e. Build on momentum of Glasgow Leaders' Dec. to accelerate national cross-sector policy coordination to halt deforestation
- f. Advocate more concise, impactful HLPF declarations to include a 1-2 page summary of key points/commitments
- g. Advocate more streamlined & focused ECOSOC templates for UNFF/IGO inputs
- h. Deliver consistent messages on forest-SDG interlinkages (benefits, threats) across ECOSOC bodies, Rio conventions, other key IGOs



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4. UNFF may wish to invite CPF members to:

- a. Continue to organize high-level events during climate COPs & consider similar events at CBD & UNCCD COPs and HLPF sessions
- b. Work with their secretariats to promote recognition of forest-SDG interlinkages (benefits, threats) in their organization's inputs to HLPF



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5. UNFF may wish to:

- Invite regional economic commissions to promote forest-SDG interlinkages through their forums for sustainable development
- Invite UNFF MG FPs to promote forest-SDG interlinkages by engaging in relevant VNR prep. & working with “organizing partners” of relevant HLPF stakeholder groups
- Invite ECOSOC to streamline & better focus annual templates for IGO inputs to HLPF and consider page limits for IGO inputs (e.g. 2-3 pp)
- Invite Rio convention COPs to consider ways to enhance collaboration with UNFF and UNFFS on forests



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Thank You!

A copy of this PPT is available on the UNFF website at:
www.un.org/esa/forests/events/unff-egm-bangkok-2023/index.html

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