

# **Preparations for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)**

## **Assessment on actions related to UNFF contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

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### Assessment report prepared for the UN Forum on Forests

Through its resolution 2022/17, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), based on the outcome of the seventeenth session of the UN Forum on Forests, decided that the Forum would undertake extensive intersessional activities in preparation for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). The resolution called for these actions to be implemented in a transparent and independent manner, and in close consultation with Members of the Forum, as well as the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) member organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

To facilitate this process, the Forum Secretariat hired consultants to assist in the preparation of background papers and assessments. These assessments and outcomes of preparatory intersessional work related to the midterm review, will be submitted to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on the preparations for the IAF-MTR, which will be convened in late 2023.

The views and opinions expressed in the assessment reports are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Secretariat. The designations and terminology employed may not conform to United Nations practice and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Organization.

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## Acronyms

ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
AHEG	Open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
COP	Conference of Parties
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EGM	Expert group meeting
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCLP	Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership
GA	United Nations General Assembly
GFFFN	Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GFG	Global Forest Goal
HLPF	High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IAF	International Arrangement on Forests
IGO	Intergovernmental organization
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
MG	Major Group
MGoS	Major Groups and Other Stakeholders
MOI	Means of implementation
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OISC	Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination on Sustainable Development
REFACOF	African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFM	Sustainable forest management
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEP	UN Environment Program
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	UN Forum on Forests
UNFFS	UNFF Secretariat
UNSPF	UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030
VNC	Voluntary National Contribution
VNR	Voluntary National Review

## Executive Summary – Assessment G

1. The Assessment G report is one of 10 assessment reports prepared by consultants as part of preparations for the UNFF’s midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forest in meeting its objectives, as set out in paragraphs 28-31 of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17<sup>1</sup>. The annex to the resolution elaborates actions to be undertaken in 10 assessment areas, A to J. This report, prepared by Stephanie Caswell, addresses actions set out in section G of the annex on “contributions of the Forum to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
  
2. Assessment G is based on a review of relevant documents and information posted on UNFF and other websites; documents and information provided by the UNFF Secretariat, including their review of drafts of this report; and responses to a consolidated questionnaire developed by the consultants and circulated by the UNFF18 Chair on 9 August 2022 to elicit views on the 10 assessment areas from UNFF members and partners.<sup>2</sup> The questionnaire contained three questions on Assessment G drawn from section G of the annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17.
  
3. In addition to analyzing responses to the three Assessment G questions, the report reviews the contributions of the UNFF, its Secretariat and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to the HLPF since 2015 and the extent to which these inputs are reflected in HLPF declarations. It further considers the May 2022 recommendations of the Vice President of ECOSOC on enhancing the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and their alignment to the 2030 Agenda. On this basis, the report:
  - a. Offers conclusions on UNFF contributions to the HLPF on the interlinkages between forests and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the extent to which UNFF contributions are reflected in HLPF outcomes since adoption of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33.
  - b. Recommends:
    - (i) Additional opportunities for the enhanced and direct contribution of the UNFF, its Secretariat and the CPF on forest-related issues to HLPF sessions, in particular when it reviews the forest-related SDGs, and to the Rio conventions and other relevant global bodies
    - (ii) Proposed measures to raise the visibility and contribution of forests at HLPF meetings and increase the political relevance of forests to the broader sustainable development agenda, including by highlighting the impact of other sectors on forests and the wide range of benefits that sustainable forest management holds for the SDGs.<sup>3</sup>
  
4. Given the close interlinkages between 3.b.i and 3.b.ii, one set of recommendations covers both “additional opportunities” and “proposed measures”. These opportunities and measures are directed to the UNFF Bureau and Secretariat, Member States, CPF and other partners.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2022/17](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2022/17)

<sup>2</sup> As of December 2022, 26 responses were received from 19 Member States, 3 CPF members, 3 regional organizations (including a consolidated response from FAO regional forestry commissions) and 1 Major Group.

<sup>3</sup> The conclusions and recommendations are contained in Section VII of the Assessment G report.

## I. Introduction

1. This report is one of 10 assessment reports prepared by consultants (see [Annex 1](#)) as part of preparations for UNFF's midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the IAF as set out in paragraphs 28-31 of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17<sup>4</sup>. The annex to the resolution elaborates actions to be undertaken in 10 assessment areas, A through J.

2. This report focuses on Assessment G, "Contributions of the UNFF to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development", and addresses the first three actions contained in [Box 1](#). The report was prepared by Stephanie Caswell (see [Annex 2](#)) and includes the following sections:

- [Section II](#) briefly describes the method of work
- [Section III](#) reviews relevant UN milestones since 2015
- [Section IV](#) reviews UNFF contributions to HLPF sessions since 2015 and the extent to which forests are reflected in HLPF negotiated outputs
- [Section V](#) analyzes responses to the three questions pertaining to Assessment G in the consultants consolidated questionnaire (see paragraph 4.c)
- [Section VI](#) considers the recommendations of the Vice President of ECOSOC on enhancing the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and their alignment to the 2030 Agenda
- Based on Sections IV, V and VI, [Section VII](#) offers conclusions on action G-1 and recommendations on actions G-2 and G-3 (see [Box 1](#))

3. Consistent with action 4 in [Box 1](#), this report will be presented to an EGM to be convened by the Secretariat from 11 to 13 January 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The outcome of the EGM will be transmitted to the AHEG established by paragraph 30 of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17.

## II. Assessment methodology

4. The following sources of information were used in the preparation of this report:
- a. A review of relevant documents and information posted on the websites of the UNFF, UN-related organizations and other relevant intergovernmental bodies and processes, including all web links contained in this report.
  - b. Discussions with and information provided by the UNFF Secretariat, including their comments on earlier drafts of this report.
  - c. Responses to a consolidated questionnaire containing questions developed by the consultants to elicit views from UNFF members and partners on the range of actions contained in the annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17. The questionnaire was circulated by the UNFF18 Bureau Chair

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<sup>4</sup> As provided in paragraph 41 of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 on the IAF beyond 2015, the UNFF will conduct a mid-term review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the IAF in achieving its objectives, with a final review in 2030: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/259/77/PDF/N1525977.pdf?OpenElement>

on 9 August 2022 with a request for comments by 30 September 2022, later extended to 14 October. Responses to the three questions on Assessment G are discussed in [Section V](#).

**Box 1: Assessment G – Actions related to UNFF contributions to the 2030 Agenda  
(Annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17)**

1. Assess the contribution of the Forum to the HLPF on the interlinkages between forests and the SDGs, and the extent to which the contributions of the Forum are reflected in the outcomes of the HLPF, since the adoption of Council resolution 2015/33.
2. Identify additional opportunities for the enhanced and direct contribution of the Forum, its secretariat and the CPF on forest-related issues to the sessions of the HLPF, in particular when it reviews the forest-related SDGs, and to other relevant global bodies, including the three Rio conventions (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC).
3. Propose measures to raise the visibility and contribution of forests at the meetings of the HLPF and increase the political relevance of forests to the broader sustainable development agenda, including by highlighting the impact of other sectors on global forests and the wide range of benefits that SFM hold for the SDGs.
4. To carry out the above-mentioned tasks, the Forum secretariat, in consultation with members of the Forum and partners, should conduct an assessment and present its findings at an intersessional meeting for discussion and submit the outcome document of that meeting to the AHEG referred to in paragraph 30 of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17.

5. The Secretariat facilitated preparation of this report by providing administrative support and relevant documentation and other information as requested, as well as by providing comments on earlier drafts of this report. The views expressed herein, including the conclusions and recommendations, are those of the consultant.

6. Throughout the process of preparing this report, there was close consultation among the consultants by email and through virtual meetings, with the aim of promoting consistency in overall approach across the assessment reports.

### III. Background and context: Relevant UN Milestones 2015-2022

7. Several UN-related milestones provide context for Assessment G, beginning with ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 on the IAF beyond 2015 (see [Table 1](#)). Paragraph 1.d of the resolution sets out the five objectives of the IAF. Objective 2 is to “Enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the post-2015 development agenda”. In paragraphs 34-37 of the resolution, ECOSOC:

34. *Stresses* the need to ensure coherence and consistency between the IAF and the post-2015 development agenda as well as with multilateral forest-related agreements;

35. *Decides* that the Forum should offer to contribute to the implementation, follow-up and review of the forest-related aspects of the post-2015 development agenda, including its forest-related goals and targets;
36. *Affirms* that the Forum should also offer to contribute to the work of the HLPF;
37. *Invites* the Forum to consider, in the context of its strategic plan, its role in and contribution to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

**Table 1 – UN Milestones related to UNFF and the 2030 Agenda**

Date	UN Milestones
May 2015	UNFF11 decides on the IAF beyond 2015 (ECOSOC resolution 2015/33)
September 2015	GA adopts the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with 17 SDGs and 169 associated targets, including SDG15, “Life on land” (GA resolution 70/1)
December 2015	UNFCCC COP21 adopts the Paris Agreement
	GA renames the “non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests” as the UN Forest Instrument (UNFI) (GA resolution 70/199)
April 2015	GA amends paragraph 1(b) of the UNFI to replace the reference to the Millennium Development Goals with references to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs (GA resolution 71/286)
July 2016	HLPF becomes the UN platform for annual follow up and review of 2030 Agenda at the global level (see Table 2)
January 2017	UNFF Special Session adopts the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) with six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated indicators
April 2017	GA adopts the UNSPF (GA resolution 71/285)
March 2019	GA proclaims 2021-2030 the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (GA resolution 73/284)
September 2019	SDG Summit (HLPF meeting under GA auspices)
May 2020	UNFF15 adopts the UNFF program of work for 2021
July 2021	Release of the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
May 2021	UNFF16 adopts the UNFF program of work for 2022-2024
November 2021	Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration of Forests and Land use (UNFCCC COP26)
May 2022	UNFF17 decides on preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the IAF (ECOSOC resolution 2022/17)
	Vice President of ECOSOC makes recommendations related to the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the 2030 Agenda
November 2022	Launch of The Forest and Climate Leaders’ Partnership (UNFCCC COP27)

8. Several subsequent UNFF/ECOSOC resolutions also include provisions relevant to the HLPF and related UNFF inputs (see [Annex 3](#)).

9. 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. In September 2015, the UN General Assembly (GA) adopted the ambitious “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” with 17 “interrelated and indivisible” Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets to be reached by 2030 or earlier.<sup>5</sup> Some SDGs and targets are more cross-sector in nature while others are more sector based. SDG15 and

<sup>5</sup> GA resolution 70/1: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>



its 12 closely interrelated and overlapping targets focus on “life on land”, including forests, biodiversity and desertification (see [Annex 4](#)). Three SDG15 targets explicitly address forests, including forest conservation and restoration (15.1, 15.2), halting deforestation (15.2), SFM (15.2, 15.b) and mobilizing resources (15.b). However, forests/SFM contribute to, benefit from or are affected by progress on all SDG15 targets. In addition, forests/SFM are relevant to a number of the other 16 SDGs either directly or indirectly. While this is well recognized in principle in the UNFF context, there may not be a clear understanding of specifically which SDG targets are “forest-related” and how or to what extent they are forest-related.

10. [HLPF](#). In 2016 the HLPF, with universal membership, became the central UN platform for annual follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level (see [Annex 5](#)). Each year, the HLPF has a broad overarching theme and typically undertakes an in depth “thematic review” of SDG clusters (see [Table 2](#)). Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) conducted by countries on progress at national and subnational levels toward the SDGs under review serve as the basis for HLPF global reviews and are intended to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. DESA’s Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development (OISC) serves as the HLPF Secretariat.

**Table 2 – HLPF themes, SDG reviews and number of VNRs: 2016-2022**

Year	Theme	SDG review cluster <sup>6</sup>	No. of VNRs
2023	HLPF under ECOSOC auspices: Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels HLPF under GA auspices – SDG Summit	6 7 9 11 17	TBD
2022	Building back better from the corona virus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda	4 5 14 <u>15</u> 17	44
2021	Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development	1 2 3 8 10 12 13 16 17	42
2020	Accelerated action and transformative pathways: Realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development (virtual meeting)	NA <sup>7</sup>	47
2019	HLPF under ECOSOC auspices: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality HLPF under GA auspices - SDG Summit: Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development (conclusion of first four-year HLPF cycle)	4 8 10 13 16 17 NA	47
2018	Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies	6 7 11 12 <u>15</u> 17	46
2017	Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world	1 2 3 5 9 14 17	43
2016	Ensuring that no one is left behind	NA	22

<sup>6</sup> SDGs: 1 Poverty; 2 Food security; 3 Health; 4 Education; 5 Gender equality; 6 Water; 7 Energy; 8 Employment; 9 Infrastructure; 10 Country equality; 11 Cities, 12 Consumption/production; 13 Climate change; 14 Oceans and seas; 15 Land; 16 Governance; 17 Global partnership.

<sup>7</sup> HLPF 2020 focused on the 2030 Agenda in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

11. As can be seen in [Table 2](#), the “thematic” clustering of SDGs has been highly fluid, ranging from five to nine SDGs per cluster with no two clusters being repeated. SDG15 was reviewed in 2018 and 2022 as part of two entirely different SDG clusters. The only constant is SDG17 on the global partnership for sustainable development, which is reviewed in all years.

12. All SDGs are reviewed in depth over a four-year period to coincide with the meeting of the HLPF under the auspices of the GA. The first four-year HLPF cycle concluded with the SDG Summit in September 2019. The next four-year cycle will conclude in 2023, which is also the midpoint in the 2030 Agenda follow up and review process.

13. [Paris Agreement](#). In December 2015, UNFCCC COP21 adopted the landmark Paris Agreement to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change. Articles 3 and 4 of the agreement provide that Parties’ will undertake and communicate ambitious “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) to this end. Article 5 encourages Parties to implement the existing UNFCCC framework for policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. Such forest-based actions would be included in NDCs.

14. [UNSPF](#). In response to paragraph 37 of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 (see paragraph 7), the UNPF and later ECOSOC and the GA adopted the first-ever UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) with six Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and 26 associated targets.<sup>8</sup> The plan provides, among other things, “a framework for forest-related contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement ... the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Forest Instrument”.

15. The UNSPF further serves as a “reference for the forest-related work of the UN system” and articulates the shared UN mission on forests “to promote sustainable forest management and the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by strengthening cooperation, coordination, coherence, synergies and political commitment and actions at all levels.”

16. [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#). In 2019, the GA proclaimed 2021-2030 as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to accelerate actions at all levels to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of forests and other ecosystems and contribute to the 2030 Agenda.<sup>9</sup> The initiative is led by UNEP and FAO and includes task forces focused on best practices (led by FAO), finance (led by the World Bank), monitoring (led by FAO), science (led by IUCN) and youth (self-organized through the Major Group on Children and Youth).

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<sup>8</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/115/46/PDF/N1711546.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>9</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N19/060/16/PDF/N1906016.pdf?OpenElement>

17. Post-2022 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). In July 2021, the CBD secretariat released the first draft of the post-2020 GBF, a strategy towards the 2020 vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature”.<sup>10</sup> The draft framework includes four long-term goals and associated milestones and 20 “action targets”.<sup>11</sup> Forests are only mentioned explicitly in Target 10,<sup>12</sup> although they are captured in other targets through broad references to “land areas” and “terrestrial ecosystems”. CBD COP15 is expected to adopt the post-2020 GBF in December 2022.

18. Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration. Building on the Paris Agreement, the most significant commitments to conserve forests and halt deforestation since 2015 were initiated during UNFCCC COP26 in November 2021 when 141 world leaders<sup>13</sup> representing 91% of the earth’s forests issued the “Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use”. The declaration commits governments to work together to conserve forests; facilitate trade and development policies, including agricultural policies, that do not drive deforestation; and accelerate the transition to an economy that is resilient and advances forest, sustainable land use, biodiversity and climate goals (see Annex 6).<sup>14</sup>

19. On the same day, 10 multinational companies with a combined annual revenue of close to US\$500 billion and a major global market share in key agricultural commodities (palm oil, soy, cattle, cocoa) issued a joint statement on forests and trade committing, among other things, to “halting forest loss associated with agricultural commodity production and trade” and to delivering a shared roadmap at COP27 (see Annex 6)<sup>15</sup>.

20. A year later at UNFCCC COP27 (November 2022), 26 countries and the European Commission launched the “The Forest and Climate Leaders’ Partnership” (FCLP)<sup>16</sup> as a follow up to the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use. The FCLP is co-chaired by Ghana and the USA and will run annual high-level events to build delivery on global forest commitments, including SDG15 targets to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation. At the FCLP Launch, 14 agri-commodity companies issued a 40-page “Agriculture Sector Roadmap to 1.5 degrees C” which outlines a 3-year plan to accelerate supply chain action to reduce emissions from land use change; drive transformation of commodity producing landscapes; and support forest positive sector transformation.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Target 10: “Ensure that all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems”.

<sup>13</sup> Since November 2021, three more countries have endorsed the declaration, bringing the total to 144. Unlike the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests, the Glasgow declaration has been endorsed by all countries which are major exporters of and traders in agricultural commodities.

<sup>14</sup> <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

<sup>15</sup> In June 2021, FAO released its new Global Remote Sensing Survey which found that agricultural expansion has driven nearly 90% of global deforestation – an impact much greater than previously thought (<https://www.fao.org/3/cb7449en/cb7449en.pdf>).

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.fclp.info/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/11/what-does-a-1-5-c-pathway-look-like-for-agricultural-commodity-companies/>

## IV. Review of UNFF contributions to HLPF since 2015

21. The annual HLPF preparatory process is extensive and complex involving Member States, intergovernmental bodies, and Major Groups (MGs) and other stakeholders through a variety of platforms and entry points. The process typically begins in late July, following the conclusion of the current year HLPF session, with an invitation from the ECOSOC President to Permanent Representatives in New York to develop VNRs for the forthcoming HLPF sessions (see paragraph 39). Full scale preparations are generally launched in March with multi-prong activities at regional and global levels (see [Figure 1](#)). These activities include regional meetings under the auspices of UN Regional Economic Commissions, launch of negotiations on the ministerial declaration, and substantive work organized by DESA, including expert group meetings (EGMs) on the respective SDGs under review and regional workshops on VNRs.

### A. Entry points in the HLPF process for inputs by intergovernmental bodies

22. Annual ECOSOC letter. Each year in the months following an HLPF session (usually October-December), the President of ECOSOC circulates a letter inviting ECOSOC functional commissions and numerous other intergovernmental bodies and forums to provide voluntary substantive inputs to the next HLPF session (see [Annex 7](#)). The deadline for responses is typically in March, which coincides with the launch of HLPF preparations. In 2022, HLPF received 71 intergovernmental inputs totaling several hundred pages (see [Annex 5, Table 5.A](#)).

23. Templates for inputs. While intergovernmental inputs may be submitted in various formats and need not be negotiated, the ECOSOC letter provides a suggested template with five or six overlapping elements or topics to be addressed (see [Annex 8](#)). Many elements are vague and open-ended, simply repeating the language of the broad HLPF theme (e.g. “assessment of the situation regarding the principle of ‘ensuring that no one is left behind’”). Others employ multiple terms that may lack distinction in practice (e.g. “gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges;” “progress, experience, lessons learned, challenges and impacts”). More useful are elements that focus on policy recommendations and key messages for inclusion in the HLPF declaration.

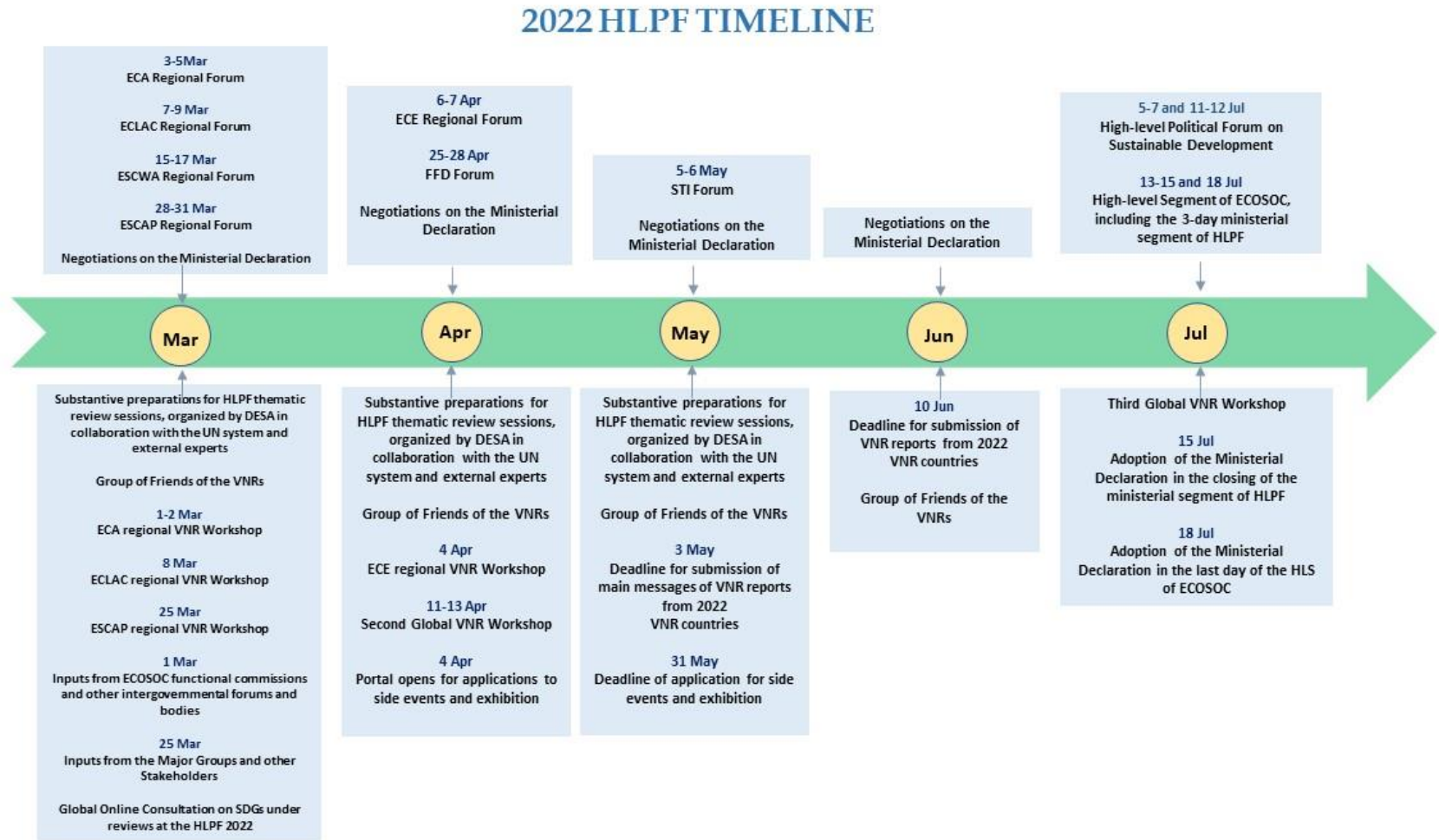
24. As a whole, the ECOSOC templates are challenging to respond to in a concise, targeted and politically relevant way. Since no page limit is imposed or suggested, the result is often lengthy intergovernmental responses that add up to a huge volume of inputs.<sup>18</sup> Each year, OISC synthesizes the mass of information received as a Secretariat Note<sup>19</sup>. While this distillation (20+ pages) is much more manageable for HLPF participants, it is possible that key points and messages may be lost in the process, including on vital interlinkages among SDGs.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/inputs/>. The 2022 input from FAO alone exceeded 50 pages and included separate inputs from each of its standing committees and the secretariats of treaties negotiated under FAO auspices. The 2022 input from CBD was 26 pages.

<sup>19</sup> For 2022: <https://hlpf.un.org/inputs/united-nations-forum-on-forests-unff-2>

Figure 1



## B. UNFF-related inputs to HLPF sessions

25. UNFF inputs. Consistent with paragraphs 35 and 36 of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 (see paragraph 7), the UNFF has provided substantive annual inputs to HLPF beginning in 2016 (see Annex 9). These inputs have been submitted to ECOSOC at two points in time: (1) intersessional Bureau communications early in the HLPF process (February-March) and (2) UNFF Chair's summaries of relevant discussions during UNFF sessions which supplement the Bureau's submission.<sup>20</sup> This two-track approach has been utilized since the Chair's summaries come late in the HLPF process, well after negotiations on the ministerial declaration and VNR preparations are underway (see Figure 1).<sup>21</sup>

26. These UNFF submissions have been relatively concise narratives (three to six pages) highlighting the interlinkages between forests/SFM and the SDGs under review and related threats to forests. In view of the timing of UNFF sessions late in the HLPF process, further thought might be given to the format and structure of SDG-related discussions in the UNFF context, with a view to facilitating effective inputs to the HLPF.

27. Given the sheer volume of annual intergovernmental inputs, UNFF contributions may not always be well-reflected in the HLPF synthesis document despite best efforts by the Secretariat and Bureau on behalf of UNFF. For example, the April 2022 "Synthesis of voluntary submissions by functional commissions of ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies" prepared by OISC highlights forest benefits and threats in the SDG15 section (paragraphs 37-45).<sup>22</sup> However, the most "visible" part of the document (section V) includes 66 actions as "most relevant and impactful for promoting a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda". Although 2022 was an SDG15 review year and there were expectations to more rigorously take advantage of inputs from forest-related bodies, only one action (paragraph 89.vv) explicitly mentions forests: "Promote innovative forest management practices, ecotourism and forest landscape restoration". This reflects just 1 of 11 actions contained in section b of the UNFF Bureau's submission to HLPF 2022.<sup>23</sup> While a few other recommended actions in section V of the synthesis report relate to forests indirectly by referring to biodiversity (89.qq), ecosystem-based approaches (89.uu) and restoration of degraded land (89.ww), this does not seem to do justice to UNFF and other forest-related inputs and suggests there may be inherent challenges in the way HLPF invites intergovernmental inputs.

28. UNFF Secretariat contributions. The UNFF Secretariat has pro-actively facilitated UNFF inputs to HLPF since 2015 and is one of the most active ECOSOC functional commission secretariats in the HLPF process (see Annex 9). This includes providing HLPF updates in Secretariat Notes, organizing panel discussions on forest-SDG interlinkages during UNFF sessions, supporting the preparation of UNFF Bureau inputs and Chair's summaries, routinely engaging in DESA activities in the run up to HLPF

<sup>20</sup> There was no UNFF15 Chair's summary due to COVID disruptions and the resulting virtual nature of the meeting.

<sup>21</sup> It is not possible to change the annual UNFF meeting from May to earlier in the year due to the schedule of conferences and other meetings at UN Headquarters in New York.

<sup>22</sup> For 2022: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/298332022\\_HLPF\\_synthesis\\_report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/298332022_HLPF_synthesis_report.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=3176&menu=3170>

meetings, contributing to relevant reports and documents prepared for HLPF, and extensive follow up with the HLPF Secretariat to help ensure UNFF Chairs are included in HLPF preparatory meetings.<sup>24</sup>

29. As shown in Annex 9, the Secretariat has also organized special activities in key years in conjunction with or during HLPF sessions. Highlights include the following:

- HLPF 2018: In preparation for the first review of SDG15, the Secretariat commissioned four analytical studies on linkages between forests and other SDGs under review<sup>25</sup> and organized a forest session of the “Expert Group Meeting on SDG15: Progress and Prospects”. The Secretariat also organized a UNFF Bureau event on 8 July 2018 in conjunction with HLPF on “Forest-based transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies: Lessons learned and success stories”.
- HLPF 2019: The Secretariat commissioned three analytical studies on the linkages between forests and the SDGs under review<sup>26</sup> and facilitated the UNFF14-15 Chair’s participation in the HLPF ministerial segment.
- HLPF 2020: The Secretariat facilitated the UNFF16 Chair’s participation in a thematic session of HLPF 2020 on “Protecting the planet and building resilience.”<sup>27</sup>
- HLPF 2021: The Secretariat organized a virtual EGM from 19 to 21 January 2021 on “Assessment and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SFM”. Key points were incorporated in the UNFF16 Bureau input to HLPF (February 2021) and the UNFF16 Chair’s Summary (May 2021). During HLPF 2021, the Secretariat and FAO jointly organized the CPF side event on “The role of forests in time of crisis – sustainable production and consumption patterns to turn the tide on deforestation”.
- HLPF 2022: In preparation for the second SDG15 review, the Secretariat, together with the DESA Division for SDGs, UNEP, CBD and FAO, jointly organized a virtual expert group meeting on 17-18 May 2022 to take stock of progress towards SDG15.<sup>28</sup>

30. Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The CPF does not provide inputs directly to HLPF since it is not an intergovernmental body. However, several CPF member organizations (in addition to UNFF) have provided inputs in one or more years, including CBD, CITES, FAO, IUCN, UNCCD, UNEP/UNEA, UNFCCC and the World Bank.<sup>29</sup> IUFRO, as a nongovernmental network, is affiliated with the HLPF MG on Science and Technology and may provide inputs in that context (see paragraphs 33-35).

<sup>24</sup> Secretariat Note (E/HLPF/2022/4): <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/034/07/PDF/N2003407.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>25</sup> Studies on Forest ecosystem services, Forests and water, Forests and energy, and Sustainable consumption and production of forest products

<sup>26</sup> Studies on Forests and climate; Forests, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment; and Forests, peaceful and inclusive societies, reduced inequality, education and inclusive institutions at all levels

<sup>27</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/events/thematic-session-protecting-planet-and-building-resilience-27271>

<sup>28</sup> [https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-](https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/HLPF%20EGM%20Summary%20for%20infocus%20SDGs%202022HLPF_SDG15_FINAL.pdf)

[06/HLPF%20EGM%20Summary%20for%20infocus%20SDGs%202022HLPF\\_SDG15\\_FINAL.pdf](https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/HLPF%20EGM%20Summary%20for%20infocus%20SDGs%202022HLPF_SDG15_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> IUFRO is affiliated with the HLPF MJ on Science and Technology

31. As noted above, UNFFS and FAO jointly hosted a CPF side event during HLPF 2021 on sustainable production and consumption patterns to turn the tide on deforestation. In November 2021 during UNFCCC COP26, CPF organized a high-level dialogue on “Upscaling actions to turn the tide on deforestation”. The event involved CPF principals and highlighted actions to accelerate efforts to protect the world’s forests and halt deforestation in support of the Paris Agreement, the GFGs and the forest-related GFGs, including through the CPF Joint Initiative on “Turning the tide on deforestation.”

32. At UNFCCC COP27, CPF again organized a high level dialogue on “Turning the tide on deforestation”.<sup>30</sup> The event involved CPF principals and underscored CPF efforts to support access to public finance for activities targeted at halting deforestation and conserving, sustainably managing and restoring forests, and to support leveraging private investment for sustainable forest management and sustainable agriculture and land use.

33. Regional and MG partners. Paragraph 24 of UNFF resolution 12/1 invited regional and subregional organizations and processes and MGs and other stakeholders, among others, to provide inputs “on the contribution of forests to the issues under consideration by HLPF 2018” (see [Annex 3](#)). Since then, regional/subregional and MG partners have had the opportunity to provide inputs to the HLPF through their participation in UNFF sessions and various intersessional activities.

34. UNFF MGs may also input to the HLPF more directly. A major element of the HLPF process is the structured engagement of self-coordinated “MGs and other stakeholders” (MGoS). The HLPF recognizes 21 broad stakeholder groups, including the nine MGs from Agenda 21<sup>31</sup>. Each group is coordinated by one or more “Organizing Partners” which together form the HLPF “MGoS Coordination Mechanism”.

35. MGoS may participate in the HLPF process by attending expert group meetings, submitting oral contributions to negotiations on the ministerial declaration, and submitting written inputs to the HLPF early in the process (see [Figure 1](#)).<sup>32</sup> The HLPF typically receives 20 to 30 written inputs from MGoS each year (see [Annex 5, Table 5.A](#)).<sup>33</sup> In addition, the involvement of local and national civil society organizations is considered a vital part of the VNR development process, including through their participation in VNR workshops organized by DESA.

36. These platforms offer important opportunities for UNFF MG organizations to lobby for the recognition of forest-SDG interlinkages in VNRs and HLPF outcome documents, particularly declarations. Three of UNFF’s MG focal point organizations are currently affiliated with the corresponding HLPF stakeholder group.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/high-level-dialogue-of-the-collaborative-partnership-on-forests-upscaling-actions-to-turn-the-tide-on-deforestation/index.html>

<sup>31</sup> <https://hlpf.un.org/2021/stakeholders>

<sup>32</sup> <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/MGoS%20Review%20Evaluation%20of%20Engagement.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/inputs/>

<sup>34</sup> UNFF MG focal point organizations affiliated with HLPF stakeholder groups: Building and Woodworkers International (Workers and Trade Unions), International Forestry Students Association (Children and Youth), and REFACOF (Women).



37. Member States. Member States are central to implementing the 2030 Agenda and to the effectiveness of the associated HLPF review and follow up process. While countries input indirectly to the HLPF as members of or parties to intergovernmental bodies like the UNFF, they also contribute to and influence the HLPF directly through a variety of means, including preparation of VNRs, participation in HLPF preparatory meetings and formal sessions, and negotiation of declarations.

38. How government representatives intervene in these HLPF activities largely determines the HLPF outcome. The extent to which HLPF/VNR national focal points coordinate with national SDG-related sectoral experts, including UNFF/forest experts, in developing national positions for regional and global HLPF/VNR related meetings influences the extent to which those sectors and their interlinkages are recognized in HLPF outcomes.

39. Voluntary National Reviews. While negotiations on ministerial declarations are largely undertaken by permanent mission staff in New York, the preparation of VNRs is at the heart of the HLPF follow up and review process and takes place at various levels over the course of a given HLPF year (see Annex 5). Annex 10 outlines the process in the run up to HLPF 2022, which illustrates the central importance of VNRs to the HLPF review and to identifying and sharing experiences on progress and challenges related to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

40. Experience to date indicates that the involvement of UNFF/forest experts in preparing VNRs and in other HLPF activities varies across countries and by year. For example, the May 2022 HLPF Secretariat Note on “Compilation of main messages for the 2022 voluntary national reviews”<sup>35</sup> shows that only 12 of the 44 review countries addressed forests in their VNRs even though SDG15 was reviewed in 2022. This suggests that UNFF delegations may not be actively involved in their country’s VNR process.

41. HLPF delegations. In 2018 and 2022, several HLPF delegations included UNFF experts. Their participation is reflected in the attention given to forests in the ministerial declarations for those years, as discussed in Section IV.C below. In years when forest experts were less or not involved in HLPF processes, forests received little or no attention.

42. Given the close interlinkages between forests and many other SDGs, it is critical for ministries responsible for forests to actively engage in HLPF-related processes in all years, not only in capitals but also when feasible at the regional level and in New York. Only then will the benefits of forests to sustainable development and the risks to forests from other sectors, especially agriculture, be fully recognized (see paragraphs 49-51).

### **C. Extent to which forests are reflected in HLPF declarations**

43. The negotiated outcomes of annual HLPF sessions under ECOSOC auspices are ministerial

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<sup>35</sup> E/HLPF/2022/5: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/E%20HLPF%202022%205.pdf>

declarations. For the most part, these declarations are negotiated by mission staff in New York over a period of months beginning in March. The result has been lengthy (up to 29 pages) and often ponderous texts with long compound sentences that state/restate issues, affirm/reaffirm commitments, and exhort others to action. Preambular elements are not delineated from operational elements. New and enhanced commitments tend to get lost in the verbiage. There is fair amount of repetition within a given declaration and from one declaration to the next. Although it is a fundamental principle that the SDGs are “integrated and indivisible,” relatively little attention is given to the interlinkages among the SDGs under review or their interlinkages with other SDGs.

44. The extent to which UNFF inputs are reflected in HLPF declarations can be inferred by the frequency and nature of forest references. These have varied significantly across declarations (see [Annex 11](#)). The HLPF 2016 and 2017 declarations do not mention forests. This is surprising for 2017 given the important interlinkages between forests and poverty eradication (SDG1) and forests and food security (SDG2), as highlighted in the UNFF12 inputs to HLPF 2017, and the substantial impact of agricultural expansion in driving deforestation.

45. The SDG Summit declaration in September 2019 (HLPF under GA auspices) is also silent on forests, relying instead on generalized language on conserving and sustainably using terrestrial resources, halting ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, and living in harmony with nature. However, the ECOSOC President’s summary of the July 2019 HLPF meeting under ECOSOC auspices contains a strong statement on the role of forest-based actions in combatting climate change (see [Annex 11](#)).

46. The HLPF 2020 and 2021 declarations contain nominal references to forests/SFM. More might have been expected in 2021 which reviewed SDG13 on climate action, as well as SDGs 1 and 2, and focused on the impacts of COVID-19, which were considerable in the forest sector.

47. Not surprisingly, forests and UNFF received more attention in the HLPF 2018 and 2022 declarations when SDG15 was under review. In 2018, there is a reasonably good correlation between the “key messages” section of the UNFF inputs and the HLPF declaration (see [Table 3](#)).

48. In 2022, UNFF’s inputs also included “key messages, in this case focused mainly on promoting UNFF and the UNSPF. This focus is captured in paragraph 71 of the declaration. Paragraphs 66, 67 and 69 also address deforestation impacts and SFM benefits (see [Table 4](#)).

49. Factors that likely contributed to the visibility of forests in HLPF 2018 and 2022 include:

- Participation of forest/UNFF experts on HLPF delegations
- Articulation of targeted key messages in UNFF Bureau and Chairs inputs to HLPF
- Adoption by the GA of the UNSPF in 2017
- Special events organized by the UNFF Secretariat in connection with HLPF sessions
- The Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use (November 2021)

**Table 3 – UNFF13 key messages and references to forests in the HLPF 2018 declaration**

<b>UNFF13 Bureau and Chair’s summary Key messages<sup>36</sup></b>	<b>2018 Ministerial Declaration (para 27) – Ministers:</b>
<p>a. Forests are crucial for food, water, wood, energy, biodiversity, health and climate change. The SDGs can only be achieved if forests are sustainably managed and forest landscapes are restored.</p> <p>b. Halting deforestation and restoring degraded forests by 2020 (SDG15.2) requires urgent action now. Best practices and tools are available but their application must be upscaled and progress accelerated.</p> <p>c. Fragmentation in global forest governance remains a challenge. Enhanced synergies are needed across the UN system and beyond the CPF.</p> <p>d. Implementing the UNSPF and achieving its GFGs and targets is an effective means to accelerate achievement of all SDGs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasize that forests. . . and other natural ecosystems are essential for sustainable development</li> <li>• Recognize that . . . illegal logging, land use change. . . are global drivers of biodiversity loss</li> <li>• Note protected forests are on the rise and deforestation has slowed but problems remain</li> <li>• Acknowledge biodiversity targets depend on actions from forestry and other sectors</li> <li>• Commit to implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests, and substantially increasing afforestation and reforestation globally by 2020</li> <li>• Commit to increase efforts to facilitate investment in gender-responsive programmes that address problems of deforestation, . . . including through implementation of the UNSPF, UNFI. . . and scaled- up support by CPF.</li> <li>• Commit to improve. . . remote sensing to tackle, in particular, illegal logging and wildlife trafficking</li> </ul>

50. Ideally, future HLPF delegations would include forest experts in all years. However, for many governments, both large and small, this may only be feasible in SDG15 review years. In other years, effective coordination in capitals among UNFF, HLPF/ECOSOC and Rio Convention focal points, and between capitals and permanent missions in New York, would be needed to deliver targeted messages on forest/SDG interlinkages in HLPF declarations.

51. Ultimately the extent to which forests are reflected in HLPF declarations rests with Member States which shape these documents. No matter how the UNFF and its Secretariat provide inputs to the HLPF, the contribution of forests to the SDGs will only be fully recognized if Member States insist on this recognition.

52. At the same time, as important as it to have forests highlighted in HLPF declarations, it is also important that those declarations be understood and acted upon by key public and private decision-makers at all levels. Given the ponderous and repetitive nature of the declarations to date and their recent staggering length, it is unclear if they have any audience beyond the HLPF/ECOSOC community or any impact in practice.

<sup>36</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18609UNFF13\\_Chairs\\_Summary\\_2018\\_HLPF.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18609UNFF13_Chairs_Summary_2018_HLPF.pdf)

**Table 4 – UNFF17 key messages and references to forests in the HLPF 2022 declaration**

<b>UNFF17 Chair's Summary key messages - It is critical that HLPF:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Seizes the opportunity and taps into the potential and capability of the UNFF to contribute to its deliberations on and success towards forest-related SDGs, particularly SDG15.</li> <li>2. Recognizes the UNFF as the global policy body on forests with universal membership that captures forest-specific technical and policy capabilities, and assists delivery of important financing through its GFFFN.</li> <li>3. Considers the relevant elements of the UNSPF as a reference framework for its forest-related work to enhance progress towards achieving the SDGs, to promote forest-related actions, to improve the understanding of the interlinkages between the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests, including for the eradication of poverty, and to promote effective cooperation and collaboration on forest related matters.</li> <li>4. Better leverages the UNFF to promote and highlight forest-related contributions to sustainable development, by helping to ensure and maximize complementarities, synergies and coherence among forest policies, programmes and projects of Member States, partners and stakeholders in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the UNSPF.</li> <li>5. Takes note of the role of CPF and its strategic vision towards 2030.</li> </ol> <p>The HLPF may wish to draw particular attention to the UNFI, UNSPF and its GFGs as critical elements for the 2030 Agenda's collaborative success.</p>
<b>HLPF 2020 Ministerial Declaration – Ministers:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaffirm commitment to sustainably manage forests (para 66)</li> <li>• Acknowledge with grave concern that the interrelated challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change, deforestation. . . pose an ever-greater. . . threat to the achievement of sustainable development (para 67)</li> <li>• Note with deep concern. . . that the impacts of deforestation. . . are challenges of global dimensions (para 67)</li> <li>• Recognize that combatting deforestation. . . is important for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis (para 67)</li> <li>• Emphasize the urgent need for SFM. . . and that forests. . . and other natural ecosystems are essential for sustainable development and that climate change. . . continue to pose a direct threat to them (para 69)</li> <li>• Reaffirm commitment to the UNSPF and its GFGs. . . welcome the outcome of UNFF17. . . reaffirm UNFF's role in promoting sustainable management and conservation of forests, as well as the mobilization of means of implementation. . . take note with appreciation. . . of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (para 71)</li> </ul>

## V. Analysis of questionnaire responses: Questions G-1, G-2, G-3

53. As noted in paragraph 4.c above, on 9 August 2022 the UNFF18 Chair circulated a consolidated questionnaire containing questions proposed by the consultants to elicit views from Member States, CPF members and other partners on the actions contained in the Annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17.<sup>37</sup> The questionnaire included three questions on section G of the Annex. Responses were requested by 30 September 2022, later extended to 14 October. As of December 2022, 26 responses were received from 19 Member States, 3 CPF members, 3 regional organizations and 1 MG (see [Table 5](#)). Five respondents

<sup>37</sup> The questionnaire was the mechanism for consultation with UNFF focal points and partners on Assessment G.

(Malaysia, Peru, Thailand, FAO, FAO Regional Forestry Commissions<sup>38</sup>) did not address the Assessment G questions.

**Table 5 – Consolidated questionnaire recipients and respondents**

	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Respondents</b>
Member States	193 UNFF National Focal Points	Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Switzerland, Thailand, USA
CPF	CPF members	FAO, ITTO, IUFRO
Regional/subregional Organizations	Contacts for 50 organizations	ACTO, Forest Europe, FAO Regional Forestry Commissions
MG organizations	UNFF MG Focal Points	MG Children and Youth

54. The responses to the three Assessment G questions are recorded in [Annex 12](#) and summarized below. While the sample size is quite small, some trends towards consensus are evident in responses to Questions G-2 and G-3.

#### Question G-1

- Views diverged on how well UNFF inputs have been reflected in HLPF declarations as rated on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being very well).
- In SDG15 review years (2018, 2022), ratings ranged from 3 to 5, with 3 and 4 being rated most frequently.
- In other years, ratings ranged 1 to 5, with a rating of 4 given most often. This is surprising since forests were not mentioned in the 2016, 2017 and 2019 HLPF declarations and only nominally in 2020 and 2021 (see [Annex 11](#)).
- One respondent proposed that the Secretariat report to the Forum on how UNFF input is used (i.e. where UNFF recommendations can be found in HLPF reports).

#### Question G-2

- Most respondents supported the following to enhance the visibility of forest contributions at HLPF sessions and better reflect forest/SDG interlinkages in HLPF declarations:
  - a. Earlier inputs into the HLPF process by UNFF and its members and partners
  - b. Increased role for the UNFF Bureau in representing UNFF and promoting forest/SDG interlinkages at HLPF regional and global preparatory meetings
  - c. Enhanced coordination in capitals between UNFF national focal points and those responsible for the HLPF and preparation of VNRs
  - d. Enhanced consultation between UNFF and UNFFS and UN regional economic commissions, particularly their forums for sustainable development

<sup>38</sup> FAO submitted two responses: the first contained the Forestry Division's views; the second added the consolidated views of FAO's regional forestry commissions.

- e. Enhanced coordination between UNFFS and the HLPF secretariat (OISC)
- Other suggestions (see Annex 12):
  - Draw stronger linkages and visibilities of the impact of other sectors on forests and increase visibility of these links and responsibilities through relevant SDGs.
  - Enhance collaboration between UNFF and national governments, particularly Ministries of Foreign Affairs, to encourage greater participation at HLPF sessions
  - Invite CPF members to present at HLPF sessions from their perspectives (a above)
  - Consider coordination with focal points from other organizations in preparation of VNRs (c above)

### Question G-3

- Most respondents supported the following opportunities/measures to increase the political relevance of forests to the broader sustainable development agenda:
  - a. Preparation of a report and targeted communication products on the multiple contributions of forests and SFM to the SDGs, including in the context of COVID-19 recovery
  - b. Building on the momentum of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use to foster enhanced coordination among forestry, agricultural and other sectors at all levels (GFG6.3)
  - c. Enhanced coordination in capitals between national focal points for UNFF and the Rio conventions
  - d. Increased role for the UNFF Bureau in representing the UNFF and promoting forest/SDG interlinkages at key meetings of the Rio conventions
  - e. Enhanced coordination in capitals on the preparation of NDCs, VNCs and VNRs
- Other suggestions (see Annex 12):
  - Make use of IUFRO and other reports and related communication products on the multiple contributions of forests/SFM to the SDGs (a above)
  - Also enhance coordination in capitals with the focal points of other intergovernmental organizations (c above)
  - Increase collaboration with other relevant bodies to promote awareness of the relevance of forests to the broader SDG agenda
  - More actively input to regional economic commissions, regional ministerial conferences and other forest fora; and the inclusion by Member States of forest issues in those bodies' agendas
  - Secure funding for initiatives that may emerge under G-2 and G-3.

## **VI. Review of ECOSOC recommendations to better align subsidiary bodies with the 2030 Agenda**

55. In response to GA resolution 75/290 A<sup>39</sup>, in May 2022 the Vice President of ECOSOC prepared a “Summary of recommendations” for enhancing the work of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies<sup>40</sup>, including the UNFF, and their alignment with the 2030 Agenda (see [Annex 13](#)).<sup>41</sup> Specifically, UNFF and other ECOSOC bodies based in New York were invited to undertake the following actions:

#### **A. Alignment with the 2030 Agenda**

1. Continue aligning their work with the 2030 Agenda, taking into account its economic, social and environmental dimensions, while delivering on their respective mandates and functions.
2. Place the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, at the heart of their work.
3. Be guided by the key principle of the 2030 Agenda, Leaving No One Behind, and the commitment to reach the furthest behind first.
4. Mainstream gender equality and empowerment of women in their work, and dedicate special attention to targets on gender equality contained in SDG5 and other SDGs that fall within their purview.
5. Reflect on the interlinkages of SDG13 on climate change with the SDGs and issues within their purview and how their policy recommendations can contribute to climate action, where relevant.
6. Give adequate attention to the interlinkages between the SDGs within their purview and the other SDGs, including SDGs that are not part of their traditional focus.
7. Continue to consider financing and other means of implementation in their respective areas of work, building on SDG17.
8. Consider whether and how to address aspects related to SDG6 on water and sanitation in their work, if relevant, given the links of this SDG with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
9. Consider the impact of long-term trends, such as demographic trends, on progress towards the SDGs within their purview.
10. Provide expertise and policy recommendations to allow ECOSOC to address the global challenges on its agenda such as COVID-19 recovery, climate change and poverty eradication.

#### **B. Coordination issues**

1. Strengthen their coordination and cooperation where appropriate.
2. Consider addressing specific, focused and well delineated themes, rather than broad general themes, as this may lead to more practical guidance and maximize the impact of their work.
3. Work particularly closely together if they are addressing similar issues. ECOSOC could clarify their respective roles if needed.
4. Maintain the network of focal points established for the current process of review, with a view to promoting continuing exchanges and coordination with ECOSOC and among them.

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<sup>39</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/167/93/PDF/N2116793.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>40</sup> The recommendations pertain to ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies.

<sup>41</sup> [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/UN-SCEGHS-42-INF13e\\_UN-SCETDG-60-INF17e.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/UN-SCEGHS-42-INF13e_UN-SCETDG-60-INF17e.pdf). (See Annex II)

### C. Working methods

1. Provide shorter and more actionable recommendations for ECOSOC consideration.
2. More systematically invite countries conducting VNRs at the HLPF to participate in their session and engage in a dialogue on the implementation of the SDGs most closely related to their work.

56. The Vice President of ECOSOC also encouraged “Member States to engage meaningfully in meetings of the functional commissions and expert bodies and to utilize more effectively the policy and normative outcomes of these bodies in the development of national policies.”

57. As noted above, the UNFF Secretariat has been actively engaged in the HLPF review process on behalf of the UNFF since 2016 and has already taken steps towards many of the above recommendations. In future, additional focused efforts and messaging by the UNFF and its Secretariat and Bureau may be useful regarding the following:

- Providing policy recommendations to HLPF on forest-related global challenges (A-10)
- Addressing specific, focused, well-delineated UNFF thematic priorities (B.2)
- Providing shorter and more actionable recommendations to ECOSOC/HLPF (C.1)
- More systematically engaging with countries conducting VNRs (C.2)

## VII. Conclusions and recommendations

58. The following conclusions and recommendations are based on a review of UNFF contributions to HLPF since 2015 (Section IV); analysis of responses to questions G-1, G-2 and G-3 of the consolidated questionnaire (Section V); and the May 2022 recommendations of the Vice President of ECOSOC to better align its functional commissions and expert bodies with the 2030 Agenda (Section VI).

### A. Conclusions (progress, gaps, strengths, weaknesses)

59. The following conclusions relate to Action G-1 in Box 1 on UNFF contributions to HLPF on forest-SDG interlinkages and the extent to which UNFF contributions are reflected in HLPF outcomes.

#### 1. Forest-SDG interlinkages

- a. It is widely recognized that many SDGs beyond SDG15 are “forest-related” in the sense that forests/SFM contribute to, benefit from or are impacted by progress (or lack of progress) on other SDG targets.
- b. The term “forest-related SDGs” is frequently used in the UNFF context, but it may not be commonly understood exactly which SDG targets are forest-related and how or to what extent they are forest-related.

#### 2. Challenges inherent in the HLPF process



- a. The annual HLPF process is massive, complex and not without challenges, involving Member States, intergovernmental bodies and MGoS through a variety of platforms and entry points.
  - b. The thematic coherence of annual SDG cluster reviews has not been entirely clear. For example, SDG15 was reviewed in 2018 and 2022 as part of two completely different SDG clusters.
  - c. ECOSOC templates for intergovernmental inputs have been challenging to respond to in a concise, targeted and politically relevant way, resulting in hundreds of pages of inputs from as many as 70 intergovernmental bodies each year. Given the sheer volume of annual intergovernmental inputs, UNFF contributions may not always be fully reflected in HLPF synthesis documents.
  - d. Despite the “interrelated and indivisible” nature of the SDGs, HLPF declarations have given relatively little attention to interlinkages among the SDGs under review in a given year. In view of their length and ponderous nature, it is unclear to what extent the declarations influence public and private decision-makers, including forest decision-makers, outside the HLPF community.
3. UNFF-related inputs and impacts
- a. UNFF is one of the most active ECOSOC functional commissions in the HLPF and has already taken steps towards many of the May 2022 recommendations of the Vice President of ECOSOC on better aligning ECOSOC bodies with the 2030 Agenda.
  - b. The UNFF Secretariat has pro-actively facilitated UNFF inputs to HLPF, organizing special activities in key years in conjunction with or during HLPF sessions.
  - c. UNFF Chair’s summaries come late in the HLPF process, past the deadline for intergovernmental inputs (typically March) and well-after declaration negotiations and VNR preparations are underway. Earlier inputs by the UNFF Bureau are better timed to potentially influence HLPF outcomes.
  - d. The impact of UNFF inputs as reflected in HLPF declarations has been mixed, ranging from no mention of forests (2016, 2017, 2019) to nominal references (2020, 2021) to robust references in SDG15 review years (2018, 2022).
  - e. Factors contributing to the visibility of forests in 2018 and 2022 likely included having forest/UNFF experts on HLPF delegations, including concise “key messages” in UNFF inputs to HLPF and special activities organized by the Secretariat, as well as the landmark adoption of the UNSPF 2017-2030 and the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use at UNFCCC COP26 in November 2021, now endorsed by 145 countries.
  - f. The low/no visibility of forests in other years suggests that forest-SDG interlinkages are not yet sufficiently well-recognized by the HLPF/ECOSOC community in capitals or in New York.
  - g. Low forest visibility also extends to VNRs. In 2022, the second SDG15 review year, only 12 out of 44 VNRs addressed forests, suggesting limited involvement of UNFF focal points in national VNR preparatory processes.

#### 4. Central role of Member States

- a. Member States are central to the HLPF review process. They directly contribute to and influence HLPF outcomes through preparation of VNRs, participation in regional and global preparatory meetings, negotiation of declarations, and official delegations to HLPF sessions.
- b. Ultimately, the visibility of forests and the UNFF in the HLPF context rests with Member States. No matter how the UNFF provides inputs to the HLPF, the contribution of forests to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda will only be fully recognized if Member States insist on this recognition.
- c. Similarly, Member States are central to the visibility of forests within the Rio Conventions and other relevant intergovernmental bodies in which they participate as members or parties. While the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land use is a powerful examples of countries delivering on forests in a coordinated way, the lack of reference to forests/SFM in the draft post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework suggests a disconnect in capitals.
- d. Increasing the political relevance of forests to the 2030 Agenda will only occur when governments (i) issue strong, consistent and coordinated messages on forest-SDG interlinkages (benefits and threats) across their delegations to UNFF, HLPF, the Rio conventions and other politically significant bodies, and (ii) prepare complementary and mutually reinforcing VNRs, NDCs, VNCs and other sustainable development action plans and programs.

#### **B. Recommendations**

60. The recommendations in paragraph 61 relate to G Actions 2 and 3 in Box 1 on identifying additional opportunities for the enhanced and direct contribution of the UNFF, its secretariat and CPF to HLPF sessions, the Rio conventions and other relevant bodies; and proposing measures to raise the visibility and contribution of forests at HLPF meetings and increase the political relevance of forests to the broader sustainable development agenda (see Box 1). Given the close interlinkages between Actions 2 and 3, one set of recommendations is offered covering both actions.

61. Specifically, the UNFF may wish to:

1. Request/Invite the UNFF Bureau and its members to:
  - a. Continue to provide timely inputs to the HLPF on forest-SDG interlinkages, including forest benefits and threats, on behalf of UNFF.
  - b. Ensure these inputs are concise, targeted and actionable in the form of key messages and policy recommendations that can be inserted "as is" into HLPF declarations, with supporting text attached as needed.
  - c. Work closely with their countries' HLPF focal points in capitals and New York to help ensure UNFF key messages are well-reflected in HLPF declarations.
  - d. Represent UNFF interests and promote forest-SDG interlinkages at HLPF regional and global

preparatory meetings and key meetings of the Rio conventions and other relevant intergovernmental bodies and processes.<sup>42</sup>

2. Request the UNFF Secretariat to:

- a. Assist and facilitate the UNFF Bureau with respect to item 1 above.
- b. Prominently post the UNFF Bureau's annual key messages to HLPF on the UNFF home page.
- c. Include in the documentation for UNFF sessions an analysis of the extent to which UNFF inputs were reflected in the previous year's HLPF declaration and DESA/OISC reports.
- d. Prepare a concise report and/or targeted communication products for a variety of audiences to highlight the contributions of forests/SFM to the SDGs under review and threats to forests from other sectors, drawing on existing reports and communication products.
- e. Engage early on with the UNFF focal points of Member States conducting VNRs in a given year to promote recognition of forest-SDG interlinkages appropriate to the national context.
- f. Enhance collaboration with DESA/OISC and the secretariats of the UN regional economic commissions, including their forums on sustainable development, particularly in the context of regional VNR workshops and forest-related intergovernmental inputs to HLPF.
- g. Coordinate with CPF members whose organizations routinely input to HLPF with a view to sending consistent intergovernmental key messages on forests to HLPF.
- h. Enhance collaboration with the secretariats of the Rio conventions on forest-related issues of mutual interest, including through MOUs and other joint initiatives.
- i. Undertake an analysis of a cross-section of recent NDCs, VNCs and VNRs, taking into account geographic distribution, to gain a better understanding of the extent to which forests have contributed to the Paris Agreement.
- j. Develop an inventory of which of the 169 SDG targets are interlinked with forests/SFM (forest-related) and how they are interlinked, drawing on analytical background papers and other materials developed for UNFF since 2015.

3. Urge Member States to:

- a. Include forest/UNFF experts on their HLPF delegations and their delegations to key meetings of the Rio conventions and other relevant international intergovernmental bodies.
- b. Enhance coordination in capitals between UNFF and HLPF focal points and with New York missions to highlight forest-SDG interlinkages in HLPF preparatory meetings and declarations.

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<sup>42</sup> Travel costs to be covered by UNFF (from UN regular budget and/or UNFF Trust Fund).

- c. Enhance coordination in capitals among relevant focal points to develop complementary and mutually supportive NDCs, VNCs, VNRs, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and national action programs to combat desertification.
  - d. Build on the momentum of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use to accelerate national and subnational policy coordination across sectors to halt deforestation and promote SFM.
  - e. Advocate more concise and impactful HLPF declarations and the inclusion of a 1-2 page executive summary of key points and commitments<sup>43</sup>, as well as more streamlined and focused templates for intergovernmental inputs to HLPF.
  - f. Deliver consistent targeted messages on forest-SDG interlinkages across ECOSOC bodies, the Rio conventions, other CPF member organizations, and other relevant intergovernmental fora in which they participate (e.g. APEC<sup>44</sup>, G20, G7 Climate Club<sup>45</sup>).
4. Invite CPF and its members to:
    - a. Continue to organize high level forest events during climate COPs and to consider organizing similar events during CBD and UNCCD COPs and HLPF sessions.
    - b. Work within their respective secretariats to articulate and promote recognition of forest-SDG interlinkages in their organizations' inputs to HLPF.
  5. Invite UNFF Major Group focal points to promote forest-SDG interlinkages by engaging early on in their countries' VNR preparation processes and working closely with the "organizing partners" of their corresponding HLPF stakeholder group in preparing inputs to the HLPF process.
  6. Invite UN regional economic commissions to promote forest/SDG interlinkages, both benefits and threats, especially through their forums on sustainable development.
  7. Invite ECOSOC to streamline and focus its annual template for intergovernmental inputs to HLPF to facilitate concise, targeted and actionable inputs for inclusion in HLPF declarations, and to consider limiting intergovernmental inputs to a maximum of [two] pages.
  8. Invite the COPs to the Rio Conventions to consider ways to enhance collaboration with the UNFF on forest-related matters, including collaboration between their secretariats and the UNFF Secretariat.

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<sup>43</sup> For example, as was done for the 28-page G7 Leaders' Communique in June 2022:

<https://www.g7germany.de/resource/blob/974430/2057928/1315842ed9de069fa1be82dab18dabb2/2022-06-28-leaders-communique-executive-sum-data.pdf?download=1>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.apec.org/press/news-releases/2022/apec-to-strengthen-cooperation-in-sustainable-forest-management>; [http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2022/MM/FTMM/22\\_ftmm\\_stmt.pdf](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2022/MM/FTMM/22_ftmm_stmt.pdf)

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.g7germany.de/resource/blob/974430/2057926/2a7cd9f10213a481924492942dd660a1/2022-06-28-g7-climate-club-data.pdf?download=1>

## Annex 1: List of consultants and assignments A-J (as circulated by UNFF18 Chair, 9 August 2022)

The following consultants have been hired to assist in the preparation of the relevant background materials in preparation for the IAF midterm review. To reduce duplication and ensure the efficiency, the assessments on the identified areas in the UNFF17 resolution are grouped into six assessments. The name and contact information of the consultants who are carrying out these assignments are provided below.

Assessment	Components of the IAF mid-term review as identified in the Annex of the UNFF17 resolution	Name of consultants	E-mail addresses
<u>Assessment 1:</u> - UNFF & its members - UNFF contribution to the 2030 Agenda	A. UNFF and its Members	Mr. Ivan Tomaselli	<a href="mailto:itomaselli@stcp.com.br">itomaselli@stcp.com.br</a>
	G. Contributions of the UNFF to the 2030 Agenda	Ms. Stephanie Caswell	<a href="mailto:caswellsj@aol.com">caswellsj@aol.com</a>
<u>Assessment 2:</u> -UNFF Secretariat -UNFF Trust Fund	B. UNFF Secretariat E. UNFF trust fund	Mr. Tiega Anada	<a href="mailto:tieгаа@outlook.com">tieгаа@outlook.com</a>
	H. Communication and outreach strategy of the UNSPF (COS)	Mr. David Henderson-Howat	<a href="mailto:hendersonhowat@gmail.com">hendersonhowat@gmail.com</a>
<u>Assessment 3:</u> CPF	C. Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)	Mr. Alhassan Atta	<a href="mailto:anattah@yahoo.com">anattah@yahoo.com</a>
		Mr. Thom Sprenger	<a href="mailto:thom.sprenger@tpiglobal.org">thom.sprenger@tpiglobal.org</a>
<u>Assessment 4:</u> - GFFFN - Study on status of existing resources for forests	D. Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), with exception of the element for Study on Financial Flow to Forests under D.	Mr. Jorge Illueca	<a href="mailto:j_illueca@yahoo.com">j_illueca@yahoo.com</a>
	Study on Financial Flow to Forests under D	Ms. Astrid Zabel	<a href="mailto:astrid.zabel@unibe.ch">astrid.zabel@unibe.ch</a>
<u>Assessment 5:</u> Implementation of UNSPF	F. Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF)	Mr. Kit Prins	<a href="mailto:kit.prins@gmail.com">kit.prins@gmail.com</a>
<u>Assessment 6:</u> - Involvement of regional and subregional partners - Involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.	I. Involvement of regional and subregional partners J. Involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders	Mr. Mafa Chipeta	<a href="mailto:emchipeta@gmail.com">emchipeta@gmail.com</a>

## ANNEX 2

### Consultant bio: Stephanie Caswell

Stephanie Caswell is an internationally recognized expert on global forest policy issues. Since 2008, she has worked as an independent consultant for the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), International Union of Forest Research Organizations, Forest Europe and individual governments.

From 1987 to 2008, Stephanie served as a senior career officer with the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. where she was for many years Director of the Office of Ecology and Natural Resource Conservation in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. She oversaw the development of U.S. foreign policy approaches, positions and initiatives on the conservation and sustainable management of the world's forests, wetlands, drylands, coral reefs, wildlife, biodiversity and other resources vital to human well-being but often threatened by unsustainable and illegal exploitation and trade and public policies that favor other sectors. Prior to being named Director, Ms. Caswell served as the Deputy Director and Senior Forest Advisor.

Over her diplomatic career, Stephanie has represented U.S. interests in a variety of international negotiations, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Biosafety Protocol, and the International Coffee Organization, as well as numerous and often tumultuous forest policy talks from the Rio Forest Principles in 1992 through the establishment of the UNFF in 2000 and the conclusion of the International Tropical Timber Agreement of 2006. She has served as Chair of the International Tropical Timber Council, Co-Chair of the International Coral Reef Initiative, and Vice-Chair of the UNFF Bureau.

Stephanie also has extensive bilateral forest policy experience. She was the U.S. principal for implementing the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, negotiating 14 debt-for-nature agreements with 12 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, which generated US\$190 million to help protect 57 million hectares of threatened tropical forests. She also guided negotiation of landmark bilateral agreements with China, Indonesia and Peru to combat illegal logging and associated trade.

Stephanie is the recipient of numerous State Department awards, including the highly prestigious Frank E. Loy award for Outstanding Environmental Diplomacy.

Before joining the State Department, Stephanie spent 10 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Boston and Washington, D.C., where she served in various capacities, including special assistant to the Director, chief planner for the 70 million hectare National Wildlife Refuge System, and landscape architect for wildlife refuges in the northeastern and mid-Atlantic United States.

Stephanie is a graduate of Smith College and holds two Master's Degrees in Regional Planning (MRP) and in Landscape Architecture (MLA), both from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

### Annex 3

#### Provisions in UNFF resolutions pertaining to the HLPF since 2015

Resolution	Provisions pertaining to the HLPF
<p><b>UNFF12</b> <b>May 2017</b> <b>(technical)</b></p> <p><b>Resolution</b> <b>12/1<sup>46</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contribution to the HLPF (paras 20-28)</b></p> <p>20. Emphasizes the importance of the Forum’s technical discussions at its 12th session on the contribution of forests to poverty eradication, food security and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and on the means of implementation for SFM, as well as the relevance of these discussions to the SDGs under review by HLPF 2017;</p> <p>21. Requests the Chair to finalize his summaries of the Forum’s technical discussions, in consultation with Bureau members, and to transmit the summaries to the HLPF as an input to its 2017 review;</p> <p>22. Emphasizes the importance of the UNFF providing an input to HLPF 2018 on the SDGs to be reviewed;</p> <p>23. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the CPF, a report containing proposals on actions to accelerate progress in achieving SDG15 and its forest-related targets, as well as background analytical studies on the contribution of forests to the achievement of the other SDGs to be reviewed by HLPF 2018, for consideration at UNFF13;</p> <p>24. Invites members of the Forum, member organizations of CPF, UN system partners, regional and subregional organizations/processes, MGs and other stakeholders to provide inputs to the Forum secretariat by 30 November 2017 on the contribution of forests to the issues under consideration by HLPF 2018;</p> <p>25. Requests the Secretariat to synthesize the inputs received and submit the synthesis as background information to UNFF13;</p> <p>26. Welcomes the initiative of the CPF to organize an international conference on halting deforestation and increasing forest cover area as a contribution to UNFF13 and the Forum’s input to HLPF 2018;</p> <p>27. Invites members of the Forum, the CPF and its member organizations, UN system partners, regional and subregional organizations and processes, MGs and other stakeholders to undertake initiatives to highlight the significance of forests to the 2030 Agenda and to present the outcomes of those initiatives to UNFF13;</p> <p>28. Decides that UNFF13 will finalize its substantive input to HLPF 2018, taking into account the inputs provided to the Forum;</p>
<p><b>UNFF13</b> <b>May 2018</b> <b>(policy)</b></p> <p><b>Resolution</b> <b>13/1<sup>47</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>V. Contribution of the Forum to the HLPF review in 2018 (paras 27-30)</b></p> <p>27. Recognizes that the UNSPF lays a solid foundation for accelerating sustainable development and that its implementation will make a crucial contribution to the transformation towards resilient and sustainable societies, both rural and urban;</p> <p>28. Invites HLPF 2018 to recognize the implementation of the UNSPF and achieving its GFGs and targets as an effective means to accelerate progress in achieving the SDGs and associated targets;</p>

<sup>46</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/157/26/PDF/N1715726.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>47</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/162/00/PDF/N1816200.pdf?OpenElement>

	<p>29. Emphasizes the relevance of the UNFF13 policy dialogue to the review by the HLPF, and requests the Chair of the Forum to finalize and transmit his summary of the dialogue to the HLPF as an input to its 2018 review;</p> <p>30. Welcomes the initiative of the UNFF13 Bureau to organize a one-day event on forests prior to HLPF 2018 to stimulate partnerships and synergies among stakeholders in order to accelerate achievement of SDG15 as well as the other Goals under review, and invites interested members of the Forum to contribute to and participate in the event;</p>
<p><b>UNFF15</b> <b>May 2020</b> <b>(policy)</b></p> <p><b>ECOSOC</b> <b>resolution</b> <b>2020/14<sup>48</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Quadrennial programme of work of the UNFF for the period 2021–2024 (para 1)</b></p> <p>1. Adopts the programme of work of UNFF16, in 2021, as contained in Annex I to the present resolution, and requests UNFF16 to decide on its programme of work for the period 2022–2024, taking into account the proposal contained in Annex II to the present resolution;</p> <p><i>Annex 1, item 2(c) reads “interlinkages between the GFGs and targets and the SDGs under review by the HLPF in 2021, the work towards a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other international forest-related developments”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HLPF and major conferences (paras 20-21)</b></p> <p>20. Stresses the significance of the UNSPF as a global framework for forest-related actions at all levels to facilitate progress in achieving the SDGs and associated targets, and invites the Forum to provide concise targeted inputs to annual sessions of the HLPF;</p> <p>21. Also stresses that implementation of the UNSPF contributes to achieving the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC, the CBD, the UNCCD and other relevant MEAs, and that the UNSPF can contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to be adopted at CBD COP15;</p>
<p><b>UNFF16</b> <b>April 2021</b> <b>(technical)</b></p> <p><b>ECOSOC</b> <b>resolution</b> <b>2021/6<sup>49</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme of work of the UNFF for the period 2022–2024</b></p> <p>ECOSOC,</p> <p><i>Recalling its resolution 2020/14 of 17 July 2020, entitled “Outcome of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests”,</i></p> <p><i>Adopts the programme of work of the UNFF for the period 2022–2024, as contained in the Annex to the present resolution.</i></p> <p><i>Annex: Item 2(c) for 2022 and 2023 and item 2(b) for 2024 read “interlinkages between the GFGs and targets and the SDGs under review by the HLPF in [year] and other international forest-related developments”</i></p>
<p><b>UNFF17</b> <b>May 2022</b> <b>(policy)</b></p> <p><b>ECOSOC</b> <b>resolution</b> <b>2022/17<sup>50</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Implementation of the UNSPF 2017-2030 (para 3)</b></p> <p>3. Invites the HLPF, the parties to the relevant MEAs, and other international forest-related processes to consider the relevant elements of the strategic plan as a reference framework for their forest-related work to enhance progress towards achieving the SDGs and the objectives of relevant MEAs, to promote forest-related actions, to improve the understanding of the interlinkages between the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests with their areas of work, including for the eradication of poverty, and to promote effective cooperation and collaboration on forest-related matters.</p>

<sup>48</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/192/44/PDF/N2019244.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>49</sup> [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2021/6](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2021/6)

<sup>50</sup> [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2022/17](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2022/17)



## Annex 4

### SDG15 and associated targets

<b>SDG 15</b>	
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, <b>sustainably manage forests</b> , combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	
<b>Targets</b>	
15.1	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, <b>in particular forests</b> , wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
15.2	<b>By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally</b>
15.3	By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
15.4	By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
15.5	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
15.6	Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
15.7	Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
15.8	By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
15.9	By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
15.a	Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
15.b	<b>Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation</b>
15.c	Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

## Annex 5 - HLPF at a glance

### Establishment and modalities

- The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) established the HLPF in 2012 to replace the UN Commission on Sustainable Development created by the 1992 Rio Earth Summit<sup>51</sup>.
- All Member States of the UN and UN specialized agencies are members of the HLPF.
- The HLPF meets annually under ECOSOC auspices, including a three-day ministerial segment, and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the GA.
- Annual outputs under ECOSOC auspices are lengthy ministerial declarations (7-29 pages to date).
- DESA's Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development (OISC) serves as the HLPF Secretariat.

### 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG reviews

- In 2016, the HLPF became the central UN platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level. In depth reviews of SDG thematic clusters began in 2017 (see report [Table 2](#)).
- SDG15 (Life on land) was reviewed in 2018 and 2022 as part of two different SDG thematic clusters. SDG17 is reviewed each year.
- The first four-year HLPF cycle of reviewing all SDGs concluded in 2019. The HLPF met under GA auspices September 24-25 and produced a 7-page political declaration.
- The next four-year review cycle will conclude with a second SDG Summit in 2023, which is also the mid-point in the 2030 Agenda review process.

### HLPF annual preparatory process

- The annual HLPF preparatory process is extensive and complex involving inputs by Member States, intergovernmental bodies and stakeholders through a variety of platforms and entry points.
- The process is typically launched in the weeks following the previous HLPF session, with significant regional and global activities beginning in March, including meetings under the auspices Regional Economic Commissions, negotiations on the ministerial declaration, expert groups meetings and other substantive work organized by DESA (see [Figure 1](#)).
- Each year, the HLPF receives inputs from: (1) Member States through their VNRs, (2) intergovernmental bodies, (3) Major Groups and other stakeholders and (4) multistakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments (see [Table 5.A](#)).

**Table 5.A – Summary of inputs to annual HLPF sessions<sup>52</sup>**

Type of inputs	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Voluntary National Reviews	22	43	46	47	47	42	44	292 <sup>53</sup>
Intergovernmental inputs	48	38	46	66	55	66	71	390
MGs and other stakeholders	20	31	21	33	25	25	2	157
Multistakeholder partnerships				1			3	4
<b>Total inputs</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>843</b>

<sup>51</sup> UN Conference on Environment and Development, June 1992

<sup>52</sup> <https://hlpf.un.org/inputs>

<sup>53</sup> To date, VNRs have been prepared by 187 countries, with many countries submitting VNRs in multiple years.

### **(1) Inputs by Member States - Voluntary National Reviews (see Annex 10)**

- The 2030 Agenda encourages Member States to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels" toward the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and targets.
- These VNRs serve as the basis for HLPF reviews and are intended to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- To date, 292 VNRs have been submitted by 187 countries, with several countries submitting VNRs in multiple years.
- DESA/OISC assists ECOSOC's regional commissions to convene VNR workshops to assist members presenting VNRs in a given year. These workshops typically occur in March-April just prior to meetings of the Commission's regional for a on sustainable development.
- DESA/OISC organizes global VNR workshops throughout the year to assist countries in preparing VNRs
- Prior to each HLPF session (typically in May), DESA/OISC compiles the "main messages" from VNR reports by country in a Secretariat Note (70 pages in 2022) and synthesizes main messages in a "secretariat background note" (8 pages in 2022).
- On the margins of HLPF sessions, DESA/OISC organizes multiple "VNR Labs" to provide an informal platform for sharing experiences and reflecting on the VNR process. Labs are held under the Chatham House rule and are open to Member States, the UN system and representatives of MGoS.
- DESA/OISC has developed various publications to assist countries in preparing VNRs, including:
  - "Voluntary common reporting guidelines for VNRs" (2021, 9 pages)<sup>54</sup>
  - "2021 Knowledge Exchange on Approaches and Tools for the 2022 VNRs" (26 pages)<sup>55</sup>
  - "Enabling Transformation: The Role of UN Resident Coordinator Offices and Country Teams in Support of the VNRs on the 2030 Agenda" (April 2022, 31 pages)<sup>56</sup>
  - "Handbook for the preparation of VNRs – 2022 edition" (October 2022, 72 pages).<sup>57</sup>

### **(2) Inputs by intergovernmental bodies**

- In the months following an HLPF session, the President of ECOSOC circulates a letter to ECOSOC functional commissions and numerous other intergovernmental bodies and forums inviting voluntary contributions to the next HLPF session
- Responses are typically due in March of the HLPF year (see [Annex 7](#)).
- While inputs may be submitted in various formats and need not be negotiated, the ECOSOC letter includes a suggested "template" to be followed (see [Annex 8](#)).
- Since there is no page limit, these inputs total hundreds of pages each year. The HLPF Secretariat prepares a synthesis document usually available in April of the HLPF year.

<sup>54</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27171SG\\_Guidelines\\_2021.final.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27171SG_Guidelines_2021.final.pdf)

<sup>55</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/29435Knowledge\\_Exchange\\_Booklet.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/29435Knowledge_Exchange_Booklet.pdf)

<sup>56</sup> <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Enabling%20Transformation.pdf>

<sup>57</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/29410VNR\\_Handbook\\_2022\\_English.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/29410VNR_Handbook_2022_English.pdf)

**(3) Inputs by Major Groups and other stakeholders (MGoS)**

- A major element of the HLPF process is the structured engagement of self-coordinated Major Groups and other stakeholders (MGoS).
- The HLPF recognizes 21 broad stakeholder groups, including the nine Major Groups from Agenda 21 and several regional civil society consultation mechanisms.
- Each stakeholder group is coordinated by one or more “Organizing Partners” which together form the HLPF “MGoS Coordination Mechanism”.

**(4) Inputs from multistakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments**

- SDG17 recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, technologies and financial resources to support achieving the SDGs
- DESA’s Division for SDGs supports, facilitates and monitors multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments to the SDGs announced at international conferences, and maintains the Partnership Platform, a global registry of such commitments.
- The 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator aims provides training and advisory services to Member States and in-country UN entities to foster collaboration between stakeholders and sectors and build capacity to form new multi-stakeholder partnerships and partnership platforms.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> The Accelerator is a collaborative initiative of DESA, The Partnership Initiative, the UN Office for Partnerships, the UN Global Compact and the UN Development Coordination Office.

**Annex 6**  
**Glasgow Climate COP outcomes on forests and agriculture:**  
**Leaders' Declaration and Corporate Joint Statement**  
**(2 November 2021)**

**Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (operative paragraphs)<sup>59</sup>**

We will strengthen our shared efforts to:

1. Conserve forests and other terrestrial ecosystems and accelerate their restoration;
2. Facilitate trade and development policies, internationally and domestically, that promote sustainable development, and sustainable commodity production and consumption, that work to countries' mutual benefit, and that do not drive deforestation and land degradation;
3. Reduce vulnerability, build resilience and enhance rural livelihoods, including through empowering communities, the development of profitable, sustainable agriculture, and recognition of the multiple values of forests, while recognising the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, in accordance with relevant national legislation and international instruments, as appropriate;
4. Implement and, if necessary, redesign agricultural policies and programmes to incentivise sustainable agriculture, promote food security, and benefit the environment;
5. Reaffirm international financial commitments and significantly increase finance and investment from a wide variety of public and private sources, while also improving its effectiveness and accessibility, to enable sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management, forest conservation and restoration, and support for Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
6. Facilitate the alignment of financial flows with international goals to reverse forest loss and degradation, while ensuring robust policies and systems are in place to accelerate the transition to an economy that is resilient and advances forest, sustainable land use, biodiversity and climate goals.

We urge all leaders to join forces in a sustainable land use transition. This is essential to meeting the Paris Agreement goals, including reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C, noting that the science shows further acceleration of efforts is needed if we are to collectively keep 1.5°C within reach. Together we can succeed in fighting climate change, delivering resilient and inclusive growth, and halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation.

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<sup>59</sup> Underlining added

## Agricultural Commodity Companies Corporate Statement of Purpose<sup>60</sup>

*Recognising* the important role of agricultural commodities to address climate change as well as achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, notably promoting economic development, reducing poverty, underpinning food security and improving the livelihoods of billions of people;

*Recognising* also the shared responsibility of the agri-commodity sector, including traders, processors, manufacturers, retailers and consumers, as well as governments;

We, ten global companies with a combined annual revenue of almost 500 billion USD<sup>61</sup> and a major global market share in key commodities such as soy, palm oil, cocoa and cattle, have a shared commitment to halting forest loss associated with agricultural commodity production and trade

We recognize that significant progress has been made, but this progress must be accelerated and scaled-up to support global efforts in reaching net zero emissions globally by 2050, halting biodiversity loss, and providing sustainable livelihoods.

So we intend to build on our shared efforts, working with governments, farmers, and other key stakeholders in our supply chains, to accelerate sector-wide action and to identify opportunities for public-private collaboration to catalyse further progress on eliminating commodity driven deforestation.

By COP 27 we will lay out a shared roadmap for enhanced supply chain action consistent with a 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway, that supports achievement of our goals, and increases collaboration and implementation in areas including: enabling policy environments, transparency on scope 3 emissions and indirect supply chains, and improving livelihoods for farmers.

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<sup>60</sup> Underlining added

<sup>61</sup> ADM (USA), Amaggi (Brazil), Bunge (USA), Cargill (USA), COFCO International (China), Golden Agri-Resources (Singapore), JBS S.A (Brazil), Louis Dreyfus Company B.V. (France), Marfrig (Brazil), Olam International (Singapore), Viterro (Netherlands), Wilmar International (Singapore).



## Annex 7 – ECOSOC letter inviting inputs to HLPF 2022

The President  
of the  
Economic and Social Council

26 November 2021

Excellency,

Through you, I write to invite the [**functional commission or intergovernmental body**] to provide an input to the thematic review of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2022. The HLPF will meet under the auspices of ECOSOC from 5-7 and 11-15 July 2022 at UN Headquarters in New York, with a Ministerial Segment from 13-15 July.

The HLPF is the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. The General Assembly in resolution 70/1 called for the HLPF to conduct thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs, including cross-cutting issues. These are mandated to be supported by reviews by the “ECOSOC functional commissions and other inter-governmental bodies and forums which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them”.

The Assembly in resolution 75/290 B reiterated that “In the conduct of the thematic reviews, the high-level political forum could consider the inputs to the high-level political forum from intergovernmental bodies and forums, including relevant multi-stakeholder forums, and, as appropriate, the findings, research, data and recommendations from the United Nations system.”

I would like to inform you that the 2021 HLPF received a total of 68 inputs from functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums. I would like to thank all those who informed the thematic review at the 2021 HLPF through their contribution. These inputs, together with the synthesis provided by the Secretariat, can be found at the HLPF website:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/inputs/>; <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#docs> .

The General Assembly also in resolution 75/290 B defined the theme of the 2022 HLPF to be “*Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”.

The HLPF in 2022 will review progress toward SDGs 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. The Forum will take into account the different and particular impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across these SDGs and the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals.

I therefore invite you to provide substantive inputs to the 2022 HLPF on its review of the above SDGs and the theme. Your contribution could showcase the views, findings, research, data and policy recommendations from your intergovernmental bodies on specific aspects of an SDG- driven response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the SDGs under review.

2

The following template could be considered in providing inputs, while taking into account your intergovernmental body's mandate and views:

- (a) Progress, experience, lessons learned, challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the SDGs and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs;
- (b) Assessment of the situation regarding the principle of "leaving no one behind" against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, within the respective areas addressed by your intergovernmental body;
- (c) Actions and policy recommendations in areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the implementation of the SDGs under review;
- (d) Policy recommendations, commitments and cooperation measures for promoting a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- (e) Key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2022 HLPF.

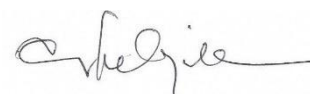
It is essential that your intergovernmental body contribute to the HLPF thematic reviews, even if its main area of work is not under in-depth consideration this year, given the interlinkages across the SDGs.

The inputs of intergovernmental bodies to the HLPF should be as focused as possible. They may also be submitted in various formats (analytical documents prepared by the bureau, summary of a panel discussion, agreed conclusions or other agreed document etc...).

I would kindly ask you to send your contribution **no later than 1 March 2022** to the HLPF Secretariat (e-mail: [wang24@un.org](mailto:wang24@un.org), [vaturi@un.org](mailto:vaturi@un.org); copy [perez7@un.org](mailto:perez7@un.org), [panghulanv@un.org](mailto:panghulanv@un.org)). Inputs received before the deadline will be included in the official synthesis report and submitted to the HLPF. All inputs will be made available online at the HLPF website.

I look forward to your contributions to the 2022 HLPF.

Please accept Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Collen Vixen  
Kelapile President  
of ECOSOC



## Annex 8

### Templates for inputs to HLPF sessions by intergovernmental bodies

HLPF 2022	Template for HLPF 2022
Review includes SDGs: 4, 5, 14, <u>15</u> and 17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Progress, experience, lessons learned, challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 from the vantage point of [UNFF]<sup>62</sup>, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the SDGs and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs</li> <li>b. Assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “leaving no one behind” against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, within the respective areas addressed by [UNFF]</li> <li>c. Actions and policy recommendations in areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the implementation of the SDGs under review</li> <li>d. Policy recommendations, commitments and cooperation measures for promoting a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda</li> <li>e. Key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2022 HLPF</li> </ol>
HLPF 2021	Template for HLPF 2021
Review includes SDGs: 1 2 3 8 10 12 13 16 and 17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the SDGs under review in the 2021 HLPF from the vantage point of [UNFF], bearing in mind interlinkages with other SDGs</li> <li>b. Actions, policy guidance, progress, challenges and areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the SDGs and to the theme within the area under the purview of [UNFF]</li> <li>c. Assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global, regional and national levels, against a background of the COVID-19 pandemic in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs within the area addressed by [UNFF]</li> <li>d. Cooperation, measures and commitments at all levels in promoting sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic</li> <li>e. Measures and policy recommendations on building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development</li> </ol>
HLPF 2020	Template for HLPF 2020
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Key policies and measures to ensure “accelerated action and transformative pathways” for realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Critical gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda within [UNFF’s] area of responsibility (bearing in mind interrelations with other goals and targets)</li> <li>b. Priority measures to: (i) accelerate action and (ii) ensure transformative pathways to realize the decade of action for achieving the 2030 Agenda</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Contribution of [UNFF] to accelerated action and transformative pathways and realizing the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda within its area of responsibility (including its cooperation with ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies)</li> <li>3. Selected recommendations for accelerating progress and moving on transformative pathways for realizing the decade of action, for possible use in drafting the HLPF declaration</li> </ol>

<sup>62</sup> UNFF in brackets replaces what would have been a generic reference to “your intergovernmental body” or similar phrase in the ECOSOC President’s letter.

<b>HLPF 2019</b>	<b>Template for inputs HLPF 2020</b>
Review includes SDGs: 4 8 10 12 16 and 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identification of progress, gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges in achieving the SDGs and/or in relation to the theme within the area under the purview of [UNFF]</li> <li>b. Valuable successful experiences and lessons learned on empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality</li> <li>c. Emerging issues likely to affect inclusiveness and equality at various levels</li> <li>d. Assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global, regional and national levels</li> <li>e. Same as 2016 (5)</li> <li>f. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in empowering people, ensuring inclusiveness and equality, and achieving SDGs</li> </ul>
<b>HLPF 2018</b>	<b>Template for inputs to HLPF 2018</b>
Review includes SDGs: 6 7 11 12 15 and 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Same as 2017 (a) and 2016 (1)</li> <li>b. Same as 2017 (a) and 2016 (2)</li> <li>c. Valuable lessons learned on transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies</li> <li>d. Emerging issues likely to affect building sustainable and resilient societies</li> <li>e. Same as 2017 (e) and 2016 (5)</li> <li>f. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in establishing sustainable and resilient societies</li> </ul>
<b>HLPF 2017</b>	<b>Template for inputs to HLPF 2017</b>
Review includes SDGs: 1 2 3 5 9 14 and 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Same as 2016, item 1</li> <li>b. Same as 2016, item 2</li> <li>c. Valuable lessons learned on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity</li> <li>d. Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of poverty eradication and achieving prosperity</li> <li>e. Same as 2016 (5)</li> <li>f. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in poverty eradication</li> </ul>
<b>HLPF 2016</b>	<b>Template for inputs for HLPF 2016</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level</li> <li>2. Identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges</li> <li>3. Valuable lessons learned on ensuring that no one is left behind</li> <li>4. Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of this principle</li> <li>5. Areas where political guidance by the HLPF is required</li> <li>6. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress for those at risk of being left behind</li> </ul>

## Annex 9

### UNFF contributions to HLPF sessions since 2015

(As of October 2022)

<b>HLPF 2022 (UNFF17 – Policy session) – SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15, 17 (2<sup>nd</sup> review of SDG15)</b>	
26 Nov 2021	Letter from ECOSOC President inviting UNFF inputs to HLPF 2022 by 1 March 2022 (Annex 6)
28 Feb 2022	Communication by UNFF17 Bureau to ECOSOC: Input to HLPF 2022 (6 pages). <sup>63</sup> Includes 4 key messages on promoting UNFF’s central role in contributing to forest-related SDGs.
9-13 May 2022	UNFF17 convenes in hybrid format. 9 May is High-Level Round Table on “UNFF response to, role in, and expectations from forest-related multilateral developments”.
27 May 2022	Chair’s summary of UNFF inputs to HLPF 2022 submitted to HLPF (4 pages). Includes key messages from Bureau’s communication plus a new message on UNSPF.
17-18 May 2022	UNFF Secretariat, DESA Division for SDGs, UNEP, CBD and FAO jointly organize a virtual EGM on taking stock of progress towards SDG15
5-15 July 2022	HLPF 2022 convenes in hybrid format. Ministerial declaration mentions forests in paras 66, 67, 69 and 71 (see Annex 9). Secretariat helps organize 6 July CPF side event: <b>“Role of forests in time of crisis – sustainable production and consumption patterns to turn the tide on deforestation”</b> .
<b>HLPF 2021 (UNFF16 – Technical session) – SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17</b>	
18 Nov 2020	Letter from ECOSOC President inviting UNFF inputs to HLPF 2021 by 15 March 2021
19-21 Jan 2020	Secretariat organizes a virtual EGM on “Assessment and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SFM”
26 Feb 2021	Communication by UNFF16 Bureau to ECOSOC: Input to HLPF 2021 (6 pages)
26-29 April 2021	UNFF16 convenes virtually; adopts UNFF work programme for 2022-24. Items 2(c) for 2022 and 2023 and 2(b) for 2024 include “interlinkages between the GFGs and targets and the SDGs under review by the HLPF...” <sup>64</sup>
19 May 2021	Chair’s summary of UNFF inputs to HLPF 2021 submitted to HLPF (4 pages)
6-15 July 2021	HLPF 2021 convenes virtually. Para 36 of Ministerial Declaration calls for increased ambition and urgency to halting deforestation and promoting SFM (see Annex 9).
<b>HLPF 2020 (UNFF15 – policy session) – COVID focus</b>	
5 Feb 2020	Letter from ECOSOC President inviting UNFF inputs to HLPF 2020 by 16 March 2020
10 Feb 2020	Secretariat Note on implementation of UNSPF reviews the “Contribution of the Forum to, and its impact on, the HLPF” since 2017 (E/CN.18/2020/2) <sup>65</sup>
11 March 2020	Communication by UNFF15 Bureau to ECOSOC – Input to HLPF 2020 (3 pages)
4-8 May 2020	UNFF15 convenes virtually. UNFF adopts work programme for 2021. Item 2(c) includes “interlinkages between the GFGs and targets and SDGs under review by the HLPF in 2021...” <sup>66</sup>
7-16 July 2020	HLPF 2020 convenes. Paras 7 and 19 of Ministerial Declaration mention challenge of deforestation (see Annex 9)

<sup>63</sup> For UNFF Bureau communications and UNFF Chair’s Summaries all years, see: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/inputs/> (Search “UN Forum on Forests” for 2016-2017 and “United Nations Forum on Forests” for 2018-2022.)

<sup>64</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/120/62/PDF/N2112062.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>65</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/034/07/PDF/N2003407.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>66</sup> There was no Chair’s Summary of inputs to HLPF 2021 due to the virtual, informal nature of UNFF15 resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

<b>HLPF 2019 (UNFF14 – Technical session) – SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17 (end of 1<sup>st</sup> HLPF 4-year cycle on SDGs)</b>	
30 Oct 2018	Letter from ECOSOC President inviting UNFF inputs to HLPF 2019 by 15 March 2019
March 2019	Completion of 3 analytical studies commissioned by Secretariat on linkages between forests and SDGs 8, 13 and 16
March 2019	Communication by UNFF14 Bureau to ECOSOC – Input to HLPF 2019
6-10 May 2019	UNFF14 convenes. Secretariat organizes panels on linkages between forests and SDGs 8, 13 and 16. ECOSOC resolution 2022/17 (para 3) invites HLPF, MEA parties and other international forest-related processes to consider relevant elements of the UNSPF as a reference framework for their forest-related work.
21 May 2019	UNFF14 Chair's summary of UNFF inputs submitted to HLPF (4 pages)
9-18 July 2019	HLPF 2019 convenes. Secretariat supports UNFF14 Chair's participation in ministerial segment. Para 34 of the ECOSOC President's summary includes strong statement on the role of SFM in combatting climate change (see Annex 9).
24-25 Sept 2019	SDG Summit convenes. Political Declaration does not mention forests.
<b>HLPF 2018 (UNFF13 – Policy session) – SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17 (1<sup>st</sup> review of SDG15)</b>	
30 Oct 2017	Letter from ECOSOC President inviting UNFF inputs to HLPF 2018 by 15 March 2019
30 Nov 2017	Due date for Member States, CPF member organizations, UN system partners, regional/subregional bodies and MGs to provide inputs to Secretariat on the contribution of forests to HLPF 2018 (see Annex 3, UNFF resolution 12/1, para 24)
Other inter-sessional work	Secretariat commissions 3 analytical studies on linkages between forests and SDGs 6, 7, 12 and a study on forest ecosystem services (see Annex 3, UNFF resolution 12/1, para 12).
20-22 Feb 2018	CPF organizes the international conference on "Working across sectors to halt deforestation and increase forest cover: From aspiration to action" as a contribution to the UNFF13 input to HLPF 2018 (paras 23 and 26 of UNFF resolution 12/1)
7-11 May 2018	UNFF13 convenes. Secretariat organizes panels on linkages between forests and SDGs 6, 7 and 12. Resolution 13/1 (para 28) invites HLPF 2018 to recognize implementing UNSPF and achieving its GFGs and targets as an effective means to accelerate the SDGs and targets (see Annex 3).
14 May 2018	UNFF13 chair's summary of UNFF inputs submitted to HLPF; sets out four key messages.
8 July 2018	Bureau organizes 1-day event in conjunction with HLPF 2018 on "Forest-based transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies: Lessons learned and success stories"
9-18 July 2018	HLPF 2018 convenes. Para 27 of Ministerial Declaration focuses on forests (see Annex 9).
<b>HLPF 2017 (UNFF12 - Technical) – SDGs 1, 2 5, 9, 14, 17</b>	
11 Aug 2016	Letter from ECOSOC President inviting UNFF inputs to HLPF 2017 by 28 April 2017
1-5 May 2017	UNFF12 convenes. Secretariat organizes panel discussions on linkages between forests and SDGs 1, 2, 5 and 17. Resolution 12/1 (paras 20-28) addresses the contribution of UNFF to HLPF 2017 (see Annex 3).
19 May 2017	UNFF12 Chair's summary of UNFF inputs transmitted to HLPF 2017 (5 pages)
10-19 July 2017	HLPF 2017 convenes. Ministerial Declaration (10 pages) does not mention forests.
<b>HLPF 2016 (no UNFF meeting)</b>	
April 2016	Letter from ECOSOC President inviting UNFF inputs to HLPF 2016 by 16 May 2016
May 2016	UNFF12 Bureau transmits UNFF inputs to HLPF (4 pages)
11-20 July 2016	HLPF 2016 convenes. Ministerial Declaration (9 pages) does not mention forests.

## Annex 10

### VNR preparatory process for HLPF 2022 (5-15 July 2022)

Date	Activity
29 July 2021	Letter from ECOSOC President to UN Perm Reps <sup>67</sup> inviting countries to present VNRs at HLPF 2022 <sup>68</sup>
7 Sept 2021	Follow up letter from ECOSOC President to UN Perm Reps noting that 15 countries have expressed interest in presenting VNRs at HLPF 2022
4 Oct 2021	Follow up letter from ECOSOC President to UN Perm Reps noting that 29 countries have expressed interest in presenting VNRs at HLPF 2022
13 Oct 2021	Follow up letter from ECOSOC President to UN Perm Reps noting that 45 countries have expressed interest in presenting VNRs at HLPF 2022 and his intention to give priority to first time presenters
18 Oct 2021	Joint letter from GA and ECOSOC Presidents to UN Perm Reps naming the co-chairs of the Informal Group of Friends of the VNRs (created in June 2019) to prepare discussions on specific VNRs at HLPF 2022
21 Oct 2021	Letter from ECOSOC President to UN Perm Reps closing the list of 46 countries that will present VNRs at HLPF 2022
25-29 Oct 2021	First Global Webinar for the VNRs virtually co-hosted by the Netherlands and DESA <sup>69</sup>
1-2 Mar 2022	ECA convenes a regional workshop for its 2022 VNR countries
8 Mar 2022	ECLAC convenes a regional workshop for its 2022 VNR countries
4 Apr 2022	ECE convenes a regional workshop for its 2022 VNR countries
11-13 Apr 2022	DESA/OISC convenes 2 <sup>nd</sup> Global Workshop on VNRs in hybrid format in Gaborone Botswana
6 May 2022	DESA/OISC prepares Note by the Secretariat: "Compilation of main messages for the 2022 voluntary national reviews" (70 pages) <sup>70</sup> . Compilation is by country.
Late June-early July	DESA/OISC prepares Secretariat Background Note on "Synthesis of Main Messages" from VNRs (8 pages) <sup>71</sup> . Figure 3 of the Background Note lists 10 sectors most often cited by countries as COVID-19 challenges. The forest sector is not listed.
	DESA publishes "2022 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report" (84 pages). <sup>72</sup> Pages 53-54 address SDG15.
	DESA/OISC convenes 3 <sup>rd</sup> Global Workshop on VNRs in New York
5-15 July 2022	DESA/OISC organizes 18 "VNR Labs" during HLPF 2022 to share experiences and reflect on the VNR process

<sup>67</sup> Refers to "Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations in New York"

<sup>68</sup> The six letters listed from the ECOSOC President (July-October) are available at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

<sup>69</sup>

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/29441Summary\\_First\\_Global\\_Webinar\\_2022\\_VNRs.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/29441Summary_First_Global_Webinar_2022_VNRs.pdf)

<sup>70</sup> <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/E%20HLPF%202022%205.pdf>

<sup>71</sup> <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Synthesis%20of%20VNR%20main%20messages%204%20July.pdf>

<sup>72</sup> <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/VNR%202022%20Synthesis%20Report.pdf>

## Annex 11 - References to forests in HLPF declarations since 2015

Year	HLPF Theme	SDG review	Declaration <sup>73</sup>	References to forests in HLPF in declarations
2022	Building back better from the corona virus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda	4 5 14 <u>15</u> 17	Ministerial Declaration (29 pages)	Ministers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaffirm commitment to sustainably manage forests (para 66)</li> <li>• Acknowledge with grave concern that the interrelated challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change, deforestation. . . pose an ever-greater. . . threat to the achievement of sustainable development (para 67)</li> <li>• Note with deep concern. . . that the impacts of deforestation. . . are challenges of global dimensions (para 67)</li> <li>• Recognize that combatting deforestation. . . is important for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis (para 67)</li> <li>• Emphasize the urgent need for SFM. . . and that forests. . . and other natural ecosystems are essential for sustainable development and that climate change. . . continue to pose a direct threat to them (para 69)</li> <li>• Reaffirm commitment to the UNSPF and its GFGs. . . welcome the outcome of UNFF17. . . reaffirm UNFF’s role in promoting sustainable management and conservation of forests, as well as the mobilization of means of implementation. . . take note with appreciation. . . of the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use (para 71)</li> </ul>
2021	Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development	1 2 3 8 10 12 13 16 17	Ministerial Declaration (18 pages)	Para 36: Ministers call for increased ambition and urgency of action to . . . reversing the trends in environmental degradation through the restoration of ecosystems, halting biodiversity loss and deforestation, promoting sustainable forest management . . .
2020	“Accelerated action and transformative pathways: Realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”		Ministerial Declaration (7 pages)	Ministers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity loss, deforestation, . . . remain global challenges (para 7)</li> <li>• Recommit to. . . reversing the trends in environmental degradation through the restoration of ecosystems, halting biodiversity loss and deforestation . . . forest restoration. . . (para 36)</li> </ul>

<sup>73</sup> Page lengths are based on UN documents which format these outcome texts in single space with Times New Roman font 10.

2019	HLPF under ECOSOC auspices: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality	4 8 10 13 16 17	Summary by ECOSOC President (20 pages)	Para 34 under Goal 13: Climate action: “SFM can contribute significantly to combating climate change. Successful implementation and scaling-up of forest-based actions can reduce greenhouse gases by an estimated 15 gigatons of equivalent carbon dioxide a year by 2050, potentially closing the current emissions gap.”
	HLPF under GA auspices: SDG Summit		Political declaration (6 pages)	No forest references
2018	“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”	6 7 11 12 <u>15</u> 17	Ministerial declaration (10 pages)	Para 27 – Ministers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasize that forests. . . and other natural ecosystems are essential for sustainable</li> <li>• Recognize that . . . illegal logging, land use change. . . are global drivers of biodiversity loss</li> <li>• Note protected forests are on the rise and deforestation has slowed but problems remain</li> <li>• Acknowledge biodiversity targets depend on actions from forestry and other sectors</li> <li>• Commit to implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests, and substantially increasing afforestation and reforestation globally by 2020</li> <li>• Commit to increase efforts to facilitate investment in gender-responsive programmes that address problems of deforestation, . . . including through implementation of the UNSPF, UNFI. . . and scaled- up support by CPF.</li> <li>• Commit to improve. . . remote sensing to tackle, in particular, illegal logging and wildlife trafficking</li> </ul>
2017	“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” (First of SDG thematic clusters)	1 2 5 9 14 17	Ministerial Declaration (10 pages)	No forest references
2016	“Ensuring that no one is left behind”	NA	Ministerial Declaration (9 pages)	No forest references

## Annex 12

### Responses to Questions G-1, G-2 and G-3 in the consolidated questionnaire<sup>74</sup>

**Question G-1:** In your view, how well on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being very well) have the Forum's annual inputs to the HLPF on forest benefits and interlinkages with other SDGs been reflected in the HLPF declarations:<sup>75</sup>

*Canada: It has been difficult to understand whether UNFF recommendations carry any impact on the HLPF and whether this should be the UNFF format going forward. A report to the Forum on how the input is used (i.e., where we can find our recommendation in HLPF reports) would be helpful.*

\_\_\_\_\_ HLPF ministerial declarations in 2018 and 2022 (SDG15 theme years)

3: Colombia, Kenya, Malawi, Switzerland, ITTO, IUFRO

3-4: Forest Europe

4: China, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, USA

5: Romania, ACTO, MG Children & Youth

*USA: In 2022, the GFGs were referenced in the declaration and forests in general had around 10 references in the document.*

\_\_\_\_\_ HLPF ministerial declarations in 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (non-SDG15 theme years)

1: Switzerland, IUFRO

2: Colombia, Malawi, USA

3: ITTO

3-4: Forest Europe

4: China, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines

5: Romania, ACTO, MG Children & Youth

*El Salvador: La inserción de una entidad de alto nivel, incrementa la posibilidad de ser parte de la agenda de país*

*Switzerland: The inputs from the UNFF sessions sent to the HLPF had not much effect. The HLPF might not be the venue to promote the forests...*

*USA: In 2021, forests and deforestation were only mentioned once in reference to biodiversity. However, some years may have had more adequate references as stated in the footnote*

**Question G-2:** In your view, which of the following should be considered to enhance the visibility of forest contributions at HLPF sessions and better reflect the interlinkages between forests and the SDGs in HLPF declarations (check all that may be useful):

\_\_\_\_\_ Earlier input into relevant aspects of the HLPF preparatory process by the UNFF, its members, secretariat and partners (CPF, Major Groups, regional/subregional organizations).

<sup>74</sup> Of the 26 responses to the consolidated questionnaire, 5 did not respond to the G Questions.

<sup>75</sup> Australia, Canada and New Zealand did not respond to Question G-1.



*Checked by 17: Australia, Canada, China, El Salvador, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria (5)<sup>76</sup>, Panama (4)<sup>77</sup>, Romania, ITTO, IUFRO, ACTO, Forest Europe, MG Children & Youth*

*Switzerland: Yes, the UNFF focal points should be more vocal and engaging*

*USA: Due to the schedule of annual UNFF sessions, we already work through the UNFF bureau to provide early input into HLPF before our formal discussions.*

*ITTO: CPF members should be invited to present at the HLPF from their perspectives*

\_\_\_\_ Increased role for the UNFF Bureau in representing the Forum and promoting forest/SDG interlinkages at HLPF regional and global preparatory meetings.

*Checked by 14: Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria (5), Panama (4), Romania, ACTO, Forest Europe*

*Switzerland: No, it is up to the UNFF focal points should be more vocal and engaging*

*USA: Bureau members represent their region, but do not represent all Member States. The UNFF bureau has not always had consistent representation from all UN regions.*

*ITTO: Benefits are unknown. No comment.*

\_\_\_\_ Enhanced coordination in capitals between UNFF focal points and those responsible for the HLPF and preparation of VNRs.

*Checked by 17: Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, New Zealand, Nigeria (4), Panama (4), Philippines, Romania, USA, IUFRO, ACTO, Forest Europe, MG Children & Youth*

*Switzerland: Definitely but one has to realize that the HLPF ministerial declarations are mainly negotiated in New York and tend to be longer and longer, losing much of the expected impact.*

*ITTO: Coordination with focal points of other IGOs (like ITTO) should also be considered as it will provide a more holistic preparation process relating to forests and their VNRs.*

\_\_\_\_ Enhanced consultations between the UNFF and its secretariat and UN Regional Economic Commissions, particularly their Forums on Sustainable Development.

*Checked by 18: Australia, Canada, China, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria (5), Panama (4), Philippines, Romania, USA, ITTO, IUFRO, ACTO, Forest Europe, MG Children & Youth*

*Switzerland: This should be done at the level of focal points*

\_\_\_\_ Enhanced coordination between the UNFF Secretariat and DESA's Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, which supports the HLPF process.

*Checked by 14: Australia, Canada, China, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria (4), Panama (4), Philippines, Romania, ITTO, IUFRO, ACTO, MG Children & Youth*

*Switzerland: Not sure this will be helpful for this purpose*

<sup>76</sup> Nigeria indicated relative importance (likely on a scale of 1 to 5 per Question G-1).

<sup>77</sup> Panama indicated relative importance (likely on a scale of 1 to 5 per Question G-1).

\_\_\_ Other:

*Australia: Drawing stronger linkages and visibilities of the impact of other sectors on forests and increasing visibility of these links and responsibilities through relevant SDGs.*

*Malawi: Enhanced collaboration between UNFF and national governments (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to encourage participation of political authorities at the HLPF*

**Question G-3: In your view, which of the following should UNFF pursue to increase the political relevance of forests to the broader sustainable development agenda (check all that may be useful)?**

\_\_\_ Preparation of a report and associated targeted communication products on the multiple contributions of forests/SFM to the SDGs, including in the context of COVID-19 recovery.

*Checked by 17: Australia, China, Colombia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama (4), Philippines, Romania, USA, ITTO, ACTO, Forest Europe, MG Children & Youth*

*Switzerland: Rather than a report, well-tailored communication products should be discussed during the next UNFF*

\_\_\_ Building on the momentum of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, foster enhanced coordination among forestry, agricultural and other sectors at all levels (GFG 6.3).

*Checked by 17: Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama (5), Philippines, Romania, ITTO, ACTO, Forest Europe, MG Children & Youth*

*Switzerland: Definitely. The last UNFF session had also very interesting presentations – we should cooperate with such organisations further.*

*ITTO: This will be challenging*

\_\_\_ Enhanced coordination in capitals between focal points for UNFF and the Rio conventions.

*Checked by 15: Australia, Canada, China, Kenya, Malawi, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama (4), Philippines, Romania, USA, ITTO, IUFRO, ACTO, MG Children & Youth*

*Switzerland: This is a prerequisite to get a better coordination and commitments from the CPF*

*ITTO: Also with other IGOs*

\_\_\_ Increased role for the UNFF Bureau in representing the UNFF and promoting forest/SDG interlinkages at key meetings of the Rio conventions.

*Checked by 16: Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama (5), Philippines, Romania, ACTO, Forest Europe, MG Children & Youth*

*Switzerland: No. This belongs to the tasks of the director of UNFF*

*ITTO: The CPF will be better placed to do this*

\_\_\_ Enhanced coordination in capitals on the preparation of NDCs (UNFCCC), VNCs (UNFF) and VNRs (HLPF).

*Checked by 13: China, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama (5), Philippines, Romania, USA, IUFRO, ACTO, MG Children & Youth*

*ITTO: Perhaps*

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**Other:**

*El Salvador: En proceso de exploración de oportunidades para el país.*

*New Zealand: Increased collaboration with other relevant bodies to promote awareness of the relevance of forests to the broader SDG agenda.*

*We note that all the suggestions above are supported, and would encourage the UNFF to pursue and secure funding for any initiatives that may emerge.*

*USA: UNFF should more actively provide inputs to regional economic commissions, regional environmental ministerial conferences, and other forest fora. UNFF Member States should include forest issues in those bodies' agendas.*

*IUFRO: Make use of existing reports, including scientific reports, and related communication products on the multiple contributions of forests/SFM to the SDGs (and vice versa), such as:*

- *IUFRO Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment (IUFRO-WFSE) undertook an assessment<sup>78</sup> of potential and anticipated impacts of efforts towards attaining the different SDGs on forests and forest-related livelihoods and development;*
- *IUFRO-led CPF Joint Initiative Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) has developed global scientific assessment reports describing the links between SDG 15 and other SDGs, such as the GFEP assessment on Forests and Food Security<sup>79</sup> (SDG 2); assessment report on Forests and Water<sup>80</sup> (SDG 6); assessment on Forests and Poverty<sup>81</sup> (SDG 1) and the ongoing assessment on Forests and Human Health<sup>82</sup> (SDG 3).*

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<sup>78</sup> <https://www.iufro.org/science/wfse/sustainable-development-goals/>

<sup>79</sup> <https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/gfep-initiative/panel-on-forests-and-food-security/>

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/gfep-initiative/panel-on-forests-and-water/>

<sup>81</sup> <https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/gfep-initiative/panel-on-forests-and-poverty/>

<sup>82</sup> <https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/gfep-initiative/panel-on-forests-and-human-health>

## Annex 13

### List of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies

#### Functional commissions

Statistical Commission  
Commission on Population and Development  
Commission on Social Development  
Commission on Status of Women  
Commission on Narcotic Drugs  
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice  
Commission on Science and Technology for Development  
UN Forum on Forests (established 2000)

#### Expert bodies

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on the Globally Harmonized System of  
Classification and Labeling Chemicals  
Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting  
UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names  
Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management  
Committee for Development Policy  
Committee of Experts on Public Administration  
Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters  
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues