

**Preparations for the Midterm Review of the International Arrangement on Forests  
UNFF Expert Group Meeting on the  
UNFF's contribution to the 2030 Agenda, Involvement of Regional/Subregional Partners, and Involvement of  
Major Group and Other Relevant Stakeholders  
11-13 January 2023, UNESCAP, Bangkok-Thailand**

**Co-Chairs Summary**

**I. Background**

1. In its resolution 2015/33, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) strengthened and extended the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) to 2030. The Council further requested the Forum to undertake a midterm, and final review of the effectiveness of the IAF in achieving its objectives in 2024, and 2030. The seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF17), which took place in May 2022, considered and decided the actions to be taken in preparation for the IAF midterm review in 2024 (ECOSOC Resolution 2022/17<sup>1</sup>). These actions are contained in ten sections in the annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, which include Section G: Actions related to the contributions of the Forum to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Section I: Actions related to the involvement of regional and subregional partners; and Section J: Actions related to the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders. In response to paragraphs G.4, I.4, and J.5 of annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, the UNFF Secretariat recruited two consultants to conduct preliminary assessments on Sections G, I, and J. In accordance with relevant provisions of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, these preliminary assessments should be discussed at an intersessional meeting.

2. The UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) organized the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) from 11 to 13 January 2023 in a hybrid format at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand. The main objectives of this meeting were to allow experts from Member States, international forest-related organizations, regional and sub-regional partners, and civil society to review the findings of and share their views on the three assessment reports, prepared by the consultants on Section G, I and J of annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17.

**II. Opening of the meeting**

3. The meeting was opened by Ms. Juliette Biao, Director of the UNFF Secretariat. In her opening remarks, Ms. Biao welcomed the participants to the meeting. In her remarks, Ms. Biao outlined background, objective and expected outcome of the meeting, and provided views of the UNFF Secretariat on issues under consideration by the EGM. In particular, she highlighted the importance for the EGM to identify additional opportunities for the enhanced contribution of the UNFF, its members and the secretariat, as well as the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant stakeholders to the 2030 Agenda, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), and the Rio Conventions through strengthening coherent implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF). She further stressed the importance to consider strengthening regional and subregional forest policy development, dialogue, and coordination in support of the achievement of the Global Forest Goals (GFGs). Furthermore, she underscored the need to ensure effective participation of all regional, subregional, major groups and other relevant stakeholders in decision-making at the regional, subregional, and local levels, and strengthening their capacity to enable them to adequately translate the GFGs into action and integrate them in their operational programs on forests.

4. Following Ms. Biao's remarks, experts elected Ms. Farrah Shameen Binti Mohamad Ashray, Under Secretary, Division of Forestry Management of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Malaysia, and Mr. Thomas Haussmann, Head of the Liaison Unit Bonn, FOREST EUROPE, as the Co-Chairs of the EGM. In their opening remarks, the Co-Chairs provided detailed information about the programme for the meeting. They informed that discussions

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<sup>1</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/438/29/pdf/N2243829.pdf?OpenElement>

on each of the three assessment reports will be held separately, according to the programme of work for the meeting. In this respect, following the presentation of each assessment reports by the consultant, experts would be invited to share their views on the findings and suggestions contained in the relevant assessment report, and/or seek clarification from consultants. The experts also were invited to share their own suggestions and proposals related to the topic of the assessment report. The Co-Chairs informed that following the conclusion of the discussions of the EGM, a draft Co-Chairs' summary of key suggested actions on the three areas of assessment would be shared with participants for further discussions during the last day of the meeting.

### **III. Discussions on consultant's assessment report on Section G: Actions related to the contribution of UNFF to 2030 Agenda**

5. The Co-Chair invited Ms. Stephanie Caswell to present her assessment report. Ms. Caswell made a power point presentation on Assessment G, "Actions related to UNFF contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". She briefly reviewed the three G actions contained in the Annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17 and the sources of information for the assessment, which included responses to the consolidated questionnaire circulated by the UNFF18 Chair to elicit views from Member States and partners on the range actions contained in the Annex to resolution 2022/17. Ms. Caswell presented 17 conclusions on Action G-1 to "assess UNFF contributions to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) on forest-SDG interlinkages and the extent to which these contributions are reflected in HLPF outcomes since the adoption of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33." Her conclusions covered four areas: (a) Forest-SDG interlinkages, (b) challenges inherent in the HLPF process, (c) UNFF related inputs and impacts and (d) the central role of Member States.

6. Ms. Caswell then presented 24 recommendations related to Actions G-2 and G-3 which were to:

- a. Identify 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. (G-2)
- b. Propose 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 SDG. (G-3)

7. She added that given the close interlinkages between Actions G-2 and G-3, the recommendations covered both "additional opportunities" and "proposed measures", which were directed to the UNFF Bureau, the UNFF Secretariat, Member States, CPF and other partners.

8. Following presentation of by Ms. Caswell, experts engaged in interactive discussions. A summary of key points of the discussions on actions related to the UNFF's contribution to 2030 Agenda are presented below.

- a. More attention should be given during UNFF sessions to the interlinkages of SDGs and GFGs and during the HLPF sessions, and its ministerial declarations.
- b. There is a need for UNFF, its Bureau and UNFFS to continue to contribute to the HLPF and increase awareness on and the visibility of forests in the HLPF discussions, and their contributions to the SDGs. It would be useful that UNFF to know in advance of the cluster of SDGs for the next session of the HLPF and discuss its input one year earlier, e.g., to discuss in UNFF session in 2023, the HLPF SDGs cluster to be discussed in 2024.
- c. There should be enhanced coordination between UNFF-NFPs and HLPF-FPs in drafting the VNRs, including through national intersectoral coordination mechanisms.

- d. The interlinkages of forests and SDGs are not limited to SDG15. It is useful for countries and stakeholders to be aware of the contribution of forests to all SDGs, and to the principle of leaving no one behind. and to best use the relevant FRA data to highlight such contributions. In this respect, it might be useful to do some background work to show which SDGs targets are relevant to forests, as well as the impacts of implementation of the SDGs on forests.
- e. The responsibility for identifying the benefits of forests to the SDGs rests with national governments, and governments are now beyond developing inventories, and are now engaged at the implementation stage.
- f. CPF and UNFFS should be more involved in helping countries in preparation of the VNRs at their request and creating clear concise messages instead of organizing HLEs.
- g. The importance of Addis Ababa Action Agenda to the 2030 Agenda and facilitating its implementation was noted and its reference should be added to the report.
- h. UNFF must concentrate on providing inputs to the HLPF declarations which are adopted by the GA, e.g. by holding meeting of UNFF Bureau with the Co-Chairs, who are facilitating negotiations on the declaration. Also, like HLPF which has major group's coordination mechanism, UNFF can also set up Major Groups coordinating mechanism.
- i. Reference to the international events, and declarations, e.g., the specific reference to the Glasgow Declaration in the proposed recommendations by the consultant should be broadened to include other declarations while noting that the declarations are not negotiated texts. There is also a need to go beyond the three Rio Conventions and include all relevant COPs and governing bodies and councils of CPF member organizations, world forest congress, and other forest related bodies to enhance synergies. In terms of language, it is also important to use agreed language from UNFI suitable to UNFF such as addressing underlined causes of /combating deforestation/illegal practices instead of 'halting deforestation' in the suggested recommendations.
- j. It is important to acknowledge forest contributions to other development sectors, including the economic sector and the fact that countries need support to prepare their VNRs and to highlight the contributions of forests to other sectors in those reports.
- k. IAF-MTR is an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation to promote SFM, including but not limited to means of implementation, finance, and technology transfer. There is also a need to improve data on socio-economic benefits of forests. There is also a need to have greater clarity about Bureau's input and Chair's summary to the HLPF, and make sure that all countries are alerted about input opportunities in the preparation process of such inputs. Moreover, there should be more attention to regional and local conditions. The UNFF may need to map the opportunities for international cooperation, resource mobilization and technological cooperation, including N-S, S-S, and triangular cooperation.
- l. UNFF has set in place a reasonable process to provide input to the HLPF. The recommendations for short and concise messages by UNFF to HLPF, and it is important such inputs to be shared by UNFF-NFPs and UNFFS with the HLPF NFPs. CPF should coordinate on top-line messages from its collective membership to the HLPF. On MoU with the Rio Conventions, and on enhancing coherence on the NDCs, VNRs, and VNCs, there is a need for further clarifications.
- m. There has been increased attention and visibility to forests in the global policy agenda in recent years, so and we need to build further on these positive trends and improve further recognition of contribution of forests to addressing global challenges, including by preparing a more detailed targeted communication products including in international communications.

- n. Countries should invite more engagement of MGs in the implementation process of the GFGs and SDGs and should also encouraged to support engagement of MGs in the work of the UNFF.
- o. Scientific knowledge plays an important role in highlighting the interlinkages of forests and the SDGs. It is necessary to use the existing scientific reports on their interlinkages, including those reports prepared by the CPF members, including IUFRO. It is necessary that AHEG review all IAF-MTR assessment reports and the outcomes of the intersessional meetings in a holistic manner. Enhanced coordination and cooperation on scientific issues and forest governance is also key.
- p. The global core-set of forest related indicators could be useful means to further identify the contribution of forests to the SDGs. Regional organizations can also contribute to the UNFF input to the HLPP.
- q. It is important to share the experiences and best practices of those countries that have good inter-ministerial coordination in place, with other countries, and also consider how resources from all these agencies can be mobilized to support implementation of the SDGs at all levels.

#### **IV. Discussions on consultant's assessment report on Section I: Actions related to the involvement of regional and subregional partners**

9. The Co-Chair invited Mr. Mafa Chipeta to present his assessment report. Mr. Chipeta made a power point presentation on Assessment I, "Actions related to the involvement of regional and subregional partners". He explained that the presentation was based on his detailed report on Assessment I. In this report, he has reviewed the three actions specified in section I of Annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, taking into account the available sources of information including the responses to the consolidated questionnaire circulated by the UNFF18 Chair in August 2022. His report included an Executive Summary, the detailed assessment, several conclusions, and recommendations. In his presentation, Mr. Chipeta highlighted the following key conclusions and recommendations in his report on Assessment I:

- a. The regional/subregional partners existed mostly to serve their own constituencies and other global umbrellas, including the IAF. These partners were diverse to aim at a joint workplan but could try for shared prioritization and synergy of their work with the IAF.
- b. Their engagement in the UNFF policy dialogue, though strong, was not easily measurable but more effort was required to improve their further engagement.
- c. The UNFF could gain from focusing segments of its sessions and events in rotation to various regions and also periodically do the same for its potential future flagship Global Forest Goals Report.
- d. The Forum should improve support to regional and subregional partners, especially for non-intergovernmental entities, including by attracting financial resources from regional development banks and other players such as private sector, and philanthropies to support the forest-related activities of these partners, both under IAF and other umbrellas.
- e. The lack of connection of regional/subregional partners from other partners such as Major Groups may not be helpful, and the interaction between regional and subregional partners with various IAF components, such as the CPF would be an important complement to the work of the UNFF, and the IAF.

10. Following presentation of by Mr. Mafa Chipeta, experts engaged in interactive discussions. A summary of key points of the discussions on the involvement of regional and subregional partners are presented below:

- a. The important roles of regional and subregional partners in advancing implementation of SFM, and in particular, the GFGs were highlighted. It was noted by some experts that these partners are supporting the

respective countries and communities in promoting SFM, development and management of forest related projects, and mobilization of resources and investment on forests.

- b. There is a need to have an analysis on the work of these partners, especially, their successes in their work, the areas that they need support. It is equally important to support the capacity of these partners, including by building their reporting capacity on the GFGs and SDGs.
- c. There has been great work done by many of regional and subregional partners in supporting their members and communities, which need to be shared with other regions and subregions. Many donors have also provided support to the work of these partners. In this respect, it is necessary to promote information sharing and collaboration across regions and subregions on the best practices, so as to replicate the successes in other regions.
- d. The insufficiency of resources to support the work of regional and subregional partners is a factor which impacts negatively the efficiency of the work of these partners in contributing to the work of UNFF and the objectives of the IAF. In this respect, it is important to explore means to address this issue, including by involving regional development banks, philanthropic organizations and private sector associations to support the activities of these partners.
- e. It is important to include regional perspectives on the progress towards the GFGs in the potential future issues of Global Forest Goals Reports, in a concise manner, including through case studies.
- f. The FAO Regional Forestry Commissions are important partners at various regions which are already contributing to the implementation of the UNSPF and achievement of the GFGs. These Commissions facilitate regional discussions on issues related to forests, including the implementation of the UNSPF and GFGs. They play a role in the IAF and implementation of the relevant commitments in the regions, and UNSPF/UNFF issues are integrated in the agenda of their sessions. UNFFS also participates in those meetings. So, there is already good collaboration with these entities. This collaboration needs to continue in a flexible manner. The need to be careful about overlapping between the work of UNFF and FAO RFCs was also noted.
- g. Inadequate reporting on the implementation of SFM on the ground by the regional and subregional partners does not necessarily means lack of action by member countries, particularly in developing countries but this in many cases is due to the lack of resources, poor documentation and reporting capacity of these partners. So, it is important to explore the means to improve the capacity of these entities, including by organizing capacity development workshops and other means, and encourage these partners to consider using forest experts.
- h. Regarding the low level of involvement of regional and subregional partners and the resources to support their engagement in the work of the IAF, some experts asked if these was due to the non-legally binding nature of the IAF. Due to some comparison made between the Rio Conventions and the UNFF at this meeting, some experts noted that UNFF cannot be compared with legally binding treaties with their own legally specified financial mechanisms such as the GEF. but UNFF, as a policy forum, can still influence important work on SFM at global and regional/subregional levels by highlighting the political importance of forests in implementing the SDG agenda. In addition, there are many other funding opportunities for UNFF, including leveraging the GFFFN. There could be also other ways for the regional partners to work with each other to address issues related to funding. Several experts requested all issues related to financing should be consolidated and addressed in the GFFFN section.
- i. It could be useful to carry out an analysis on the reasons for lack of participation of regional and subregional partners, including the regional development banks in the UNFF process. We need also to analyze the reasons for low level of response to the IAF questionnaire and address the potential issues, as well as the reasons for success and failure of their work, the areas that they need assistance, and suggestions how to address the problems.

**V. Discussions on consultant's assessment report on Section J: Actions related to the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders**

11. The Co-Chair invited Mr. Mafa Chipeta to present his assessment report. Mr. Chipeta made a power point presentation on Assessment J, "Actions related to the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders-MGoSs". He explained that the presentation was based on his detailed report on Assessment J. In this report, he has reviewed the four actions specified in section J of Annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, taking into account the available sources of information including the responses to the consolidated questionnaire circulated by the UNFF18 Chair in August 2022. His report included an Executive Summary, the detailed assessment, several conclusions, and recommendations. In his presentation, Mr. Chipeta highlighted the following key conclusions and recommendations in his report on Assessment J:

- a. The Major Group representatives who were regularly participated in the UNFF sessions, were a small part of the forest-interested Major Groups with ECOSOC consultative status. In this respect, increased representation of these representatives is crucial.
- b. The practical actions of these stakeholders on the ground, and their participation in the work of the Forum should be supported, including through financial and technical support from the UNFF Trust Fund and the GFFFN, as well as private sector and philanthropic sources, as appropriate.
- c. Formal coordination procedures and focal point systems were very heavy and complex and might threaten agility in action or policy dialogue. Nevertheless, it was important to respect the UN-linked coordination/ focal points/ democratic system, and at the same time, make it nimbler Compliance with joint workplans was encouraging but required further improvement.
- d. In potential future publication of Global Forest Goals Report, it would be necessary to deepen identification of the GFG sub-goals that needed more adequate attention by key players including the MGoSs.

12. Following presentation of by Mr. Mafa Chipeta, experts engaged in interactive discussions. A summary of key points of the discussions on the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders (MGoSs) are presented below:

- a. MGoSs involvement and engagement in the UNFF work and their contribution to the technical discussions and policy dialogue of UNFF sessions are very important. It is necessary that MGoSs engage in discussions on all agenda items of the UNFF sessions.
- b. To further facilitate the involvement of MGoSs in the work of the Forum, and in advancing implementation of the UNSPF, MGoSs need support, including in regard to building their technical capacities, and participation in Forum's meetings. It is also beneficial to have training for MGoSs on resource mobilization strategies.
- c. Many MGoSs do not have ECOSOC consultative status. There is a need for the ones that are already most active in ECOSOC, including the IAF to represent them more effectively. There is a need to improve communication including addressing language barriers and diversities and use methodologies that foster meaningful MGoSs engagement.
- d. It is important to recognize the role of youth, children, women, and indigenous peoples and their experiences, as well as their educational, employment and livelihood needs.
- e. One step to further enhance the involvement of MGoSs could be the establishment of a UNFF MGoSs coordination mechanism, similar to the one for the HLPF.

- f. It is important for UNFF MGOs to be connected and collaborate with MGOs in other processes such as the HLPF and the Rio Conventions, and initiatives promoting SFM, including trees outside forests.
- g. There is a need to utilize the robust MGOs governance structures better in order to seize opportunities, and to aligning with topical issues such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, and livelihood; and other forest related processes such as trees outside forest initiatives in Bangladesh FFF/FAO to raise the profile of SFM and the IAF.

## **VI. Proposals on Section G, I and J**

13. The following are the main proposals and suggestions emanated from the discussions during the expert group meeting on Section G, I and J.

### **A. Actions related to Contribution of UNFF to 2030 Agenda**

14. The following are the main proposals and suggestions emanating from the discussions during the expert group meeting on Section G, I and J.

15. The UNFF may wish to:

15.1. Request/Invite the UNFF Bureau and UNFF members to:

- a. Continue to provide timely inputs to the HLPF on forest-SDG interlinkages<sup>2</sup> 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. Engage with Member States to facilitate their contributions and review of the input on behalf of the UNFF

15.2. Request the UNFF Secretariat to:

- a. Assist and facilitate the UNFF Bureau and Forum Members with respect to item 15.1 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 suitable for a variety of audiences to highlight the contributions of forests to the SDGs under review in a given year, their interlinkages, and the critical importance of achieving of target 15.b<sup>3</sup> to fully realize these contributions, drawing on the FRA and existing studies, including scientific studies by CPF members.
- 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 to provide joint input to HLPF with a view to sending consistent “key messages” on forests to HLPF.

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<sup>2</sup> “Forest-SDG linkages” is understood to refer to the contributions of forests, SFM and the SDG15 forest-related targets to the other 16 SDGs, as well as the potential impacts of actions in other sectors on forests.

<sup>3</sup> SDG15.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.

- h. Enhance collaboration with the secretariats of the Rio conventions, and other relevant bodies and conventions on forest-related issues of mutual interest.
- i. Consider establishing a UNFF “Major Group and Other Relevant Stakeholder” (MGoS) coordination mechanism to strengthen collaboration with the HLPF MGoS Coordination Mechanism.

15.3. Invite Member States to:

- a. Strengthen international cooperation to promote SFM, including in the relation to means of implementation, finance, technology transfer, sharing best practices, scientific exchange and other activities promoting SFM.
- b. Include forest/UNFF experts on their HLPF delegations and their delegations to key meetings of the Rio conventions and other relevant international intergovernmental bodies.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- e. Include Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders in their VNR preparation processes.
- f. Advocate more concise and impactful HLPF declarations and the inclusion of a 1–2-page executive summary of key points and commitments<sup>4</sup>, as well as more streamlined and focused templates for intergovernmental inputs to HLPF.
- g. 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.
- h. Discuss at the UNFF sessions the input on forest-SDGs interlinkages regarding the cluster of SDGs to be discussed at the following year session of the HLPF in order to submit the message from the UNFF within the timeframe requested by the HLPF.

15.4. Invite CPF and its members to:

- a. Work within their respective secretariats to articulate and promote recognition of forest-SDG interlinkages in their organizations’ inputs to HLPF.
- b. Coordinate on “topline” key messages to the HLPF on forest interlinkages (benefits and threats) with the SDGs under review in a given year.

15.5. Invite UNFF Major Group focal points to share 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.

15.6. Invite UN regional economic commissions to promote forest/SDG interlinkages, both benefits and threats, especially through their forums on sustainable development.

15.7. 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 DESA-OISC reports and to consider limiting intergovernmental inputs to a maximum of two pages.



## **B. Actions related to the involvement of regional and subregional partners**

16. To further improve the engagement of the regional and subregional partners in the work of UNFF, the regional and subregional partners are invited to sustain support to countries in respective regions to prepare them for UNFF and related sessions under other conventions and frameworks where forests feature strongly and to domesticate the global IAF objectives and related UNFF decisions to their reality.

17. To establish or strengthen processes/platforms for achieving SFM, the regional and subregional partners are invited to:

- a. Consider pursuing engagement of regional or subregional financial institutions, such as regional development/investment banks to expand collaboration on issues related to forests, and to attract funding for their forest-related activities and participation in relevant meetings.
- b. Explore options to organize a regional/subregional partner-led initiatives to provide inputs to the Forum.

18. On options for further involvement of regional and subregional partners, the Forum, subject to availability of resources, is invited to:

- a. Consider the ways to enhance support to the regional/subregional partners, including by organizing capacity development workshops on issues such as reporting on the GFGs and the SDGs, and training workshop on resource mobilization.
- b. Devote in its technical sessions, specific meeting to regions, on a rotating basis, to share their experiences and issues related to the implementation of the UNSPF.
- c. Engage more actively regional financial institutions/development banks in UNFF sessions to build relationship and networking.
- d. Promote cross-regions collaboration and information-sharing on the success stories and best practices on the implementation of the UNSPF and the GFGs
- e. Conduct specific analysis to better understand needs of regional/subregional partners and identify actions to address the related gaps and problems.
- f. Consider including the regional perspectives in the potential future issues of **The Global Forest Goals Report**, in a concise manner, such as through case studies, or best practices.
- g. Consider promoting interaction between regional/subregional intergovernmental organizations with CPF.

## **C. Actions related to the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders**

19. On assessing the level of engagement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the work of the Forum:

19.1. MGoS are invited to:

- a. Continue to arrange multi-stakeholder dialogue and participate in and contribute to the discussions on all items of UNFF sessions.
- b. Exchange ideas and best practice on how to better capture action opportunities from additional forest related frameworks and track the progress in those frameworks, including for use in future issues of the GFGR.
- c. Act to pursue SFM in a more multi-sectoral, livelihoods-linked manner, using other forest-related frameworks such as climate change, and biodiversity, to promote the forest agenda and to mobilize resources for it.

- d. Provide regular updates to the UNFF on contribution of MGs to the implementation of the UNSPF, using MGs agreed format.
  - e. Organize a MG Led Initiative to discuss issues related to the IAF-MTR in advance of UNFF19.
- 19.2. The CPF is invited to engage in dialogue with MGoSs and support complementary interventions by the MGoS in implementation of the UNSPF to deliver fuller results, and to pursue closer partnerships with them in context of the work of UNFF.
- 20. On assessing the efforts made by the major groups to establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for interaction and participation in the Forum and other forest-related United Nations bodies, MGoSs are invited to:
  - a. Strengthen engagement in the unified workplan (together with some complementary plans for some MGoS) in support of both UNFF policy dialogue and field SFM implementation and by demonstrating synergy in their work, collaboratively raise funding from new and additional reliable sources (such as the private sector and philanthropies) for their SFM activities. Use regular follow-ups to the recently initiated progress tracking and reporting to encourage financial backers to sustain support for MGoS contributions to UNSPF implementation.
  - b. Apply collective pragmatism to the use of the highly structured UN coordination system based on focal points and consultation at levels from grassroots to global to achieve nimble operational procedures within the forests agenda and for cross-learning with MGoSs in other sectors and frameworks.
  - c. Use the UNFF sessions and related intersessional events as opportunities to explore ways for retaining the practice of intra-MGoS consultation, without compromising the pace of processes or action.
  - d. Consider establishing a coordinating mechanism for UNFF MGs, similar to the coordinating MGs mechanism for the HLPF to promote more inclusive and transparent representation of MG and effective inputs to the UNFF.
- 21. On assessing their ability to deliver effective representation within their constituencies, major groups and other relevant stakeholders are invited to:
  - a. Seek ways to encourage greater representation of major group inputs while respecting the internal traditions of consultation, and explore ways and means that make the heavy representation structure agile in fulfilling their ambitions related to responding to requests for MGoS inputs,
  - b. Seize opportunities, and securing resources for dialogue or action, including finances.
- 22. On identifying potential financial resources that could facilitate the Major Group-led Initiative in support of UNFF:
  - 22.1. The MGoSs are invited to:
    - a. Energetically pursue participation of Local Authorities, Business and Industry and Philanthropies in key areas of MGoS interest (sometimes also the public sector which has more assured budgets), in the work of the MGoS.
    - b. Explore means to promote partnership with the large-scale forest industry groups such as those under WBCSD, which have invested billions in forestry.
    - c. Collectively as MGs associated with the IAF/UNFF process, consider creating capacity for full-time pursuit of funding at both field and global levels, including from philanthropies.
    - d. Organize a capacity building training workshop for fundraising for MGoSs.
    - e. Explore the possibility of attracting SFM funding from existing global agendas, such as donor contributions to climate change and biodiversity.
  - 22.2. The Forum is invited to support MGoSs to mobilize more financial resources than has proved possible so far to allow their engagement in the implementation process.