

## Questionnaire on the Mid-Term Review of the International Arrangement on Forests

### Introduction

In accordance with its programme of work, the UN Forum on Forests at its seventeenth session (UNFF17) adopted an [omnibus resolution](#). The annex to this resolution contains the actions to be taken in preparation for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). The resolution calls 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 the process, the UNFF Secretariat has hired several consultants to assist in the preparation of background papers and assessments. This questionnaire is prepared by the consultants to solicit views from UNFF national focal points and representatives of relevant stakeholders, for use in their assessments. You are kindly invited to send your responses to the UNFF Secretariat at: [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org), with copy to [yan.lang@un.org](mailto:yan.lang@un.org) by **30 September 2022**.

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### A. Questions related to the United Nations Forum on Forests and its members

**Question A-1:** Considering the objectives of the [IAF](#), what progress has been made by the UNFF and its Members towards:

- a. Implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests?

The promotion of principles and values of sustainable forest management (SFM) are central to the UNFF's work, and we are pleased to see an increasing focus on forests globally, along with growing recognition and value placed on SFM principles. We are particularly pleased to see the growing recognition that SFM is broader than the forestry-sector, and there is an increasing drive to consider it through a climate and biodiversity lens.

We are a strong supporter of the UNFF Flagship Publication, and we consider the Global Forest Goals report to be a positive example of SFM progress globally. Further, it is particularly pleasing to see that the steps for improving the reporting process in the next cycle are being considered, in order to continue to hone this important process going forward.

It is good to see that several extensive SFM C&I frameworks have been adopted by separate countries and regions, which provide a good basis to build upon.

- b. Enhancing cooperation, coordination, coherence, and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels?
- c. Promoting North-South, South-South, triangular cooperation, public-private partnerships, and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels?

- d. Strengthening forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI)
- e. Strengthening long-term political commitment to the achievement of the IAF objectives?

**Question A-2:** Could you list the objectives that have not been achieved, and how can this be improved?

Noting the significant progress already made towards the implementation of SFM principles globally, we also highlight that SFM is a dynamic and evolving concept, and requires continual adaptation to find the most effective pathways to continue to promote and uphold its principles.

This requires the continual assessment of major issues affecting forests, and a need to ensure robust global policy discussions on these key issues, as they arise. We strongly encourage the UNFF to take a leading role in tackling the significant policy questions, to ensure the organization remains relevant and responsive, in the face of competing international initiatives and forums. We think that this approach would help to promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, and strengthen forest governance frameworks.

In regard to the IAF objectives to foster cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies at all levels, we encourage that existing platforms for collaboration are better utilised to enhance engagement and cooperation – this includes making better use of forum sessions by ensuring adequate timing and scheduling for significant discussions (including fulsome engagement with panels).

Greater cooperation, and contribution of all types of forests and trees data is an important objective of the IAF. Specifically, furthering progress on SFM. We believe there is room for improvement, particularly by encouraging more frequent and widespread C&I framework reporting that feeds in global reports and dialogue, and greater analysis into identified trends, which can both help guide the next steps on implementation of the UNSPF.

Further, we encourage the inclusion of SFM success stories in voluntary national reporting that include identifying specific reasons for successes, which can greatly assist policy makers grappling with similar issues. We consider that this could catalyse more national reporting in future cycles and serve as a basis for greater interest and utilization of GFG reports.

**Questions A-3:** Has the IAF beyond 2015 been operating in a transparent, effective, efficient, and accountable manner?

Transparency of the IAF's work is an important factor in ensuring that goals are achieved, and duplication minimised. This is especially important given that forest issues are multifaceted and cross-cutting. While the session papers are generally well-written and comprehensive, there is room to improve communications on the UNFF Secretariat and CPF partner's activities between sessions.

We consider that stronger linkages between the UNFF and other bodies are necessary to promote cooperation of work across all levels, including public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral work. We also believe there is a need for CPF partners to incorporate UNSPF and UNFF priorities into their work plans. We note that we could not find a CPF member that appears to do this, and suggest this lack of integration gives rise to inefficiencies.

**Question A-4:** Considering the functions of the UNFF in paragraph 3 of resolution [2015/33](#), what has been the progress made by UNFF towards:

- a. Providing a coherent, open, transparent, and participatory global platform for policy development, dialogue, cooperation, and coordination on issues related to all types of forests, including emerging issues, in an integrated and holistic manner through cross-sectoral approaches?

The organisation of UNFF sessions provides a good opportunity for cross-sectoral dialogue and engagement with the CPF, major groups and observers representing other sectors. However, there is large breadth of issues covered by the mandate, and limited capacity to address them within sessions or expert groups. Considerable time is often lost to platitudes or national statements that could be better spent on policy dialogue.

We encourage the Secretariat to consider other potential participants and contributors to UNFF sessions, in line with emerging key issues, and how their participation could be maximised. Expert presentations could be better utilised to stimulate dialogue on emerging issues.

- b. Promoting, monitoring, and assessing the implementation of SFM, in particular, the UNFI?

We were pleased to support and participate in the development of the flagship report, including through submitting a voluntary national report. Australia believes this is an important step to ensure global progress towards the UNSPF and GFGs, and are also pleased that this process continues to be refined to improve reporting.

- c. Mobilizing, catalyzing, and facilitating access to financial, technical, and scientific resources?
- d. Promoting governance frameworks, enabling conditions at all levels to achieve SFM?
- e. Strengthening high-level political engagement, with the participation of major groups and other stakeholders, in support of SFM?

**Question A-5:** Are you satisfied with the current level of engagement of Members and stakeholders in the Forum's intersessional activities, and what are your suggestions to improve the use of the UNFF's annual sessions, including intersessional activities?

Australia sees value in intersessional work of the UNFF, including Expert Group Meetings and welcomes further intersessional engagement. However, we note the repetition of messaging by Members across sessions, EGMs, and other avenues (including written feedback, surveys, etc.), and would like to see these messages better adopted at each level, to minimise repetition. We encourage that intersessional activities build on previous conversations, rather than repeating them, through better preparation and facilitation.

We consider annual sessions to be highly valuable, but would like to see changes to the agenda format to better utilise the opening sessions. Panel discussions and opening country statements should be separated, to ensure time for critical engagement with panellists, and Members have clear guidelines around opening statements.

We also emphasise the need to ensure the Chair of the session is adequately skilled to manage the session in the face of controversial subject matter. We underscore the importance of a strong Chair to manage plenary sessions, and to work behind the scenes as required.

**Question A-6:** What do you suggest could be done to encourage more Members of the UNFF to submit voluntary national reports and voluntary national contributions?

We view that the reporting process needs to be better streamlined, including more intuitive, clear and easy-to-use templates, as well as emphasising the clear connection between FRA data and GFG reporting. We welcome the Secretariat's efforts in adjusting the reporting template and are interested to see the outcomes of the pilot process.

## **B. Questions related to the Forum secretariat**

**Question B-1:** What are the achievements of the Secretariat in carrying out its functions and in making progress towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, as defined in ECOSOC resolution 2015/33?

Australia appreciates the work of the Secretariat in progressing the objectives of the IAF, and considers the overall work of the UNFF to be an achievement of the Secretariat. The Secretariat's function is to organise and tangibly connect goals with actions. We acknowledge the challenge of this task, particularly given resourcing constraints.

**Question B-2:** What are the gaps in and the existing capacity of the secretariat with a view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, strengthening its capacities, gaining a better understanding of its decision-making processes and procedures, and amplifying the impact of its activities?

Members have little insight into the inner workings of the Secretariat, including staffing, expertise, and capacity. Increasing Members' understanding of the Secretariat's functionality could serve to manage Members' expectations on Secretariat outputs. We consider that greater transparency of the Secretariat's work is required to improve effectiveness of its operations.

We also emphasise the need to ensure the Secretariat functions as an arm for Members' agreed actions, and highlight the need for the Secretariat to ensure transparent and open decision-making processes, including prioritisation of actions. Any variation from agreed work (that draws on UNFF resources) should be clearly and openly communicated to all Members.

We welcome measures that provide greater understanding around financial decision-making and prioritisation of work.

**Question B-3:** What are your suggestions to enhance the effectiveness of the UNFF Secretariat in carrying out its functions and in making progress towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, and enhance collaboration and synergies, and reduce duplication?

A work plan that is measurable and clearly presents the Secretariat's work to members would contribute to ensuring work of the Secretariat is open and transparent. This can also help manage expectations from members and also demonstrate ongoing progress towards IAF objectives.

### C. Questions related to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

**Question C-1:** Since 2015 what is your assessment of the extent of progress on CPF’s contribution to the IAF objectives as defined in ECOSOC resolution 2015/33?

Australia considers the CPF to be a vital component of the IAF, to enhance global cooperation amongst multilateral forestry fora, and to minimise duplication. In this, we consider there is still work to ensure that UNFF and related fora are brought into the fold of other forest-related dialogues. We would particularly like to see the CPF play a more active role in highlighting the role of the UNFF where cross-cutting issues arise.

CPF joint initiatives and global dialogues are strong examples of enhancing cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels. We see particular value in joint initiatives on streamlining forest-related reporting – this has been highly valuable for flagship reporting purposes. In addition, work on illegal timber trade under the Global Forest Expert Panels JI has been of particular interest to Australia. The Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World initiative demonstrated good initial progress, though we encourage reinvigoration for this valuable initiative.

We suggest that CPF initiatives could be better served if further CPF members with implementing agency capacity are accredited as GEF agencies as a matter of priority.

**Question C-2:** In the table below kindly indicate your assessment of the effectiveness, impact and added value of the activities, in particular, Joint Initiatives of the CPF as outlined in its workplan (2017-2020).

<b>Item</b>	<b>Key CPF activities as outlined in its 2017-2020 Workplan</b>	<b>In your view what has been the effectiveness of CPF in the following areas (please explain)</b>	<b>In your view what has been the Impact and value-added of the CPF in the following areas (please explain)</b>
1	Contributions to UNFF documents & sessions	Updates are useful in the prepared documents.	We consider that the CPF has impact at UNFF sessions. Specifically, we find value in publications such as ‘Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation’, which stimulate and inform policy dialogue
2	Streamlining forest reporting	Highly effective and valuable addition linking FRA data to GFG reporting and subsequently reducing reporting burden.	CPF coordination and input into the voluntary national reports to reduce the burden of reporting has a high value add.
3	Global Forest Expert Panel	We consider the support provided by GFEP to be valuable in supporting the work of the UNFF.	Contributions from the GFEP to consolidate information and expertise in target fields is valued, especially the contributions on illegal timber trade.

4	Global Forest Information Service	We understand the GFIS is no longer active.	
5	CPF meetings, side events & OLI		
7	CPF Communicators network		
8	Forest Landscape Restoration		
10	Forest Finance Facilitation		

**Question C-3:** The CPF Policy Document recognises the need for periodic review of its membership given the evolving nature of its mandate. In your view what should be:

- a. the key elements in setting criteria for membership of the CPF (take into account CPF rules of procedure as annexed to the CPF policy document<sup>1</sup>)

Key elements in setting membership criteria should be non-duplicative and offer clear demonstrable value, demonstrated capacity to engage, established communications channels, representative membership.

- b. the frequency for review of the criteria (e.g., below 5 years; 6-10 years; etc.)

We consider that a 6–10-year range for general review is reasonable, with perhaps allowances for review as emerging issues come to light (to ensure membership can adequately address issues).

- c. the process for triggering a review of the CPF membership

We think that regular reviews following a 6–10-year schedule, as well as exceptional reviews triggered by emerging/key issues is appropriate.

**Question C-4:** In your view, how can the CPF provide greater support for policy development and implementation of UNFF resolutions/decisions and in particular assist countries in the implementation of the UNSPF.

CPF should integrate the resolutions and decisions into its workplan, which perhaps needs to be revised at intervals commensurate with UNFF cycles. CPF members could better integrate the outcomes of UNFF sessions into their workplans, noting that this seems to be largely absent.

Much of the CFP’s work is hampered by resourcing constraints. We believe a key measure of the CPF’s future effectiveness hinges on stronger resourcing commitments.

CPF members should look to coordinate the policy direction set under UNFF across the many fora they cover, this could be as simple as asking providing updates on the outcomes of UNFF sessions within respective session papers and agendas.

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<sup>1</sup> CPF Policy Document: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/cpf-policy-document/index.html>

Finally, we consider the CPF workplan to be a useful document, however it still has some way to go in bringing all activities from different organisations together under one plan. We suggest the work plan also include measurable/operational outputs to ensure tangible actions are achieved and demonstrable.

#### **D. Questions related to the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network**

**Question D-1:** Have you requested assistance from the GFFFN for mobilizing forest financing? If yes, how long did it take to receive a response and what was the outcome of your request?

**Question D-2:** If you participated in GFFFN capacity building/training workshops, did forest financing improve for your country as a result? If yes, how did it improve?

**Question D-3:** Was your country able to develop or update its forest financing strategy with the support of the GFFFN?

**Question D-4:** What funding sources have you targeted for forest financing with the support of the GFFFN and how successful were your efforts?

While we do not receive support from GFFFN, we do consider it's value to be quite high.

#### **E. Questions related to the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests**

**Question E-1:** What are the contributions of your country /organization to the UNFF trust fund?

**Question E-2:** What is the impact of voluntary contributions to the UNFF trust fund on supporting the core activities of the UNFF?

Trust fund contributions have made substantial impacts on elements including developing the inaugural GFG report.

**Question E-3:** What are the options to encourage sustained and adequate contributions to the trust fund?

We highly value a transparent and accountable operating environment to promote confidence among members and lead to greater engagement and long-term sustainable contributions. We would welcome more specific and regular updates on contributions received and progress made through UNFF newsletters (quarterly reports) and papers.

In addition, we consider that developing regular well-articulated plans, embedded in UNSPF objectives, for Trust Fund expenditure would increase Members' willingness and enthusiasm to make contributions.

**Question E-4:** What are the key challenges and constraints with regard to mobilizing adequate resources for the trust fund?

The limited visibility of the UNFF's work, including its strength and value, constrains ODA funds from members. As per points at E-3 above, ensuring transparent and accountable operating systems, and well-articulated plans for Trust Fund expenditure, would help address this, and potentially enable more contributions.

## F. Questions related to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

**Question F-1:** What significant actions has your country or organisation undertaken since 2020 to implement the UNSPF?<sup>2</sup> What are the main challenges and constraints your country or organisation is facing in implementing the UNSPF?

Australia demonstrates its continued commitment to the UNSFP through several initiatives, including UNFF-specific actions:

- the announcement of our voluntary national contribution in April 2020
- contributions to the Global Forest Goals Report 2021, including a UNFF trust fund donation in support, participating in the Flagship steering committee and the development of a voluntary national report
- a trust fund donation in 2022 towards the IAF mid-term review

National policies and programs including:

- the National Landcare Program, which has awarded over \$1 billion in funding and grants at local and regional levels for more than 227 projects across Australia to June 2023
- an additional \$66.5 million to support 10 new Indigenous Protected Areas, bringing us closer to our commitment to protect and conserve 30% of our land and oceans by 2030
- development of the National Soil Action Plan (Action Plan) which will detail specific actions (programs and activities) required to achieve the objectives of the National Soil Strategy
- investment of at least \$20 billion in low emissions technologies by 2030 under our Technology Investment Roadmap
- dedicated financing for mass timber construction
- various support measures to the domestic forestry sector to help meet future demand and ensure the role of forest products as climate and environmental solutions:
  - \$112.9 million to co-invest with wood processors to adopt new and upgraded wood processing facilities.
  - \$100 million to establish an Australia-wide National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI), supported by three regional research centres
  - \$86.2 million to support the establishment of new plantations, ensuring the private sector and farm foresters have the best opportunity to participate
  - \$10 million to support the delivery of qualifications, competencies and credentials to meet the training and accreditation requirements of industry
  - an additional \$8.6 million to 11 Regional Forestry Hubs across Australia to continue to provide strategic planning, technical assessments and analyses to support forestry growth in their regions
  - \$4.4 million to trial timber testing technologies under Australia’s illegal logging laws and build open-access international reference databases.
- continued administration of the Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Package, which is being delivered in 12 pilot regions, and includes:
  - the Australian Farm Biodiversity Certification Scheme
  - the finalisation of contracts with successful participants of the Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot and Enhancing Remnant Vegetation Pilot
  - ongoing development of the National Stewardship Trading Platform to support farmers to create new income from plantings that deliver positive carbon and biodiversity results.

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<sup>2</sup> There is no need to repeat information which has already been supplied to UNFF, notably in your country’s voluntary national report.



And further international actions including:

- the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research's Forestry Program, supporting ongoing sustainable forest management projects in the Pacific, Asia and Africa of about \$5m million in value
- contributions to multiple FAO and International Tropical Timber Organization projects promoting sustainable forest management within the Asia-Pacific region
- joining the Forests and Climate Leaders' Partnership and volunteering efforts towards carbon markets and sustainable supply chains
- Supporting developing countries with forests monitoring, reporting and verification efforts through initiatives including Moja Global and the Global Forest Observation Index
- Hosting key international sustainable forest management events.

### Challenges and constraints

We have found that the lack of available relevant information and data for reporting purposes, and environmental disasters and challenges, including drought, fire, pests and weeds, are constraints in implementing initiatives that align with the UNSPF.

**Question F-2:** What challenges and constraints did your country face in the preparation of its voluntary national report? If it did not prepare a report, what were the reasons?

We note that the provided template presented several challenges with regard to attempting to present a valuable and complete record of data. This was largely attributed to the template being difficult to edit and inflexible, repetitious and lengthy. Further, several questions were open to wider interpretation or open-ended. We think that this may lead to inconsistencies of national reports amongst members and a reduced capacity for comparison.

**Question F-3:** Do you agree with the submission of voluntary national reports to UNFF, 6 to 12 months after the publication of the next Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) in order to reduce reporting burdens and take full advantage of FAO's data?

Yes, though we acknowledge that this is one of many reporting commitments, and may not necessarily align with some countries' reporting processes.

We also acknowledge the important information that the FRA data brings to the GFG reporting process, but also highlights the importance of incorporating additional, external reporting, including global publications and reports on forests, and SFM C&I reporting at national and regional scales, to further identify forest policy issues and understand data trends.

**Question F-4:** What, in your view, are the main "regional and global issues of concern with regard to forests" in the early 2020s?

One of the main issues of concern for Australia is the need to manage competing demands on forests. This is especially evident in balancing the social, environmental and economic values of forests. We consider that SFM is a necessary tool to accomplish this balance in a sustainable manner and will continue to promote SFM practices. This takes place against a backdrop of growing global demand for sustainable timber, and the need for forest products to play a role displacing less sustainable materials.

Globally, there is increasing focus on drivers of deforestation from the agriculture sector, and several unilateral trade measures in development, but only limited dialogue on these at a multilateral level.

## G. Questions related to the contributions of the Forum to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**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:

\_\_\_ HLPF ministerial declarations in 2018 and 2022 (SDG15 theme years)<sup>3</sup>

\_\_\_ HLPF ministerial declarations in 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (non-SDG15 theme years)<sup>4</sup>

**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<sup>5</sup> by the UNFF, its members, secretariat and partners (CPF, Major Groups, regional/subregional organizations).

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

Enhanced coordination in capitals between UNFF focal points and those responsible for the HLPF and preparation of Voluntary National Reviews.

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

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

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

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**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.

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).

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

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<sup>3</sup> See para 27 of HLPF 2018 declaration and paras 66, 67, 69 and 71 of HLPF 2020 declaration.

<sup>4</sup> No forest-related references in HLPF 2017 declaration. See para 34 of HLPF 2019 declaration; paras 7 and 19 of HLPF 2020 declaration; para 36 of HLPF 2021 declaration.

<sup>5</sup> The annual HLPF preparatory process is launched in March of each year with significant regional and global activities: <http://hlpf.un.org/2022>

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Enhanced coordination in capitals on the preparation of Nationally Determined Contributions (UNFCCC), Voluntary National Contributions (UNFF) and Voluntary National Reviews (HLPF).

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **H. Questions related to the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030**

**Question H-1:** What progress has your Government/organisation made since 2015 in implementing the UNSPF communication and outreach strategy, as contained in Annex 1 of UNFF Resolution 13/1 (see [E/2018/42](#))? How could any challenges, including achieving greater visibility of the UNSPF and the global forest goals, be addressed?

The Australian Government has developed a suite of communication products to promote the role of forestry and raise awareness of forests as a sustainably managed resource. This includes:

- development of videos showcasing the Australian forestry industry: [agriculture.gov.au/forestry/planning-tomorrow](http://agriculture.gov.au/forestry/planning-tomorrow).
- release of our 5-yearly State of the Forest Reports (SOFR) also highlights the state of forests in Australia, and promotes a greater understanding of SFM. The report is released publicly in order to inform the public about Australia’s forests, their management, use and conservation. It acts as a key source of comprehensive and current information on Australia’s forests for use by industry, state, territory and Australian governments, and research and educational institutions.
  - As part of the upcoming release for Australia’s 2023 report release, we will be moving to an online platform to ensure that data can be updated more regularly and reach a greater audience. The ABARES Forests Australia website (<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/>) will host SOFR reports, and includes electronic versions of all past reports, together with maps, data tables and spatial data products
- Working bilaterally with neighbouring countries to promote SFM and understand barriers to implementing SFM. This has manifested through a recent contribution to the FAO Pacific Outlook Study, including towards its publication.

We consider that a possible avenue to explore to achieve greater visibility of the UNSPF and GFG is to raise the profile of the UNFF within and outside the UN system. We have noted that there have been times where this hasn’t always occurred, such as with the Glasgow Declaration, however we were pleased to see linkages made for the recent FCLP. We want to highlight the importance of providing strategic guidance to strengthen linkages and influence with other multilateral bodies and forest-related initiatives.

Additionally, we think there is room to improve on the communications and outreach strategy by including the provision of measurable and specific targets to work towards, as well as actions required in order to meet goals/targets. We also consider that there is added value in reaching out to

other sectors that are both impacted by forests, and impact upon forests, to further shape the communications and outreach strategy.

**Question H-2:** When considering the overall impact of communication and outreach activities, including the International Day of Forests, undertaken since 2015 by members of the Forum, the secretariat, the CPF, regional organizations and relevant stakeholders, to promote the UNSPF and global forest goals, what do you regard as (i) the main successes and (ii) the main shortcomings?

We think that further communication and outreach activities could be enhanced by demonstrating linkages and impacts across forests with different sectors. This can provide greater awareness to the value of forests and further raise the profile of the forum across different sectors.

We consider that the online activity led by the FAO during the IDF this year to have been a success. Specifically, we found the videos, interactive content and summarised content to be useful and informative for a wider audience.

We think a shortcoming from this years' IDF was that linkages and impacts across forests within different sectors could have been better highlighted, in order to promote the value of forests and further raise the profile of the UNFF.

**Question H-3:** What additional communication opportunities, platforms and channels, including those that have come into prominence in recent years, should be used more effectively to better reach target audiences and achieve greater impact?

**Question H-4:** What opportunities are there to make better use of the capacities of members of the Forum and other players and partners at the global, regional, and national levels to strengthen advocacy on the implementation of the UNSPF?

We consider that there is an opportunity for communications across multilateral bodies, both within and external to the UN systems (including with other sectors such as the agriculture and mining sectors), to be strengthened and become a priority opportunity to promote the importance of forests.

## **I. Questions related to the involvement of regional and subregional partners**

**Question I-1:** In your view, what are the top three areas in which regional and subregional partners have made the most important contributions to SFM policy development and dialogue since the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFF?

1. We consider that the work of the FAO on improving SFM reporting, particularly for primary forests through workshops, was important.
2. More broadly, we have found that the targeted work of the FAO regional office for Asia and the Pacific has provided an important contribution through their suite of Pacific Outlook Studies.
3. The work of EGILAT under policy theme 1: Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products, was an important contribution to SFM policy dialogue and successfully brought together small to medium size enterprises in order to increase awareness, understanding and policy advice on the complexities of navigating illegal logging frameworks and sourcing legally harvested product.

**Question I-2:** What are prime examples of regional and subregional partners successfully contributing to the practical achievement of GFGs under the UNSPF 2017-2030? [*alone or in partnership with governments or business community*]

See point 2 of previous question.

**Question I-3:** Given the power for good of the business and philanthropic communities, what are the key efforts of regional and subregional partners to partner with them? [*both within and outside the Business Council for Sustainable Development (UN-BCSD)*]

#### **J. Questions related to the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders**

**Question J-1:** In your view, what are the top three areas in which major groups and other relevant stakeholders have made the most important contributions to SFM policy development and dialogue since the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFF?

**Question J-2:** What are prime examples of major groups and other relevant stakeholders successfully contributing to the practical achievement of GFGs under the UNSPF 2017-2030? [*alone or in partnership with governments or business community*]

**Question J-3:** Given the power for good of the business and philanthropic communities, what are the key efforts of major groups and other relevant stakeholders to partner with them [*both within and outside the Business Council for Sustainable Development (UN-BCSD)*]??

**Question J-4:** What degree of funding independence have you achieved for participation in (a) policy development and dialogue or (b) practical SFM contribution? What improvements would you prioritise?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

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