

**Preparations for the Midterm Review of the International Arrangement on Forests  
UNFF Expert Group Meeting on  
the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, and Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-  
2030  
20-22 June 2023, UNON, Nairobi-Kenya (Hybrid)  
Concept Note**

## **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. In accordance with the program of work of the Forum for 2022-2024, the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF17), which took place in May 2022, considered, and decided on the actions to be taken in preparation for the IAF midterm review in 2024<sup>1</sup>. These actions are contained in ten sections in the annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, which include Section D: Actions related to the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and Section F: Actions related to the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030. In response to paragraphs D.2, D.5 and F.2 of annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) recruited several consultants to conduct assessments on Sections D and F. The two assessments regarding Section D include: i) an assessment on the status of existing resources for forests available from all sources, including private funding, as well as the gaps and constraints regarding gaining access to such funds, and ii) an assessment of the performance, impacts and resource sufficiency and longevity of the GFFFN, and other measures to strengthen its work. There is one assessment report, prepared by a consultant, regarding Section F. In addition to Section F, paragraph 24 of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, requested that the Forum secretariat, in the context of preparations for the midterm review of the international arrangement on forests, and in consultation with members of the Forum, prepare a road map and timeline for the next reporting cycle, in conjunction with the Global Forest Resources Assessment cycle, and explore options for establishing an online reporting platform for the Forum, recognizing the need for streamlined reporting and minimizing the reporting burden, including the challenges faced by developing countries. In this respect, the Secretariat has also prepared a short note<sup>2</sup>.

2. In accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, these assessments should be discussed at an intersessional meeting. In this respect, the UNFFS is planning to organize an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) from 20-22 June 2023 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON), Kenya.

## **II. Objective**

3. The objective of the EGM is to provide an opportunity for experts from Members of the Forum, regional and subregional partners, CPF member organizations, and major groups to review and discuss the result of the work of consultants, namely their assessment reports on Sections D, F, and paragraph 24 of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, as well as the views and insights of participating experts on the issues under consideration.

## **III. Format and the Expected Outcome**

4. The EGM will be held from 20 to 22 June 2023 in a hybrid format. The daily meetings will be held from 9:00 am to 12:00pm, and from 2:00pm to 5:00pm, local Nairobi time. The programme of work of the EGM is contained in annex to this concept note. The meeting will be conducted in English, French and Spanish. The meeting will be conducted by two Co-Chairs to be elected by the experts at the EGM. Specific time will be allocated for each consultant to present his/her assessment report during the EGM. These presentations will be followed by interactive

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<sup>1</sup> ECOSOC Resolution 2022/17: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/438/29/pdf/N2243829.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/egm-iaf-mtr-gfffn-unsfp-nairobi/index.html>

discussions among participants regarding the findings, conclusions, and suggestions in the assessments, as well as the views and insights of participating experts on the issues under consideration.

5. The outcome of the EGM will be a concise summary of the discussions by the Co-Chairs. As per provisions of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, the outcome of this EGM will be presented to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on the Preparations for the Midterm Review of the IAF, which is going to be held from 10 to 13 October 2023, in UN Office in Vienna, Austria.

#### **IV. Participants and Meeting Registration**

6. The meeting will bring together designated experts from Members of the Forum, CPF member organizations, regional and subregional partners, as well as major groups and other relevant stakeholders. Members of the Forum, CPF member organizations, regional and subregional partners, and major groups are invited to nominate their respective experts to the UNFF Secretariat by **3 April 2023** through an official letter. The nomination of experts of Members of the Forum should be sent to the UNFF Secretariat by an official communication from the respective Permanent Mission in New York; for the regional/subregional partners by the respective head of the entity on the entity's official letterhead, and for major groups by the respective group focal point. All communications should be sent to [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org), with copy to Ms. Edith Niamke at: [niamke@un.org](mailto:niamke@un.org).

#### **V. Travel support**

7. Limited resources are available to support the travel of one expert from eligible countries, and eligible stakeholders on a first-come, first-served basis and until the resources are available. Request for such travel support should be included in the official letter of expert nomination and sent to the UNFF Secretariat no later than **3 April 2023**. Due to administrative constraints, requests for travel support received after above-mentioned deadline will not be considered for possible travel support.

#### **VI. Background documents**

8. The consultants assessment reports on Section D and Section F of annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, as well as a short Secretariat note, as requested in paragraph 24 of this resolution are available at: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/egm-iaf-mtr-gfffn-unspf-nairobi/index.html>

#### **VIII. Health insurance coverage, and visa-related matters**

9. Those experts who are planning to participate in the EGM are responsible for making all necessary arrangements to obtain their visas. Experts are also expected to be in good health to travel and to ensure that they have their own (international) health insurance arrangement, including experts whose travel will be financed by the United Nations. No health insurance coverage or visa-related fees or services will be provided by the United Nations.

#### **VIII. Contact Persons**

10. For all issues related to the registration and travel support, please contact Ms. Edith Niamke at: [niamke@un.org](mailto:niamke@un.org), with cc to Ms. Yan Lang at [yan.lang@un.org](mailto:yan.lang@un.org).

**UNFF Expert Group Meeting  
on the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, and Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030  
20-22 June 2023, UNON, Nairobi-Kenya (Hybrid)  
Draft agenda and programme of work**

Time (local)	Tuesday, 20 June 2023	Wednesday, 21 June 2023	Thursday, 22 June 2023
9:00am – 12pm	<p><b>Item 1.</b> Opening remarks by the Director of the UNFF Secretariat</p> <p><b>Item 2.</b> Election of Co-Chairs &amp; their opening remarks</p> <p><b>Item 3.</b> Adoption of agenda and programme of work</p> <p><b>Item 4.</b> Preparations for the IAF midterm review</p> <p>a. Section D of annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17: Actions related to the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the study on the existing resources for forests, prepared by the consultant</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Interactive discussion on the presentation and reactions/inputs from experts)</i></p>	<p><b>Item 4a.</b> <i>(discussions continue on item 4a if need be, followed by item 4b if time permits)</i></p>	<p><b>Item 4b</b> <i>(discussions continue on item 4b)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Co-Chair’s highlight of the key points of the discussions on item 4b)</i></p>
	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>
2:00pm- 5:00pm	<p><b>Item 4a</b> <i>(discussions continue on item 4a)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the assessment report on the GFFFN, prepared by the consultant</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Interactive discussion on the presentation and reactions/inputs from experts)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Co-Chair’s highlight of the key points of the discussions on item 4a)</i></p>	<p><b>Item 4.</b> Preparations for the IAF midterm review</p> <p>b. <u>Section F of annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17: Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the assessment report on the implementation of the UNSPF, prepared by the consultant</li> <li>- Presentation by the UNFFS on paragraph 24 of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Interactive discussion on the presentation and reactions/inputs from experts)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Co-Chair’s highlight of the key points of the discussions on item 4b)</i></p>	<p><b>Item 5.</b> Key suggested actions regarding the GFFFN, and Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for forests 2017-2030</p> <p><b>Item 6:</b> Next step and the closure of the meeting</p>