

**United Nations Forum on Forests Twentieth session**  
**Side Event “Achieving Global Forest Goals in the context of the UN Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation in line with sustainable forest management, 2027-2036”**  
**(5 May 2025, from 13:15 to 14:30, at Conference Room 7, UNHQ)**

## **Background**

In recent years sustainable forest management, including afforestation and reforestation priorities have been significantly elevated within the UN Agenda due to their contribution to sustainable development. There is no path to climate neutral without forests and trees.

Particularly, in August 2024 the General Assembly adopted a landmark resolution 78/320 “Fostering sustainable forest management, including afforestation and reforestation, in degraded lands, including drylands, as an effective solution to environmental challenges”. Moreover, on 16 April 2025 the Member States of the General Assembly have declared UN Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation in line with Sustainable Forest Management, 2027-2036.

These two resolutions are fully in consistent with the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030, relevant United Nations major outcome documents and multilateral environmental agreements, and aim to foster action at all levels to halt and reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide and to support efforts in afforestation and reforestation in line with sustainable forest management.

## **Objectives**

Co-hosted by Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan and Permanent Mission of Congo, this UNFF20 side-event pursues following key objectives:

- To highlight the synergies between the Global Forest Goals and the objectives of the UN Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation;
- To showcase best practices, case studies, and innovations in afforestation, reforestation, and SFM;
- To discuss priorities of afforestation and reforestation in degraded lands, including drylands to reap economic, social and environmental benefits;
- To identify enabling policy frameworks, partnerships to ensure global forest sustainability.

## **Program**

- 13:15-13:17** Welcome address by *H.E. Mr. Ulugbek Lapasov, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations*
- 13:17-13:27** **SETTING THE SCENE**
- Statement by *H.E. Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan*
- Statement by *H.E. Ms. Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo*
- 13:27-13:50** **PANEL DISCUSSIONS**
- Head of Delegations, Experts, Representatives of UN agencies and International organizations*
- 13:50-14:10** Statements and Q&A
- 14:10-14:15** Closing remarks by *H.E. Mr. Lazare Makayat Safouesse, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Congo*