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Introduction of official documents

UN Forum on Forests Secretariat

UNFF20 | 5-9 May | UNHQ, New York



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UNFF official documents

- Provisional Agenda and Annotation

Notes by the Secretariat:

- Implementation of the UNSPF
- Enhanced Cooperation with Partners
- Means of Implementation
- Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting
- UNFF Trust Fund



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E/CN.18/2025/2

Note by the Secretariat:

Technical discussions on the
implementation of the **United Nations
strategic plan for forests** 2017–2030:
activities in support of the thematic
priorities for the biennium 2025–2026



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Information contained in the Note

- Activities of Forum Members since UNFF19
- Interlinkages between GFGs and SDGs under review by 2025 and 2026 HLPF
- Major global forest related developments since UNFF19
- Implementation of UNSPF communication and outreach strategy
- UNFF20 "Emerging Issues": Dryland Forests
- Proposals for discussion at UNFF20



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Intersessional activities / developments

- UNFF20 Bureau's input to 2025 HLPF re: SDG 3, 5, 8, 14 & 17
- SDGs under review at 2026 HLPF: SDG 6, 7, 9, 11 & 17
- Interlinkages with GFGs and targets: Outcomes of UNFCCC COP29/Paris Agreement, CBD COP16/KMGBF, UNCCD COP16/LDN-TSP, Pact of the Future, GA resolutions 78/320 & 79/283



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Intersessional activities / developments

- Country-led Initiatives- Republic of Congo
- New Voluntary National Contributions- Georgia
- Forest Pavilion at UNFCCC COP29
- UNHQ Special Event "Forests and Foods" on 2025 International Day of Forests; preparations for 2026
- UNFF20 emerging issue: Dryland forests
 - Panel on dryland forests on Thursday PM



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Proposals for discussion at UNFF20

- a) Inviting those Members that have not done so to announce their VNCs in support of the GFGs;
- b) Encouraging integration of forest-based action into national sustainable development strategies, the updated NDCs, and the revised and updated NBSAPs;
- c) Exploring the possibility of making the Forest Pavilion a recurring initiative at UNFCCC COPs;
- d) Raising awareness of the significance of forests, engaging in celebrating the IDF, and addressing related gaps and needs of the UNFF secretariat.



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E/CN.18/2025/3

Note by the Secretariat:

**Contributions of and enhanced cooperation
with partners** to achieve the thematic
priorities



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Information contained in the Note

Updates on contribution/ activities of since UNFF19:

- CPF and its members
- Regional and subregional partners
- Major Groups and other Stakeholders
- Proposals for discussion at UNFF20



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Intersessional activities / developments

- Main activities of the CPF
 - Implementation of ECOSOC resolution 2024/15 related to the CPF
 - 12 CPF Joint Initiatives
 - Joint events at the CBD COP16 during Forest-Water Day and Restoration Day, Forest Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP29, and the UNCCD COP16
- Preparation of CPF Work Plan for 2025-28



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Intersessional activities / developments

Regional/subregional Engagement:

Expert Group meeting on strengthening regional/subregional entities in the Forum's work (Jan 2025)

- Foster collaboration on forest-related issues and secure funding for activities and meeting participation.
- Incorporating the contributions of the GFGs into plans/programmes/strategies.

Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS):

Training Workshop to strengthen their capacity to contribute to UNSPF implementation (Jan 2025)

- Developed joint MGoS workplan that builds on past experiences and draws from lessons learned from the 2017-2021 joint workplan



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Proposals for discussion at UNFF20

- Taking note of the activities of CPF and its members, and inviting them to continue their efforts to implement the provision of ECOSOC resolution 2024/15
- Strengthening the engagement of UNFF regional and subregional partners and MGs in the work of the Forum and inviting members to support their activities.
- Requesting the UNFF Secretariat to prepare a matrix on the progress in implementing the relevant provisions of ECOSOC resolution 2024/15 by partners.



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E/CN.18/2025/4

Note by the Secretariat:

**Means of implementation, including
operations and resources of the Global
Forest Financing Facilitation Network**



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Information contained in the Note

- Major global developments on forest financing
- Activities of the GFFFN
- Update on GFFFN Clearing House
- Update on China office
- Proposals for discussion at UNFF20



Intersessional activities / developments

Major global developments related to forest financing:

- Increase recognition of forests' significance in addressing global challenges
- The Amazon, Congo and critical forest biomes integrated programme under GEF 8th cycle, approved in February 2024, includes 28 countries, with a total of \$307 million grant from GEF
- As of December 2024, the GCF approved projects in the forests and land use sector totaling \$1.812 billion, including result-based payment of REDD+
- Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

Major challenges

- Despite ODA rise, funding to forest sector remain a small fraction of the total ODA
- Lack of data/ information on funding opportunities; growing fragmentation of the forest financing landscape; Long and complex procedures for accessing to multilateral funds; lack of enabling environment to attract public and private investments



Intersessional activities / developments

GFFFN activities

- In 2024, support was provided to 5 countries and 1 subregional entity.
- Currently, requests from 5 countries and 1 regional entity are pending due to lack of financial resources in UNFF Trust Fund

Clearing House

- By the end of 2024, Clearing House website contains:
 - Over 300 entries in the 3 databases (financing opportunities: 164; learning materials: 109; and good practices and lessons learned: 44)
 - 10 Quarterly Highlight has been published by the UNFF Secretariat. Preparing the launch of webinar series will be held in the coming month, in collaboration with CIFOR, and more to come with other CPF members and partners.



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Proposals for discussion at UNFF20

- Inviting Members of the Forum and others in a position to do so, to provide voluntary contributions to the Forum Trust Fund to enable the GFFFN to respond and provide the requested support in an effective and timely manner.
- Inviting the Forum Secretariat to explore additional avenues for cooperation and strategic partnership with relevant UN and non-UN data providers on forest financing with the objective of facilitating access of countries and stakeholders to comprehensive, and reliable data on forest financing flows, opportunities, knowledge and best practices in a one-stop-shop.



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E/CN.18/2025/5

Note by the Secretariat:

Monitoring, assessment and reporting:

voluntary national reports; capacity-building for reporting; global core set of forest-related indicators; next Global Forest Goals Report





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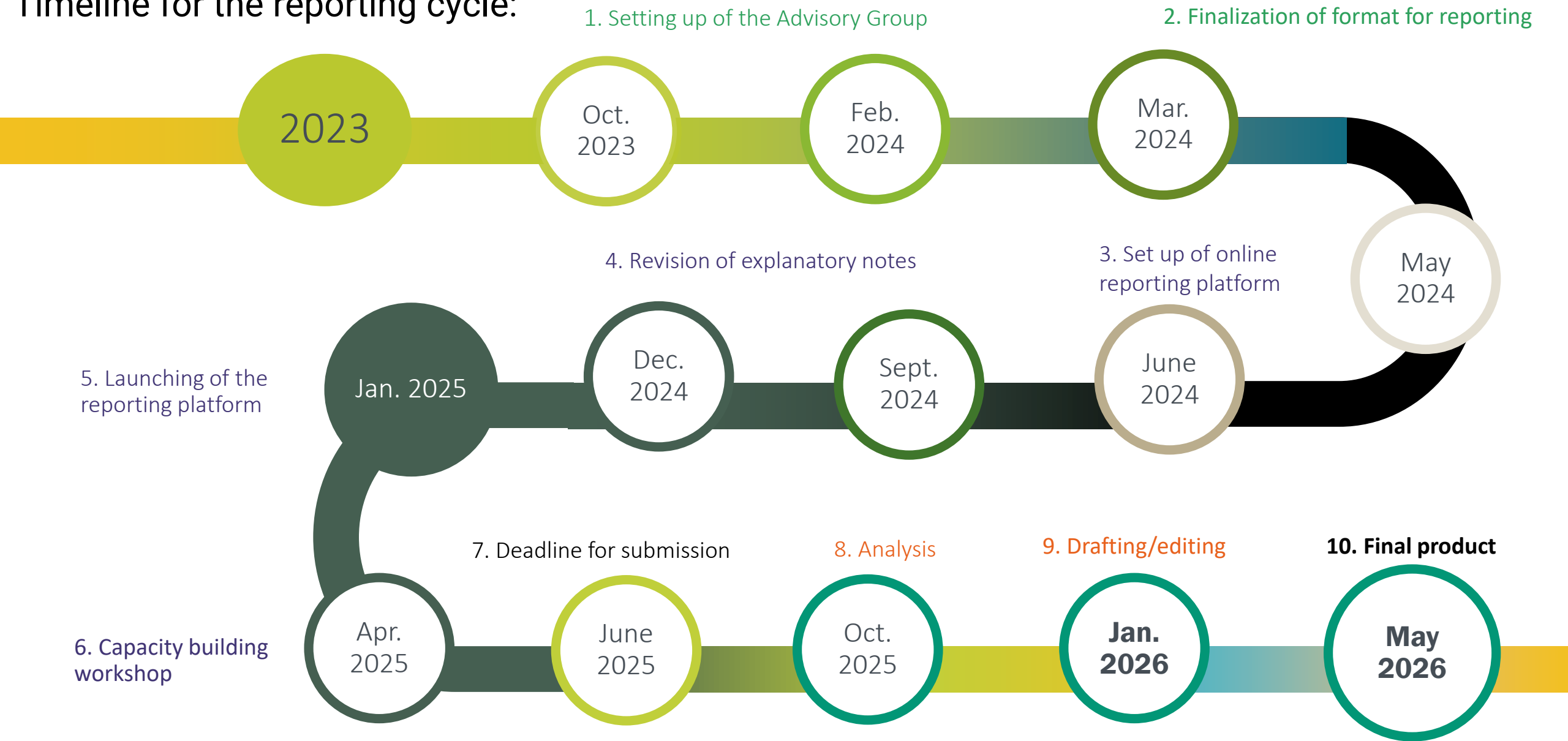
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Information contained in the Note

- Voluntary national report, timeline , advisory group, online platform, and explanatory notes
- UNFFS/FAO Capacity Development Workshop
- Next Global Forest Goals Report
- Global Core Set of forest related indicators

Timeline for the reporting cycle:





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Advisory Group on reporting to UNFF

- Fully operational since the last session of the Forum: (three meetings: February; May 2024 and April 2025) and actively involved in:
 - Finalization of the reporting format
 - Revision of the explanatory notes on reporting
 - Testing of the online reporting platform
 - Preparatory work for the next Global Forest Goals Report



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Submission of the voluntary national reports through the online platform

Preparatory process:

- Research and selection: (easy to learn and use; cost-effective; compliant with the UN ICT standards; desired functionality)
- Setting up and translation into FR and SP
- Testing with Advisory Group
- Revision of the Explanatory notes for reporting
- Finalization and launch January 2025

Deadline for submission: 30 June 2025



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Explanatory notes for national reporting

- Aim at helping countries to prepare their country reports
- Explain the purpose of country reports and how the information contained therein will be used
- Main sections:
 - Introduction
 - Purpose and use of country reports
 - Online reporting Information from other sources
 - Assessing progress towards the achievement of the global forest goals
 - Explanation of terms used in the reporting format



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UNFFS/FAO capacity building workshop on reporting

Date: 18-20 March 2025

Venue: UNON, Nairobi/Kenya

Objectives:

- (i) provide guidance for preparation of national reports to UNFF
- (ii) familiarize national experts with the use of the online reporting platform
- (iii) provide an update on FRA 2025 & Global Core Set of forest related indicators



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Next Global Forest Goals Report

- Produced in a close consultation with AG on reporting,
- A communication tool to showcase progress towards the Global Forest Goals and targets,
- Will provide an overview of progress based on available national data (from VNRs and VNCs),
- Will be supplemented with global biophysical data primarily from FAO/FRA 2025 and other relevant data sources,
- Will make use and further promote the Global Core Set of forest related indicators.



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E/CN.18/2025/6

Note by the Secretariat:

The **trust fund** for the United Nations Forum
on Forests



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Contributions to the Trust Fund, 2024

| Donor | Total |
|--------------------------|---------|
| China | 289,345 |
| Canada | 183,016 |
| Germany | 154,140 |
| Republic of Korea | 16,862 |
| Spain | 21,786 |
| Switzerland | 23,229 |
| United States of America | 350,000 |

Contributions to the Trust Fund, 2024

| Donor | Total |
|---|------------------|
| Asia Forest Cooperation Organizations | 60,000 |
| International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) | 2,000 |
| Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) | 75,000 |
| Grand Total | 1,184,378 |

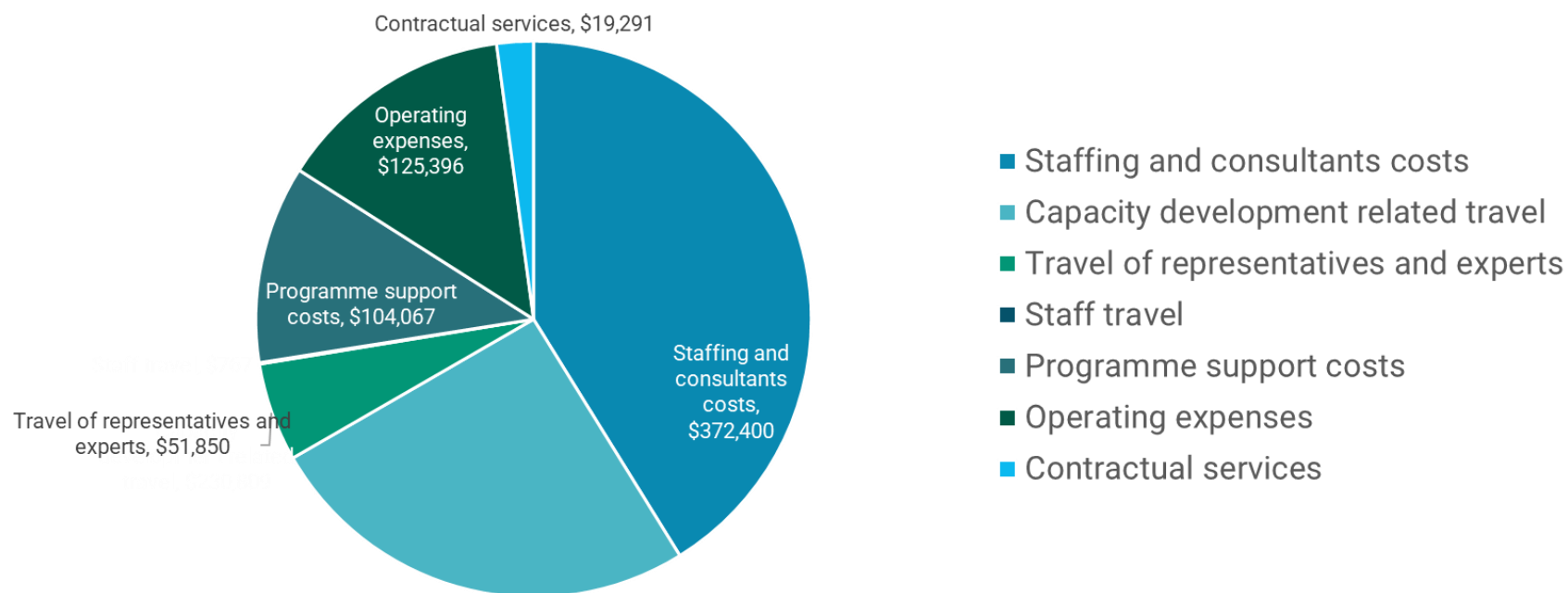


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Expenditures of the Forum Trust Fund, 2024





Priorities and challenges for the Trust Fund

- Voluntary contributions are essential in supplementing RB resources, especially during the current liquidity crisis.
- Scaling up the GFFFN, the Clearing house mechanism and communication and outreach is limited due to inadequate resources.
- Securing funding for travel of representatives to UNFF sessions is a major challenge, and it has not been possible to provide air tickets or DSA.
- Sustained, predictable and adequate resources, both human and financial, are critical for UNFFS to carry out its core activities.
- As stressed in the Information Paper on Workload, Needs and Gaps of the UNFFS, Trust Fund resources should only be utilised for temporary and short-term hires/activities/deliverables to supplement UNFFS RB – not to support long-term staff/core mandated activities.



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Thank You!

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