



CPF
Collaborative Partnership
on Forests

UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON **FORESTS** 20TH SESSION



Concept Note

Enhancing Global Ambition: Aligning Global Climate and Global Forest Goals towards UNFCCC COP30

Side Event at the 20th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Friday, 9 May 2025, 1:15-2:30 pm EDT

Conference Room B

Duration: 75 mins **Language:** English

Participants (in order of appearance):

- *Moderator:* **Ms Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs**, Senior Forestry Officer, **FAO**
- **Mr Dirk Nemitz**, Team lead AFOLU, **UNFCCC**
- **Mr Garo Batmanian**, General Director, Brazilian Forest Service, **Brazil**
- **Mr Joseph Yaw Appiah-Gyapong**, Head of Donor Relations and Projects, Forestry Commission, Ghana
- Additional countries TBC
- *Finance representative* (TBC)
- *Research/academic representative* (TBC)

Background: The upcoming update of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) offers a strategic opportunity to reinforce the role of forests in achieving global climate targets, while also contributing to the Global Forest Goals (GFGs). The outcome of the first Global Stocktake under the UNFCCC highlights the need to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, alongside increased support through finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building. Integrating forests into NDCs also supports the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, particularly Goals 1, 3, and 5, which are under review by UNFF20. This requires coherent, cross-sectoral policy

approaches—especially between agriculture and forestry—to advance food security and sustainable forest management. Strengthened reporting frameworks and forest finance will be critical to turning these commitments into action.

Objective: The event aims to support and promote the enhanced inclusion of forests in updated NDCs by facilitating dialogue and collaboration among Member States, UN entities, financial institutions, and forest-related stakeholders. It will foster alignment between countries' climate ambitions and the Global Forest Goals, particularly GFGs 1, 3, and 5, through strengthened synergies between the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In addition, the event seeks to promote transparent forest-related reporting under the ETF and explore scalable models for mobilizing forest finance. A further objective is to identify practical policy measures that operationalize cross-sectoral integration, especially between agriculture and forestry, to jointly advance climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development objectives.

Expected outcomes: This event is expected to contribute directly to agenda item 3 of the Forum by offering practical insights on how countries and stakeholders can support the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, with a particular focus on Global Forest Goals 1, 3 and 5. It will provide a platform for exchanging experiences and approaches to enhance forest-related contributions within updated NDCs, strengthen reporting frameworks, and promote policy coherence between sectors such as agriculture and forestry. In alignment with the agenda, the event will also contribute to identifying actionable strategies that advance the thematic priorities under review. The outcomes of the session are anticipated to inform intergovernmental discussions and support the positioning of forests as a key component in achieving global climate and sustainable development goals.

Format

Time	Item	Speaker
1:15 – 1:20	Opening Remarks and Setting the Scene	Ms Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs, FAO
1:20 – 1:30	Global Stocktake and role of forests in NDC 3.0.	Mr Dirk Nemitz. UNFCCC Secretariat
1:30– 1:40	Forests at COP30 - Keynote	Mr Garo Batmanian, Brazil Forest Service
1:40– 2:00	3-4 representatives of Member States to discuss role of forests in enhanced NDCs	Ghana; Additional countries TBC
2:00 – 2:05	Representative from finance community on forest finance	(TBC)
2:00-2:10	Representative from Academia/research	(TBC)
2:10 – 2:25	Interactive Discussion	Statements and questions from the floor
2:25 – 2:30	Closing	Ms Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs, FAO