

UNFF12 Omnibus Resolution

Adopted 5 May 2017

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 on the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015 and ECOSOC resolution 2017/4 on the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the Forum's Quadrennial Programme of Work 2017-2020,

Recalling further GA resolution A/RES/71/285 on the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and GA resolution A/RES/71/286 on the United Nations Forest Instrument,

Monitoring, assessment and reporting

Requests the Forum Secretariat to further revise the format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum on implementation of the UNSPF, including the UNFI and VNCs, based on consultations with Members of the Forum and other intersessional activities, the views expressed during the twelfth session, and any pilot testing of the current draft format that may be undertaken with interested Members of the Forum from the five UN regions,

Notes the ongoing work led by the CPF to develop a global set of forest indicators, in particular on SFM, for use in assessing progress on the Global Forest Goals and targets set out in UNSPF, the forest-related SDG targets, and other international forest-related commitments, and *invites* the CPF to present its proposal for consideration by the Forum at its thirteenth session,

Decides to consider at its thirteenth session the cycle and format for the first voluntary national reporting to the Forum, taking into account the work on forest indicators, relevant reporting cycles and the need to reduce reporting burdens, as well as potential communication products from such reporting,

Means of implementation

Reaffirms that the implementation framework set out in UNSPF, including the means of implementation and voluntary national contributions, offers new opportunities to strengthen SFM,

Welcomes the funding made available for forests under the 6th replenishment of the GEF (2014-2018) through the cross-cutting Strategy for SFM, as well as through the GEF focal areas related to forests,

Invites the GEF, in consultation with donors, to make further funds available for sustainable forest management and other forest-related initiatives under its 7th replenishment cycle (2018-2022),

Invites Members of the Forum to make full use of other international instruments, mechanisms, agreements and partnerships to enhance the implementation of SFM and achievement of the Global Forest Goals and targets,

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Reaffirms the important role of the GFFFN in contributing to the scaling up of SFM by facilitating access for countries to resources to implement the UNSPF and achieve its GFGs and targets and *welcomes* the progress made in operationalizing the Network,

Decides that GFFFN should carry out its priorities as set out in the UNSPF in an balanced, effective and transparent manner,

Invites Members of the Forum and others in a position to do so to provide voluntary contributions to the Forum Trust Fund to support enhanced activities under the Network,

Enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues

Welcomes the initiatives undertaken by Members of the Forum, the CPF and its member organizations, regional and sub-regional organizations and processes, and Major Groups in contributing to the development and implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the Forum's Quadrennial Programme of Work 2017-2020,

Also welcomes the new Policy Document developed by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to strengthen its operations and enhance the effectiveness of its work,

Notes the work of the Partnership towards developing a work plan which will outline the collective contributions and joint initiatives of its members, aligned with the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the Forum's Quadrennial Programme of Work 2017-2020,

Invites the Partnership to take into account inputs from Members of the Forum on the draft work plan in preparation for its meeting in September 2017, and *invites* the Partnership to present its work plan to the thirteenth session of the Forum,

Also Invites the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to consider expanding its membership to include intergovernmental partners at the international level which have expressed interest in joining the Partnership,

Encourages Members of the Forum to announce their initial voluntary national contributions to achieving one or more of the Global Forest Goals and targets set out in the UNSPF at the thirteenth session of Forum, and to communicate their announcements to the Forum Secretariat through appropriate channels,

Encourages Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders to continue their involvement in the work of the Forum, including by elaborating proposals or work plans on how they can contribute to the implementation of the UNSPF and the Forum's 4POW, and to present such proposals or plans to the Forum at its thirteenth session,

Adopts the guidelines for country-led and similar initiatives in support of the work of the Forum, as contained in the annex to this resolution,

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Stresses the importance of communicating the critical contribution of forests and the UNSPF to sustainable development, including through the annual platform provided by the International Day of Forests,

Contribution to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Emphasizes the importance of the Forum's technical discussions at its twelfth session on the contribution of forests to poverty eradication, food security, and gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and on the means of implementation for SFM, as well as the relevance of these discussions to the SDGs under review by HLPF 2017,

Requests the Chair to finalize his summaries of the Forum's technical discussions in consultation with Bureau members, and transmit the summaries to the HLPF as an input to its 2017 review,

Emphasizes the importance for the Forum to provide an input to HLPF 2018 on the suite of SDGs to be reviewed,

Requests the Forum Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the CPF, a report containing proposals on actions to accelerate progress in achieving SDG 15 and its forest-related targets, as well as background analytical studies on the contribution of forests to the other SDGs under review by HLPF 2018, for the Forum's consideration at its thirteenth session,

Invites Members of the Forum, CPF member organizations, UN system partners, regional and subregional organizations processes, Major Groups and other stakeholders to provide inputs to the Forum Secretariat on the contribution of forests to the issues under consideration by HLPF 2018 by 30 November 2017,

Requests the Forum Secretariat to synthesize the inputs received and submit the synthesis as background information to the thirteenth session of the Forum,

Welcomes the initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to organize an international conference on halting deforestation and increasing forest area as a contribution to the Forum's deliberations at its thirteenth session and the Forum's input to the HLPF 2018,

Invites Members of the Forum, CPF and its member organizations, UN system partners, regional and subregional organizations and processes, Major Groups and other stakeholders to undertake initiatives to highlight the significance of forests to the 2030 Agenda and to present the outcomes of those initiatives to the thirteenth session of the Forum,

Decides that the Forum, at its thirteenth session, will finalize its substantive input to the HLPF2018, taking into account the inputs provided to the Forum.

Annex: Guidelines for country-led, organization-led, region-led and major group-led initiatives

The overall purpose of any country-led, organization-led, region-led or major group-led initiative is to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Thus, the organizers may wish to consider the following guidelines when planning such initiatives:

(a) These initiatives should be directly related to the priorities of the United Nations Forum on Forests as defined in the UNSPF and the Forum's quadrennial programme of work;

(b) These initiatives should be informal in nature, transparent, participatory, strive for balanced representation, including gender, and be open to participation by all member States of the Forum, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, representatives of major groups, as well as other interested stakeholders;

(c) Proponents of an initiative should bring their interest in convening an initiative to the attention of the Bureau and the Secretariat of the Forum, in writing, stating the objectives of the initiative, its relevance to the work of the Forum, the proposed venue and date, as well as the estimated participation;

(d) The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is to participate in the committee established to support the initiative;

(e) The cost of such initiatives is to be borne by the hosts, donors or provided from other sources. The regular United Nations budget will not cover the cost of such initiatives. Funds from the United Nations Forum on Forests Trust Fund may only be used for such initiatives if specifically earmarked for the purpose by a donor.

(f) The Bureau member from the region in which the initiative is being held should be invited to attend;

(g) The travel and expenses of one member of the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat will be covered by the initiative;

(h) Following an initiative, the organizers should submit a report for presentation to the Secretary-General which will be placed on the website of the United Nations Forum on Forests; the organizers should also present the outcome of the initiative to the upcoming session of the Forum, which will consider it;

(i) In the interest of registering and acknowledging the contribution of all those involved in the initiative, including in terms of their financial support, the proponents of the initiative may wish to include this information in the report to be submitted to the Secretary-General;

(j) Countries, organizations, regions and major groups are invited to consider these guidelines that will apply to the initiatives announced after the twelfth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.