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## United Nations Forum on Forests

### Fifteenth session

4–8 May 2020

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

## Provisional agenda and annotations

### Provisional agenda

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11. Dates and venue of the sixteenth session of the Forum.
12. Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Forum.
13. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fifteenth session.

## **Annotations**

### **1. Election of officers**

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair and such other officers as may be required (see [E/5975/Rev.1](#)). In accordance with Council resolution 2000/35, by which the Forum was established, the Bureau of the Forum shall consist of a Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall also act as Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

At its 1st meeting, on 11 May 2018, the Forum elected by acclamation Boris Greguška (Slovakia) as Chair and Javad Momeni (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Vice-Chair of the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 May 2019, the Forum elected by acclamation Khalid Cherki (Morocco), Kitty Sweeb (Suriname) and Rob Busink (Netherlands) as Vice-Chairs of the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda and organization of work for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

#### *Documentation*

Provisional agenda and annotations ([E/CN.18/2020/1](#))

### **3. Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030**

- (a) **Policy dialogue on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2019–2020, taking into account the review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development during the biennium and the theme of the International Day of Forests**
- (b) **Voluntary announcement of voluntary national contributions**
- (c) **United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the global forest goals and targets**

In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum, the fifteenth session will focus on the policy dialogue on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2019–2020, with the engagement of, and exchange of experiences among, members of the Forum, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, and the science-policy interface. These discussions will take into account the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development for 2020 (Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable

development) and the theme of the International Day of Forests in 2020 (Forests and biodiversity). Under this item, the Forum will provide its contribution to the follow-up, review and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets under consideration by the 2020 high-level political forum. Information on activities undertaken in implementing the communication and outreach strategy of the strategic plan, including those related to the International Day of Forests, undertaken since the fourteenth session of the Forum is contained in the note by the Secretariat ([E/CN.18/2020/2](#)) under this item.

On the basis of the technical discussions at the fourteenth session of the Forum, the Chair also made proposals on this item for further consideration by the Forum at its fifteenth session (see [E/2019/42-E/CN.18/2019/9](#), annex I, sect. II.B). The Chair's proposals are contained in the note by the Secretariat under this item. The discussions under agenda item 6 on emerging issues and challenges of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and sustainable forest management will be merged with discussions under agenda item 3 (a).

In accordance with the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (see General Assembly resolution [71/285](#)), Member States may, on a voluntary basis, determine their contributions towards achieving the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan (voluntary national contributions), taking into account their national circumstances, policies, priorities, capacities, levels of development and forest conditions. In its resolution 13/1, the Forum encouraged Member States to make announcements of their voluntary national contributions at the fourteenth session of the Forum and to communicate them beforehand to the Forum secretariat. Member States that wish to announce their voluntary national contributions at the fifteenth session may do so under this item. Any new voluntary national contributions that have been communicated to the secretariat since the fourteenth session are included in the note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 ([E/CN.18/2020/2](#)).

The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 serves as a reference framework for the forest-related work of the United Nations system and for the fostering of enhanced coherence, collaboration and synergies among United Nations bodies and partners towards the plan's vision and mission. It also serves as a framework to enhance the coherence, and guide and focus the work, of the international arrangement on forests and its components. As stipulated in the strategic plan, United Nations bodies, organizations and specialized agencies that address issues that are relevant to forests, within the scope of their mandates, are invited to use the strategic plan as a reference with a view to building synergies between the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan and their respective policies and programmes, including their contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. United Nations system organizations and partners may wish to inform the Forum of their planned activities to contribute to the achievement of the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan under this item.

The progress report by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on activities carried out in support of the implementation of the strategic plan is contained in the information note under items 3 (a) and 3 (c).

In its resolution 13/1, the Forum welcomed the initiatives taken at the regional and subregional levels to implement the strategic plan, and invited regional and subregional organizations and processes to make full use of the regional forums on sustainable development held in preparation for sessions of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The Forum also welcomed the joint workplan developed by the major groups to accelerate achievement of the global forest goals and the complementary workplan developed by the children and youth major group. Under

agenda item 3, the Forum will consider, at its fifteenth session, the contributions of the regional and subregional partners and major groups to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the current quadrennial programme of work, as well as information on the involvement of the Forum secretariat in major meetings and conferences since its fourteenth session.

#### *Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 ([E/CN.18/2020/2](#))

Information note on implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests ([E/CN.18/2020/3](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the contributions of the Forum's regional and subregional partners and major groups, as well as involvement of the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat in major meetings ([E/CN.18/2020/6](#))

#### **4. Monitoring, assessment and reporting: progress on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the United Nations forest instrument, and voluntary national contributions**

In accordance with the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, Member States may, on a voluntary basis, communicate their progress with regard to the voluntary national contributions to the Forum at regular intervals determined by the Forum. At its thirteenth session, the Forum adopted the format for initial voluntary national reporting to the Forum on progress towards the implementation of the strategic plan and invited Member States to submit their voluntary national reports to the Forum secretariat by mid-November 2019, for consideration by the Forum at its fifteenth session, in 2020. In accordance with the Forum's discussions at its fourteenth session, a capacity-building workshop on national reporting was held in Bangkok from 28 to 30 October 2019 to enable participants to share their knowledge and national experiences in data collection and the compilation of national reports for the fifteenth session of the Forum.

In accordance with its resolution 13/1, the Forum, at its fifteenth session, will consider the timing of the next round of reporting, bearing in mind the midterm review by the Forum of the international arrangement on forests in 2024. In that same resolution, the Forum also requested its secretariat to report to the Forum at its fifteenth session on planning in regard to the preparation of the flagship publication.

During its fourteenth session, the Forum received a progress report by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on the development of the global core set of forest-related indicators aligned with the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management and the value of such a core set of indicators in assessing progress towards achieving the global forest goals and targets. The deliberations of the Forum highlighted the need for member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership and other relevant bodies to continue their work to develop the second- and third-tier indicators, including the formulation of definitions, and consider the use of pilot studies in that context. Also at its fourteenth session, the Forum requested submission of a synthesis of the voluntary national contributions that had been already announced, as well as a simple format for announcing voluntary national contributions to the Forum.

On the basis of the technical discussions at the fourteenth session of the Forum, the Chair made proposals on this item for further consideration by the Forum at its fifteenth session. Relevant proposals of the Chair, as well as information on the

above-mentioned requests from the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Forum, are contained in the note by the Secretariat under this item.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat on monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress towards implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the United Nations forest instrument ([E/CN.18/2020/4](#))

**5. Means of implementation: availability of resources for the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and its priority actions and resource needs for the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2021–2024.**

In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017–2020, the Forum, at its fifteenth session, will consider under this item the availability of resources for the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and its priority actions and resource needs for the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2021–2024. At its thirteenth session, the Forum adopted the guidelines for operation of the Network and requested the Forum secretariat to initiate development of the Network’s online clearing house mechanism. The discussions at the fourteenth session also focused on the activities of the Network, including the need for a stocktaking of the impacts of the work of the Network, progress in developing the clearing house, and the establishment of a project office in support of the work of the Network in Beijing. On the basis of the technical discussions at the fourteenth session, the Chair made proposals on this item for further consideration by the Forum at its fifteenth session. The note by the Secretariat under this item contains information on key global developments relating to means of implementation, a summary of activities of the Network since the fourteenth session and information on the availability of resources for its operation during the quadrennial programme of work 2021–2024. The note provides a progress report on intersessional activities carried out by the Secretariat in relation to operationalizing the clearing house of the Network, including the outcome of the expert group meeting on the clearing house convened at the United Nations Office in Geneva on 12 and 13 November 2019. The note also provides initial information on the stocktaking of the impacts of the work of the Network, as well as an update on the establishment of a project office in support of the Network in Beijing.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat on means of implementation for sustainable forest management: availability of resources for the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and its priority actions and resource needs for the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2021–2024. ([E/CN.18/2020/5](#))

**6. Emerging issues and challenges**

In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017–2020, the Forum may decide to include in the agenda of any of its sessions emerging issues and challenges of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and sustainable forest management and that are urgent, unexpected and not already addressed in the agenda of the respective session. For the present session, a discussion on item 6, entitled “Emerging issues and challenges”, will be held as part of the policy dialogue under item 3 (a).

**7. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests**

Pursuant to the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017–2020, the Forum secretariat is to report at each session on the operation of the Forum trust fund.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat on the Forum trust fund ([E/CN.18/2020/7](#))

**8. High-level segment, including a forest partnership forum with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, non-governmental organizations and private sector chief executive officers**

In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum, the fifteenth session of the Forum will have a high-level segment, which will include a forest partnership forum with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, non-governmental organizations and private sector chief executive officers. At this session, the Forum will decide on the new programme of work of the Forum for 2021–2024, taking into account the intergovernmental deliberations on the new programme of work for the high-level political forum on sustainable development beyond 2020, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Paris Agreement. Based on the recommendation by the Bureau of the fifteenth session, the high-level segment of the fifteenth session will be held on 7 May 2020 with the objective of adopting a ministerial declaration.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 ([E/CN.18/2020/2](#))

Information note on implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests ([E/CN.18/2020/3](#))

**9. Adoption of the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2021–2024, including consideration of its priority actions and resource needs**

In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017–2020, the fifteenth session of the Forum will adopt the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2021–2024, including consideration of its priority actions and resource needs. To facilitate an informed decision by the Forum at its fifteenth session, the Secretariat circulated a brief questionnaire in August 2019 to members of the Forum to gather initial ideas and suggestions on the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2021–2024. To further develop the ideas put forth, an expert group meeting on the next quadrennial programme of work was held on 14 and 15 November 2019. The meeting provided an opportunity for experts to review and discuss the results of the questionnaire and develop possible elements for the next quadrennial programme of work. The note by the Secretariat includes the proposal put forth by the expert group, taking into account lessons learned from the implementation of the first quadrennial programme of work, for the period 2017–2020.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 ([E/CN.18/2020/2](#))

**10. Information on the reform of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs pertaining to the Forum**

An oral report will be made on the latest developments with regard to this item during the fifteenth session of the Forum.

**11. Dates and venue of the sixteenth session of the Forum**

The Forum shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council the dates and venue of its sixteenth session.

**12. Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Forum**

The Forum shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council, for adoption, a provisional agenda for the sixteenth session.

**13. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fifteenth session**

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Forum shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its fifteenth session.

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