



**United Nations**

# **United Nations Forum on Forests**

**Report on the sixteenth session**

**Economic and Social Council**

**Official Records, 2021**

**Supplement No. 22**





# **United Nations Forum on Forests**

## **Report on the sixteenth session**



United Nations • New York, 2021

*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

## Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	4
A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council . . . . .	4
Programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2022–2024 . . .	4
B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council . . . . .	7
Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its sixteenth session and provisional agenda for its seventeenth session . . . . .	7
C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council . . . . .	8
Dates and venue of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests . . . .	8
II. Organization of the session . . . . .	9
A. Work of the session . . . . .	9
B. Election of officers . . . . .	9
C. Agenda . . . . .	10
D. Documentation . . . . .	11
 <b>Annexes</b>	
I. Proceedings of the virtual informal meetings of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests . . . . .	12
II. Correspondence relating to the work of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests . . . . .	16
III. Summary by the Chair of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests . . . . .	17
IV. List of documents . . . . .	35

## Chapter I

### Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

#### A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### **Programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2022–2024**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution [2020/14](#) of 17 July 2020, entitled “Outcome of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests”,

*Adopts* the programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2022–2024, as contained in the annex to the present resolution.

#### **Annex**

#### **Programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for its seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth sessions**

Table 1

#### **Seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, 2022 (policy session)**

---

*Priorities in support of implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030*

---

1. Thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022: selected global forest goals and associated targets in accordance with the sixteenth session of the Forum and consideration of relevant proposals contained in the Chair’s summary from the sixteenth session
2. Other policy session items and consideration of relevant proposals contained in the Chair’s summary from the sixteenth session
  - (a) New announcements of voluntary national contributions
  - (b) Updates by stakeholders and partners on activities in support of the thematic priorities
    - (i) Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its workplan
    - (ii) Regional and subregional organizations and processes
    - (iii) Major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and philanthropic community
  - (c) Interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2022 and international forest-related developments
  - (d) Implementation of the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including activities regarding the International Day of Forests 2022

---

*Priorities in support of implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030*

---

- (e) Means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network
  - (f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting: consideration of the proposed refinements to the format for the next round of voluntary national reporting on progress in implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions
  - (g) Preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives, including the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
3. Forum trust fund
  4. Emerging issues
- 

Table 2  
**Eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, 2023 (technical session)**

---

*Priorities in support of implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030*

---

1. Thematic priorities for the biennium 2023–2024: selected global forest goals and associated targets
2. Other technical session items
  - (a) Contributions of members of the Forum to implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: new announcements of voluntary national contributions; updates on voluntary national contributions and their follow-up related to the thematic priorities
  - (b) Contributions of and enhanced cooperation with partners to achieving the thematic priorities
    - (i) Contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, its member organizations and the United Nations system to achieving the thematic priorities; progress on the workplan of the Partnership
    - (ii) Contributions of regional and subregional organizations and processes to achieving the thematic priorities
    - (iii) Contributions of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and philanthropic community, to achieving the thematic priorities; progress on major group workplans
  - (c) Interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2023 and international forest-related developments
  - (d) Implementation of the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including activities regarding the International Day of Forests 2023
  - (e) Means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network

---

*Priorities in support of implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030*

---

- (f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting: voluntary national reporting; global core set of forest-related indicators; preparations for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025
  - (g) Preparations for the midterm review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, including the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
3. Forum trust fund
  4. Emerging issues
- 

Table 3  
**Nineteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, 2024 (policy session)**

---

*Priorities in support of implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030*

---

1. Thematic priorities for the biennium 2023–2024: selected global forest goals and associated targets in accordance with the eighteenth session of the Forum and consideration of relevant proposals contained in the Chair’s summary from the eighteenth session
  2. Other policy session items and consideration of relevant proposals contained in the Chair’s summary from the eighteenth session
    - (a) New announcements of voluntary national contributions
    - (b) Interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2024 and international forest-related developments
    - (c) Midterm review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests<sup>1</sup>
  3. High-level segment
  4. Adoption of the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2025–2028
- 

---

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution [2015/33](#), the components of the international arrangement on forests are the Forum, the secretariat, the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Forum trust fund. The midterm review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests will be guided by section XII of Council resolution [2015/33](#) and section IV of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030.

## **B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council**

2. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

### **Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its sixteenth session and provisional agenda for its seventeenth session**

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its sixteenth session;<sup>2</sup>

(b) Notes that the seventeenth session of the Forum will be held at Headquarters from 9 to 13 May 2022;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Forum as set out below:

### **Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030:<sup>3</sup>
  - (a) Activities in support of the thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022:
    - (i) Update on the activities of members of the Forum, including new announcements of and updates on voluntary national contributions;
    - (ii) Update on the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations and progress on the implementation of its workplan;
    - (iii) Update on the activities of regional and subregional organizations and processes;
    - (iv) Update on the activities of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the philanthropic community, and progress on major group workplans;
    - (v) Interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2022 and international forest-related developments;

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2021, Supplement No. 22 (E/2021/42).*

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with the general guidance provided in annex I to Economic and Social Council resolution 2020/14 of 17 July 2020, the proposals contained in the Chair's summary of the discussions of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forest will be submitted for consideration by the Forum at its seventeenth session, in 2022.

- (b) Implementation of the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including activities regarding the International Day of Forests in 2022;
- (c) Means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network;
- (d) Monitoring, assessment and reporting:
  - (i) Proposed refinements to the format for voluntary national reporting on progress in implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions;
  - (ii) Progress on the global core set of forest-related indicators.
- 4. Preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives, including the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030.
- 5. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forest.
- 6. Emerging issues.
- 7. Dates and venue of the eighteenth session of the Forum.
- 8. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Forum.
- 9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its seventeenth session.

### **C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council**

3. The following draft decision adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests at its sixteenth session is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

#### **Dates and venue of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

The United Nations Forum on Forests, recalling Economic and Social Council resolution [2015/33](#) of 22 July 2015, decides that the seventeenth session of the Forum will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 13 May 2022.

## Chapter II

### Organization of the session

#### A. Work of the session

4. The United Nations Forum on Forests, pursuant to the organization of work adopted on 14 April 2021, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2021/213, and taking into account the impact of the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the working arrangements for its sixteenth session, convened seven virtual informal meetings to consider the items on its agenda. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in annex I to the present report.

5. The Forum held its sixteenth session through virtual informal meetings and considered draft proposals, including the draft report on its session, through a silence procedure (see annex II for the correspondence relating to the work of the session).

6. On 29 April 2021, the Forum, upon the recommendation of the Chair (Suriname) and pursuant to Council decision 2021/213, adopted, through a silence procedure, draft resolution [E/CN.18/2021/L.3](#), entitled “Programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2022–2024” (see chap. I, sect. A), submitted under agenda item 6, Adoption of the Forum’s programme of work for the period 2022–2024.

7. Also on that date, the Forum, upon the recommendation of the Chair (Suriname) and pursuant to Council decision 2021/213, adopted, through a silence procedure, the following draft decisions:

(a) Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests ([E/CN.18/2021/L.1](#)), submitted under agenda item 8, Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Forum (see chap. I, sect. B);

(b) Proposed dates and venue of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests ([E/CN.18/2021/L.2](#)), submitted under agenda item 7, Dates and venue of the seventeenth session of the Forum (see chap. I, sect. C).

8. On 30 April 2021, the Forum, upon the recommendation of the Chair (Suriname) and pursuant to Council decision 2021/213, adopted, through a silence procedure, its draft report ([E/CN.18/2021/L.4](#)), submitted under agenda item 9, Adoption of the report of the Forum on its sixteenth session, and entrusted the Rapporteur with its finalization in collaboration with the secretariat, for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its 2021 session.

#### B. Election of officers

9. The Forum, pursuant to Council decisions 2020/205, 2020/206 and 2020/219, and upon the recommendation of the Chair (Slovakia) of its fifteenth session, elected, through a silence procedure that expired without objection on 2 July 2020, Kitty Sweeb (Suriname) as Chair, and Jesse Mahoney (Australia) and Javad Momeni (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Vice-Chairs of its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions.

10. The Forum, pursuant to Council decision 2021/213 and upon the recommendation of the Chair (Suriname) of its sixteenth session, elected, through a silence procedure that expired without objection on 14 April 2021, Musah Abu-Juam (Ghana) and Tomasz Markiewicz (Poland) as Vice-Chairs at its sixteenth and

seventeenth sessions, and appointed the Vice-Chair, Javad Momeni (Islamic Republic of Iran), to serve concurrently as Rapporteur of its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions.

### C. Agenda

11. On 14 April 2021, the Forum, upon the recommendation of the Chair (Suriname) and pursuant to Council decision 2021/213, adopted, through a silence procedure, the provisional agenda of its sixteenth session, as contained in document [E/CN.18/2021/1](#), and the provisional organization of work of the session, taking into account the modalities recommended by the Bureau of the sixteenth session of the Forum.<sup>4</sup>

12. The provisional agenda of the sixteenth session of the Forum read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030:
  - (a) Thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022 in support of the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030;
  - (b) Contributions of members of the Forum to implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030:
    - (i) New announcements of voluntary national contributions;
    - (ii) Updates on voluntary national contributions and their follow-up related to the thematic priorities;
  - (c) Contributions of and enhanced cooperation with partners to achieving the thematic priorities:
    - (i) Contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, its member organizations and the United Nations system to achieving the thematic priorities; progress on the workplan of the Partnership;
    - (ii) Contributions of regional and subregional organizations and processes to achieving the thematic priorities;
    - (iii) Contributions of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the philanthropic community, to achieving the thematic priorities; progress on major group workplans;
  - (d) Interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2021, the work towards a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other international forest-related developments;

---

<sup>4</sup> Circulated in a letter dated 3 February 2021 from the Chair (Suriname) to all Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers through e-deleGATE.

- (e) Implementation of the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including activities regarding the International Day of Forests in 2021;
  - (f) Means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network;
  - (g) Monitoring, assessment and reporting:
    - (i) Forum flagship publication;
    - (ii) Global core set of forest-related indicators;
    - (iii) Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020.
4. Forum trust fund.
  5. Emerging issues: impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on forests and the forest sector.
  6. Adoption of the Forum's programme of work for the period 2022–2024.
  7. Dates and venue of the seventeenth session of the Forum.
  8. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Forum.
  9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its sixteenth session.

#### **D. Documentation**

13. The documentation considered by the Forum at its sixteenth session is set out in annex IV to the present report. Other relevant documentation is also available on the website of the Forum ([www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html)).

## Annex I

### **Proceedings of the virtual informal meetings of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

#### **A. Technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030**

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests considered agenda item 3<sup>1</sup> at its 2nd to 6th virtual meetings, from 26 to 28 April 2021. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (E/CN.18/2019/2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress towards implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions (E/CN.18/2019/3);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on means of implementation: progress on the activities and the operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and availability of resources (E/CN.18/2019/4);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on enhancing global forest policy coherence and a common international understanding of sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2019/5).

2. At the 2nd virtual informal meeting, on 26 April 2021, the Officer-in-Charge of the Forum secretariat introduced the reports on agenda item 3.

3. For the Chair's summary of the discussions, see annex III.

#### **General discussions**

4. At the 2nd virtual informal meeting, on 26 April 2021, the Forum held a general discussion on agenda item 3 (b) and (e) and heard statements by the representatives of the United States of America, China, Bangladesh, the Holy See, Turkey, Australia, Malaysia, Ghana, Guatemala, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Indonesia and Japan.

5. A statement was also made by the European Union (on behalf of its member States), in its capacity as observer.

6. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), speaking also on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, participated in the discussion.

7. At the 5th virtual informal meeting, on 28 April 2021, the Forum held a general discussion on agenda item 3 (f) and heard an introductory statement by the representative of the Forum secretariat.

8. Statements were made by the representatives of Malaysia, Indonesia, Peru, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Argentina, Mexico, Switzerland, China, Ukraine, the United States, South Africa, Fiji, Japan, Panama, Brazil, Chile and Ecuador.

---

<sup>1</sup> See the provisional agenda of the sixteenth session of the Forum (E/CN.18/2021/1).

9. A statement was also made by the European Union (on behalf of its member States), in its capacity as observer.
10. The representative of FAO also participated in the discussion.
11. The representative of the Forum secretariat responded to comments made and questions posed by delegations.
12. At the 6th virtual informal meeting, on 28 April 2021, the Forum held a general discussion on item 3 (g) (ii) and (iii) and heard introductory statements by the following: representative, Forum secretariat; Deputy Director, Forestry Division, FAO, Tiina Vähänen; Deputy Director, Forestry Division, FAO, Ewald Rametsteiner; and Senior Researcher, International Union of Forest Research Organizations, Stefanie Linser.
13. Statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Mexico, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), Canada, Ukraine, China, Malaysia, the United States, Japan, Kenya, Australia, the Russian Federation, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and South Africa.
14. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Asian Forest Cooperative Organization and the Amazon Cooperative Treaty Organization.
15. A statement was made by the Vice-Chair (Australia).

#### **Launch of the *Global Forest Goals Report 2021***

16. At the 2nd virtual informal meeting, on 26 April 2021, the Forum held a panel discussion on agenda item 3 (g) (i), on the launch of the Global Forest Goals Report 2021, chaired and moderated by the Vice-Chair (Australia), who made a statement.
17. Opening remarks were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (pre-recorded) and the Deputy Director General of FAO (pre-recorded).
18. The Officer-in-Charge of the Forum secretariat presented the key findings of the report.
19. Statements were made by the following panellists: Deputy Director General, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China, Liu Xin (pre-recorded); Chief Conservator of Forests, Kenya, Julius Kamau (pre-recorded); Director, Canadian Forest Service, Maureen Whelan; Manager, Strategic Corporate Planning, Forestry Department, Jamaica, Davia Carty (pre-recorded); Chief State Counsellor, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Slovakia, Boris Greguška (pre-recorded); and Director, Forestry Division, FAO, Mette Wilkie.

#### **Interactive panel discussions**

20. At its 3rd virtual informal meeting, on 27 April 2021, the Forum held an interactive panel discussion on item 3 (a) and (d), chaired and moderated by the Vice-Chair (Poland).
21. Statements were made by the following panellists: Secretary-General, secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Ivonne Higuero; Director, Programs Unit, Global Environment Facility secretariat, Gustavo Alberto Fonseca; and Director, Division of Operations, International Tropical Timber Organization, Sheam Satkuru.
22. In the ensuing interactive discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Brazil, Peru, Japan, Mexico, Kenya, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Argentina, the United States, China, Australia, the Russian Federation, El Salvador and New Zealand.

23. A statement was also made by the European Union (on behalf of its member States), in its capacity as observer.

24. The representative of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization also participated in the discussion.

25. At its 4th virtual informal meeting, on 27 April 2021, the Forum held an interactive panel discussion (on item 3 (a) and (c)), chaired and moderated by the Vice-Chair (Ghana).

26. Statements were made by the following panellists: Chair, Collaborative Partnership on Forests, Mette Wilkie; Head, Joint Forestry and Timber Section, Economic Commission for Europe and FAO, Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab; Deputy Executive Director, International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, Lu Wenming; Executive Director, Brazilian Tree Industry, José Carlos da Fonseca, Jr.; representative, Wageningen University, the Netherlands, and International Forestry Students' Association, Frederik Buchholz; and representative, Forestry Network of Sub-Saharan Africa, Joseph Cobbinah.

27. In the ensuing interactive discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), Japan, Kenya, Peru, Indonesia, Mexico, Finland, the United States, Guatemala, Brazil and Malaysia.

28. A statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

29. The representatives of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations also participated in the discussion.

## **B. Forum trust fund**

30. The Forum considered agenda item 4 at its 7th virtual informal meeting, on 29 April 2021. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the note by the Secretariat on the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests ([E/CN.18/2021/6](#)).

31. At the same meeting, the Forum held a general discussion on the item and heard statements by the representatives of the Republic of Korea and China.

## **C. Emerging issues: impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on forests and the forest sector**

32. The Forum considered agenda item 5 at its 1st virtual informal meeting, on 26 April 2021. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the note by the Secretariat on the impact of the pandemic on forests and the forest sector ([E/CN.18/2021/7](#)).

33. At the same meeting, the Officer-in-Charge of the Forum secretariat introduced the report.

### **High-level round table on major forest-related developments**

34. At the 1st virtual informal meeting, on 26 April 2021, the Forum held its high-level round table discussion on major forest-related developments, chaired and moderated by the Chair (Suriname), who made a statement.

35. Statements were made by the President of the Economic and Social Council, Munir Akram (Pakistan) (pre-recorded); the President of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir (Turkey); the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed; the Director General of FAO, Qu Dongyu (pre-recorded); and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema.

36. Statements were also made by the following lead discussants: the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Tina Birmipili; the Director of the Transparency Division of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Donald Cooper; and the Executive Director of the Pulp Manufacturers Association of South Africa, Jane Molony.

37. In the ensuing interactive discussion, statements were made by the following: Minister of the Environment and Climate Action, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), João Pedro Matos Fernandes; representative, Slovenia; Director, National Institute of Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife, Honduras, Mario Antonio Martínez Padilla; Deputy Minister of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Czechia, Patrik Mlynář; representative, Honduras; Special Envoy, Alliance for the Preservation of Tropical Rainforests, France, Pierre-Henri Guignard; Deputy Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources, Nicaragua, Javier Antonio Gutiérrez Ramírez; Deputy Minister of the Environment and Forestry, Indonesia, Agus Justianto; Director General, Forests, Sustainability and Renewable Resources, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany, Eva Müller; Director, Office of Conservation and Water, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, United States, Christine Dawson; Director General, International Cooperation Centre, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China, Chunfeng Wang; representative of the Republic of Korea; Director, Promotion and Competitiveness Directorate, Ministry of Agricultural Development and Irrigation, Peru, Marco Antonio Llanos Ramírez; representative of Colombia; Director General, Forest Service of Brazil, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Pedro Alves Corrêa Neto; representative of Argentina; Chief Conservator of Forests, Kenya, Julius Kamau; and Assistant Secretary, Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines, Marcial C. Amaro, Jr.

38. The observers for the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations also participated in the interactive discussion.

39. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made closing remarks (pre-recorded).

40. For the Chair's summary of the discussions, see annex III.

## Annex II

### Correspondence relating to the work of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

- 29 June 2020 Letter from the Chair (Slovakia) of the fifteenth session on the election, through a silence procedure, of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Forum
- 2 July 2020 Letter from the Chair (Slovakia) of the fifteenth session on the conclusion of the silence procedure and the election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Forum
- 3 February 2021 Letter from the Chair (Suriname) of the sixteenth session on the recommended modalities and provisional organization of work, as recommended by the Bureau of the sixteenth session of the Forum
- 9 April 2021 Letter from the Chair (Suriname) of the sixteenth session on the adoption, through a silence procedure, of the provisional agenda and organization of work of the sixteenth session of the Forum, and on the election of the Vice-Chairs and the appointment of the Rapporteur of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Forum
- 16 April 2021 Letter from the Chair (Suriname) of the sixteenth session on the conclusion of the silence procedure on and adoption of the provisional agenda and organization of work of the sixteenth session of the Forum, and on the election of the Vice-Chairs and the appointment of the Rapporteur of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Forum.
- 26 April 2021 Letter from the Chair (Suriname) of the sixteenth session placing under silence procedure the draft resolution entitled “Programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2022–2024” ([E/CN.18/2021/L.3](#)), the draft decision entitled “Proposed dates and venue of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests” ([E/CN.18/2021/L.2](#)) and the provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests ([E/CN.18/2021/L.1](#))
- 27 April 2021 Letter from the Chair (Suriname) of the sixteenth session placing under a silence procedure the draft report on the sixteenth session of the Forum ([E/CN.18/2021/L.4](#))
- 3 May 2021 Letter from the Chair (Suriname) of the sixteenth session on the conclusion of the silence procedure on and adoption of the provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests ([E/CN.18/2021/L.1](#)), the draft decision entitled “Proposed dates and venue of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests” ([E/CN.18/2021/L.2](#)), the draft resolution entitled “Programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2022–2024” ([E/CN.18/2021/L.3](#)), and the draft report on the sixteenth session of the Forum ([E/CN.18/2021/L.4](#))

## Annex III

### Summary by the Chair of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

#### I. Introduction

1. In section II.A of the present summary, the Chair summarizes the technical discussions at the sixteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, including the high-level round table. The Chair's proposals emerging from the technical discussions are contained in section II.B, for transmittal to the seventeenth session of the Forum. Section III contains the input of the sixteenth session of the Forum to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2021. The input was drafted using the template provided by the President of the Economic and Social Council. The present summary by the Chair is not a consensus negotiated outcome of the Forum.

#### II. Summary by the Chair of the technical discussions at the sixteenth session of the Forum

2. As the sixteenth session of the Forum was a technical session, the deliberations were conducted in accordance with the guidance provided in annex I to Council resolution 2020/14. Accordingly, the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2021–2024 included two thematically linked bienniums: 2021–2022 (sixteenth and seventeenth sessions) and 2023–2024 (eighteenth and nineteenth sessions). The thematic priorities were to be based on the six global forest goals and 26 associated targets, taking into account the post-2020 programme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other relevant international developments. The thematic priorities for each biennium should be decided upon by the Bureau of the Forum, in consultation with the members.

3. The Bureau of the sixteenth session of the Forum decided that global forest goals 1 and 2, together with three cross-cutting goals (namely, goals 4, 5 and 6), should be the main thematic priorities for the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Forum. Accordingly, the thematic priorities for the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions were: (a) reversing the loss of forest cover; (b) enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits; and (c) mobilizing financial resources and strengthening scientific and technical cooperation; promoting governance frameworks to advance implementation; and enhancing cooperation, coordination and coherence for sustainable forest management.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> For more information about the decision of the Bureau of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, including the interlinkages between the thematic priorities of the sixteenth session, the Sustainable Development Goals under review at the 2021 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and international forest-related developments, and the contribution of those priorities to those Goals and developments, see <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>.

## A. Summary of the technical discussions at the sixteenth session of the Forum

### Agenda item 5 (Emerging issues: impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on forests and the forest sector)

4. The Officer-in-Charge of the Forum secretariat introduced the note by the Secretariat on the impact of the pandemic on forests and the forest sector ([E/CN.18/2021/7](#)).

*High-level round table on major forest-related developments,<sup>2</sup> held on 26 April 2021*

5. Following the Chair's opening remarks, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the General Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity delivered remarks at the opening segment of the high-level round table. The representatives of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change also made remarks. The segment was followed by an interactive discussion, during which representatives of Governments, international organizations and the private sector discussed the ways in which forests could be part of the solution to current global crises in the post-coronavirus disease (COVID-19) era and the ways in which the private sector could be further engaged to contribute to efforts to address those challenges. Several members of the Forum also highlighted their initiatives to preserve forests and promote sustainable forest management. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made closing remarks at the end of the interactive discussion. The representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Czechia, France, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, the Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), Slovenia, the United States of America, the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations made statements.

6. The main points emerging from the discussions at the high-level round table included the following:

(a) The COVID-19 crisis continued to affect all countries around the world, devastating people's lives, upending economies, threatening societies, increasing inequalities, having disproportionate adverse effects on the lives of women and girls, and thus causing major setbacks to global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

(b) The COVID-19 crisis had adversely affected the establishment of sustainable forest management, including forest governance and forest financing availability, and the livelihoods of forest-dependent people, causing potential setbacks in efforts to implement the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and achieve the global forest goals;

(c) The COVID-19 pandemic had been a stark reminder that the protection, conservation and restoration of nature, in particular forests, was essential to preventing future infectious and zoonotic diseases. Forests had the potential to offset many of the social, economic and environmental impacts of the pandemic and other

---

<sup>2</sup> See the concept note for the high-level round table of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Available at <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>.

global challenges. It was therefore critical to strengthen sustainable forest management and actions to halt illegal and unsustainable forest practices in post-pandemic recovery strategies. Forests, trees outside forests and agroforestry could also play an important role in addressing hunger and food insecurity in the post-pandemic era;

(d) The interlinked and mutually reinforcing threats of climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, forest fires, desertification, land degradation, pollution and other disasters continued to threaten people's lives and the ecological integrity of the planet. Forest-based actions, grounded in sustainable forest management, had a crucial role to play in addressing those threats, in line with relevant international agreements;

(e) The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the six global forest goals, provided a framework of forest-based actions for the synergetic implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and the Convention on Biological Diversity and the outcome of the ongoing consultations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(f) Upcoming international conferences, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held in July 2021, the United Nations Food Systems Summit and the high-level dialogue on energy, to be held in September 2021, and the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in the later part of 2021, along with the launch of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, offered opportunities to help shape an inclusive and sustainable future for all;

(g) Science and technology, adequate financial resources, and increased capacity-building, data collection and analysis were all critically important in addressing the negative impact of COVID-19 and reducing the risk of future pandemics. A better science-policy-society interface, increased investment and more effective governance were essential to a better recovery from the current crisis;

(h) Strengthening intersectoral consultation, cross-sectoral collaboration and stakeholder engagement was important to ensuring sustainable and integrated land-use planning. The pandemic had also highlighted the need for enhanced use of online learning platforms, and the expanded use of information and communications technology;

(i) Appropriate policy and fiscal frameworks were needed to facilitate and promote private-sector involvement in sustainable supply chains. The private sector should be responsive and agile, and more proactive in advancing sustainable forest management practices;

(j) An assessment of the challenges faced by countries, as well as the strategies adopted and recovery measures taken by countries to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on forests and the forest sector, should be conducted by the Forum secretariat in order to build forward better, in collaboration with members of the Forum, and member organizations and stakeholders of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(k) The proposals contained in the note by the Secretariat on the impact of the pandemic on forests and the forest sector ([E/CN.18/2021/7](#)), the content of which had been derived from the studies on the initial assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on sustainable forest management, were very valuable. The participants in the high-

level round table encouraged the implementation of the proposals at the national, regional and international levels.

*Launch of the flagship publication of the Forum, the Global Forest Goals Report 2021*

7. A special launch event was held for the release of the first flagship publication of the Forum and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the *Global Forest Goals Report 2021*.<sup>3</sup> The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Deputy Director General of FAO made opening remarks at the event. The Under-Secretary-General said that the inaugural report provided information on the actions taken and progress made towards the global forest goals, by using national data and information from voluntary national reports submitted to the Forum and voluntary national contributions for the achievement of the goals, and biophysical data from the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020. He also noted that the report included national success stories and best practices, and the gaps and challenges that had been identified by countries in their efforts to make progress towards the goals. He emphasized that the Department's new flagship publication provided a snapshot of the myriad actions that were being taken around the world. He emphasized that such efforts should be amplified and accelerated if the world was to meet the deadline of achieving the goals by 2030. The Deputy Director General of FAO described the ways in which FAO was supporting countries in the collection, analysis and use of forest data. She also highlighted the efforts of FAO to strengthen national capacities for better and more transparent data. She noted that the *Global Forest Goals Report 2021* was an excellent example of successful collaboration between the Forum secretariat and the FAO Forestry Division, and expressed the readiness of FAO to continue the collaboration in the future. Following the opening segment of the launch event, the Officer-in-Charge of the Forum secretariat presented the key findings of the report. That presentation was followed by panel presentations by representatives of China, Kenya, Canada, Jamaica, Slovakia and FAO. Panellists reported on their experiences of preparing their voluntary national reports, and the challenges and opportunities in that regard. In his closing remarks, the Chair noted that the countries that had provided the national data and information that formed the basis of the report would have the opportunity to provide factual corrections, if any, to the Forum secretariat within three weeks of the launch, namely, by 17 May 2021. The Chair also said that the discussion on agenda item 3 (g) would continue during the 2nd meeting of the Forum on 28 April 2021, and that members would have an opportunity to share their views on the flagship publication and future steps in that regard.

*Introduction of the official documents of the sixteenth session of the Forum*

8. The Officer-in-Charge of the Forum secretariat introduced the notes by the Secretariat on the technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and adoption of the Forum's programme of work for the period 2022–2024 (E/CN.18/2021/2), the implementation of the strategic plan: contributions of and enhanced cooperation with partners towards achieving the thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022 (E/CN.18/2021/3), means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (E/CN.18/2021/4), monitoring, assessment and reporting: progress on the implementation of the strategic plan, including the United Nations forest instrument, and voluntary national contributions (E/CN.18/2021/5), and the trust fund for the Forum (E/CN.18/2021/6).

---

<sup>3</sup> United Nations publication, 2021.

**Agenda item 3 (b) (Contributions of members of the Forum to implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030) and its sub-items (i) (New announcements of voluntary national contributions) and (ii) (Updates on voluntary national contributions and their follow-up related to the thematic priorities)**

9. Several members spoke under this agenda item. The representative of Ghana announced new voluntary national contributions for the period from 2021 to 2024 for the achievement of targets 1.2, 1.3, 2.3, 3.2 and 4.1 of the global forest goals. The representatives of Australia, Bangladesh, China, Guatemala, the Holy See, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, the United States, Turkey and Ukraine provided information about several initiatives and actions that their Governments had taken to advance the achievement of the goals. The representatives of China, Indonesia and Ukraine also reported on the progress in their previously announced voluntary national contributions.<sup>4</sup>

10. The following main points emerged from the discussions:

(a) The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 was a reference framework for ambitious and transformational action. Action taken to advance the achievement of the global forest goals should address the urgent needs of both nature and humans, especially during the current global pandemic and its aftermath, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Countries should be encouraged to announce voluntary national contributions to accelerate the achievement of the global forest goals and provide updates on the progress made in relation to their previously announced contributions, without duplicating the national reporting process;

(c) Countries were facing multiple challenges in achieving the goals, including a lack of sufficient investment and resources. Some countries also faced severe disasters, such as forest fires, which adversely affected their efforts to restore forests. International cooperation should be promoted to help countries to deal with such challenges;

(d) To accelerate the achievement of the goals, it was important to use existing frameworks and mechanisms; promote sustainable forest management and practices related to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries worldwide; strengthen sustainable food systems and consider sustainability issues when developing new food systems; and address the loss of forests and biodiversity, and food insecurity.

**Agenda item 3 (e) (Implementation of the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including activities regarding the International Day of Forests in 2021)**

11. The themes proposed by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests for the International Day of Forests, namely, “Forests and sustainable production and consumption” for 2022 and “Forests and health” for 2023, were supported. The representatives of Australia, the European Union, in its capacity as observer, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, the United States and FAO highlighted some of their activities to raise awareness regarding forests and promote the 2021 International Day.

---

<sup>4</sup> Announcements of voluntary national contributions are available at <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents/un-strategic-plan-for-forests-2030/vnccs/index.html>.

12. The following main points emerged from the discussion:

(a) Delegations welcomed the efforts of the Forum secretariat to implement the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, and encouraged additional advocacy related to the strategic plan, where appropriate, and the work done by the secretariat regarding the role of forests during the COVID-19 pandemic through policy briefs and social media;

(b) Delegations encouraged greater engagement with cross-sectoral audiences, including through the development of targeted communication approaches for non-forest industries, such as agriculture and mining, in order to underpin and accelerate the reach and uptake of the Forum's communications and outreach messaging;

(c) Online and social media should be further used as efficient means to address the general public worldwide. Engagement of well-known persons in advocating for forests and the implementation of the strategic plan is another effective means of communication;

(d) The fifteenth World Forestry Congress, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and other global events provide opportunities to share the newly launched *Global Forest Goals Report 2021*. The 40-page summary of the report could be distilled further for a non-technical audience;

(e) Creative digital and virtual planning of the International Day of Forests, even after the pandemic, should be further encouraged. The social media toolkit and the Trello board, through which the themes of the International Day were successfully communicated and an estimated 82 million accounts were reached last year, need to be promoted.

**Agenda item 3 (a) (Thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022 in support of the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030) and (d) (Interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2021, the work towards a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other international forest-related developments)**

13. The discussion of the thematic priorities was facilitated by a panel comprising representatives of the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization.<sup>5</sup> The panellists presented the activities conducted in their organizations, including the areas in which the organizations had contributed to achieving the thematic priorities of the Forum. During the interactive discussions, the representatives of several countries and partners shared the activities that they had undertaken to advance and accelerate the achievement of the global forest goals. The representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, El Salvador, the European Union, in its capacity as observer, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the Russian Federation, the United States and the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization made statements.

14. The following main points emerged from the discussions:

(a) Forests were the terrestrial ecosystem with the main reservoir of biological diversity and the greatest capacity for carbon sequestration. Sustainably managed

---

<sup>5</sup> See the concept note for panel discussion 1, on agenda item 3 (a) and (d) of the sixteenth session of the Forum, held on 27 April 2021.

forests had a vital role in contributing to food security and sustaining livelihoods for many people worldwide, especially in areas where agricultural opportunities were limited, such as forests and trees in dryland areas. Forests and trees in urban and peri-urban areas contributed significantly to a healthier environment and to more resilient cities. The function of forests in reducing disaster risks and strengthening community resilience was also indispensable for sustainable development and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

(b) Deforestation and forest degradation continued at an alarming rate in some regions. Climate change, biodiversity loss, disasters, forest fires, land degradation and other challenges were hampering the efforts of countries to advance the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the achievement of the global forest goals.

(c) Forests and forest-based actions played a key role in addressing the multiple challenges that the international community currently faced. Addressing those challenges and accelerating progress towards the goals required the advancement of an integrated, sustainable approach to land-use planning and management, and the promotion of intersectoral collaboration. Advancing an integrated sustainable approach to land and ecosystem management would also help to promote the “One Health” approach. In that respect, increased afforestation, reforestation and restoration efforts were needed;

(d) The dissemination of information and success stories regarding the implementation of the strategic plan, including actions taken by Governments to alleviate poverty among forest-dependent communities, efforts to strengthen the value chains of non-timber forest products, increased financing and public-private partnership, the integration of the goals in national and international development programmes, and the strengthening of the management capacity of local communities, together with strengthened support to small and medium-sized enterprises, especially during the ongoing pandemic situation, were key factors for achieving the global forest goals and making progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) Enhancing governance, transparency and gender equality; empowering indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth; addressing illegal logging; applying science, scientific research and new technological tools, including digital technology; and enhancing international cooperation to support developing countries in the areas of finance, capacity-building and technology, were important in enabling countries to make progress towards the global forest goals.

(f) The strategic plan and the goals represented a central framework for forest-related action to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Accelerated efforts should be made to implement the strategic plan in order to achieve all the global forest goals by 2030. The Forum should also invite countries to consider forests’ contribution to meeting the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its present and future targets. The development of national forest financing strategies under the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network should also contribute to national processes for honouring the 2030 Agenda commitments, implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and carrying out work on biodiversity and land degradation, among other things.

(g) Forest-related issues must be addressed in a holistic, coherent, consistent and mutually supportive manner at the national and international levels in order to promote the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Forthcoming meetings and events, such as the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention

on Biological Diversity and the outcome of the ongoing consultations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, provided important opportunities to foster further synergies among the intergovernmental processes, in accordance with their mandates and priorities, and to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument and the strategic plan.

**Agenda item 3 (c) (Contributions of and enhanced cooperation with partners to achieving the thematic priorities) and its sub-items (i) (Contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, its member organizations and the United Nations system to achieving the thematic priorities; progress on the workplan of the Partnership), (ii) (Contributions of regional and subregional organizations and processes to achieving the thematic priorities) and (iii) (Contributions of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the philanthropic community, to achieving the thematic priorities; progress on major group workplans)**

15. The discussion was facilitated by a panel comprising a representative of FAO, the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and representatives of the Joint Forestry and Timber Section of the Economic Commission for Europe and FAO, the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, the Brazilian Tree Industry, the International Forestry Students' Association and the Forestry Network of Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>6</sup> The panellists presented a detailed description of the activities of their organizations and networks to advancing sustainable forest management, including those activities related to the thematic priorities of the sixteenth session of the Forum. The representative of FAO also presented the Collaborative Partnership on Forests workplan for 2021–2024, including the joint initiatives of the Partnership. Representatives of major groups also reported on the outcomes of the year's meeting of major groups and the implementation of major groups' workplans in support of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. The representative of the children and youth major group shared the main outcome of the report on the 2020 major group-led initiative on the theme "Cross-sectoral collaboration for inclusive forest landscapes". During the interactive discussions, the representatives of several countries and partners shared their activities and views regarding the engagement of stakeholders and partners in advancing the implementation of the strategic plan and the achievement of the thematic priorities of the sixteenth session of the Forum. The representatives of Brazil, the European Union, in its capacity as observer, Finland, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, the United States, the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and the United Nations Environment Programme made statements.

16. The following main points emerged from the discussions:

(a) The Collaborative Partnership on Forests workplan for 2021–2024, including the Partnership's recurrent activities and joint initiatives, was welcomed. The member organizations of the Partnership were invited to further enhance coordination and coherence regarding forest-related issues at the global level, through their activities and initiatives. They were also invited to integrate the global forest goals in their programmes, taking into account their mandates, and extend their capacity-building support to countries, especially developing countries, in all areas related to sustainable forest management. The members of the Partnership were also encouraged to take a proactive role in various international forums, especially during

---

<sup>6</sup> See the concept note for panel discussion 2, on agenda item 3 (a) and (c) of the sixteenth session of the Forum, held on 27 April 2021.

the “super year” of nature and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The Partnership dialogue should also be better used. The governing bodies of the Partnership members were invited to support the work of the Partnership and its activities.

(b) Regarding the work of the Partnership on the global core set of forest-related indicators, concerns were expressed over the expectation that the indicators be finalized, given the low data availability for the tier 3 indicators. The usefulness of holding additional workshops on immeasurable tier 3 indicators was questioned. Some countries supported the finalization of methodology for indicators with greater data availability and consistency in methodology, and welcomed the continued flexibility in the suite of indicators as a means to provide a responsive indicator framework for current and future global priorities;

(c) More information was needed on the planned Collaborative Partnership on Forests joint initiative, led by the International Tropical Timber Organization and the World Bank, on pathways for designing a mechanism to incentivize deforestation-free landscapes and value chains for green growth, including the process for engaging with Governments for input. Relevant Partnership members were also cautioned against providing an overly prescriptive or single approach to fiscal measures;

(d) Regional and subregional partners had a key role in accelerating efforts to achieve the goals by exchanging information and data, and supporting capacity-building and training activities in their member countries. Regional and subregional collaboration for landscape restoration, including for forests and trees in drylands, and in arid and semi-arid regions, was also highlighted as essential to the success of countries in achieving the goals;

(e) The participation of all relevant stakeholders, in particular, women and youth, in addition to the private sector and philanthropic organizations, was critical to achieving the goals, especially in the post-pandemic era. The efforts of major groups in implementing their workplans to advance the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, and the intersessional activities of those groups, were recognized. Countries were invited to support such activities and to consider involving youth in their delegations at international meetings. Barriers to obtaining support from philanthropic organizations should also be identified;

(f) The Forum had been successfully promoting the science-policy interface during its meetings and intersessional activities. Those activities included the preparation of scientific studies and papers, the participation of experts from scientific research organizations in the work of the Forum, and the active involvement of those experts in various panels. Such promotion should continue, as the involvement of the scientific community enhanced the understanding of synergies and trade-offs between different goals and related targets, and helped to advance the implementation of the strategic plan more efficiently.

### **Agenda item 3 (f) (Means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network)**

17. A representative of the Forum secretariat made a presentation to mark the official launch of phase I of the clearing house of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network. Members were encouraged to use the new platform to support its continued development and improvement over time. The representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Ecuador, the European Union, in its capacity as observer, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine, the United States and FAO made statements. They shared their views regarding the issues contained in the note by the Secretariat on means of Implementation, including

operations and resources of the Network (E/CN.18/2021/4). Several representatives also reported on their ongoing activities to advance means of implementation.

18. The following main points emerged from the discussions:

(a) Members of the Forum welcomed the support provided by the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network to countries, and the operationalization of phase I of the clearing house of the Network. Given its important role in facilitating access to financing for forests, the Network should be further strengthened to proactively provide further support to countries;

(b) The Network had an important role in supporting countries to mobilize finance for sustainable forest management from all sources, including through the development of national forest financing strategies. It was imperative to advance such strategies as an integral part of COVID-19 recovery and sustainable development programmes;

(c) The clearing house was a very useful tool for facilitating access of countries to information about forest financing opportunities, success stories and learning materials. In expanding and improving the quantity and quality of the data contained in the clearing house, it was important to continue collaboration with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, other relevant international organizations and data providers, in order to avoid duplication and operate efficiently. The efforts of the Forum secretariat to operationalize the clearing house in a cost-effective manner, including by having the United Nations host the website, were welcomed. The Forum secretariat was requested to maintain the United Nations as the host of the website in the future development of the clearing house;

(d) In preparation for the midterm review of the international arrangement on forests, to be held in 2024, it was important to conduct intersessional activities to review the work of the Network, the challenges it faced and its impact, in close collaboration with countries, relevant international organizations and partners, including international financing institutions;

(e) Funding forests remained a major challenge for many countries, especially developing countries during the current pandemic situation. Long-term predictable resources and adequate economic incentives for achieving the global forest goals, and international cooperation and partnership in the areas of technology, capacity-building, technical assistance and innovative funding, were also critical for advancing the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Some members of the Forum encouraged the Network to help countries to access financing from the private and philanthropic sectors, possibly through outreach to non-traditional partners;

(f) To help countries to confront forest financing challenges, especially during the current pandemic, international funding institutions and entities, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, should enhance their mutual collaboration to efficiently meet countries' forest financing needs. The procedures for receiving funding should be simplified, and the funding of sustainable forest management activities should be integrated in their replenishment cycles and operational programmes;

(g) Protecting and enhancing the world's natural assets and the biodiversity that underpinned them was crucial to achieving a sustainable, resilient economy, and to tackling poverty and climate change and preventing future pandemics. Scaled-up financing, including private-sector funding, was required to protect and restore nature and biodiversity;

(h) Some members welcomed the report of the Forum secretariat on the progress made on the proposed Forum secretariat office for the Network in Beijing, and requested the secretariat to continue to provide regular updates to the Forum on any related developments. Some members of the Forum emphasized the importance of following all United Nations rules, regulations and protocols in relation to the proposed office for the Network. Some members asked the secretariat to provide regular intersessional updates on the matter.

**Agenda item 3 (g) (Monitoring, assessment and reporting) and its sub-items (i) (Forum flagship publication), (ii) (Global core set of forest-related indicators) and (iii) (Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020)**

19. The Forum secretariat provided a brief overview of the key points for discussion under the agenda item, including the lessons learned from the preparation of the flagship *Global Forest Goals Report 2021*, and future considerations for Forum-related national reporting and monitoring, assessment and reporting, in general. A representative of FAO delivered a presentation on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020, in which she underlined the importance of capacity-building for national correspondents and presented the key findings of the report. Another representative of FAO updated the Forum on the work on the global core set of forest-related indicators, including the development of selected tier 2 and 3 indicators. A representative of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations provided an overview of the activities of working party 9.01.05 of the Union, on research and development of indicators for sustainable forest management.

20. The representatives of Australia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), the Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine and the United States, along with the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization, provided the Forum with information on initiatives and actions that they had taken in support of monitoring, assessment and reporting on sustainable forest management. Some of the representatives also identified opportunities for future enhancements of the Forum's monitoring, assessment and reporting.

21. The following main points emerged from the discussions:

(a) The launch of the *Global Forests Goals Report 2021*, the inaugural flagship publication of the Forum, was welcomed. As a next step, it was recommended that efforts be made to disseminate the report widely, to audiences within and outside the forest sector, in order to increase its impact. It was suggested that due attention be given to the analysis of the impact of the first flagship publication, with a view to building on the experiences and results obtained from it. The possibility of making the report a recurrent flagship publication, in conjunction with future cycles of national reporting, was discussed. In that regard, various suggestions were made, including the need to consider the ways in which the structure and content of such a publication would reflect priorities identified by members of the Forum, increase the emphasis on policy recommendations, and synchronize the timing of such a publication with the next cycle of the Global Forest Resources Assessment, to optimize the use of the data that had already been collected;

(b) The need to encourage more countries to participate in the next Forum reporting cycle was emphasized, to better reflect the Forum's universal membership and ensure that collective actions for the achievement of the global forest goals were assessed on a broader basis than currently. It was noted that further refinements should be considered, in order to streamline the format for national reporting to the Forum, through consultations with members, while recognizing the need to reduce the reporting burden and strengthen the capacity of countries to prepare national reports;

(c) Further development of the global core set of forest-related indicators by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests was welcomed. However, it was noted that challenges persisted in the context of the tier 3 indicators, including for goals 2 and 4, and consideration should be given to whether it was useful or possible to finalize tier 3 indicators for which no methodology had been agreed, or for which data or an acceptable proxy were unavailable. Extending the Global Forest Resources Assessment could help to address the socioeconomic aspects of sustainable forest management.

(d) The Forum secretariat was requested to continue to organize, jointly with FAO, capacity-building workshops on the global core set of forest-related indicators and national reporting to the Forum.

## **B. Proposals by the Chair for transmission to the Forum at its seventeenth session**

22. On the basis of the technical discussions at the sixteenth session of the Forum, the following proposals by the Chair will be submitted for further consideration at the seventeenth session of the Forum in 2022:

(a) Thematic priorities in support of the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030:

(i) Inviting members of the Forum to accelerate efforts towards achieving global forest goals 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, including through the mainstreaming and upscaling of forest-related actions in their national development programmes, and developing joint initiatives and partnerships on the implementation of the strategic plan;

(ii) Encouraging the integration of forest-based actions in the nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement and the outcome of the ongoing consultations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in accordance with the mandates of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(iii) Inviting the high-level political forum on sustainable development to recognize the strategic plan as an integrated framework for forest-related actions and international cooperation to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Voluntary national contributions:

Inviting those members of the Forum that have not yet done so to announce voluntary national contributions in support of the global forest goals and targets, and further encourage those members that have already announced voluntary national contributions to report to the Forum on the progress made;

(c) Communication and outreach strategy:

(i) Encouraging members of the Forum, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and relevant partners to share their best practices and success stories, as well as their communication materials in support of the implementation of the strategic plan, so that they can be showcased on the Forum website;

(ii) Welcoming the use of digital channels, in particular social media, as an efficient means for the Forum secretariat's outreach to public audiences, including the use of such channels for virtual celebrations of the International Day of Forests, and encouraging further promotion of social media toolkits for

the International Day and other key events, and greater engagement with well-known personalities in conducting advocacy related to forests;

(iii) Encouraging greater engagement with cross-sectoral audiences, including through the development of targeted communication approaches for non-forest industries, such as agriculture and mining, to underpin and accelerate the reach and uptake of the Forum secretariat's communications and outreach messaging;

(iv) Welcoming the themes proposed by the Partnership for the International Day of Forests, namely, "Forests and sustainable production and consumption" for 2022 and "Forests and health" for 2023, to enable the timely planning of activities for the upcoming International Day;

(d) Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant stakeholders:

(i) Welcoming the development of the Partnership workplan for 2021–2024 and inviting the Partnership to strengthen its support for the implementation of the Forum's quadrennial programme of work for 2021–2024 and the strategic plan through the workplan;

(ii) Inviting members of the Forum and the governing bodies of member organizations of the Partnership to support the integration of the goals in their respective programmes, and scale up support for the implementation of the workplan of the Partnership and the strengthening of its secretariat, as appropriate, in accordance with their respective mandates, objectives and work programmes;

(iii) Welcoming the efforts of regional and subregional partners, and major groups and other relevant stakeholders, in contributing to the thematic priorities of the Forum for the 2021–2022 biennium, encouraging their continued active engagement in promoting the implementation of the strategic plan and the achievement of the goals, and emphasizing the need to identify the barriers to the active involvement of philanthropic organizations in the work of the Forum;

(e) Monitoring, assessment and reporting:

(i) Welcoming the launch of the first flagship publication of the Forum, the *Global Forest Goals Report 2021*, and encouraging its widespread dissemination to audiences within and outside the forest sector in order to increase the impact of the publication;

(ii) Inviting consideration of making the *Global Forest Goals Report* a recurrent flagship publication in conjunction with future voluntary national reporting cycles of the Forum;

(iii) Inviting all members of the Forum to submit voluntary national reports to the Forum during the next reporting cycle, in order to provide a broader basis for the assessment of global progress towards the goals, emphasizing the need to reduce the reporting burden and requesting the Forum secretariat to continue to organize, jointly with FAO, capacity-building workshops to strengthen the capacity of countries to prepare such reports;

(iv) Inviting the Partnership to continue its work on the global core set of forest-related indicators and to report on progress at future sessions of the Forum;

(v) Inviting the active engagement of all Forum members in testing the global core set of indicators;

(f) Means of implementation:

- (i) Welcoming the support provided by the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network to countries, as well as the operationalization of phase I of the Network clearing house, in strengthening capacity to mobilize resources from all sources for sustainable forest management;
- (ii) Requesting the Forum secretariat to hold an intersessional workshop after the seventeenth session of the Forum to review the work of the Network, the related challenges, the impact of the support currently provided by the Network to countries and the means to further increase access, within the mandate of the Network, to financing for sustainable forest management, and to review the efficiency of the Network, in close collaboration with members of the Forum, relevant international organizations and partners, including international financing institutions, as a contribution to the midterm review of the international arrangement on forests in 2024;
- (iii) Inviting Partnership member organizations and other partners to collaborate closely with the Forum secretariat in its efforts to develop phase II of the clearing house to ensure its cost-effectiveness and to avoid duplication;
- (iv) Encouraging members of the Forum, members of the Partnership and other relevant partners to share, for publication through the clearing house, their information on forest financing, in particular the good practices and lessons learned from Member States in relation to accessing financing for forests;
- (v) Requesting the Forum secretariat to provide regular updates to the Forum with regard to the proposed Forum secretariat office for the Network in Beijing;
- (g) Emerging issues: impact of COVID-19 on forests and the forest sector:
  - (i) Inviting countries to consider implementing the responses and measures proposed in section IV of the note by the Secretariat on the impact of the pandemic on forests and the forest sector ([E/CN.18/2021/7](#)), including promoting the “One Health” approach at the national, regional and international levels, in line with relevant international agreements;
  - (ii) Requesting the Forum secretariat, in collaboration with members of the Forum, Partnership member organizations and stakeholders, to conduct an assessment of the challenges faced by countries, and the strategies, recovery measures and best practices for reducing the impact of COVID-19 on forests and forest sector, and to present it to the Forum at its seventeenth session.

### **III. Input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2021**

23. The present input to the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development is based on the summary by the Chair of the technical discussions during the sixteenth session of the Forum on agenda item 3 (d) and the input provided previously by the Bureau of the sixteenth session of the Forum to the President of the Council. The input is not a consensus negotiated outcome of the Forum.

#### **Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals under review at the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development from the vantage point of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

24. The wide-ranging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic serve as a reminder that the Sustainable Development Goals are closely interlinked and that progress towards one Goal, or a lack thereof, affects progress towards the others. In particular, the

zoonotic nature of COVID-19 and other recent epidemic diseases, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Middle East respiratory syndrome, Ebola virus disease and human bird flu, demonstrates the importance of stewarding forests and other landscapes, biomes and ecosystems (for further information, see [E/CN.18/2021/7](#)).

25. Through effective COVID-19 response and recovery measures, the world can build forward better to realize sustainable development. In doing so, it is essential to make further progress towards eradicating deprivation, accelerating the universal provision of quality essential services, halting deforestation, and reversing course in terms of the degradation of forests and other ecosystems, greenhouse gas emissions, land degradation, biodiversity loss, wildlife trafficking and the deterioration of coastal waters.<sup>7</sup>

**Actions, policy guidance, progress, challenges and areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals and the issues and areas of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests<sup>8</sup>**

26. Despite the crucial contributions of forests to sustainable development, deforestation and forest degradation continue at an alarming rate in some regions. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation are considered to be drivers of zoonotic diseases, threatening public health, economies and livelihoods, and must be addressed in an integrated, effective, targeted and sustainable manner.

27. While progress has been made over the last decade in some regions, where the rate of forest loss has slowed, and a number of international commitments and initiatives have been launched in recent years to halt deforestation,<sup>9</sup> estimates indicate that 10 million hectares of forest continued to be lost annually from 2015 to 2020. The proportion of forest area globally declined from 31.9 per cent in 2000 to 31.2 per cent in 2020, chiefly owing to unsustainable agricultural expansion. A net loss of approximately 100 million hectares was recorded.<sup>10</sup>

**An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of ensuring that no one is left behind at the global, regional and national levels, against a background of the COVID-19 pandemic in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the area addressed by the Forum**

28. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to aggravate hardship among forest-dependent people and communities through job losses, reduced income, decreased remittances sent from migrant family members, reduced access to markets and information, increased physical isolation, lack of health services, and disruption to government-assisted programmes.<sup>11</sup> Socioeconomic vulnerabilities have pushed many indigenous and local communities, including returning migrant workers, to retreat deeper into forests for food, fuel and shelter in response to the risk of COVID-19 infection.

---

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, Department for Economic and Social Affairs, “Achieving SDGs in the wake of COVID-19: scenarios for policymakers”, policy brief, No. 84, 31 August 2020.

<sup>8</sup> A list of recommended actions and policy guidance in relation to forests and the Forum are contained in paras. 31–34 below.

<sup>9</sup> The international commitments and initiatives include Sustainable Development Goal 15, global forest goal 1, article 5 of the Paris Agreement, Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 7, objectives 1 and 3 of the cross-cutting sustainable forest management strategy 2014–2018 of the Global Environment Facility, the New York Declaration on Forests and the Bonn Challenge.

<sup>10</sup> *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020* (United Nations publication, 2020).

<sup>11</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Forestry Technical Network Webinar, “Social protection for forest dependent communities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic”, 22 July 2020.

29. In several regions, a lack of access to information and information technology has exacerbated the impact of the pandemic on the livelihoods and income of forest-based communities. The situation has been further aggravated by the failure to consider forestry activities to be essential in some countries during the pandemic, resulting in income declines and an increased risk of illegal activities, such as poaching and illegal timber harvesting.<sup>12</sup>

30. The pandemic has also dramatically deepened inequalities and vulnerabilities among forest-dependent populations in some regions, as many people, particularly women and youth, have lost regular and seasonal employment. In addition, communities lacking secure rights and access to forests have faced serious livelihood-related distress and have been less able to prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>13</sup>

### **Cooperation, measures and commitments at all levels in promoting sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

31. The pandemic has generated opportunities to build forward better towards more inclusive and sustainable economies, including through forest restoration, conservation and sustainable use. The pandemic has highlighted the need to exchange best practices among countries, including policies to support the forestry sector and forest-dependent people, in order to enhance scientific research on the role of forests in addressing zoonotic diseases; make better use of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities; enhance forest education; and expand the use of information and communications technology.

32. The Forum, at its sixteenth session, held technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets, and the Sustainable Development Goals that are under in-depth review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2021. At the session, the Forum also considered emerging issues related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and the forest sector in order to identify means to address those challenges, including through a high-level round table on major forest-related developments, with the participation of senior officials from members of the Forum and the United Nations system.

33. In advancing the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the achievement of the global forest goals and targets, it is imperative to unlock the potential of voluntary national contributions to the strategic plan to serve as countries' plans to accelerate progress towards the goals, while contributing to other globally agreed forest-related commitments and processes, including, as appropriate, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the outcome of the ongoing consultations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

---

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat, background papers on the initial assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on sustainable forest management. Available at <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/egm-covid-jan-2021/index.html>.

<sup>13</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "Building back better: COVID-19 pandemic recovery contributions from the forest sector", Chairperson's summary report, COVID-19 Forestry Webinar Week, 22–25 June 2020.

**Various measures and policy recommendations related to building an inclusive and effective path for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development**

34. The Forum, at its sixteenth session, identified the following responses and measures, and policy recommendations for a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and an enhanced contribution of forests to inclusive sustainable development:

(a) **Integrate sustainable forest management into COVID-19 pandemic recovery plans.** Sustainable forest management can make significant contributions to offsetting many of the social, economic and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has particularly affected forest-dependent people and communities owing to their vulnerabilities to crises such as pandemics. The integration of forest-based action into national programmes related to land use, including energy, mining and agriculture, will contribute to an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the pandemic.

(b) **Renew the commitment to internationally agreed forest-related goals and targets.** Sustainable forest management practices may reduce the risk of future pandemics and must be prioritized, including through renewed commitment to the internationally agreed forest-related goals and targets. Healthy forests are vital to addressing many pandemic-induced challenges, including through the creation of new jobs in afforestation, reforestation, agroforestry, urban forestry, research, conservation and sustainable use.

(c) **Promote the “One Health” approach and include the value of ecosystem services in recovery plans.** The current pandemic has highlighted the close interrelationship between the health of ecosystems, people and animals, including livestock and wildlife. There is growing recognition of the need to work towards the “One Health” approach to addressing global challenges, including, as appropriate, climate change, biodiversity loss and the risk of emergence of zoonotic diseases. The contribution of ecosystem services provided by forests should be assessed and included in the COVID-19 recovery plans and measures to enhance those values in the short, medium and long term.

(d) **Build momentum to halt illegal and unsustainable forest practices.** The pandemic presents a unique opportunity to accelerate actions to tackle the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. It is important to build momentum to halt illegal and unsustainable forest practices to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and reduce the risk of future zoonotic diseases, minimize impacts on global trade and supply chains, leverage action to build more sustainable production and resilient supply chains, and provide more diverse livelihoods.

(e) **Integrate investment in forests into the recovery plans.** Countries should integrate investment in forests and forest management into their national recovery strategies, taking into account their national conditions and priorities. Integrating disaster-risk reduction and adaptive planning within the forest sector, and integrating national forest financing strategies into the recovery plans, would also be useful in order to proactively plan for and manage future crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

(f) **Strengthen institutions and policies.** In the long term, countries, depending on their national conditions and priorities, may consider taking additional steps to adopt optimal, sustainable and integrated land-use planning and other measures to utilize the full potential of forests, address policy barriers, promote sustainable forest management, improve tenure security, promote community engagement and secure the tenure rights of communities to forests and forest

resources, and embed social protection and inclusive measures within forest sector policies and planning.

(g) **Strengthen forest governance.** Governance and support mechanisms to combat forest-related illegal activities, integrate disaster and risk mitigation approaches in planning, policies and response mechanisms, and promote cross-sectoral collaboration, for example between the forestry, mining and agricultural sectors, are important steps towards ensuring sustainable land-use planning and management.

(h) **Strengthen science and technology.** There is a need for a better science-policy-society interface to inform policy and decision-making, in order to ensure that the best science and technology are available for crisis response and recovery efforts, as well as public awareness.

(i) **Strengthen data collection, analysis and exchange.** The rapid spread and pervasive impact of COVID-19 highlights the need for Governments to provide effective, timely and inclusive responses, in addition to traditional data sources and data analytics tools.

(j) **Mobilize resources from all sources for forests.** It is important to mobilize resources, through all stakeholders and from all sources, for forests at all levels in the post-pandemic era. At the international level, official financial flows to forests, including official development assistance, are more important than ever, along with technological cooperation and assistance, multi-stakeholder partnerships and capacity development. The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network of the Forum could also assist countries in addressing the adverse impact of the pandemic on forests through the development of national forest financing strategies.

## Annex IV

## List of documents

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title</i>
<a href="#">E/CN.18/2021/1</a>	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
<a href="#">E/CN.18/2021/2</a>	3 (a), (b) (i) and (ii), (d) and (e) and 6	Note by the Secretariat on the technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and adoption of the Forum’s programme of work for the period 2022–2024
<a href="#">E/CN.18/2021/3</a>	3 (c) (i), (ii) and (iii)	Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: contributions of and enhanced cooperation with partners towards achieving the thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022
<a href="#">E/CN.18/2021/4</a>	3 (f)	Note by the Secretariat on the means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network
<a href="#">E/CN.18/2021/5</a>	3 (g)	Note by the Secretariat on 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
<a href="#">E/CN.18/2021/6</a>	4	Note by the Secretariat on the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests
<a href="#">E/CN.18/2021/7</a>	5	Note by the Secretariat on the impact of the pandemic on forests and the forest sector
<a href="#">E/CN.18/2021/L.1</a>	8	Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
<a href="#">E/CN.18/2021/L.2</a>	7	Draft decision on the proposed dates and venue of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
<a href="#">E/CN.18/2021/L.3</a>	6	Draft resolution on the programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2022–2024
<a href="#">E/CN.18/2021/L.4</a>	9	Draft report

Other relevant documentation is also available on the website of the Forum ([www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html)).

21-06423 (E) 030621

