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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

Provisional agenda

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 - (iii) Update on the activities of regional and subregional organizations and processes;
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 - (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;
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Annotations

1. Election of officers

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

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.

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 of 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.

The Forum is expected to elect its Chair, nominated from the Latin American and Caribbean States, at the first meeting of its seventeenth session, following the vacancy arising from the completion of the tenure of Kitty Sweeb (Suriname) as Permanent Representative of Suriname to the United Nations. The Latin American and Caribbean States have nominated Miriam Mac Intosh (Suriname) as Chair of the seventeenth session of the Forum.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session,

adopt the agenda and organization of work for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations ([E/CN.18/2022/1](#))

- 3. Policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030**
- (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**
- (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**

In accordance with the guidance provided in annex I to Economic and Social Council resolution [2020/14](#), the Forum, at its sixteenth session, held technical discussions on the thematic priorities in support of the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. The thematic priorities of the Forum for each biennium are based on the global forest goals and targets, taking into account the post-2020 programme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and relevant international forest-related developments.

In the resolution, the Council invited the Bureau of the Forum, in close consultation with members of the Forum, to decide on the thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022. In this respect, the Bureau of the sixteenth session of the Forum decided that the thematic priorities for the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Forum would be: (a) reversing the loss of forest cover (global forest goal 1); (b) enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits (global forest goal 2); 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 (global forest goals 4, 5 and 6).

At its sixteenth session, the Forum held technical discussions on the above-mentioned thematic priorities. A summary of the discussions of the Forum and the Chair's proposals are contained in the summary by the Chair of the sixteenth session.¹ Under agenda item 3 (a), the Forum, at its seventeenth session, will hold policy discussions on these thematic priorities, taking into account the Chair's proposals from the sixteenth session of the Forum.

¹ [E/2021/42-E/CN.18/2021/8](#), annex III.

In accordance with the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (see General Assembly resolution [71/285](#)), Member States may, on a voluntary basis, determine their contributions towards achieving the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan (voluntary national contributions), taking into account their national circumstances, policies, priorities, capacities, levels of development and forest conditions. Under agenda item 3 (a) (i), information on the contribution of members of the Forum to the thematic priorities, including new announcements of and updates on voluntary national contributions, will be considered by the Forum.

The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 serves as a reference framework for the forest-related work of the United Nations system and for the fostering of enhanced coherence, collaboration and synergies among United Nations bodies and partners towards the plan's vision and mission. The contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations to achieving the thematic priorities of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Forum and progress in implementing its workplan will be considered by the Forum under agenda item 3 (a) (ii).

In its resolution [2020/14](#), the Economic and Social Council emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral involvement in the activities of the Forum and requested the Forum secretariat to actively engage with major groups and other relevant stakeholders. The Council also emphasized the importance of involving relevant regional and subregional organizations and processes in the activities of the Forum. Under agenda item 3 (a) (iii) and (iv), the Forum, at its seventeenth session, will consider the contributions of the regional and subregional partners and major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the philanthropic community to achieving the thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022. It will also consider the progress on major group workplans.

Under agenda item 3 (a) (v), the Forum will discuss the 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 2022² and international forest-related developments. The Chair's summary of the discussions of the Forum on this agenda item will be transmitted, as the input of the seventeenth session of the Forum, to the 2022 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

Under agenda item 3 (b), the Forum will discuss the 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, the theme of which will be "Forests and sustainable production and consumption".

The note by the Secretariat contains information on agenda item 3 (a) and (b), as provided above. The note also contains relevant proposals by the Chair from the technical discussions during the sixteenth session of the Forum.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: activities in support of the thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022 ([E/CN.18/2022/2](#))

² The theme for the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2022 will be "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The high-level political forum in 2022 will review in-depth Sustainable Development Goals 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 14 (life below water), 15 (life on land) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

3. Policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

(c) Means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network

As reflected in the summary by the Chair of the sixteenth session of the Forum,³ members of the Forum welcomed 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. Members of the Forum also invited member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests 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.

The note by the Secretariat under this agenda item contains information on key global developments related to means of implementation and a summary of the activities of the Network since the sixteenth session, including with regard to the development of phase II of the Network clearing house, information on the availability of resources for the operation of the Network and an update on the proposed office in Beijing. The note also contains relevant proposals by the Chair from the discussions during the sixteenth session, for consideration by the Forum at its seventeenth session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network ([E/CN.18/2022/3](#))

3. Policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

(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

In its resolution [2020/14](#), the Economic and Social Council requested the Forum Secretariat to propose refinements to the format for voluntary national reporting on the basis of lessons learned during the current reporting cycle and in developing the flagship publication, for consideration by the Forum at its seventeenth session, and invited the Forum to synchronize future voluntary national reporting with the five-year global forest resources assessment process, beginning with the next forest resources assessment cycle of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

During the sixteenth session,⁴ members of the Forum emphasized the need to encourage more countries to participate in the next Forum reporting cycle in order 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. Members also invited the

³ [E/2021/42-E/CN.18/2021/8](#), annex III, paras. 18 and 22 (f) (iii).

⁴ *Ibid.*, paras. 21 and 22 (e) (iv).

Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue its work on the global core set of forest-related indicators and to report on progress at future sessions of the Forum.

Information regarding refinements to the format for voluntary national reporting, as well as a progress report by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests regarding the global core set of forest-related indicators are contained in the note by the Secretariat under this agenda item. The note also contains relevant proposals by the Chair from the discussions during the sixteenth session, for consideration by the Forum at its seventeenth session.

Documentation

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 ([E/CN.18/2022/4](#))

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

In accordance with the programme of work of the Forum for 2022–2024, at its seventeenth session, the Forum should consider and decide on the preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives.

In 2024, the Forum, at its nineteenth session, should undertake a midterm review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives, especially with respect to the main components of the arrangement, namely, the Forum and its Members, the Forum secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and the trust fund for the Forum, as well as the involvement of regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders.

Information on the outcome of the intersessional activities, as well as proposed actions in preparation for the midterm review, for consideration by the Forum at its seventeenth session, are contained in the note by the Secretariat under this agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives ([E/CN.18/2022/5](#))

5. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

In accordance with the programme of work of the Forum for its seventeenth session, the secretariat is to report on the operation of the Forum trust fund at the seventeenth session of the Forum. Relevant information on the operation of the trust fund for the year 2021 is contained in the note by the Secretariat under this agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests ([E/CN.18/2022/6](#))

6. Emerging issues

In accordance with the programme of work of the Forum for 2021, contained in annex I to Economic and Social Council resolution [2020/14](#), at its sixteenth session, the Forum discussed the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on forests and the forest sector, as an emerging issue. During the sixteenth session, members of the Forum discussed the findings of the first assessment of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and the forest sector. Members also discussed follow-up actions, including an additional assessment by the Forum secretariat of the challenges faced by countries, and the strategies, recovery measures and best practices for reducing the impact of COVID-19 on forests and the forest sector, for submission to the Forum at its seventeenth session. The outcome of the assessment and information on related intersessional activities are contained in the note by the Secretariat under this agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the challenges faced by countries, strategies adopted and recovery measures taken by countries to reduce the impact of the coronavirus disease pandemic on forests and the forest sector ([E/CN.18/2022/7](#))

7. Dates and venue of the eighteenth session of the Forum

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

8. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Forum

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

9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its seventeenth session

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