

## **Quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017-2020**

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests carries out its core functions on the basis of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030. The Forum's quadrennial programme of work represents its contribution to implementing the strategic plan and sets the agenda for each session of the Forum within the quadrennium.

2. The quadrennial programme of work identifies thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs.

3. The quadrennial programme of work reflects the linkage between odd-year and even-year sessions of the Forum. As a general rule:

(a) Odd-year sessions focus on discussions on implementation and technical advice, including exchange of experiences among members of the Forum, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, and the science-policy interface. The output of odd-year sessions is a chair's summary report of those discussions, including possible proposals, which is reported to the Forum at its subsequent session in the even-numbered year for further consideration and recommendations;

(b) Even-year sessions focus on policy dialogue, development and decision-making, taking into account the discussions and proposals of the previous session. The substantive output of even-year sessions is a concise Forum resolution or decision on the next steps;

(c) Odd-year and even-year sessions for a given biennium are thematically linked. Thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for each biennium are identified by the Forum on the basis of the global goals and targets contained in the strategic plan, taking into account the annual themes and Sustainable Development Goals<sup>1</sup> under review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

(d) The Forum sessions and their outcomes, as well as intersessional work, should maximize the impact and relevance of the work of the Forum.

4. Intersessional activities, including country-led initiatives and other similar initiatives, can contribute to the quadrennial programmes of work and the implementation of the strategic plan.

5. The twelfth and fourteenth sessions of the Forum will focus on technical advice, and the thirteenth and fifteenth sessions on policy dialogue, development and decision-making (see tables 1-4 below).

6. Given that the twelfth session of the Forum, to be held in 2017, is the first session following the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 and the strategic plan, it is transitional in nature and may take decisions on matters called for in the resolution as needed to facilitate the Forum's work.

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Table 1

**Twelfth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, 2017**

*Priority actions*

1. Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030
  - (a) Technical discussion and exchange of experiences on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2017-2018, taking into account the review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development during the biennium and the theme of the International Day of Forests
  - (b) Format for voluntary national contributions and voluntary announcement, where appropriate
  - (c) United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the global forest goals and targets
2. Monitoring, assessment and reporting
  - (a) Cycle and format for voluntary national reporting on the implementation of the strategic plan, including the United Nations forest instrument (para. 16 (c))<sup>a</sup> and voluntary national contributions
  - (b) Progress on the development of global forest indicators
  - (c) Measures to better synchronize data collection and reduce the reporting burden (para. 16 (b))
3. Means of implementation
  - (a) Initial discussions on the guidelines for the operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and the availability of resources (para. 6 (f) (iv))
  - (b) Progress on the activities and operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network
4. Enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues
  - (a) Information on Collaborative Partnership on Forests workplan and actions to strengthen its operations in support of the strategic plan and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020
  - (b) Regional and subregional partners
  - (c) Major groups and other relevant stakeholders
  - (d) Revision of the existing guidelines for country-led initiatives and similar initiatives to enhance their contribution to the Forum's work (para. 6 (e))
  - (e) Communication and outreach activities
  - (f) Information on intersessional activities
5. Emerging issues and challenges
6. Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

<sup>a</sup> Citations in parentheses refer to the relevant paragraphs of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33.

Table 2

**Thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, 2018 (policy session)**

*Priority actions*

1. Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030
  - (a) Policy dialogue on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2017-2018, taking into account the review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development during the biennium and the theme of the International Day of Forests
  - (b) Voluntary announcement of voluntary national contributions
  - (c) United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the global forest goals and targets
  - (d) Development of the strategic plan communication and outreach strategy
2. Monitoring, assessment and reporting
  - (a) Progress on the implementation of the strategic plan, including the United Nations forest

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*Priority actions*

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instrument and voluntary national contributions

- (b) Progress on the development of global forest indicators
  - 3. Means of implementation
    - (a) Progress on the activities and the operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network
    - (b) Guidelines for the operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network
    - (c) Measures to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (para. 14 (a))
  - 4. Emerging issues and challenges
  - 5. Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests
  - 6. Information on intersessional activities
  - 7. Progress in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 (para. 56)
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Table 3

**Fourteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, 2019 (implementation and technical advice)**

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*Priority actions*

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- 1. Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030
    - (a) Technical discussion and exchange of experiences on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2019-2020, taking into account the review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development during the biennium and the theme of the International Day of Forests
    - (b) Voluntary announcement of voluntary national contributions
    - (c) United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the global forest goals and targets
  - 2. Monitoring, assessment and reporting
    - (a) Progress on the implementation of the strategic plan, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions
    - (b) Progress on the development of global forest indicators
  - 3. Means of implementation: progress on activities and the operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, and availability of resources (para. 6 (f) (iii) and (iv))
  - 4. Enhancing global forest policy coherence and a common international understanding of sustainable forest management (para. 6 (f) (ii))
  - 5. Enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues
    - (a) Activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in support of the strategic plan and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020
    - (b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change implementation of the Paris Agreement
    - (c) Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Biodiversity Targets
    - (d) Regional and subregional partners
    - (e) Major groups and other relevant stakeholders
    - (f) Communication and outreach activities
    - (g) Cross-sectoral engagement
    - (h) Information on intersessional activities
  - 6. Emerging issues and challenges
  - 7. Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests
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<sup>a</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>b</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, document [UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27](#), annex, decision X/2, annex.

Table 4

**Fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, 2020 (policy session)**

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*Priority actions*

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1. Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030
    - (a) Policy dialogue on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2019-2020, taking into account the review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development during the biennium and the theme of the International Day of Forests
    - (b) Voluntary announcement of voluntary national contributions
    - (c) United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the global forest goals and targets
  2. Monitoring, assessment and reporting: progress on the implementation of the strategic plan, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions
  3. Means of implementation: availability of resources for the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (para. 14 (a)) and its priority actions and resource needs for the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2021-2024
  4. Emerging issues and challenges
  5. Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests
  6. High-level segment, including forest partnership forum with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and non-governmental organizations and private sector chief executive officers (para. 6 (d))
  7. Adoption of the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2021-2024, including consideration of its priority actions and the resources needed
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