

## **Outcome of the twenty first session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

*The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC),*

*Recalling its resolutions 2000/35, 2015/33, and 2024/15,*

*Emphasizing the need to take urgent actions to accelerate implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and the achievement of its Global Forest Goals (GFGs),*

### **Country-Led Initiatives**

1. *Welcomes* country-led initiatives (CLIs), and country and organization led initiatives, organized by Morocco, Türkiye and Austria since the twentieth session of the Forum, and in line with the relevant Forum’s guidelines, *encourages* the organization of such initiatives with broad participation of Forum members during the intersessional period, bearing in mind the need to allocate sufficient time for consideration of the outcome of such initiative(s) during the Forum session, and the secretariat’s capacity for supporting those initiatives.

2. *Encourages* Forum members and Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) member organizations to promote technical and technological collaboration, including technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, the use of innovative technologies for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), exchange of best practices, knowledge, and expertise, as well as capacity building activities, and promote engagement of all relevant stakeholders in SFM activities to advance the achievement of the Global Forest Goals (GFGs).

3. *Invites* Forum Members and CPF member organizations to support the existing initiatives, in particular the Global Fire Management Hub, aimed at addressing the increasing threats of wildfires and *stresses* the importance of enhancing regional and international cooperation on integrated fire management, effective wildfire risk reduction, including prevention, preparedness, response, post disaster restoration, and recovery, to ensure SFM, while taking into account national circumstances, capacity, and existing national fire prevention and response systems.

4. *Takes note* of the outcome of the Global Summit on “Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches”, including the Vienna Call for Action (VCA), and *invites* Forum members, CPF member organizations, regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups, research and academic institutions, and other relevant stakeholders to consider the implementation of the VCA, with a view to advancing sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches, in line with SFM.

### **Enhanced cooperation with partners**

5. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and its member organizations in implementing the UNSPF and the relevant provisions of Council resolution 2024/15, *takes note* of the CPF’s workplan for 2025–2028 and its joint initiatives,

and *invites* the CPF and its member organizations, in close collaboration with the UNFF Secretariat to continue implementing the provisions of the resolution, and take concrete steps to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the GFGs by 2030 and to report its progress to the Forum at its twenty-second session.

6. *Invites* regional and subregional forest-related partners to consider integrating the UNSPF and incorporating the GFGs into their workplans, *welcomes* the progress made by major groups and other relevant stakeholders, in implementing the relevant provisions of Council resolution 2024/15, *invites* Major Groups and other stakeholders to provide a progress report on their activities to the Forum at its twenty second session, and *encourages* Forum Members to support enhancing the capacity of major groups and other relevant stakeholders so they can actively engage in the work of the Forum and participate in knowledge sharing and advocacy, dissemination of information on the UNSPF and its GFGs, and their implementation.

### **Communication and outreach**

7. *Welcomes* the communication and outreach activities carried out by Forum members, the CPF and its member organizations, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders, as well as the Forum secretariat, including its monthly newsletter and the new Forum website, to raise awareness of the significance of forests, GFGs, and SFM, and *encourages* effective engagement in celebrating the International Day of Forests.

### **Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting**

8. *Welcomes also* the submission of voluntary national reports by Forum members<sup>1</sup>, and the launch of the Global Forest Goals Report (GFGR) 2026, *invites* Forum members to consider promoting and disseminating the key findings of the Report, and *further invites* all members to submit their voluntary national reports to the next and final cycle of reporting to the Forum to contribute to the 2030 final assessment of implementation of the UNSPF and the achievement of the GFGs.

9. *Takes note of* the Forum Secretariat's use of forest data and information from FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025 in the latest GFG Report 2026 and *encourages* the Forum Secretariat to continue to use FRA data and explore options for making use of other relevant, as well as nationally validated sources of forest data and information in future GFG and UNSPF progress reports, as appropriate.

10. *Further requests* the Forum secretariat:

a. Taking into account the experience gained and lessons learned from the last reporting cycle, the views of the Advisory Group on Reporting, and the discussions during the twenty first session of the Forum, to make proposals for improving the quantity and quality of the voluntary national reports to the next cycle, for discussion at the twenty second session of the Forum.

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<sup>1</sup> The list of countries that submitted voluntary national reports is available at: <https://forests.desa.un.org/our-work/monitoring-assessment-and-reporting/2024-2026>

b. In collaboration with FAO, and other relevant members of the CPF, to continue enhancing the reporting capacity of Forum members, including through the organization of workshops and other capacity-building activities, and further streamline forest-related reporting to relevant intergovernmental organizations and processes to maximize efficiency and reduce the reporting burden on countries.

### **Interlinkages of GFGs & Major global forest related developments**

11. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the outcome of the IAF midterm review contained in Council resolution 2024/15 and *invites* members of the Forum to accelerate implementing the UNSPF and achieving its GFGs, including through the announcement of Voluntary National Contributions, and the integration of the UNSPF and its GFGs in their national forest-related policies, taking into account national priorities, circumstances and capabilities.

12. *Takes note with appreciation of* global initiatives in the context of multilateral environmental agreements to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and in this regard, *invites* Forum members, taking into account their national circumstances, priorities, policies and capabilities, and in support of the GFGs, to contribute to those initiatives, including the UNFCCC COP30 Presidency's initiative to advance the Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030.

13. *Notes* the important role that productive forests, agroforestry systems, family farming and community-based forest management can play in supporting sustainable livelihoods, poverty eradication, food security, and the conservation and sustainable use of standing forests, as appropriate, and *encourages* continued dialogue and exchange of experiences on these approaches.

14. *Welcomes further* the adoption by the UN General Assembly (GA) of resolution 79/283 on the UN Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation in line with Sustainable Forest Management (2027–2036), *takes note with appreciation of* the initiative of the Republic of Congo and Uzbekistan, as well as other sponsoring countries, *invites* interested Forum members to consider taking concrete steps, as appropriate, to actively support the implementation of the Decade, and *requests* the Forum Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, UNEP, and other relevant CPF member organizations to facilitate the observance of the Decade.

15. *Encourages* interested UNFF Members, CPF member organizations, including the Forum secretariat, as well as major groups and other relevant stakeholders, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources, and in consultation with members of the Forum, the presidencies of the Conferences of the Parties, and relevant partners, to consider organization of a Forest Pavilion at the Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC, as well as forest-related events during the Conferences of the Parties to the CBD, and the UNCCD, to raise awareness of the role and significance of forests and SFM in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation.

## Means of Implementation

16. *Recognizes* the urgent need to advance means of implementation, including new and additional financing from all sources for reversing the loss of forest cover, protecting and conserving forests, halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation, restoring degraded forests, enhancing capacity building, technological collaboration, sharing best practices, and scientific exchange at all levels.

17. *Takes note with appreciation* of the launch of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility as an innovative global forest financing initiative, *encourages* countries in a position to do so to consider investing in it *and invites* all Forum members, in particular developing tropical forest countries, to engage with it, as appropriate and in accordance with their national circumstances, as a collective platform to mobilize long term, predictable and accessible finance for the achievement of the UNSPF.

18. *Invites* the Forum to strengthen collaboration across sectors and facilitate partnerships to promote sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches and restoration of forest ecosystems, contributing to improved livelihoods, including through building capacities of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and people of African descent, where applicable, underlining the need to ensure sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

19. *Welcomes* the support provided by the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) in strengthening countries' capacity, in particular developing countries, to mobilize resources from all sources for SFM, and *emphasizes* the importance of maintaining the ability of the GFFFN to continue supporting members in an effective and timely manner, including through assisting in the development of their national forest financing strategies.

20. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of the UNFF Clearing House on Forest Financing in providing access to data, knowledge and information on forest financing, and *requests* that in the context of the preparations for the 2030 IAF final review, the Forum secretariat, in collaboration with the CPF member organizations, propose possible options for enhancing access to data, information, and possible modalities for enhanced information sharing platform for consideration of the Forum.

## Initial Discussion on the IAF Final Review

21. *Reaffirms* that the 2030 final review of the effectiveness of the IAF and related preparatory process should be conducted in accordance with the provision of the relevant Council resolutions, including 2000/35, 2015/33, and 2024/15, and paragraphs 66 to 70 of the UNSPF.

22. *Invites* the Bureau of the Forum, with the support of the Forum secretariat, to hold regular virtual informal consultation and brainstorming with Forum members, CPF member organizations, UNFF regional and subregional partners and major groups and other stakeholders during the period between the twenty first and twenty third sessions of the Forum to explore, *inter alia*, the type of

activities, events, thematic priorities, cooperation modalities and background documents required for the IAF final review, and in this respect, *requests* the Forum Secretariat:

- a. Considering the views expressed during the informal consultation to propose a plan for transparent, timely, inclusive and evidence-based activities for the IAF final review for consideration and decision to the twenty third session of the Forum.
- b. To provide an update on the progress in the above-mentioned intersessional informal consultation for discussion at the twenty second session of the Forum.

### **Resourcing of the UNFF and its secretariat**

23. *Reaffirms* the UNFF as the only universal intergovernmental body within the UN system solely dedicated to forests, and in this regard, *recommends* the GA to ensure the provision of adequate, stable and predictable resources, commensurate with the Forum's mandate and workload for the Forum secretariat to continue to support the Forum to fulfill its mandates and to conduct the 2030 final review of the effectiveness of the IAF in an efficient, sustainable and timely manner.

24. *Invites* the Forum to consider the Information Paper on the Workload, Needs and Gaps of the Forum secretariat submitted to the twenty and twenty first sessions of the Forum, and other relevant information, within the context of the preparatory process of the 2030 IAF final review.

25. *Invites* Forum members and others in a position to do so to consider contributing to the Forum Trust Fund to enable the Forum Secretariat to implement the mandates and tasks entrusted to it under the present resolution, including supporting the travel of eligible UNFF members and partners to participate in the Forum's sessions and related intersessional activities.

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