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United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DC2-2301, Two United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Ref: U.S. Input on the Draft Strategic Plan for Forests and QPW 2017-2030

To Whom It May Concern:

The United States appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the draft Strategic Plan on the IAF and the Quadrennial Program of Work for the period 2017-2030 as outlined in the UNFF11 Resolution, and thanks the UNFF Secretariat for compiling the submissions from UNFF members and other stakeholders.

We look forward to working further together on the development of an optimal strategic Plan and Quadrennial Program of Work at the upcoming Ad Hoc Exert Group Meeting in Bangkok in October.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason N. Lawrence", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason N. Lawrence

Adviser

Economic and Social Affairs Section

Attachment: United States Input of the Draft Strategic Plan and QPW for the Period 2017-2030

U.S. Submission
AHEG-2 on the IAF Strategic Plan

GENERAL POINTS

CONCISE, READABLE, and STRATEGIC

- Overall, the United States believes that a Strategic Plan should be a concise document which does not require simultaneous reading of past resolutions.
- As a strategic document, the SP should use broad and clear language to convey the purpose and function of the International Arrangement on Forests, and articulate UNFF's niche role to actors outside of the membership.
- The focus of the SP should be on aspects that require emphasis (beyond being contained in the 2015 IAF resolution) and should be enduring throughout the 2017-2030 period, such as the relationship between the even- and odd-year sessions. More specific actions and delegation should be moved to the 4POW as possible.
- The SP should clearly address linkages within the UN system, but should not overstate how the SP impels this.

IAF GOALS

- The IAF goals should capture the 4 GOFs and other key aspects identified in the IAF resolution (including updated IAF objectives).
- A brief narrative/rationale for each IAF goal can provide more information about the scope of the goal, allowing us to capture key issues and identify targets that align with the goal.

TARGETS

- The SP should identify existing targets (and can use related indicators) that support the IAF goals.
- The SP should not attempt to reformulate the SDGs.
- We do not believe it is realistic to negotiate entirely new sets of targets. In addition, generating new targets increases the reporting burden.
- The possible specific targets suggested in the building blocks have in some cases been assumed already by some members/components of the IAF. Member states, CPF members, regional organizations, and stakeholders could set their own targets through making voluntary commitments, and align those targets/actions with certain IAF goals.

MONITORING

- The SP should avoid creating unnecessary reporting burdens on UNFF members, the CPF, or the UNFF Secretariat. For example, instituting new quadrennial reports creates publications duplicative of both FRA and SDG reporting, and implies the diversion of critical resources that could be spent on more significant activities.

4POWs

- Thematic priorities should be captured in discussions for the 4POWs, to structure the 2-year meeting cycles.
- Specific actions and related resource requirements should be captured in the 4POWs, so that resources are tied to concrete steps and actions, not simply repeating general calls for funding without an understanding of potential results.
- In general, operative paragraphs and items for UNFF Secretariat should be placed in the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020.
- New items and language should focus on the IAF/SP goals and otherwise generally avoid creating new or altered descriptions of aspects that are covered in the 2015 IAF resolution (E/2015/33).

POSSIBLE MODEL

- In this spirit, we have provided suggestions on how to shorten the document while retaining the core mission and way forward, including:
 - Maintaining UNFF's core mission as an intergovernmental policy forum and the sole body for discussion of forest policymakers at the international level.
 - Furthering UNFF's potential to highlight the science and policy interface, providing value by bringing together the technical aspects of sustainable forest management with up-to-date policies and resources.
 - Continuing UNFF's focus on global objectives without rewriting or interfering in formal UN negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Progressing the organization and work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

U.S. Proposal

The United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030

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I. Introduction

Basic statement on the International Arrangement on Forests, what it is, and what the SP is and has the potential to do

II. The value of the IAF

As a strategic document, the SP should use broad and clear language to convey the purpose and function of the International Arrangement on Forests, and articulate UNFF's niche role to actors outside of the membership.

- A. Vision, mission, objectives and value of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
- B. Importance of forests to people and the planet
- C. Trends and challenges
- D. Opportunities for action

III. Global Goals

Use the Global Goals contained in the Moderator's Summary of the Expert Panel on the IAF Strategic Plan (Tokyo, March 2016). Associated targets (and indicators, if desired) are drawn from existing targets under the GOFs, SDGs, Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

IV. Implementation framework

Focus on UNFF (intergovernmental dialog, UN linkages, policy), G3FN (facilitating financing), and CPF (science, technical expertise, capacity building)

Actions should be moved to the 4POW as possible, focus for SP should be on aspects that require emphasis (beyond being contained in the 2015 IAF resolution) and should be enduring throughout the 2017-2030 period, such as the relationship between the even- and odd-year sessions.

- A. Actions to achieve global goals
Some of the BB text for this section could be moved into the 4POWs
- B. Roles and responsibilities

Some of the BB text for this section could be moved into the 4POWs

- B.1 UN agencies, programmes, conventions and relevant secretariats and partners
- B.2 UNFF
- B.3 Member States
- B.4 CPF
- B.5 Regional/subregional partners
- B.6 Major Groups and other stakeholders
- C. Resources in Support of implementation of the Strategic Plan

These should be addressed as much as possible in the context of the 4POWs, so they are tied to concrete actions and actors. Members and AHEG will need to consider whether it is advisable and acceptable to create new language describing means of implementation.

- C.1 GFFFN
- C.2 UNFF Trust Fund
- C.3 GEF, GCF and other forest funding institutions
- C.4 Global Forest Fund

V. Review Framework

- A. Reviewing implementation of the Strategic Plan and sufficiency of resources
The issue of sufficiency of resources should be addressed in the 4POW, where it would be able to consider what is needed to achieve specific actions, the key actors, and relevant time periods; rather than making general statements without understanding actions and timing.

- B. Reviewing progress in implementation of the UN Forest Instrument (UNFI)
- C. Contributions to the 2030 Agenda
- D. Voluntary Planned Contributions in support of Global Goals and targets

It could be useful to have a means for the UNFF members and stakeholders, and the CPF, present progress on commitments, demonstrate accountability, explore partnerships to advance them, and seek scientific and technical advice. The technical sessions could include time for this.

¹The published Strategic Plan may include a preface with a message from the UN Secretary General and a foreword by the UNFFS Director.

VI. Communication and outreach strategy

Annexes (to be added)

1. 17 Sustainable Development Goals
2. Illustrative diagram on potential contributions of forest-related actions towards achieving the SDGs
3. Matrix displaying the global goals, associated (existing) targets, and possible actors.
Some/much of the original text of this section is likely better identified in the 4POWs.
4. Communication and Outreach Strategy

I. Introduction

A. Vision, mission, objectives and value of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)

Vision of the IAF

The vision of the IAF is a world where forests are protected and sustainably managed, providing economic, social and environmental benefits for all.

- The IAF is composed of the UNFF and its 197 Member States, the UNFF Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), and the UNFF Trust Fund. The CPF is comprised of the executive heads or their designees of 14 international organizations with significant forest-related mandates which are working in association to promote the implementation of SFM. The IAF involves as partners interested international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, Major Groups based on those as identified in Agenda 21 and other stakeholders.
- In 2015, based on recommendations by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) at its 11th session, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted Resolution 2015/33 to strengthen the functioning of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), including calling for the preparation of a Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030. The purpose of the Strategic Plan (*insert full title once agreed*) is to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the IAF and its components in advancing the vision, mission and objectives of the IAF.

Mission of the IAF

The mission of the IAF is to enhance cooperation, coordination and political commitment at all levels to achieve SFM and enhance the contribution of forests and forest based goods and services to the 2030 Agenda.

Objectives of the IAF

[Note: Changes to the IAF objectives reflect E/2015/33 para 1.d, updated to reflect UNFI name change and the 2030 Agenda (vice MDGs)]

Objectives of the IAF

1. To promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the [UN Forest Instrument](#);
2. To enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to [the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#);

3. To enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels;
4. To foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels;
5. To support efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the UN Forest Instrument, in order to achieve sustainable forest management

Value of the IAF

- The Forum, with its universal membership, is the only global intergovernmental body addressing forest-related issues in an integrated and holistic manner. In this regard, the Forum can play an important niche role in catalyzing actions and resources for SFM, and coherence and synergies across global forest-related policies, programs and UN organizations, as well as integrated implementation of the forest-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda
- Through the CPF, the IAF provides a unique opportunity for CPF member organizations, as key IAF partners, to play a major role in ensuring the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan and in particular the UNFI and the GFFFN activities.
- The Strategic Plan will help guide the UN system and the work of the IAF in realizing its full potential to add value to existing forest initiatives through the work of the Forum, Secretariat and CPF; the meaningful engagement of stakeholders; and the commitments and initiatives of Member States, both as members of the Forum and as members of the governing bodies of forest-related organizations at the international, regional and sub-regional levels.
- The IAF brings together actors from around the world to highlight the importance of forests to people and the planet, recognize trends and challenges, emphasize the contributions of forests to sustainable development, and seize opportunities to enhance action to conserve and sustainable use forests.

B. Importance of forests to people and the planet

- Forests cover 30.6% of the Earth's land area (nearly 4 billion hectares) and are essential to human well-being and sustainable development, including achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- An estimated 1.6 billion people – 25% of the global population – depend on forests for their livelihoods. Rural livelihoods in particular depend on productive forests for subsistence, livelihoods, employment and income generation.
- All types of forests – from natural forests to plantations -- are highly productive, resilient and renewable ecosystems. When sustainably managed and used, forests and trees outside forests provide essential goods and services to people worldwide.
- Sustainable forest management, as an evolving concept, aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests for the benefit of present and future generations

C. Trends and challenges

- Despite the crucial contribution of forests to life on earth, deforestation continues in many regions of the world. Although the rate of deforestation is slowing in some countries, over 6 million hectares of natural forest -- an area the size of Switzerland and Rwanda combined -- are lost each year, often as an unplanned response to demands for food, fuel and fibre.
- The most important challenge is to address the drivers of forest loss and degradation, including economic development, shifting agriculture, conversion to other land use, climate change, ~~population growth and poverty~~. These drivers are often outside the forest sector, and are rooted in wider social and economic issues and policies that favour sectors and land uses which are easier to finance and which produce higher and more rapid financial returns, such as agriculture, energy and transportation.
- With world population projected to reach 9 billion by 2050, future demand for forest products and services could outstrip supply unless action is taken urgently to sustainably manage, protect and restore forests everywhere. Annual demand for wood alone is expected to triple by 2050.
- Achieving SFM, in particular in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition, depends on significantly new and additional financial resources from all sources, as well as good governance at all levels.

Contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda: ⁷

Sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests is vital to transformative change to address development challenges, from poverty eradication and economic growth to food security and climate change mitigation and adaptation:

- Forests and tree-based systems support agricultural production by protecting soil and water, maintaining soil fertility, regulating micro-climates and providing habitat for wild pollinators and predators of agricultural pests.
- Forested catchments supply 75% of all the freshwater for farms, industry and homes.
- Foods from forests – leaves, seeds, nuts, fruits, mushrooms, honey, insects and wild animals – provide nutrition and health to millions of people who depend on forests for subsistence.
- Forests provide the raw material for a broad variety of everyday uses, including paper, packaging and construction materials -- all of which are widely recyclable.
- Wood is an important source of renewable energy providing over 9% of the total global primary energy supply and 27% of the primary energy supply in Africa. More than 2 billion people depend on wood energy for cooking and/or heating.
- Forests sequester more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem. Sustainable management and use of forest products present a highly effective and cost-competitive natural carbon capture and storage system.
- Forests are rich in biodiversity and home to 80% of all terrestrial animals, plants and insects
- Forests have important cultural and spiritual values for people in many regions of the world.
- Trees outside forests cover 284 million hectares worldwide and provide critical supplies of wood and non-wood products to many local communities.

D. Opportunities for enhanced action

- The launch of the Strategic Plan comes at a time of unprecedented opportunity for strengthened and decisive action by all actors at all levels to safeguard the world's forests and their multiple benefits.
- SDG 15 of the 2030 Agenda calls for sustainably managing forests and includes targets 15.2 and 15.b which focus on SFM and related forest financing, and targets 15.1 and 6.6 which include

forests among other important ecosystems. Forests and forest-based industries also contribute to the achievement of many other SDGs⁸.

- The landmark Paris Agreement of 2015 “aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty” and looks at forest benefits in the climate context both in carbon pricing and as carbon sinks, building on existing REDD+ initiatives under the UNFCCC⁹. Forests feature in many of the Parties’ intended “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) to achieve the aims of the Agreement.
- Also significant are the positive responses of countries to the 6th replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Strategy for SFM for the period 2014-2018 and the likelihood of future replenishments. The quadrennial GEF replenishment cycle represents an important opportunity to increase resources for forests, including supporting the IAF and in particular implementation of the Strategic Plan, the UNFI and the GFFFN.
- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) became fully operational in 2015 and promises to be the single largest global financing source for climate mitigation and adaptation measures, including as related to forests. The potential to mobilise GCF resources to support the GFFFN activities is an opportunity to be further explored.
- The GFFFN offers a unique and innovative mechanism to catalyze and facilitate financing for SFM by assisting Member States to develop financing strategies, programmes and projects to enhance their access to resources available in forest funding mechanisms and to increase investment opportunities for forests.

Section II: Global Forest Goals and Targets

A. Introduction

- The 6 Global Forest Goals set out below are aligned with the five objectives of the IAF, incorporate the four GOFs, and contribute to the SDGs set out the 2030 Agenda, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs), and the objectives of the GEF Strategy for Sustainable Forest Management (GEF-SFM). [*The 17 SDGs, 20 Aichi Targets, and GEF-SFM strategy objectives and outcomes could be included in 3 annexes*]
- The Goals and targets are interlinked and integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable forest management and the contribution of these multiple forest benefits to sustainable development and human well-being.
- The contribution of each of the Global Forest Goals and target to specific international commitments is

detailed in Annex [].

- The Goals and targets will stimulate, and provide a framework for, voluntary actions and contributions by Member States, international, regional and sub-regional partners, and non-governmental stakeholders at all levels. These include the 4 Global Objectives on Forests and 44 national and international actions set out in the UN Forest Instrument¹, as well as other priority actions the Forum may identify through its quadrennial programs of work (4POWs) and its resolution and decisions.

B. Global Forest Goals and Targets

Global Forest Goals

Global Forest Goal 1

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.

Global Forest Goal 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.

Global Forest Goal 3

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.

Global Forest Goal 4

Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM (GOF 4) and foster N-S, S-S and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships.

Global Forest Goal 5

Promote sustainable governance frameworks to implement the UNFI and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda.

Global Forest Goal 6

Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues.

Global Forest Goal 1 (GOF 1)

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.

Goal 1 replicates GOF 1 and directly addresses SDG target 15.2. This goal further supports IAF objectives 1 and 5 and will be advanced through actions to halt deforestation, increase forest cover and safeguard and enhance forest health, including through reforestation, afforestation, forest rehabilitation and landscape restoration. This goal addressing threats to forests from land clearing, as well as from overgrazing, fire, pollution, pests, invasive alien species, fragmentation and climate change.

Global Forest Goal 2 (GOF 2)

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.

Goal 2 replicates GOF 2, and emphasizes the contributions that forests make to the economic and social pillars of sustainable development. Goal 2 therefore addresses issues and SDGs related to livelihoods for rural and forest-dependent people and communities, traditional forest-related knowledge, economic productivity through diversification (SDG 8.2), the role of small and medium sized forest-based enterprises, the value of ecosystem services for both rural and urban populations, and approaches that capture the full value of forest good and services including in the marketplace.

Global Forest Goal 3 (GOF 3)

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.

Goal 3 replicates GOF 3, and IAF Objectives 1 and 5. This goal encompasses efforts to create, maintain and expand networks of effectively protected forest areas and to enhance the production of forest products, including fuelwood, from well-managed forests through such means as voluntary certification, public procurement, facilitating market access for legal forest products, innovative mechanisms to avoid the loss of high value conservation forests, and other market-based and public policy tools.

Global Forest Goal 4

Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM (GOF 4) and foster N-S, S-S and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships.

Goal 4 builds on GOF 4 and supports IAF Objectives 1, 4 and 5, contributing to SDGs 15, 16, and 17.

This goal encompasses efforts at all levels to strengthen the means of implementation needed to achieve SFM and sustainable forest-based industries, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including through financial, technical and scientific resources, capacity building, cooperation and partnerships, and a strong science-policy interface. Efforts to increase ODA in support of forests need to be joined with actions to increase investment in SFM, develop public-private partnerships for science and technology cooperation, and strengthen forest-related research.

Global Forest Goal 5

Promote sustainable governance frameworks to implement the UNFI and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda.

Goal 5 supports IAF Objectives 1, 2, 4 and 5; as well as SDG 16. This goal will be advanced by actions at all levels to strengthen the legal, policy and institutional framework needed to achieve SFM and enhance the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda. This will require cross-sectoral policy and program coordination to address the drivers of deforestation, enabling environments for investment in SFM, public awareness of forest benefits, participatory decision-making, forest law enforcement, and land tenure security for both men and women.

Global Forest Goal 6

Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues.

Goal 6 supports IAF Objective 3 and will be advanced by actions to strengthen the CPF and enhance coherence as well as the policy and program cooperation and coordination at all levels among its member organizations. This includes linking the UNFF with other intergovernmental bodies within and beyond the UN System with forest-related mandates and interests.

IV. Implementation framework

- The framework for implementing the SP involves the contributions of a wide variety of actors, including the UNFF and its Member States, the CPF, CPF member organizations and the UN system as a whole, regional and subregional partners, and non-governmental stakeholders at all levels.
- The Strategic Plan is intended to enhance the UN system’s ability to support Member States in implementing sustainable forest management and provides a framework for voluntary actions and contributions by Member States and international, regional and sub-regional organizations and processes, Major Groups and other stakeholders. The framework for implementing the Strategic Plan consists of actions, actors, and means and resources

A. Roles and responsibilities

A.1 UNFF

The Forum will carry out its core functions on the basis of this Strategic Plan.

Core Functions of the UNFF

1. To provide a coherent, open, transparent and participatory global platform for policy development, dialogue, cooperation and coordination on issues related to all types of forests, including emerging issues, in an integrated and holistic manner, including through cross-sectoral approaches;
2. To promote, monitor and assess the implementation of sustainable forest management, in particular the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of its global objectives on forests, and mobilize, catalyse and facilitate access to financial, technical and scientific resources to this end;
3. To promote governance frameworks and enabling conditions at all levels to achieve sustainable forest management;
4. To promote coherent and collaborative international policy development on issues related to all types of forests;
5. To strengthen high-level political engagement, with the participation of major groups and other stakeholders, in support of sustainable forest management.

- The Forum will operationalize the Strategic Plan through quadrennial programmes of work (4POWs), beginning with the period 2017-2020.
- The Forum will meet annually and undertake intersessional activities as needed to advance implementation of the Strategic Plan and 4POWs, using its unique role as a global forest policy body to foster coherence in meeting the “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets” and associated actions set out in the plan.
- The Forum will structure its annual sessions to maximize the impact and relevance of its work under the 4POW, including by fostering an exchange of experiences and lessons learned among countries, regional, subregional and non-governmental partners, and the CPF.
- Odd-year sessions of the Forum will focus on “implementation and technical advice” consistent with the priorities set out in the 4POW, while even-year sessions will focus on policy dialogue, development and decision-making.
- Odd-year sessions will serve as an opportunity for the Forum to receive technical advice and

inputs from CPF members and regional, subregional and non-governmental partners and facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices, including regarding the forest science-policy interface.

- During even-year sessions, the Forum will consider the advice and recommendations transmitted from its odd-year sessions and take policy decisions as needed.

A.2 UNFF Member States

- Forests are sovereign resources. Each Member State is responsible for the sustainable management of its forests and for the enforcement of its forest-related laws.²²
- Member States are the most important component of the IAF. Their individual and collective actions and commitments are decisive for successful implementation of the Strategic Plan. In this regard, Member States, taking into account their national circumstances, policies and priorities and forest conditions, will, on a voluntary basis, determine and inform the UNFF on the voluntary contributions they intend to make towards implementing the Strategic Plan and attaining its targets. These voluntary contributions are referred to as Voluntary Planned Contributions (VPCs).

A.3 Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

- The primary role of the CPF is to support the Forum and its Member States in achieving the IAF objectives, implementing the Strategic Plan and the UNFI, and contributing to the Forum's 4POWs.

Core functions of the CPF

1. Support the work of the Forum and its member countries.
2. Provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum, including on emerging issues.
3. Enhance coherence as well as policy and programme cooperation and coordination at all levels among its member organizations, including through joint programming and the submission of coordinated proposals to their respective governing bodies, consistent with their mandates.
4. Promote the implementation of the UNFI, including the achievement of its GOFs, and the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda.

- In carrying out its functions, the CPF will develop a work plan to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, UNFI and the 4POW
- The CPF and its members will collaborate in implementing and funding the activities of the GFFFN.

- CPF members will advise and assist the Forum to build synergies between the 4POWs and the forest-related actions and priorities of CPF member organizations which are implementing agencies and institutions.
- Member States, as members of the governing bodies of CPF member organizations, will promote the integration of the Strategic Plan into the strategies and programs of CPF member organizations, consistent with their mandates, and consider dedicated funding for CPF activities as an essential strategy for improving cooperation, synergies and coherence in support of the Strategic Plan.

A.4 The UN system

- The Strategic Plan will be implemented by the UN wide system, including the IAF, with the support of government and non-government partners at all levels.
- The Strategic Plan is intended to enable UN system organizations, including member organizations of the CPF, their secretariats and partners to work more coherently and collaboratively on forests with a shared strategic approach/toward a shared set of global goals/objectives/targets.
- UN organizations and partners are encouraged to implement the Strategic Plan, consistent with their mandates, to help ensure forest policy coherence and program coordination and to more effectively respond to and support the efforts of Member States to implement SFM.

A.5 Regional/sub regional partners

- Regional and sub regional bodies are the nexus between global forest policies and national actions and have an important role to play in advancing implementation of the Strategic Plan, UNFI and forest related aspects of the 2030 Agenda.
- The Forum and Secretariat will work with the UN regional economic commissions, FAO forestry commissions, regional development banks and other relevant regional and sub regional bodies to facilitate implementation of the Strategic Plan, consistent with their mandates.
- Member States may consider establishing or strengthening regional and subregional processes or platforms for forest policy development, dialogue and coordination to promote SFM.

A.6 Major Groups and other stakeholders

- Implementation of the Strategic Plan, including its global goals and objectives can only be fully achieved with the help of a wide range of non-State actors. In other words, States can't do it alone.
- The Forum will explore innovative mechanisms for greater engagement of private sector companies, major environmental NGOs, philanthropic organizations, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders in the work of the IAF, including in Forum sessions and intersessional work.
- The Forum and Secretariat will encourage MGs and other stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned and provide technical advice and inputs during odd-year Forum sessions on their activities in support of the Strategic Plan and current 4POW.

B. Resources in Support of the Strategic Plan

- Achieving SFM, in particular in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition, depends on significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources, as well as on good governance at all levels.
- There is no single solution to address all of the needs in terms of forest financing. A combination of actions is required at all levels, by all stakeholders and from all sources, public and private, domestic and international, bilateral and multilateral.
- International cooperation, including financial support, technology transfer, capacity building and education, plays a crucial role in supporting the efforts of all countries, particularly developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, to achieve SFM.
- Provision of adequate and sustainable resources and capacity development of countries is the prerequisite for the Implementation of the Strategic Plan during the period of 2017-2030. This includes resources to the UNFF Trust Fund to support wide participation of eligible country representatives in meetings, sustained operation of the GFFFN, and enhanced stakeholders' involvement in the work of the IAF.
- Resources should be also made available to fund CPF, major groups and other stakeholders' joint activities which support the work of the Forum.

B.1 GFFFN

- In managing the GFFFN, the Forum Secretariat will ensure that special consideration is given to the special needs and circumstances of Africa, LDCs, SIDs, and low-, medium-, and high-forest

cover developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in gaining access to funds.

- The Secretariat will also strengthen its collaboration with the GEF and GCF secretariats and, as appropriate, other financing institutions, to support eligible countries in accessing funding for SFM.
- The Forum will, during its even year sessions, monitor and assess the work and performance of the GFFFN, including the availability and sufficiency of UNFF Trust Fund resources for its operation, and makes decisions to further increase the effectiveness, efficiency and resources of GFFFN.
- To assist the Forum in its assessment, the Secretariat will identify a set of quantifiable outputs or indicators to evaluate the performance of the GFFFN, including indicators on the availability and sufficiency of Trust Fund resources for the operation of the GFFFN.
- To ensure effective operation of the GFFFN in advancing implementation of SFM, in particular, the UNFI, the following should be the priorities for the GFFFN during the 4POW of 2017-2020.
 1. Assisting countries to design national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for SFM, including existing national initiatives, within the framework of NFPs or their equivalent to facilitate access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms, including the GEF and Green Climate Fund (GCF), consistent with their mandates.
 2. Assisting countries in designing programmes and project proposals for submission to the GEF, GCF and as appropriate other forest financing institutions.
 3. Serving as a clearing house on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities and as a tool for sharing lessons learned and best practices from successful projects, building on the CPF online Sourcebook for Forest Financing.
 4. Advising countries on enabling environments to attract public and private sector investment in SFM.
- The Forum will review these priorities in 2020 and make adjustments as needed based on experience gained and external developments.
- This review by the Forum will also include the review of sufficiency of resources for the operation of the GFFFN, and related decision on provision of resources, as appropriate.

B.2. GEF, GCF and other Forest Funding Institutions

- Member States, taking into account the cross-sectoral nature of SFM, should seek to make full use of the potential of the GEF resources.
- Member States should seek to make full use of the resources under the GCF to reduce emissions from forests and land use and increase resilience from forest ecosystems and ecosystem services and promote synergies between their REDD+ and investment activities under the FCPF and FIP, and the Strategic Plan.
- Member States should also seek to make full use of the potential of innovative funding sources including payments for environmental services schemes and the UNFCCC carbon pricing mechanisms.

B.3 UNFF Trust Fund

- The UN Regular Budget will continue to be a significant source of support for the regular work of the Forum and its Secretariat. Voluntary contributions to the UNFF Trust Fund will provide crucial funding, in particular for broader participation of country representatives and stakeholders in Forum’s sessions and intersessional meeting, and successful operation of the GFFFN.
- The Forum Secretariat will consult with Member States on a regular basis on ways and means to attract and enhance voluntary contributions to the UNFF Trust Fund.
- The Forum will review the operation and status of resources of the UNFF Trust Fund during its even year sessions and will take necessary decisions to ensure effective and efficient operation and resources for the UNFF Trust Fund. *[Note: The timing of UNFF Trust Fund reviews should be clarified based on E/2015/33 para 6.f.v.]*

B.4 Global Forest Fund

- In the context of the IAF mid-term review in 2024, the Forum could consider a full range of financing options, including, *inter alia*, the establishment of a voluntary global forest fund, in order to mobilize resources from all sources in support of the sustainable management of all types of forests⁴⁰.
- The Forum may consider the establishment of a global forest fund prior to 2024 if there is consensus to do so.⁴¹

V. Review Framework

- The framework for reviewing implementation of the Strategic Plan has several interrelated aspects and is closely linked to the implementation framework.
- The results of these reviews and assessments will inform the Forum’s deliberations and will be taken into account in the Forum’s 4POWs and resolutions.

A. Evaluating progress on the implementation of the Strategic Plan

- In 2024 and 2030, the Forum will conduct mid-term and final reviews of the effectiveness of the IAF in achieving its objectives and may make recommendations to ECOSOC on the future course of the IAF.
- As part of these reviews, the Forum will evaluate progress in implementing the Strategic Plan, in particular the “global goals”, associated actions and resources.
- The progress evaluations will:
 - o Be based on a set of global forest indicators drawn from the SDG global indicator framework and take into account the results of voluntary national reporting on the UNFI and progress in implementing the Forum’s resolutions and decisions.
 - o Include an independent assessment of the views and inputs of CPF members and regional, sub-regional and non-governmental partners.
 - o The Forum may update the Strategic Plan based on the 2024 review of the IAF.

B. Progress in implementation of the UNFI

- Because the global goals and objectives encompass the 4 GOFs and 44 actions set out in the UNFI, the implementation and review of the Strategic Plan and UNFI are closely interlinked.
- The Forum will establish a cycle and format for voluntary national reporting at UNFF12 in 2017, taking into account the review cycle of the global FRAs coordinated by FAO, and the SDG review cycle at the global level.
- The Forum may adjust the reporting cycle and/or format as needed over the life of the Strategic Plan to take into account relevant developments.
- Member States will monitor and assess progress towards implementing the UNFI and, beginning in 2018, will submit on a voluntary basis national progress reports to even-year sessions of the

Forum.

- The Forum will invite the GEF and other forest funding institutions to provide resources to support preparation of national reports of Member States of the Forum.
- To reduce reporting burdens, the Secretariat will establish data sharing arrangements with relevant CPF members and C&I processes and work jointly with them to synchronize data collection and further streamline and harmonize forest-related reporting formats.⁴⁴

C. Contributions to the Agenda 2030 review process

- As a functional commission of ECOSOC, the Forum will contribute to the follow up and review of the forest-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda at the global level and related work by the HLPF.
- The Forum will build on the linkages between the “global goals/” and the SDG targets to promote coherence and consistency between the IAF and the 2030 Agenda, including through the 4POW, taking into account the HLPF’s annual themes and in-depth SDG reviews .
- The Forum Secretariat will provide inputs to annual progress reports and periodic global sustainable development reports prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with UN system agencies.

VI. Communication and outreach strategy

- The Forum will develop a communication and outreach strategy to raise awareness of the importance of forests and the work of the IAF and its components, including the Strategic Plan.
- The strategy will outline the Forum’s communication and outreach objectives; target audiences within and outside the forest sector, including policy-makers at all levels, practitioners, stakeholders, donors and the general public; and key communication tools, products and vehicles.
- The Forum may include priority communication and outreach actions in the 4POW as needed to take forward the strategy.
- The Secretariat will develop specific communication and outreach activities based on the strategy and 4POW and report to the Forum on these activities on a regular basis.