

Preparations for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)

Assessment on actions related to UNFF contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Assessment report prepared for the UN Forum on Forests

Through its resolution 2022/17, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), based on the outcome of the seventeenth session of the UN Forum on Forests, decided that the Forum would undertake extensive intersessional activities in preparation for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). The resolution called for these actions to be implemented in a transparent and independent manner, and in close consultation with Members of the Forum, as well as the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) member organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

To facilitate this process, the Forum Secretariat hired consultants to assist in the preparation of background papers and assessments. These assessments and outcomes of preparatory intersessional work related to the midterm review, will be submitted to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on the preparations for the IAF-MTR, which will be convened in late 2023.

The views and opinions expressed in the assessment reports are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Secretariat. The designations and terminology employed may not conform to United Nations practice and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Organization.

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Acronyms

ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
AHEG	Open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
COP	Conference of Parties
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EGM	Expert group meeting
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCLP	Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership
GA	United Nations General Assembly
GFFFN	Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GFG	Global Forest Goal
HLPF	High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IAF	International Arrangement on Forests
IGO	Intergovernmental organization
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
MG	Major Group
MGoS	Major Groups and Other Stakeholders
MOI	Means of implementation
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OISC	Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination on Sustainable Development
REFACOF	° ¢ √ · # U · 7
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFM	Sustainable forest management
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEP	UN Environment Program
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	UN Forum on Forests
UNFFS	UNFF Secretariat
UNSPF	UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030
VNC	Voluntary National Contribution
VNR	Voluntary National Review

Executive Summary Assessment G

1. The Assessment G report is one of 10 assessment reports prepared by consultants as part of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) International Arrangement on Forest in meeting its objectives, as set out in paragraphs 28-31 of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17¹. The annex to the resolution elaborates actions to be undertaken in 10 assessment areas, A to J. This report, prepared by Stephanie Caswell, addresses actions set out in section G of the annex on contributions of the Forum to the 2022-2023 work programme.
2. Assessment G is based on a review of relevant documents and information posted on

I. Introduction

1. This report is one of 10 assessment reports prepared by consultants (see [Annex 1](#)) as part of preparations for yV77 .

its 12 closely interrelated and overlapping targets, including forests, biodiversity and desertification (see [Annex 4](#)). Three SDG15 targets explicitly address forests, including forest conservation and restoration (15.1, 15.2), halting deforestation (15.2), SFM (15.2, 15.b) and mobilizing resources (15.b). However, forests/SFM contribute to, benefit from or are affected by progress on all SDG15 targets. In addition, forests/SFM are relevant to a number of the other 16 SDGs either directly or indirectly. While this is well recognized in principle in the UNFF context, there may not be a clear understanding of specifically which SDG targets - how or to what extent they are forest-related.

10. [HLPF](#). In 2016 the HLPF, with universal membership, became the central UN platform for annual follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level (see [Annex 5](#)). Each year, the HLPF has a broad overarching theme and typically undertakes an in depth review of SDG clusters (see [Table 2](#)). Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) conducted by countries on progress at national and subnational levels toward the SDGs under review serve as the basis for HLPF global reviews and are intended to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.) - o° Office for Intergovernmental Supp479 Tm0 G[t (d)3(in)5(g)4 Com0 G[dg

11. As can be seen in [Table 2](#), the thematic clustering of SDGs has been highly fluid, ranging from five to nine SDGs per cluster with no two clusters being repeated. SDG15 was reviewed in 2018 and 2022 as part of two entirely different SDG clusters. The only constant is SDG17 on the global partnership for sustainable development, which is reviewed in all years.

12. All SDGs are reviewed in depth over a four-year period to coincide with the meeting of the HLPF under the auspices of the GA. The first four-year HLPF cycle concluded with the SDG Summit in September 2019. The next four-year cycle will conclude in 2023, which is also the midpoint in the 2030 Agenda follow up and review process.

13. [Paris Agreement](#). In December 2015, UNFCCC COP21 adopted the landmark Paris Agreement to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change. Articles 3 and 4 of the agreement
h
(NDCs) to this end. Article 5 encourages Parties to

IV. Review of UNFF contributions to HLPF since 2015

21. The annual HLPF preparatory process is extensive and complex involving Member States, intergovernmental bodies, and Major Groups (MGs) and other stakeholders through

Figure 1



B. UNFF-related inputs to HLPF sessions

25. UNFF inputs

meetings, contributing to relevant reports and documents prepared for HLPF, and extensive follow up with the HLPF Secretariat to help ensure UNFF Chairs are included in HLPF preparatory meetings.²⁴

29. As shown in Annex 9, the Secretariat has also organized special activities in key years in conjunction with or during HLPF sessions. Highlights include the following:

HLPF 2018: In preparation for the first review of SDG15, the Secretariat commissioned four analytical studies on linkages between forests and other SDGs under review²⁵ and organized a

37. Member States. Member States are central to implementing the 2030 Agenda and to the effectiveness of the associated HLPF review and follow up process. While countries input indirectly to the HLPF as members of or parties to intergovernmental bodies like the UNFF, they also contribute to and influence the HLPF directly through a variety of means, including preparation of VNRs, participation in HLPF preparatory meetings and formal sessions, and negotiation of declarations.

38. How government representatives intervene in these HLPF activities largely determines the HLPF outcome. The extent to which HLPF/VNR national focal points coordinate with national SDG-related sectoral experts, including UNFF/forest experts, in developing national positions for regional and global HLPF/VNR related meetings influences the extent to which those sectors and their interlinkages are recognized in HLPF outcomes.

39. Voluntary National Reviews. While negotiations on ministerial declarations are largely undertaken by permanent mission staff in New York, the preparation of VNRs is at the heart of the HLPF follow up and review process and takes place at various levels over the course of a given HLPF year (see [Annex 5](#)). [Annex 10](#) outlines the process in the run up to HLPF 2022, which illustrates the central importance of VNRs to the HLPF review and to identifying and sharing experiences on progress and challenges related to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

40. Experience to date indicates that the involvement of UNFF/forest experts in preparing VNRs and in other HLPF activities varies across countries and by year. For example, the May 2022 HLPF Secretariat Note ³⁵ shows that only 12 of the 44 review countries addressed forests in their VNRs even though SDG15 was reviewed in 2022. This suggests that UNFF delegations may not be actively involved in

41. HLPF delegations. In 2018 and 2022, several HLPF delegations included UNFF experts. Their participation is reflected in the attention given to forests in the ministerial declarations for those years, as discussed in S

Table 3

55. In response to GA resolution 75/290 A³⁹, in May 2022 the Vice President of ECOSOC prepared a report⁴⁰ on the work of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies⁴⁰, including the UNFF, and their alignment with the 2030 Agenda (see [Annex 13](#)).⁴¹ Specifically, UNFF and other ECOSOC bodies based in New York were invited to undertake the following actions:

A. Alignment with the 2030 Agenda

1. Continue aligning their work with the 2030 Agenda, taking into account its economic, social and environmental dimensions, while delivering on their respective mandates and functions.
2. Place the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, at the heart of their work.
3. Be guided by the key principle of the 2030 Agenda, Leaving No One Behind, and the commitment to reach the furthest behind first.
4. Mainstream gender equality and empowerment of women in their work, and dedicate special attention to targets on gender equality contained in SDG5 and other SDGs that fall within their purview.
5. Reflect on the interlinkages of SDG13 on climate change with the SDGs and issues within their purview and how their policy recommendations can contribute to climate action, where relevant.
6. Give adequate attention to the interlinkages between the SDGs within their purview and the other SDGs, including SDGs that are not part of their traditional focus.
7. Continue to consider financing and other means of implementation in their respective areas of work, building on SDG17.
8. Consider whether and how to address aspects related to SDG6 on water and sanitation in their work, if relevant, given the links of this SDG with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
9. Consider the impact of long-term trends, such as demographic trends, on progress towards the SDGs within their purview.
10. Provide expertise and policy recommendations to allow ECOSOC to address the global challenges on its agenda such as COVID-19 recovery, climate change and poverty eradication.

B. Coordination issues

1. Strengthen their coordination and cooperation where appropriate.
2. Consider addressing specific, focused and well delineated themes, rather than broad general themes, as this may lead to more practical guidance and maximize the impact of their work.
3. Work particularly closely together if they are addressing similar issues. ECOSOC could clarify their respective roles if needed.
4. Maintain the network of focal points established for the current process of review, with a view to promoting continuing exchanges and coordination with ECOSOC and among them.

³⁹ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/167/93/PDF/N2116793.pdf?OpenElement>

⁴⁰ The recommendations pertain to ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies.

⁴¹ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/UN-SCEGHS-42-INF13e_UN-

C. Working methods

1. Provide shorter and more actionable recommendations for ECOSOC consideration.
2. More systematically invite countries conducting VNRs at the HLPF to participate in their session and engage in a dialogue on the implementation of the SDGs most closely related to their work.

56. The Vice President of ECOSOC also encouraged Member States to engage meaningfully in meetings of the functional commissions and expert bodies and to utilize more effectively the policy and normative outcomes of these bodies in the development of national policies.

57. As noted above, the UNFF Secretariat has been actively engaged in the HLPF review process on behalf of the UNFF since 2016 and has already taken steps towards many of the above recommendations. In future, additional focused efforts and messaging by the UNFF and its Secretariat and Bureau may be useful regarding the following:

- Providing policy recommendations to HLPF on forest-related global challenges (A-10)
- Addressing specific, focused, well-delineated UNFF thematic priorities (B.2)
- Providing shorter and more actionable recommendations to ECOSOC/HLPF (C.1)
- More systematically engaging with countries conducting VNRs (C.2)

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

58. The following conclusions and recommendations are based on a review of UNFF contributions to HLPF since 2015 (Section IV); analysis of responses to questions G-1, G-2 and G-3 of the consolidated questionnaire (Section V); and the May 2022 recommendations of the Vice President of ECOSOC to better align its functional commissions and expert bodies with the 2030 Agenda (Section VI).

A. Conclusions (progress, gaps, strengths, weaknesses)

59. The following conclusions relate to Action G-1 in Box 1 on UNFF contributions to HLPF on forest-SDG interlinkages and the extent to which UNFF contributions are reflected in HLPF outcomes.

1. Forest-SDG interlinkages

- a. It is widely recognized that many SDGs beyond SDG15 contribute to, benefit from or are impacted by progress (or lack of progress) on forests/SFM targets.
- b. It is commonly understood exactly which SDG targets are forest-related and how or to what extent they are forest-related.

2. Challenges inherent in the HLPF process

- a. The annual HLPF process is massive, complex and not without challenges, involving Member States, intergovernmental bodies and MGoS through a variety of platforms and entry points.
- b. The thematic coherence of annual SDG cluster reviews has not been entirely clear. For example,

preparatory meetings and key meetings of the Rio conventions and other relevant intergovernmental bodies and processes.

Annex 3

Provisions in UNFF resolutions pertaining to the HLPF since 2015

Resolution	Provisions pertaining to the HLPF
<p>UNFF12 May 2017 (technical) Resolution 12/1⁴⁶</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contribution to the HLPF (paras 20-28)</p> <p>20. Emphasizes the contribution of forests to poverty eradication, food security and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and on the means of implementation for SFM, as well as the relevance of these discussions to the SDGs under review by HLPF 2017;</p> <p>21. k consultation with Bureau members, and to transmit the summaries to the HLPF as an input to its 2017 review;</p> <p>22. Emphasizes the importance of the UNFF providing an input to HLPF 2018 on the SDGs to be reviewed;</p> <p>23. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the CPF, a report containing proposals on actions to accelerate progress in achieving SDG15 and its forest-related targets, as well as background analytical studies on the contribution of forests to the achievement of the other SDGs to be reviewed by HLPF 2018, for consideration at UNFF13;</p> <p>24. Invites members of the Forum, member organizations of CPF, UN system partners, regional and subregional organizations/processes, MGs and other stakeholders to provide inputs to the Forum secretariat by 30 November 2017 on the contribution of forests to the issues under consideration by HLPF 2018;</p> <p>25. Requests the Secretariat to synthesize the inputs received and submit the synthesis as background information to UNFF13;</p> <p>26. Welcomes the initiative of the CPF to organize an international conference on halting deforestation and increasing to HLPF 2018;</p> <p>27. Invites members of the Forum, the CPF and its member organizations, UN system partners, regional and subregional organizations and processes, MGs and other stakeholders to undertake initiatives to highlight the significance of forests to the 2030 Agenda and to present the outcomes of those initiatives to UNFF13;</p> <p>28. Decides that UNFF13 will finalize its substantive input to HLPF 2018, taking into account the inputs provided to the Forum;</p>
<p>UNFF13 May 2018 (policy) Resolution 13/1⁴⁷</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">V. Contribution of the Forum to the HLPF review in 2018 (paras 27-30)</p> <p>27. Recognizes that the UNSPF lays a solid foundation for accelerating sustainable development and that its implementation will make a crucial contribution to the transformation towards resilient and sustainable societies, both rural and urban;</p> <p>28. Invites HLPF 2018 to recognize the implementation of the UNSPF and achieving its GFGs and targets as an effective means to accelerate progress in achieving the SDGs and associated/F1 9.96 4</p>

	<p>29. Emphasizes the relevance of the UNFF13 policy dialogue to the review by the HLPF, and requests the Chair of the Forum to finalize and transmit his summary of the dialogue to the HLPF as an input to its 2018 review;</p> <p>30. Welcomes the initiative of the UNFF13 Bureau to organize a one-day event on forests prior to HLPF 2018 to stimulate partnerships and synergies among stakeholders in order to accelerate achievement of SDG15 as well as the other Goals under review, and invites interested members of the Forum to contribute to and participate in the event;</p>
<p>UNFF15 May 2020 (policy)</p> <p>ECOSOC resolution 2020/14⁴⁸</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Quadrennial programme of work of the UNFF for the period 2021–2024 (para 1)</p> <p>1. Adopts the programme of work of UNFF16, in 2021, as contained in Annex I to the present resolution, and requests UNFF16 to decide on its programme of work for the period 2022–2024, taking into account the proposal contained in Annex II to the present resolution;</p> <p><i>Annex 1, item 2(c) reads “interlinkages between the GFGs and targets and the SDGs under review by the HLPF in 2021, the work towards a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other international forest-related developments”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">HLPF and major conferences (paras 20-21)</p> <p>20. Stresses the significance of the UNSPF as a global framework for forest-related actions at all levels to facilitate progress in achieving the SDGs and associated targets, and invites the Forum to provide concise targeted inputs to annual sessions of the HLPF;</p> <p>21. Also stresses that implementation of the UNSPF contributes to achieving the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC, the CBD, the UNCCD and other relevant MEAs, and that the UNSPF can contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to be adopted at CBD COP15;</p>
<p>UNFF16 April 2021 (technical)</p> <p>ECOSOC resolution 2021/6⁴⁹</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Programme of work of the UNFF for the period 2022–2024</p> <p>ECOSOC, <i>Recalling</i> ... <i>y</i> ... 7 ... 7 ...</p> <p>Adopts the programme of work of the UNFF for the period 2022–2024, as contained in the Annex to the present resolution.</p> <p><i>Annex: Item 2(c) for 2022 and 2023 and item 2(b) for 2024 read “interlinkages between the GFGs and targets and the SDGs under review by the HLPF in [year] and other international forest-related developments”</i></p>
<p>UNFF17 May 2022 (policy)</p>	

Annex 4

SDG15 and associated targets

SDG 15	
Targets	
15.1	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests , wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
15.2	By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
15.3	By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
15.4	By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
15.5	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
	...s arising from the utilization of genetic
	...ch resources, as internationally agreed
	...ng of protected species of flora and fauna
	...ildlife products
	...duction and significantly reduce the impact
	...stems and control or eradicate the priority

(1) I

(3) Inputs by Major Groups and other stakeholders (MGoS)

A major element of the HLPF process is the structured engagement of self-coordinated Major Groups and other stakeholders (MGoS).

The HLPF recognizes 21 broad stakeholder groups, including the nine Major Groups from Agenda 21 and several regional civil society consultation mechanisms.

Each stakeholder group is

(4) Inputs from multistakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments

SDG17 recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, technologies and financial resources to support achieving the SDGs

DESA Division for SDGs supports, facilitates and monitors multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments to the SDGs announced at international conferences, and maintains the Partnership Platform, a global registry of such commitments.

The 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator aims provides training and advisory services to Member States and in-country UN entities to foster collaboration between stakeholders and sectors and

Annex 6

Glasgow Climate COP outcomes on forests and agriculture:

(2 November 2021)

n Forests and Land Use (operative paragraphs)⁵⁹

We will strengthen our shared efforts to:

1. Conserve forests and other terrestrial ecosystems and accelerate their restoration;
2. Facilitate trade and development policies, internationally and domestically, that promote sustainable development, and sustainable commodity production and consumption, that work to that do not drive deforestation and land degradation;
3. Reduce vulnerability, build resilience and enhance rural livelihoods, including through empowering communities, the development of profitable, sustainable agriculture, and recognition of the multiple values of forests, while recognising the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, in accordance with relevant national legislation and international instruments, as appropriate;
4. Implement and, if necessary, redesign agricultural policies and programmes to incentivise sustainable agriculture, promote food security, and benefit the environment;
5. Reaffirm international financial commitments and significantly increase finance and investment from a wide variety of public and private sources, while also improving its effectiveness and accessibility, to enable sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management, forest conservation and restoration, and support for Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
6. Facilitate the alignment of financial flows with international goals to reverse forest loss and degradation, while ensuring robust policies and systems are in place to accelerate the transition to an economy that is resilient and advances forest, sustainable land use, biodiversity and climate goals.

We urge all leaders to join forces in a sustainable land use transition. This is essential to meeting the Paris Agreement goals, including reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C, noting that the science shows further acceleration of efforts is needed if we are to collectively keep 1.5°C within reach. Together we can succeed in fighting climate change, delivering resilient and inclusive growth, and halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation.

⁵⁹ Underlining added

Annex 7 ECOSOC letter inviting inputs to HLPF 2022

The President
of the
Economic and Social Council

26 November 2021

Excellency,

Through you, I write to invite the [**functional commission or intergovernmental body**] to provide an input to the thematic review of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2022. The HLPF will meet under the auspices of ECOSOC

2

The following template could be considered in providing inputs, while taking into account your

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Annex 9

UNFF contributions to HLPF sessions since 2015

(As of October 2022)

HLPF 2022 (UNFF17 Policy session) SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15, 17 (2 nd review of SDG15)	
26 Nov 2021	Letter from ECOSOC President inviting UNFF inputs to HLPF 2022 by 1 March 2022 (Annex 6)
28 Feb 2022	Communication by UNFF17 Bureau to ECOSOC: Input to HLPF 2022 (6 pages). ⁶³ Includes 4 key messages on UNFF17 -related SDGs.
9-13 May 2022	UNFF17 convenes in hybrid format. 9 May is High-Level UNFF17 role in, and expectations from forest-related multilateral developments
27 May 2022	Chair UNFF17 to HLPF (4 pages). Includes key message on UNSPF.
17-18 May 2022	UNFF Secretariat, DESA Division for SDGs, UNEP, CBD and FAO jointly organize a virtual EGM on taking stock of progress towards SDG15
5-15 July 2022	HLPF 2022 convenes in hybrid format. Ministerial declaration mentions forests in paras 66, 67, 69 and 71 (see Annex 9). Secretariat helps organize 6 July CPF side event: Role of forests in time of crisis – sustainable production and consumption patterns to turn the tide on
HLPF 2021 (UNFF16 Technical session) SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17	
18 Nov 2020	Letter from ECOSOC President inviting UNFF inputs to HLPF 2021 by 15 March 2021

HLPF 2019 (UNFF14 Technical session) SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17 (end of 1st HLPF 4-year cycle on SDGs)

30 Oct 2018 Letter from ECOSOC President inviting UNFF inputs to HLPF

Annex 10

VNR preparatory process for HLPF 2022 (5-15 July 2022)

Date	Activity
29 July 2021	Letter from ECOSOC President to UN Perm Reps ⁶⁷ inviting countries to present VNRs at HLPF 2022 ⁶⁸
7 Sept 2021	Follow up letter from ECOSOC President to UN Perm Reps noting that 15 countries have expressed interest in presenting VNRs at HLPF 2022
4 Oct 2021	Follow up letter from ECOSOC President to UN Perm Reps noting that 29 countries have expressed interest in presenting VNRs at HLPF 2022
13 Oct 2021	Follow up letter from ECOSOC President to UN Perm Reps noting that 45 countries have expressed interest in presenting VNRs at HLPF 2022 and his intention to give priority to first time presenters
18 Oct 2021	Joint letter from GA and ECOSOC Presidents to UN Perm Reps naming the co-chairs of the Informal Group of Friends of the VNRs (created in June 2019) to prepare discussions on specific VNRs at HLPF 2022
21 Oct 2021	Letter from ECOSOC President to UN Perm Reps closing the list of 46 countries that will present VNRs at HLPF 2022
25-29 Oct 2021	First Global Webinar for the VNRs virtually co-hosted by the Netherlands and DESA ⁶⁹
1-2 Mar 2022	ECA convenes a regional workshop for its 2022 VNR countries
8 Mar 2022	ECLAC convenes a regional workshop for its 2022 VNR countries
4 Apr 2022	ECE convenes a regional workshop for its 2022 VNR countries
11-13 Apr 2022	DESA/OISC convenes 2 nd Global Workshop on VNRs in hybrid format in Gaborone Botswana
6 May 2022) -) -) -) -

Annex 11 - References to forests in HLPF declarations since 2015

Year	HLPF Theme	SDG review	Declaration ⁷³	References to forests in HLPF in declarations
2022	Building back 2022			

2019	HLPF under ECOSOC auspices: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality	4 8 10 13 16 17	Summary by ECOSOC President (20 pages)	Para 34 under Goal 13: Climate action: SFM can contribute significantly to combating climate change. Successful implementation and scaling-up of forest-based actions can reduce greenhouse gases by an estimated 15 gigatons of equivalent carbon dioxide a year by 2050, potentially closing the current emissions gap.
	HLPF under GA auspices: SDG Summit		Political declaration (6 pages)	No forest references
2018	u	6 7 11 12 <u>15</u> 17	Ministerial declaration (10 pages)	<p>Para 27 Ministers:</p> <p>Emphasize that forests. . . and other natural ecosystems are essential for sustainable</p> <p>Recognize that . . . illegal logging, land use change. . . are global drivers of biodiversity loss</p> <p>Note protected forests are on the rise and deforestation has slowed but problems remain</p> <p>Acknowledge biodiversity targets depend on actions from forestry and other sectors</p> <p>Commit to implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests, and substantially increasing afforestation and reforestation globally by 2020</p> <p>Commit to increase efforts to facilitate investment in gender-responsive programmes that address problems of deforestation, . . . including through implementation of the UNSPF, UNFI. . . and scaled- up support by CPF.</p> <p>Commit to improve. . . remote sensing to tackle, in particular, illegal logging and wildlife trafficking</p>
2017	- (First of SDG thematic clusters)	1 2 5 9 14 17	Ministerial Declaration (10 pages)	No forest references

2016

Checked by 17: Australia, Canada, China, El Salvador, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria (5)⁷⁶, Panama (4)⁷⁷, Romania, ITTO, IUFRO, ACTO, Forest Europe, MG Children & Youth

Switzerland: Yes, the UNFF focal points should be more vocal and engaging

USA: Due to the schedule of annual UNFF sessions, we already work through the UNFF bureau to provide early input into HLPF before our formal discussions.

ITTO: CPF members should be invited to present at the HLPF from their perspectives

___Other:

Australia: Drawing stronger linkages and visibilities of the impact of other sectors on forests and increasing visibility of these links and responsibilities through relevant SDGs.

Malawi: Enhanced collaboration between UNFF and national governments (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to encourage participation of political authorities at the HLPF

Question G-3: In your view, which of the following should UNFF pursue to increase the political relevance of forests to the broader sustainable development agenda (check all that may be useful)?

___Preparation of a report and associated targeted communication products on the multiple contributions of forests/SFM to the SDGs, including in the context of COVID-

Annex 13

List of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies

Functional commissions

Statistical Commission
Commission on Population and Development
Commission on Social Development
Commission on Status of Women
Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Commission on Science and Technology for Development
UN Forum on Forests (established 2000)

Expert bodies

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling Chemicals
Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting
UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names
Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Committee for Development Policy
Committee of Experts on Public Administration
Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues