



United Nations

United Nations Forum on Forests

**Report on the seventeenth session
(9–13 May 2022)**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2022
Supplement No. 22**



United Nations Forum on Forests

**Report on the seventeenth session
(9–13 May 2022)**



United Nations • New York, 2022

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	4
A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council	4
Outcome of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests	4
B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	13
Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its seventeenth session and provisional agenda for its eighteenth session	13
C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council	14
Proposed dates and venue of the eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.	14
II. Policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030	15
III. Preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives, including the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030	16
IV. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests	17
V. Emerging issues	18
VI. Dates and venue of the eighteenth session of the Forum	19
VII. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Forum	20
VIII. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its seventeenth session	21
IX. Organization of the session	22
A. Opening and duration of the session	22
B. Election of officers	22
C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	22
D. Attendance	24
E. Documentation.	24
Annexes	
I. Proceedings of the informal meetings of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests	25
II. Summary by the Chair of the discussion during the high-level round table on the Forum response to, role in and expectations from forest-related multilateral developments.	29
III. Summary by the Chair of the discussion of the Forum on agenda item 3 (a) and its sub-item (v), to serve as input to the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development.	32
IV. List of documents.	36

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Outcome of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions [2015/33](#) of 22 July 2015, [2017/4](#) of 20 April 2017, [2020/14](#) of 17 July 2020 and [2021/6](#) of 8 June 2021,

Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for Forests 2017–2030

1. *Invites* members of the United Nations Forum on Forests to accelerate efforts towards achieving the global forest goals, including through coordinating, mainstreaming and upscaling forest-related actions in relevant programmes, strategies and plans, including national development plans, and in this regard to support existing and emerging national, subregional and regional joint initiatives and partnerships on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030;¹

2. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to strengthen its collaboration with and support to the work of the Forum and its members for the implementation of the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2021–2024 and the strategic plan;

3. *Invites* the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the parties to the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and other international forest-related processes to consider the relevant elements of the strategic plan as a reference framework for their forest-related work to enhance progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals ² and the objectives of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, to promote forest-related actions, to improve the understanding of the interlinkages between the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests with their areas of work, including for the eradication of poverty, and to promote effective cooperation and collaboration on forest-related matters;

4. *Urges* members of the Forum to enhance North-North, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in the technical, financial, scientific, technological and innovation fields to support implementation of the strategic plan and accelerate the achievement of its global forest goals, and to promote sustainable forest management, taking into account national circumstances, including challenges faced by developing countries;

5. *Encourages* members of the Forum to implement the global forest goals, taking into account national circumstances, to contribute to the implementation of forest-related multilateral instruments, processes, commitments and goals, and in this

¹ See General Assembly resolution [71/285](#).

² See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

respect invites member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to enhance cooperation and collaboration and strengthen their support to the Forum and its members;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of recent forest-related declarations, pledges and developments, including but not limited to the forest-relevant contributions of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use;

7. *Encourages* countries and organizations that have made pledges in support of forest-related instruments, processes, commitments and goals to provide information, including through the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network;

8. *Encourages* members of the Forum to highlight the contributions of forests and sustainable forest management, and their economic, social and environmental benefits, for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in the work towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

9. *Encourages* the Forum to enhance its multilingual communication in its work and in its information exchange activities to promote the strategic plan and to further progress towards the global forest goals, including the activities aimed at raising awareness of the multiple benefits of forests and the visibility of the work of the Forum within and outside the United Nations system;

10. *Emphasizes* that effective implementation of sustainable forest management depends on the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to regional and subregional organizations and processes, forest owners, indigenous peoples, local communities, local authorities, the private sector, including small, medium and large forest-based enterprises, non-governmental organizations, women, children, youth, and scientific, academic and philanthropic organizations at all levels, and in this respect encourages these stakeholders to continue to advance the implementation of the strategic plan and the achievement of the global forest goals, and to keep the Forum informed of their progress in that regard;

11. *Recognizes* the important role of small-scale landowners, micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as local communities and indigenous peoples, in the conservation, sustainable management and protection of forests, and encourages members of the Forum to develop, improve and implement public policies, including to facilitate access to financing, to create an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development;

12. *Welcomes* the work carried out by the Forum together with international forest-related organizations and other partners in assessing the impacts of the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on forests and the forest sector, and encourages integration of forests and their sustainable management in the post-COVID recovery measures adopted by countries, taking into account relevant interlinkages between biodiversity and health;

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

13. *Recalls* the importance of the mobilization of and effective use of financial resources, including new and additional resources from all sources and at all levels, and recalls that public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership and leadership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, and also recalls paragraphs 52 to 61 of Economic and Social Council resolution [2017/4](#);

14. *Also recalls* that the effective implementation of sustainable forest management is critically dependent upon adequate resources, including financing,

capacity development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and, in particular, the need to mobilize increased financial resources, including innovative sources, for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, and further recalls that the implementation of sustainable forest management is also critically dependent upon good governance at all levels;

15. *Welcomes* the support provided by the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network to countries for strengthening capacity to mobilize resources by all stakeholders and from all sources to promote sustainable forest management and the achievement of the global forest goals, including through the development of national forest financing strategies;

16. *Invites* members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to consider seconding staff to the Forum secretariat to enhance the capacity of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network with a view to providing adequate and timely support to members of the Forum, and to scale up support to the activities of the Network;

17. *Requests* the Forum secretariat to continue to develop and make operational phase II of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network clearing house, including its new database on forest financial flows, within existing resources, and to encourage members of the Forum to share their lessons learned and best practices regarding forest financing for publishing on the website of the Network clearing house, in collaboration with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in accordance with their respective mandates;

18. *Also requests* the Forum secretariat, within existing resources, to regularly update the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network clearing house databases and communicate information to familiarize members of the Forum with the databases, and in this respect invites members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to contribute, as appropriate, within their mandates and available resources;

19. *Emphasizes* the importance for the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network to continue to provide its support to relevant members of the Forum, consistent with the provisions of the strategic plan, and its guidelines adopted during the thirteenth session of the Forum,³ and encourages the Forum secretariat, in accordance with the respective United Nations rules and regulations, to identify ways to facilitate contributions from the private sector and philanthropic organizations;

20. *Recalls* paragraph 13 of Council resolution 2020/14, and requests the Forum secretariat to provide regular updates on this matter and to provide a progress report to the Forum at its eighteenth session;

21. *Invites* members of the Forum and others in a position to do so to provide voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests to scale up the activities of the Forum secretariat, including the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network;

Monitoring, assessment and reporting

22. *Requests* that the secretariat of the Forum amend the format for voluntary national reporting, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from members of the Forum, and conduct a pilot phase for the use of the refined format in interested countries, with all types of forests, and with different socioeconomic contexts, and report on the progress made to the Forum at its eighteenth session;

³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 22 (E/2018/42), chap. I, sect. B, resolution 13/1, annex II.*

23. *Invites* the Forum to consider establishing an advisory group on reporting, within existing resources, taking into account the experience gained and lessons learned from having an informal advisory group involved with the 2021 flagship publication, and in this respect requests the Forum secretariat to evaluate the impact of the publication and propose terms of reference, including the suggested composition of this group, with due regard to the need for balanced United Nations geographical representation, to the Forum at its eighteenth session;

24. *Requests* that the Forum secretariat, in the context of preparations for the midterm review of the international arrangement on forests, and in consultation with members of the Forum, prepare a road map and timeline for the next reporting cycle, in conjunction with the Global Forest Resources Assessment cycle, and explore options for establishing an online reporting platform for the Forum, recognizing the need for streamlined reporting and minimizing the reporting burden, including the challenges faced by developing countries;

25. *Also requests* that the Forum secretariat, through voluntary contributions and in consultation with members of the Forum, organize jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, a global workshop on national voluntary reporting on progress towards global forest goals and targets, with a focus on data sources, collection and methodologies for which there is a lack of systematic data, with modalities for inclusive participation, and with due regard to all United Nations official languages, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

26. *Invites* members of the Forum, as appropriate, to enhance international technical and financial cooperation on the reporting, collection, processing and sharing of forest-related data, including data regarding the multiple socioeconomic benefits of forests, national forest resource inventories and the role of forests in poverty eradication, human well-being, income generation and employment, and the understanding of public and private finance flows;

27. *Invites* members of the Forum and the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to make use of the global core set of forest-related indicators, and invites the Forum secretariat, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to arrange further work on tier 3 indicators,⁴ including the improvement of concepts, definitions and voluntary testing in the field;

Preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests

28. *Decides* that the Forum should carry out the actions contained in the annex to the present resolution, in preparation for the midterm review of the international arrangement on forests, during the period following the conclusion of the seventeenth session of the Forum and before its nineteenth session;

29. *Also decides* to defer consideration of paragraphs 42 (a) and (b) of Council resolution [2015/33](#) to the final review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in 2030;

30. *Further decides:*

(a) To establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on the preparations for the midterm review of the international arrangement on forests, to be

⁴ For further information on tier 3 indicators, see [E/CN.18/2022/4](#).

convened by the Forum secretariat towards the end of 2023, to review all assessments and outcomes of preparatory intersessional work related to the midterm review of the international arrangement, as outlined in the annex to the present resolution, and that the secretariat should submit the report of the ad hoc expert group to the Forum at its nineteenth session for its consideration;

(b) That the ad hoc expert group will be open to all members of the Forum, the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, relevant regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, and that it should be organized, using existing resources, including extrabudgetary contributions, with adequate participation of developing countries, and in all United Nations official languages, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, with a view to making proposals to the Forum at its nineteenth session on the midterm review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, including the future steps to be taken by the international arrangement beyond 2024;

(c) That the Bureau of the Forum at its nineteenth session, taking into account the outcome of the ad hoc expert group, should conduct informal consultations with members of the Forum and prepare and submit to the Forum at its nineteenth session the zero draft of the resolution on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2024;

(d) That actions set out in the annex to the present resolution should be implemented in a transparent and independent manner and in close consultation with members of the Forum, as well as member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant stakeholders, including through questionnaires, where appropriate;

31. *Invites* those members of the Forum that are in a position to do so to provide voluntary contributions to the Forum trust fund to enable the secretariat to organize the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on the preparations for the midterm review of the international arrangement on forests and to facilitate implementation of the actions set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Actions in preparation for the midterm review, in 2024, of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests

A. Actions related to the United Nations Forum on Forests and its members

1. Assess the progress made by the United Nations Forum on Forests and its members towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, as defined in Economic and Social Council resolution [2015/33](#).
2. Analyse the performance of the Forum in carrying out its functions, as defined in paragraph 3 of Council resolution [2015/33](#), by identifying its impact on the global forest policy landscape and on the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as well as the means to enable the Forum to broaden its impact.
3. Explore additional measures to improve the use of the annual sessions of the Forum and to engage members in the intersessional activities of the Forum to foster the achievement of the global forest goals.
4. Identify further means to encourage the submission of more voluntary national reports and announcements of voluntary national contributions by members of the Forum, as well as identify means to encourage increased voluntary national contributions by members of the Forum and promote their effectiveness.

5. To carry out the above-mentioned tasks, the Forum secretariat should, in consultation with members of the Forum and relevant stakeholders, conduct an assessment and submit it to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group referred to in paragraph 30 of the present resolution.

B. Actions related to the Forum secretariat

1. Assess the achievements made by the Forum secretariat in carrying out its functions and in making progress towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, as defined in Council resolution [2015/33](#).

2. Analyse the gaps in and the existing capacity of the Forum secretariat with a view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, strengthening its capacities, gaining a better understanding of its decision-making processes and procedures, and amplifying the impact of its activities.

3. Identify additional measures to enhance collaboration and synergies, and to reduce duplication with regard to forest-related issues at the global level, bearing in mind the mandates of different organizations and entities.

4. To carry out the above-mentioned tasks, the Forum secretariat, in consultation with members of the Forum and relevant stakeholders, should conduct an independent assessment and submit it to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group referred to in paragraph 30 of the present resolution.

C. Actions related to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

1. Assess the progress made by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in carrying out its functions towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, as defined in Council resolution [2015/33](#).

2. Assess the effectiveness, impact and added value of the activities of the Partnership as outlined in its workplan, including with regard to its resources; output delivery; joint initiatives, including how the Forum can provide input thereto; and recurrent activities to foster the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the achievement of the global forest goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Consider the suitability of establishing criteria for membership in the Partnership.

4. Assess how the Partnership could provide greater support to the policy development work of the Forum and assist countries in strengthening their implementation of the strategic plan, Forum resolutions and decisions on the ground, including the means to further benefit from the capacities of other international and regional stakeholders and partners.

5. Assess the efficacy of internal communications within the Partnership to promote mutual synergies, reduce duplication and enhance the Partnership's communications and outreach externally to promote awareness-raising of the multiple benefits of forests and raise the visibility of the strategic plan and the global forest goals within other forest-related processes.

6. To carry out the above-mentioned tasks, an independent study could be carried out, in consultation with the Partnership and Forum members. The results of the study should be presented at an intersessional meeting to be organized by the Partnership (the organization-led initiative) for discussion, with a view to making proposals regarding the Partnership to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group referred to in paragraph 30 of the present resolution.

D. Actions related to the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network

1. Assess the progress made by the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network towards achieving the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, as defined in Council resolution [2015/33](#).
2. Assess the status of existing resources for forests available from all sources, including private funding, as well as the gaps and constraints with regard to gaining access to such funds.
3. Review the performance of the Network and the impacts of its activities, the sufficiency of its resources and the challenges to and constraints on its work.
4. Propose measures to increase the efficiency and added value of the Network and strengthen its capacity to facilitate and enhance access by eligible countries to resources for forests from all sources and review the Network guidelines adopted during the thirteenth session of the Forum, in the context of the midterm review of the international arrangement on forests in 2024.
5. To carry out the above-mentioned tasks, the Forum secretariat, in consultation with members of the Forum and partners, should conduct an assessment of the performance, impacts and resource sufficiency and longevity of the Network and other measures to strengthen its work. The assessment should be presented for discussion at an intersessional meeting, the outcome of which should be submitted to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group referred to in paragraph 30 of the present resolution.

E. Actions related to the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. Assess the impact of voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests on supporting the core activities of the Forum.
2. Explore options to encourage sustained and adequate contributions to the trust fund.
3. Identify the key challenges and constraints with regard to mobilizing adequate resources for the trust fund.
4. The Forum secretariat should, in consultation with members of the Forum, undertake the above-mentioned tasks and present its findings and suggestions in a background note for submission to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group referred to in paragraph 30 of the present resolution.

F. Actions related to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

1. Gather new information from member States on their actions in implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 since the fifteenth session of the Forum in 2020, the challenges and constraints they are facing in the preparation of voluntary national reports, ways to reduce duplication and reporting burden, the suitability of setting a 6- to 12-month timeline from the publication of the Global Forest Resources Assessment for the submission of voluntary national reports and regional and global issues of concern with regard to forests, in response to a concise questionnaire developed by the Forum secretariat, as well as information gathered in 2019 and 2020 and submitted by member States to the Forum at its fifteenth session, along with voluntary national contributions and the most recent global publications and reports on forests.
2. The Forum secretariat should collate the above-mentioned information in one background note for discussion at an intersessional expert group meeting, to be held

prior to the nineteenth session of the Forum, and submit the outcome document of that meeting to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group referred to in paragraph 30 of the present resolution.

G. Actions related to the contributions of the Forum to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. Assess the contribution of the Forum to the high-level political forum on sustainable development on the interlinkages between forests and the Sustainable Development Goals, and the extent to which the contributions of the Forum are reflected in the outcomes of the high-level political forum, since the adoption of Council resolution [2015/33](#).
2. Identify additional opportunities for the enhanced and direct contribution of the Forum, its secretariat and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on forest-related issues to the sessions of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in particular when it reviews the forest-related Sustainable Development Goals, and to other relevant global bodies, including the three Rio conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹ the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,² and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).³
3. Propose measures to raise the visibility and contribution of forests at the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and increase the political relevance of forests to the broader sustainable development agenda, including by highlighting the impact of other sectors on global forests and the wide range of benefits that sustainable forest management hold for the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. To carry out the above-mentioned tasks, the Forum secretariat, in consultation with members of the Forum and partners, should conduct an assessment and present its findings at an intersessional meeting for discussion and submit the outcome document of that meeting to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group referred to in paragraph 30 of the present resolution.

H. Actions related to the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

1. Assess the progress made in the implementation of the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030⁴ by members of the Forum, the secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional organizations and relevant stakeholders, and identify ways to address the challenges to furthering its implementation, including challenges with regard to achieving greater visibility of the strategic plan and the global forest goals.
2. Assess the impact of the communication and outreach activities carried out to promote the strategic plan and the global forest goals, including the International Day of Forests and the usefulness of its themes to raise awareness of the multiple benefits of forests, as well as the visibility of the work of the Forum within the United Nations system.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 22 (E/2018/42)*, chap. I, sect. B, resolution 13/1, annex I.

3. Identify additional communication options, platforms and channels that have come into prominence in recent years to better reach target audiences and with greater impacts.
4. Explore ways to make use of the capacities of members of the Forum and other players and partners at the global, regional and national levels to strengthen advocacy on the implementation of the strategic plan.
5. To carry out the above-mentioned tasks, the Forum secretariat, in consultation with members of the Forum, partners and the member organizations of the Partnership, should conduct an assessment and submit its findings to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group referred to in paragraph 30 of the present resolution.

I. Actions related to the involvement of regional and subregional partners

1. Assess regional and subregional entities' involvement in and contribution to the sessions of the Forum since its twelfth session.
2. Review developments regarding the establishment or strengthening of regional and subregional processes or platforms for forest policy development, dialogue and coordination to promote sustainable forest management while seeking to avoid fragmentation, in line with paragraph 28 of Council resolution [2015/33](#), as well as the progress made in implementing paragraph 27 of the resolution.
3. Identify options for the further involvement of regional and subregional partners, including with regard to the better use of the capacities provided by existing regional partners, in the work of the Forum and its future quadrennial programmes of work.
4. To carry out the above-mentioned tasks, the Forum secretariat, in consultation with regional and subregional partners, should conduct the assessments and present them for discussion at an intersessional meeting, the outcome of which should be reported to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group referred to in paragraph 30 of the present resolution.

J. Actions related to the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

1. Assess the level of engagement of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders with the work of the Forum, including their contributions to the achievement of the global forest goals and targets at all levels and their interactions with the Forum and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests through networks, advisory groups and other mechanisms to raise awareness, foster information exchange and dissemination, and facilitate coordinated inputs.
2. Assess the efforts made by the major groups to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms at all levels for interaction and participation in the Forum and other forest-related United Nations bodies.
3. Assess the ability of major groups and other relevant stakeholders to deliver effective representation through appropriate and representative memberships and focal points, and effective consultation processes within their constituencies.
4. Identify potential financial resources that could facilitate the development and implementation of quadrennial meetings of the Major Group-led Initiative in Support of the United Nations Forum on Forests.
5. To carry out the above-mentioned tasks, the Forum secretariat, in consultation with major groups and other relevant stakeholders, should conduct the assessments

and present them for discussion at an intersessional meeting, the outcome of which should be submitted to the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group referred to in paragraph 30 of the present resolution.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its seventeenth session and provisional agenda for its eighteenth session

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Forum on its seventeenth session;⁵
- (b) Notes that the eighteenth session of the Forum will be held at Headquarters from 8 to 12 May 2023;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Forum as set out below:

Draft provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

- 1. Election of officers.
- 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
- 3. Technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030:
 - (a) Thematic priorities for the biennium 2023–2024 biennium, in support of the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030;
 - (b) Contributions of members of the Forum to implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030:
 - (i) New announcements of voluntary national contributions;
 - (ii) Updates on voluntary national contributions and their follow-up related to the thematic priorities;
 - (c) Contributions of and enhanced cooperation with partners to achieving the thematic priorities:
 - (i) Contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, its member organizations and the United Nations system to achieving the thematic priorities, and progress on the workplan of the Partnership;
 - (ii) Contributions of regional and subregional organizations and processes to achieving the thematic priorities;
 - (iii) Contributions of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and philanthropic

⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2022, Supplement No. 22 (E/2022/42).*

community, to achieving the thematic priorities, and progress on major group workplans;

- (d) Interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, the work towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other international forest-related developments;
 - (e) Implementation of the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including activities regarding the International Day of Forests in 2023;
 - (f) Means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network;
 - (g) Monitoring, assessment and reporting:
 - (i) Global core set of forest-related indicators;
 - (ii) Preparations for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025.
 - (h) Update on the preparations for the 2024 midterm review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, including the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030.
- 4. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on forests.
 - 5. Emerging issues.
 - 6. Date and venue of the nineteenth session of the Forum.
 - 7. Provisional agenda of the nineteenth session of the Forum.
 - 8. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its eighteenth session.

C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decision adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests at its seventeenth session is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Proposed dates and venue of the eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests, recalling Economic and Social Council resolution [2015/33](#) of 22 July 2015, decides that the eighteenth session of the Forum will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 12 May 2023.

Chapter II

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

4. The Forum considered item 3 of the agenda for its seventeenth session ([E/CN.18/2022/1](#)) jointly with item 6 at its 1st informal meeting, on 9 May 2022, to hold a high-level round table on the Forum response to, role in and expectations from forest-related multilateral developments. For the Chair's summary of the discussion, see annex II.

5. The Forum considered agenda item 3 and its sub-items 3 (a) and (b) at its 2nd and 3rd informal meetings, on 9 and 10 May 2022. For the Chair's summary of discussion of the Forum on sub-item 3 (a)(v) on the interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, which serves as an input to the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, see annex III.

6. The Forum considered agenda items 3 and its sub-items 3 (c) and (d) at its 4th informal meeting, on 10 May 2022.

7. The proceedings of the informal meetings are reflected in annex I to the present report.

8. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

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

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

(c) Note by the Secretariat on monitoring, assessment and reporting: progress on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the United Nations forest instrument, and voluntary national contributions ([E/CN.18/2022/4](#)).

Action taken by the Forum

9. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 May, the Forum had before it a draft resolution entitled “Outcome of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests” ([E/CN.18/2022/L.4](#)), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations, under agenda items 3 (policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030), 4 (preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives, including the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030) and 6 (emerging issues).

10. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of India and the United States of America.

12. A statement was also made by the observer for the European Union (on behalf of its member States).

Chapter III

Preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives, including the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

13. The Forum considered agenda item 4 at its 4th informal meeting. The proceedings of the informal meeting are reflected in annex I to the present report.

14. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the note by the Secretariat on preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives ([E/CN.18/2022/5](#)).

Action taken by the Forum

15. Under item 4, jointly with items 3 and 6, the Forum adopted the draft resolution on the outcome of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (the draft omnibus resolution) (see chap. II, paras. 9–12).

Chapter IV

Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

16. The Forum considered agenda item 5 at its 4th informal meeting. The proceedings of the informal meeting are reflected in annex I to the present report.

17. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the note by the Secretariat on the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests ([E/CN.18/2022/6](#)).

Chapter V

Emerging issues

18. The Forum considered agenda item 6 jointly with item 3 at its 1st informal meeting, to hold a high-level round table on the Forum response to, role in and expectations from forest-related multilateral developments (see chap. II, para 4). The proceedings of the informal meeting are reflected in annex I.

19. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the note by the Secretariat on the challenges faced by countries, strategies adopted and recovery measures taken by countries to reduce the impact of the coronavirus disease pandemic on forests and the forest sector ([E/CN.18/2022/7](#)).

Action taken by the Forum

20. Under item 6, jointly with items 3 and 4, the Forum adopted the draft omnibus resolution (see chap. II, paras. 9 to 12).

Chapter VI

Dates and venue of the eighteenth session of the Forum

21. The Forum considered agenda item 7 at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 May 2022. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it a draft decision entitled “Proposed dates and venue of the eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests” ([E/CN.18/2022/L.2](#)).

Action taken by the Forum

22. At the same meeting, on 13 May, the Forum adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C).

Chapter VII

Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Forum

23. The Forum considered agenda item 8 at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 May 2022. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it a document entitled “Draft provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests” ([E/CN.18/2022/L.3](#)).

Action taken by the Forum

24. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 May, the Forum adopted the provisional agenda for its eighteenth session, for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its 2022 session (see chap. I, sect. B).

25. At the same meeting, before the adoption, a statement was made by the representative of India, to which the Chair (Suriname) responded.

Chapter VIII

Adoption of the report of the Forum on its seventeenth session

26. The Forum considered item 9 at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 May 2022. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the draft report on its eighteenth session ([E/CN.18/2022/L.1](#)).

Action taken by the Forum

27. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 May, the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur (Islamic Republic of Iran) introduced the draft report (via video link). Subsequently, the Forum adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion with the support of the secretariat, for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its 2022 session.

Chapter IX

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

28. The United Nations Forum on Forests held its seventeenth session at Headquarters on 9 to 13 May 2022. The Forum held two plenary meetings (1st and 2nd) and four hybrid informal meetings with both virtual and in-person participation (1st to 4th). The proceedings of the hybrid informal meetings are reflected in annex I to the present report.

29. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 9 May 2022, the Vice-Chair of the seventeenth session of the Forum, Jesse Mahoney (Australia), opened the session.

30. At the same meeting, the newly-elected Chair of the seventeenth session of the Forum, Miriam Mac Intosh (Suriname), made a statement.

B. Election of officers

31. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 9 May 2022, the Forum was reminded that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decisions 2020/205, 2020/206 and 2020/219, the Forum had elected Kitty Sweeb (Suriname) as Chair, as well as Javad Momeni (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Jesse Mahoney (Australia) as Vice-Chairs, of its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions.

32. At the same meeting, the Forum was also reminded that, pursuant to Council decision 2021/213, the Forum had elected Musah Abu-Juam (Ghana) and Tomasz Markiewicz (Poland) as Vice-Chairs of its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions.

33. Also at the same meeting, on 9 May, the Forum elected, by acclamation, Miriam Mac Intosh (Suriname) as Chair of the seventeenth session to complete the unexpired term of Kitty Sweeb (Suriname).

34. The Bureau of the Forum at its seventeenth session was thus constituted of the following officers:

Chair:

Miriam Mac Intosh (Suriname)

Vice-Chairs:

Jesse Mahoney (Australia)

Musah Abu-Juam (Ghana)

Javad Momeni (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Tomasz Markiewicz (Poland)

35. Also at the 1st plenary meeting, on 9 May 2022, the Forum was reminded that, pursuant to Council decision 2021/213, the Vice-Chair, Javad Momeni (Islamic Republic of Iran) had been designated to serve as the Rapporteur of the seventeenth session.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

36. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 9 May 2022, the Forum adopted its provisional agenda for the session, as contained in document [E/CN.18/2022/1](#). The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030:
 - (a) Activities in support of the thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022:
 - (i) Update on the activities of members of the Forum, including new announcements of and updates on voluntary national contributions;
 - (ii) Update on the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations and progress on the implementation of its workplan;
 - (iii) Update on the activities of regional and subregional organizations and processes;
 - (iv) Update on the activities of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the philanthropic community, and progress on major group workplans;
 - (v) Interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2022 and international forest-related developments;
 - (b) Implementation of the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including activities regarding the International Day of Forests in 2022;
 - (c) Means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network;
 - (d) Monitoring, assessment and reporting:
 - (i) Proposed refinements to the format for voluntary national reporting on progress in implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions;
 - (ii) Progress on the global core set of forest-related indicators.
 4. Preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives, including the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030.
 5. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests.
 6. Emerging issues.
 7. Dates and venue of the eighteenth session of the Forum.
 8. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Forum.
 9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its seventeenth session.
37. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Chair (Suriname) made a statement and noted that the seventeenth session of the Forum would be held through in-person formal meetings and hybrid informal meetings with both in-person and virtual participation, owing to the circumstances imposed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and would not in any way create a precedent to the work of the Forum.

38. At the same meeting, the Forum approved the provisional organization of work for the session, as circulated in an informal paper in English only, on the understanding that further adjustments would be made, if necessary, during the course of the session.

39. Also at the same meeting, the Chair recalled that the session was a policy session and that the Forum was expected to adopt an omnibus resolution, incorporating the key outcomes of its deliberations on agenda items 3, 4 and 6.

40. Furthermore, the Chair noted she would prepare summaries of the discussions held during the session under, respectively, the high-level round table on the Forum response to, role in and expectations from forest-related multilateral developments (annex II), as well as agenda sub-item 3 (a)(v) on the interlinkages of forests and the Sustainable Development Goals (see annex III). The latter would be transmitted as an input of the Forum to the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

D. Attendance

41. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the Forum is composed of all States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, with full and equal participation. The list of participants will be issued as document [E/CN.18/2022/INF/1](#).

E. Documentation

42. The documentation considered by the Forum at its seventeenth session is set out in annex IV to the present report. Other relevant documentation is also available at the website of the Forum (www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html).

Annex I

Proceedings of the hybrid informal meetings of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

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

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests considered agenda item 3¹ jointly with agenda item 6 at its 1st informal meeting.
2. The Forum also considered sub-items 3 (a)–(d) at its 2nd and 3rd informal meetings, on 9 and 10 May 2022, respectively.
3. At the 1st informal meeting, the Director of the Forum secretariat introduced the note by the secretariat on policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: activities in support of the thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022 ([E/CN.18/2022/2](#)) under agenda sub-items 3 (a) and (b).
4. At the 4th informal meeting, the Director introduced the note by the secretariat on means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network ([E/CN.18/2022/3](#)) under agenda sub-item 3 (c), as well as the note by the secretariat on monitoring, assessment and reporting: progress on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the United Nations forest instrument, and voluntary national contributions ([E/CN.18/2022/4](#)) under agenda sub-item 3 (d).

High-level round table on the Forum response to, role in and expectations from forest-related multilateral developments

5. At the 1st and 2nd informal meetings, the Forum held a high-level round table on the Forum response to, role in and expectations from forest-related multilateral developments under agenda items 3 and 6.
6. At the 1st informal meeting, following a statement by the Chair of the Forum (Suriname), statements were made by the President of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council, Collen Vixen Kelapile (Botswana) (pre-recorded); the President of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid (Maldives) (pre-recorded); and the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs (on behalf of the Secretary-General).
7. The Director made a statement and moderated the interventions by the following panellists: the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Patricia Espinosa (pre-recorded); the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema (pre-recorded); the Associate Vice-President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Jyotsna Puri (pre-recorded); the Chief Executive Officer of the Bezos Earth Fund, Andrew Steer (virtually); the Vice-Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Anne Nuorgam; the Secretary-General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, María Alexandra Moreira López; and the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake (virtually).
8. The Chair (Suriname) moderated the interactive discussion that ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of France (on behalf of the European Union and its member States), the Russian Federation, Romania, the

¹ See the provisional agenda of the seventeenth session of the Forum ([E/CN.18/2022/1](#)).

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Greece, Bangladesh, Peru (virtually), Ukraine (virtually), Malaysia and Guyana (virtually).

9. At the 2nd informal meeting, statements were made by Costa Rica, Argentina, Cameroon (on behalf of the Central Africa Forests Commission), the Republic of Korea (virtually), Australia, Nicaragua (virtually), the Congo, the United States (virtually), Brazil, Mexico (virtually), Ghana, China (virtually); Indonesia, and Uganda.

10. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made closing remarks (pre-recorded).

General discussions

11. Also at the 2nd informal meeting, on 9 May, the Forum held a general discussion under agenda sub-item 3 (a)(i) and heard the statements by the representatives of the Republic of Korea (virtually), Mexico (virtually), Argentina, Brazil, Poland (pre-recorded), Jamaica, Morocco, Türkiye, the United States (virtually), Côte d'Ivoire (virtually), the Philippines, Gabon, Costa Rica, the Congo, Ecuador, Guatemala (virtually), the Sudan, Indonesia, India, Germany and Malaysia (virtually).

12. A representative of the Forum secretariat responded to comments made and questions posed.

13. At the 3rd informal meeting, the Forum heard a statement by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (on behalf of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests) and held a general discussion under agenda sub-item 3 (a)(ii).

14. Statements were made by the representatives of Burundi, Nigeria, Brazil, Gabon, Japan, the Congo, Kenya, the United States (virtually), Switzerland, Mexico (virtually), Saudi Arabia, Argentina and Germany.

15. Statements were also made by the observers for the European Union (on behalf of its member States) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (virtually).

16. Also at the 3rd informal meeting, the Forum held a general discussion under agenda sub-item 3 (a)(iii) and heard a statement by the observer for the European Union (on behalf of its member States).

17. At the same meeting, the Forum held a general discussion under agenda sub-item 3 (a)(iv) and heard a statement by the observer for the European Union (on behalf of its member States).

18. Statements were also made (virtually) by the representatives of the following major groups: non-governmental organizations, children and young people, and women.

19. Also at the 3rd informal meeting, the Forum held a general discussion under agenda sub-item 3 (a)(v) and heard the statements by the representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, China (virtually); the Congo, Brazil, Argentina, Japan and Uganda.

20. Statements were also made by the observer for the European Union (on behalf of its member States) and the representative of FAO (virtually), as well as by the representative of the women's major group (on behalf of all major groups) (virtually).

21. Also at the 3rd informal meeting, the Forum held a general discussion under agenda sub-item 3 (b) and heard the statements by the representatives of the Philippines, Kenya, Australia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United

States (virtually), Gabon, Malaysia (virtually), India, China (virtually), Ghana, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Mongolia.

22. Statements were made by the observer for the European Union (on behalf of its member States) and the representative of FAO.

23. At the 4th informal meeting, the Forum held a general discussion under agenda sub-item 3 (c) and heard the statements by the representatives of Gabon, Suriname, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malaysia (virtually), China (virtually), Colombia, the United States (virtually), South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Ghana, Japan, Costa Rica and Togo.

24. Statements were made by the observer for the European Union (on behalf of its member States) and the representative of FAO.

25. The Director and a representative of the Forum secretariat responded to comments made and questions posed.

26. Also at the 4th informal meeting, the Forum held a general discussion under agenda sub-item 3 (d) and heard the statements by the representatives of India, China (virtually), the Republic of Korea (virtually), the Philippines, Canada, Brazil, the United States (virtually), Australia, Argentina, Colombia, the Russian Federation (virtually), Japan and Malaysia.

27. Statement were made by the observer for the European Union (on behalf of its member States) and. by the representative of FAO.

28. The Director and a representative of the Forum secretariat responded to comments made and questions posed.

B. Preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives, including the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

29. The United Nations Forum on Forests considered agenda item 4 at its 4th informal meeting, during which the Director introduced the note by the secretariat on preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives ([E/CN.18/2022/5](#)) under the item.

30. At the same meeting, the Forum held a general discussion and heard statements by the representatives of China (virtually), Mexico (virtually), Malaysia, India, Argentina, the Russian Federation (virtually), the United States, Canada, Australia, Switzerland and Brazil.

31. A statement was made by the observer for the European Union (on behalf of its member States).

32. The Director and a representative of the Forum secretariat responded to comments made and questions posed.

33. A statement was made by the representative of Switzerland.

C. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

34. The United Nations Forum on Forests considered agenda item 5 at its 4th informal meeting, during which the Director introduced the note by the secretariat on the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests ([E/CN.18/2022/6](#)) under the item.

35. At the same meeting, the Forum held a general discussion and heard the statements by the representatives of the United States, the Republic of Korea (virtually), China (virtually) and Switzerland.

D. Emerging issues

36. The United Nations Forum on Forests considered agenda item 6 jointly with agenda item 3 at its 1st informal meeting, during which the Director introduced the note by the secretariat on challenges faced by countries, strategies adopted and recovery measures taken by countries to reduce the impact of the coronavirus disease pandemic on forests and the forest sector ([E/CN.18/2022/7](#)) under the item.

37. At the 1st and 2nd informal meetings, the Forum held a high-level round table on the Forum response to, role in and expectations from forest-related multilateral developments under agenda items 3 and 6.

38. For the discussions, see section A above.

Annex II

Summary by the Chair of the discussion during the high-level round table on the Forum response to, role in and expectations from forest-related multilateral developments

1. The following delegations intervened during the interactive discussion segment of the high-level round table: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon (on behalf of the Central African Forests Commission), China, Congo, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France (on behalf of the European Union and its member States), Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Uganda, Ukraine and United States of America. In addition, the following delegations subsequently submitted written statements: Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Honduras, India, Philippines and Portugal, as well as representatives of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and the workers and trade unions major group.

2. The main points emerging from the discussions at the high-level round table included the following:

(a) The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic was upending the world, threatening human health, destroying economies and livelihoods and deepening poverty and inequalities. The disastrous effects of a changing climate, such as drought, famine, floods, forest fires and extreme heat, threatened the existence of people everywhere and in particular the most vulnerable segments of society, including women, children and young people and indigenous peoples and local communities. The need to integrate the importance of forests and their sustainable management into post-COVID-19 recovery plans was stressed by some members of the Forum. In addition, conflicts continued to rage and worsen, resulting in setbacks to decades of progress in sustainable forest management;

(b) The existing challenges were interconnected across borders and all other divides. There was no one-size-fits-all solution to global challenges, and success was only possible by developing tailored, balanced and integrated approaches that addressed all aspects of the “jigsaw puzzle”;

(c) It was important to tap into the potential of forests to address many of those challenges. Healthy forests sustained human well-being, as well as livelihoods in both rural and urban communities. Forests and trees provided clean water, renewable energy, biological diversity and climate regulation. Halting and reversing deforestation could also reduce the risks and conditions that led to the outbreak of zoonotic diseases. At the same time, scaling up poverty eradication efforts by fostering forest-based social and economic benefits and forest-based activities, including the development of non-timber forest products, was essential to address the social and economic challenges often underlying forest degradation;

(d) Notwithstanding their potential to contribute to addressing social, economic and environmental challenges, forests were increasingly under threat. Relentless deforestation, massive land degradation, unsustainable consumption and production practices, and the ongoing climate crisis all threatened the essential economic, social, environmental and cultural values of forests. Some members of the Forum stressed the need to undertake further work and implementation of coherent measures in favour of sustainable and deforestation-free supply chains, including multilateral technical and policy dialogues, while in that context others stressed the unique challenges that they could pose for many developing nations, given challenges to the pre-existing supply chain, sustainable livelihood and food security. People's

health and resilience were directly linked to the health of the planet, and forests had an important role to play in that regard;

(e) There was growing recognition of and an expectation to push for long-term solutions to support forests and other terrestrial ecosystems within and beyond the United Nations system. That recognition was demonstrated most recently in the adoption of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use during the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the adoption of the Seoul Forest Declaration at the fifteenth World Forestry Congress. Recent forest-related developments, declarations and pledges had created relevant opportunities to build momentum to advance implementation of the globally agreed forest-related goals and targets, in particular the global forest goals of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030;

(f) Several delegations indicated that the Forum should support and provide assistance to the implementation of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use. It was also emphasized that the Forum should play a key role in advocating forests and sustainable forest management to address multiple environmental objectives, including through increased efforts towards forest and ecosystem restoration actions, and to mainstream and scale up forest-related actions in national development programmes;

(g) The United Nations strategic plan for forests and its six global forest goals provided a framework to support countries' efforts to turn the tide on deforestation and forest degradation. The strategic plan also served as a reference for forest-based actions in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including the framework for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD-plus), and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(h) The Forum should effectively engage in global policy discussions and awareness-raising regarding forests, as well as play a critical role to maximize complementarities, synergies and coherence among global forest policies and programmes, including the Rio conventions, consistent with their mandates;

(i) The Forum should collaborate with the Rio conventions and member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support countries in strengthening their national policy frameworks on forests, including for forest restoration readiness, and improving countries' access to technologies, capacity-building and forest finance, including climate finance;

(j) The Forum should strengthen its work to promote and catalyse better science-policy interface regarding forests and their related issues, as well as increased financial resources and investment for sustainable forest management that can effectively support the acceleration of the implementation of global commitments on forests;

(k) Increased finance and investments from all sources and at all levels were necessary to meet the global forest goals, thereby enhancing sustainable forest management, conservation, resiliency and ecosystem restoration. The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network played an important role in fostering collaboration and supporting countries in the design and redesign of forest financing strategies;

(l) Rural and small-scale producers, as well as indigenous peoples, were the custodians of best practices in sustainable food systems and sustainable forest management. Food systems could develop innovative technologies to restore and sustainably manage forests, feed growing populations in ways that contributed to

people's nutrition and well-being, and promoted the rights of indigenous landowners and farmers, as well as local communities;

(m) Efforts by regional and subregional entities needed to be enhanced to advance the sustainable management of all types of forests, including by promoting the role of science, technology and innovation for the forestry sector and related sectors, as well as multi-stakeholder initiatives and actions by indigenous and local communities, women and young people in community-based sustainable forest management;

(n) Strengthened forest governance at the global, regional and national levels, strengthened cross-sectoral collaboration across value chains, the engagement of philanthropic organizations and the private sector and stakeholder engagement were essential to respond to countries' needs, bridge the gap from global to local implementation of sustainable forest management and deliver an ambitious agenda to turn the tide on deforestation;

(o) The critical importance of protecting, conserving and sustainably using forests at all times, especially during armed conflict, including from the unintended collateral impacts of human displacement resulting from such conflict, and the need for forest rehabilitation and restoration in the post-conflict period, possibly through partnerships and mechanisms such as the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, was also raised. The present actions of the Russian Federation, which were destroying Ukrainian forests and displacing people, were highlighted by some delegations as one example of undermining the objectives of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030.

Annex III

Summary by the Chair of the discussion of the Forum on agenda item 3 (a) and its sub-item (v), to serve as input to the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development

1. The present input to the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development is the summary by the Chair of the policy discussions during the seventeenth session of the Forum on agenda item 3 (a) and its sub-item (v), which also includes input provided earlier by the Bureau of the seventeenth session of the Forum to the 2022 session of the high-level political forum.¹ The input is not a consensus negotiated outcome of the seventeenth session. The format for the input is based on the guidance provided by the President of the Economic and Social Council in his letter of 23 November 2021.

Progress, experience, lessons learned, challenges and impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 from the vantage point of the United Nations Forum on Forests, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs

2. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed systemic risks and issues resulting from nature loss, in particular deforestation and forest degradation, as the sustainable utilization, protection, conservation and restoration of nature is essential to reduce the risk of infectious and zoonotic diseases, as well as to offset many of the social, economic and environmental impacts of other global challenges.

3. In this respect, actions to support the continued or improved implementation of sustainable forest management practices, including afforestation, reforestation and restoration of forest landscapes, as enshrined in the Goals, in particular Goal 15, remain ever-critical. Sustainable forest management and sustainable value chains of forest products can also facilitate collaboration across sectors and stakeholders and enhance human and social capital to realize transformative changes and overcome negative impacts of the pandemic.

4. The COVID-19 crisis has adversely affected the implementation of sustainable forest management, leaving the stability and viability of the forest sector in jeopardy in several regions. Globally, the rate of forest loss remains alarming. Notwithstanding its critical importance to achieving Goal 15 and all the other Goals, the proportion of forest area has continued to fall, from 31.9 per cent of the world's total land area in 2000 to 31.2 per cent in 2020, a net loss of almost 100 million hectares, owing chiefly to large-scale agricultural expansion, especially in the tropics.²

5. The rapid disappearance of forests signals the continuing need for accelerated action to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. This action needs to occur at all levels, including working with landholders to provide adequate access to innovation, capacity-building and relevant technologies, and in doing so support their economic, primary production and cultural needs to reduce the need for further land clearing and deforestation.

¹ Further information on the input of the Bureau of the seventeenth session of the Forum is available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=3176&menu=3170>.

² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021* (United Nations publication, 2021).

Assessment of the situation regarding the principle of leaving no one behind against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within the respective areas addressed by the United Nations Forum on Forests

6. Thanks to the contribution of forests to addressing global pressing challenges, as well as to the various products, services and livelihoods provided to the people who depend directly or indirectly on forests worldwide, leveraging the full potential of forests and their sustainable management will help to build back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. An estimated 1.6 billion people, 25 per cent of the global population, rely on forests for their subsistence needs, livelihoods, employment and income. During the pandemic, forest-dependent populations have faced job loss, reduced income, diminished access to markets and information and, for many women and young people, a contraction in seasonal employment. Many of these populations are already marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples and women, who are the least able to gain access to critical socioeconomic safety nets. Many forest-dependent populations, especially those in remote or hard-to-reach places, have faced difficulties in gaining access to health care or have found that government assistance programmes and basic services have been disrupted.

8. Pandemic-driven health and socioeconomic impacts have also increased pressure on forests. As more and more vulnerable people have turned to forest products and forest resources as a coping mechanism through which to seek food, fuel, shelter and protection from the risks of COVID-19, these ecosystems are beginning to show signs of stress. Several regions have found the stability and viability of their forest sectors to be in jeopardy.³

Actions and policy recommendations in areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the implementation of the Goals under review

9. The present global challenges and ongoing policy responses serve to reaffirm the important role that forests can play in improving the socioeconomic and environmental conditions of people and the planet. Conversely, scaling up poverty eradication strategies for forest-dependent people remains essential to address the social and economic challenges often underlying forest degradation. The global community increasingly recognizes and promotes the application of forest-based initiatives, programmes and strategies as a means to enhance national efforts to address many of the social, economic and environmental challenges, as shown, inter alia, by 141 Member States that signed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

10. The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,⁴ including its six global forest goals, provides a reference for forest-based actions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests, which comprises 15 international organizations, has played a key role in synergizing actions and providing assistance, even if further work remains to be done.

³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Co-Chairs' summary of the Forum on Forests expert group meeting on the assessment of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and the forest sector.

⁴ General Assembly resolution [71/285](#).

11. In this regard, the Forum at its seventeenth session considered its thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022 in support of the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and interlinkages between the global forest goals and targets and the Goals, and other international forest-related developments. Actions and policy recommendations that emerged from the discussions can be found in the seventeenth session of the Forum omnibus resolution and the summary by the Chair of the seventeenth session.⁵

Policy recommendations, commitments and cooperation measures for promoting a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda

12. Recent forest-related developments have created relevant opportunities to advance implementation of the globally agreed forest-related commitments enshrined in various instruments. They also provide a great opportunity for the United Nations system and its partners and stakeholders to play an active role in advancing a coherent and synergetic agenda on forests, agriculture, land, biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development, consistent with mandates and priorities of different initiatives and multilateral agreements. Enhanced cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies within and among these partners and stakeholders is key to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the global forest goals.

13. The Forum serves as the responsible intergovernmental body for follow-up and review of the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and achievement of its global forest goals, thereby supporting the acceleration of the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum addresses issues relating to forests in a holistic and integrated manner with the engagement of all partners and stakeholders at all levels, in particular the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in advancing the implementation of the strategic plan.

14. The Forum continues to monitor and assess progress made through other forest-related global developments, including the Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use. In this regard, the Forum should also step up its actions on forest restoration, in the context of United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and to scale up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide, including forests, and generate forest-based social, economic and environmental benefits. The Forum launched the *Global Forest Goals Report 2021*⁶ during its sixteenth session, in April 2021, and undertook the second assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on forests and the forest sector⁷ for consideration during the seventeenth session of the Forum.

Key messages for inclusion in the ministerial declaration of the 2022 high-level political forum

15. Acceleration of progress towards Goal 15 on life on land, among others, is crucial to attain by 2030 since progress towards many of its associated targets, including those with a 2020 timeline, have stalled.

16. In this respect, it is critical that the high-level political forum:

⁵ The seventeenth session of the Forum omnibus resolution and the summary by the Chair are available at <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>.

⁶ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Global Forest Goals Report 2021* (United Nations publication, 2021).

⁷ Further information on the assessment is available at <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>.

(a) Seize the opportunity and tap into the potential and capability of the Forum to contribute to its deliberations on and success towards forest-related Goals, in particular Goal 15;

(b) Recognize the Forum as the global policy body on forests, with universal membership that captures forest-specific technical and policy capabilities and assists in the delivery of important financing through its Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network;

(c) Consider the relevant elements of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 as a reference framework for its forest-related work to enhance progress towards achieving the Goals, to promote forest-related actions, to improve the understanding of the interlinkages between the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests, including for the eradication of poverty, and to promote effective cooperation and collaboration on forest-related matters;

(d) Better leverage the Forum to promote and highlight forest-related contributions to sustainable development by helping to ensure and maximize complementarities, synergies and coherence among forest policies, programmes and projects of Member States, partners and stakeholders in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030;

(e) Take note of the role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its strategic vision towards 2030.

17. Given that the high-level political forum will likely reaffirm its commitment to accelerating progress towards the Goals through the accelerated implementation of the intergovernmentally agreed frameworks and instruments, it may wish to draw particular attention to the United Nations forest instrument, as well as the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and its global forest goals as elements relevant to the collaborative success of the 2030 Agenda.

Annex IV

List of documents

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title</i>
E/CN.18/2022/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/CN.18/2022/2	3 (a) and (b)	Note by the Secretariat on policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: activities in support of the thematic priorities for the biennium 2021–2022
E/CN.18/2022/3	3 (c)	Note by the Secretariat on means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network
E/CN.18/2022/4	3 (d)	Note by the Secretariat on monitoring, assessment and reporting: progress on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the United Nations forest instrument, and voluntary national contributions
E/CN.18/2022/5	4	Note by the Secretariat on preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives
E/CN.18/2022/6	5	Note by the Secretariat on the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2022/7	6	Note by the Secretariat on challenges faced by countries, strategies adopted and recovery measures taken by countries to reduce the impact of the coronavirus disease pandemic on forests and the forest sector
E/CN.18/2022/L.1	9	Draft report on the organization of the session
E/CN.18/2022/L.2	7	Draft decision on the proposed dates and venue of the eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2022/L.3	8	Draft provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2022/L.4	3 (a), (b), (c) and (d), 4 and 6	Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Commission on the outcome of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2022/INF/1		List of participants

Other relevant documentation is available at the Forum website, <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>.

