



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 December 2022

Original: English

United Nations Forum on Forests

Eighteenth session

8–12 May 2023

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

Provisional agenda

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, 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 the philanthropic 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 high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2023, 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.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair and such other officers as may be required (see [E/5975/Rev.1](#)). In accordance with Council resolution 2000/35, by which the Forum was established, the Bureau of the Forum shall consist of a Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall also act as Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

At the 1st meeting of its eighteenth session, on 13 May 2022, the Forum elected Zéphyrin Maniratanga (Burundi) as Chair and Javad Momeni (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Ismail Belen (Türkiye) as Vice-Chairs of the Forum at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions.

The Forum is expected to elect two Vice-Chairs, one each to be nominated from among members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and among members of the Group of Eastern European States, at the second meeting of the eighteenth session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session,

adopt the agenda and organization of work for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations ([E/CN.18/2023/1](#))

- 3. Technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030**
- (a) Thematic priorities for the biennium 2023–2024, in support of the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030**

In accordance with the guidance provided in annex I to Economic and Social Council resolution [2020/14](#), the Forum, at its eighteenth session, will hold technical discussions on the thematic priorities in support of the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. The Bureau of the Forum will decide on the thematic priorities of the Forum for each biennium. The thematic priorities are based on the global forest goals and targets, taking into account the post-2020 programme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and relevant international forest-related developments.

In that context, the Bureau of the eighteenth session of the Forum decided that the thematic priorities for the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Forum would be: (a) enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits; (b) increasing significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests; and (c) mobilizing financial resources and strengthening scientific and technical cooperation; promoting governance frameworks to advance implementation; and enhancing cooperation, coordination and coherence for sustainable forest management.¹

- 3. Technical discussions on 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**

In accordance with the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (see General Assembly resolution [71/285](#)), Member States may, on a voluntary basis, determine their contributions towards achieving the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan (voluntary national contributions), taking into account their national circumstances, policies, priorities, capacities, levels of development and forest conditions. Under agenda item 3 (b) (i) and (ii), information on the contribution of members of the Forum to the thematic priorities, including new announcements of and updates on voluntary national contributions, will be considered by the Forum.

¹ For further details, please see: www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/UNFF18-19-Thematic-Priorities-web.pdf.

(d) 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 2023, the work towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other international forest-related developments

Under agenda item 3 (d), the Forum will discuss the 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 2023² and the work towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other international forest-related developments. The Chair's summary of the discussions of the Forum on this agenda item will be transmitted, as the input of the eighteenth session of the Forum, to the 2023 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

(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

Under agenda item 3 (e), the Forum will discuss the 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, the theme of which will be “Forests and health”.

The note by the Secretariat under item 3 (a), (b), (d) and (e) contains information on thematic priorities for the biennium 2023–2024; new voluntary national contributions; updates on voluntary national contributions and their follow-up related to the thematic priorities; 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 2023; the work towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other international forest-related developments; and activities undertaken since the seventeenth session of the Forum to implement the communication and outreach strategy of the strategic plan, including those relating to the International Day of Forests. This document also serves as the basis of the discussions of the Forum on item 5, on emerging issues.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: activities in support of the thematic priorities for the biennium 2023–2024 ([E/CN.18/2023/2](#))

² The General Assembly, in its resolution [75/290 B](#), indicated that the theme of the 2023 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council would be “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”. The high-level political forum in 2023 will also undertake an in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goals 6 (clean water and sanitation), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals). The high-level political forum will be held from 10 to 19 July 2023. The high-level political forum will also support preparations for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be convened under the auspices of the Assembly in September 2023.

3. Technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

(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

The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 serves as a reference framework for the forest-related work of the United Nations system and for the fostering of enhanced coherence, collaboration and synergies among United Nations bodies and partners towards the plan's vision and mission. The contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations to achieving the thematic priorities of the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Forum and progress in implementing its workplan will be considered by the Forum under agenda item 3 (c) (i).

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

In its resolution [2020/14](#), the Economic and Social Council emphasized the importance of involving relevant regional and subregional organizations and processes in the activities of the Forum. The Council also emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral involvement in the activities of the Forum and requested the Forum secretariat to actively engage with major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

Under agenda item 3 (c) (i), (ii) and (iii), the Forum, at its eighteenth session, will consider the contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional partners and major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the philanthropic community, to achieving the thematic priorities for the biennium 2023–2024.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the contributions of, and enhanced cooperation with partners to achieving the thematic priorities ([E/CN.18/2023/3](#))

3. Technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

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

By its resolution [2022/17](#), the Economic and Social Council welcomed 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. The Council also invited members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to consider seconding staff to the Forum secretariat to enhance the capacity of the 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. The Council also requested the

Forum secretariat to continue to develop and make operational phase II of the 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, in accordance with their respective mandates. By the same resolution, the Council requested the Forum secretariat, within existing resources, to regularly update the Network clearing house databases and communicate information to familiarize members of the Forum with the databases, and in that respect invited members of the Collaborative Partnership to contribute, as appropriate, within their mandates and available resources. Members of the Forum and others in a position to do so were invited to provide voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the Forum to scale up the activities of the Forum secretariat, including the Network.

The note by the Secretariat under this agenda item contains information on key global developments related to means of implementation and a summary of the activities of the Network since the seventeenth session. The note by the Secretariat also includes a progress report on the status of implementation of the provisions contained in resolution [2022/17](#), including with regard to the development of phase II of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network clearing house, information on the availability of resources for the operation of the Network and an update on the proposed office in Beijing.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network ([E/CN.18/2023/4](#))

- 3. Technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030**
 - (g) Monitoring, assessment and reporting**
 - (i) Global core set of forest-related indicators**
 - (ii) Preparations for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025**

In its resolution [2022/17](#), the Economic and Social Council requested the Forum secretariat to amend the format for voluntary national reporting, conduct a pilot phase using the amended format, with the participation of interested countries, and report on the progress to the Forum at its eighteenth session.

By the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council invited the Forum to consider establishing an advisory group on reporting, taking into account the experience gained and lessons learned from having an informal advisory group involved in the 2021 flagship publication, and requested the Forum secretariat to evaluate the impact of the publication and propose terms of reference, including the suggested composition of that group, with due regard to the need for balanced United Nations geographical representation, to the Forum at its eighteenth session.

The Economic and Social Council also requested the secretariat, through voluntary contributions and in consultation with members of the Forum, to 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. In the same resolution, members of the Forum and the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership were invited to make use of the global core set of forest-related indicators. The Forum secretariat was also

invited, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership, to arrange further work on tier 3 indicators, including the improvement of concepts, definitions and voluntary testing in the field.

Information regarding the pilot phase for the use of refined format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum, the terms of reference for the advisory group on reporting, and the preparations for the global workshop, as well as a progress report by the Secretariat regarding the global core set of forest-related indicators, are contained in the note by the Secretariat under this agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on monitoring, assessment and reporting ([E/CN.18/2023/5](#))

- 3. Technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030**
- (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**

In accordance with its resolution [2022/17](#), the Economic and Social Council decided on the actions to be taken on the preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, during the period following the conclusion of the seventeenth session of the Forum and before its nineteenth session. These actions are contained in the annex to the same resolution.

In accordance with its provisional agenda, the Forum, at its eighteenth session, should receive an 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.

Information on the actions taken to implement the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/17](#) in preparations for the midterm review since the conclusion of the seventeenth session of the Forum are contained in the note by the Secretariat under this agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the update on the preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives ([E/CN.18/2023/6](#))

- 4. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests**

In accordance with the programme of work of the Forum for its eighteenth session, the Forum secretariat is to report on the operation of the Forum trust fund at the eighteenth session of the Forum. Relevant information on the operation of the trust fund for the year 2022 is contained in the note by the Secretariat under this agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests ([E/CN.18/2023/7](#))

5. Emerging issues

In accordance with the programme of work of the Forum for the period 2022–2024 (Economic and Social Council resolution [2021/6](#), annex), an item on emerging issues is included in the provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Forum. Under this item, the Forum will discuss emerging issues and challenges of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and sustainable forest management that are urgent, unexpected and not already addressed in the agenda of the relevant session. The note by the Secretariat on the technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: activities in support of the thematic priorities for the biennium 2023–2024 ([E/CN.18/2023/2](#)) under item 3 (a), (b), (d) and (e) also serves as the basis of the discussions of the Forum on this item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: activities in support of the thematic priorities for the biennium 2023–2024 ([E/CN.18/2023/2](#))

6. Dates and venue of the nineteenth session of the Forum

The Forum shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council the dates and venue of its nineteenth session.

7. Provisional agenda of the nineteenth session of the Forum

The Forum shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council, for adoption, a provisional agenda for the nineteenth session.

8. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its eighteenth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Forum shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session.
