



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 December 2023

Original: English

United Nations Forum on Forests

Nineteenth session

New York, 6–10 May 2024

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. Policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030:¹ activities in support of the thematic priorities for the biennium 2023–2024:
 - (a) Updates on the activities of members of the Forum, including new announcements of and updates on voluntary national contributions;
 - (b) Update on the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations and progress in the implementation of its workplan;
 - (c) Updates on the activities of regional and subregional organizations and processes;
 - (d) Updates on the activities of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the philanthropic community, and progress in major group workplans;
 - (e) 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 2024 and international forest-related developments.
4. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests.

¹ In accordance with the general guidance provided in annex I to Economic and Social Council resolution 2020/14, the proposals contained in the Chair's summary of the discussions of the eighteenth session of the Forum will be submitted for consideration by the Forum at its nineteenth session, in 2024.



5. Midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives.
6. High-level segment, including a forest partnership forum with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, non-governmental organizations and private sector chief executive officers.
7. Adoption of the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2025–2028, including consideration of priority actions and resource needs.
8. Dates and venue of the twentieth session of the Forum.
9. Provisional agenda of the twentieth session of the Forum.
10. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its nineteenth 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 İsmail Belen (Türkiye) as Vice-Chairs of the Forum at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions.

At the 2nd meeting of its eighteenth session, on 8 May 2023, the Forum elected, by acclamation, Leticia Zamora Zumbado (Costa Rica) and, by secret ballot, Jaroslav Kubišta (Czechia) as Vice-Chairs of the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions.

At the same meeting, the Forum appointed the Vice-Chair, İsmail Belen (Türkiye), to serve concurrently as Rapporteur of the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions.

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.18/2024/1](#))

3. 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 2023–2024

In accordance with the guidance provided in annex I to Economic and Social Council resolution [2020/14](#), the Forum, at its nineteenth session, will hold policy discussions on the thematic priorities in support of the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. The thematic priorities for each biennium 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. By the same resolution, the Bureau was invited to decide the thematic priorities for each biennium in close consultation with members of the Forum.

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.²

At its eighteenth session, the Forum held technical discussions on the above-mentioned thematic priorities. A summary of the discussions of the Forum and the Chair's proposals for transmission to and consideration by the nineteenth session of the Forum are contained in the summary by the Chair of the eighteenth session ([E/2023/42](#), annex).

Under agenda item 3, the Forum will discuss the means of implementation and monitoring, assessment and reporting. The note by the Secretariat on the policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network provides an overview of key global developments related to the means of implementation for sustainable forest management. It also contains a summary of the activities of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network since the eighteenth session, including a progress report on 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.

In its resolution [2022/17](#), the Economic and Social Council requested 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.

Based on the Chair's proposals, contained in his summary of discussions during the eighteenth session, the nineteenth session of the Forum should consider:

- (a) Taking note of the amended format for national reporting and the ongoing preparatory work for the next reporting cycle to the Forum;
- (b) Establishing an advisory group on reporting to the Forum, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the note by the Secretariat to the eighteenth session of the Forum (see [E/CN.18/2023/5](#));
- (c) Requesting the Forum secretariat to produce another publication/report that includes short case studies on progress on the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the global forest goals;

² For further details, see www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/UNFF18-19-Thematic-Priorities-web.pdf.

(d) Requesting the Forum secretariat to continue to organize, jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, capacity-building workshops in the areas of monitoring, assessment and reporting.

Information regarding intersessional activities since the eighteenth session and proposals for the road map and timeline for the next reporting cycle, as well as the options for an online reporting tool, are contained in the note by the Secretariat on monitoring, assessment and reporting under this agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network ([E/CN.18/2024/3](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the policy discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: monitoring, assessment and reporting ([E/CN.18/2024/4](#))

Under agenda items 3 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), the Forum, at its nineteenth session, will hold policy discussions on the activities of members of the Forum and the Forum's partners in advancing the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and in contributing to the thematic priorities of the Forum for the biennium 2023–2024. The Forum will also consider the relevant proposals of the Chair from the eighteenth session of the Forum.

(a) Updates on the activities of members of the Forum, including new announcements of and updates on voluntary national contributions

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 (a), information on the contribution of members of the Forum to the thematic priorities, including any new announcements of and updates on voluntary national contributions, will be considered by the Forum.

(b) Update on the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations and progress in the implementation of its workplan

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 (b). The Forum will discuss the implementation of the communications and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including activities held during the International Day of Forests in 2024.

- (c) **Updates on the activities of regional and subregional organizations and processes**
- (d) **Updates on the activities of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the philanthropic community, and progress in 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 items 3 (c) and (d), the Forum, at its nineteenth session, will consider the contributions of the 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. It will also consider the progress on major group workplans.

- (e) **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 2024 and international forest-related developments**

Under agenda item 3 (e), 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 held under the auspices of the Council in 2024³ and international forest-related developments, including relevant discussions during the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Chair's summary of the discussions of the Forum on this agenda item will be transmitted, as an input of the nineteenth session of the Forum, to the 2024 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the 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 2023–2024 ([E/CN.18/2024/2](#))

4. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

In accordance with the programme of work of the Forum for its nineteenth session, the Forum secretariat is to report on the operation of the Forum trust fund at the nineteenth session of the Forum. Relevant information on the operation of the trust fund for the year 2023 is contained in the note by the Secretariat under this agenda item. The discussions on this agenda item also provide an opportunity for interested members of the Forum to announce pledges and contributions to the Trust Fund.

³ The General Assembly, in its decision 77/553, decided that the theme of the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council would be “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”. The high-level political forum in 2024 would also undertake an in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goals 1 (end poverty in all its forms everywhere), 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture), 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), 16 (promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels) and 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests ([E/CN.18/2024/7](#))

5. Midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives

In its resolution [2015/33](#), the Economic and Social Council requested that the Forum undertake a midterm review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives at its nineteenth session in 2024, on the basis of which the Forum should submit recommendations to the Council regarding the future course of the arrangement.

Under agenda item 5, the Forum will make decisions on the midterm review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, based on the preparatory actions taken since the conclusion of the seventeenth session of the Forum. These actions are guided by the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/17](#).

The Forum, at its eighteenth session, received an update on the preparations for the midterm review (see [E/CN.18/2023/6](#)). Information on the preparatory activities taken since the conclusion of the Forum's eighteenth session are contained in the note by the Secretariat under this agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives and the quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2025–2028 ([E/CN.18/2024/5](#))

6. High-level segment, including a forest partnership forum with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, non-governmental organizations and private sector chief executive officers

In accordance with the programme of work of the Forum for its nineteenth session, the Forum will convene a high-level segment that will include a forest partnership forum with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, non-governmental organizations and private sector chief executive officers. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Bureau of the nineteenth session, the high-level segment will be held on 9 May 2024, and its expected main outcome will be a declaration.

Information regarding the high-level segment is contained in the note by the Secretariat under this agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the high-level segment of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its nineteenth session, including a forest partnership forum with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, non-governmental organizations and private sector chief executive officers ([E/CN.18/2024/6](#))

7. Adoption of the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2025–2028, including consideration of priority actions and resource needs

In accordance with the programme of work of the Forum for the period 2022–2024 (see Economic and Social Council resolution [2020/14](#)), the nineteenth session of the

Forum should adopt the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2025–2028, under agenda item 7.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives and the quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2025–2028 ([E/CN.18/2024/5](#))

8. Dates and venue of the twentieth session of the Forum

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

9. Provisional agenda of the twentieth session of the Forum

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

10. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its nineteenth 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.