

Summary for
Informal Meeting (ZOOM) for UNFF WEOG
July 5, 2022



Attendants:

1. Andre Blanchard, Australia
2. Aysha Ghadiali, USA
3. Conceicao Ferreira, Portugal
4. Daniela Lince, Mexico
5. Ercan Kaptanoglu, Türkiye
6. Hediki Kawai, Japan
7. Ismail Belen, Vice-Chair, UNFF, Türkiye
8. Jessica Lawson Stein, Israel
9. Jorge Rodriguez Romero, EU
10. Karine Bolton, Israel
11. Katie Stokes, Australia
12. Keiran Andrusko, Australia
13. Keith Anderson, Switzerland
14. Maureen Whelan, Canada
15. Michelle Furlong, Ireland
16. Rata Muda, New Zealand
17. Silvia Ferlazzo, Italy
18. Ugur Karakoc, Türkiye
19. Virginia Conti, Italy

Summary of Meeting

1. Welcome and introduction by Ismail Belen, the Vice-Chair of the UNFF
2. Presentation by Ismail Belen, the Vice-Chair of the UNFF
 - a. Agenda of the meeting
 - i. 1- Introduction of the UNFF Bureau Meeting Output on UNFF 18
 - ii. 2- Updating the contact information
 - iii. 3- Open Discussion
 - iv. 4- Summary of the Discussion
 - v. 5-Closing
 - b. Ismail Belen shared his background and welcomed others to do the same later in the meeting
 - c. Background on the United Nations Forum on Forests-UNFF
 - i. Established in October 2000 by the [Economic and Social Council](#) of the United Nations (ECOSOC),
 - ii. https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2000_35_E.pdf
 - iii. A subsidiary body with the main objective to promote "... the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end..."
 - iv. The Forum has universal membership, and is composed of all [Member States of the United Nations](#) and specialized agencies.
 - d. Some of the Main Outputs of UNFF
 - i. On 27 April 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted the first ever UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030. <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents/un-strategic-plan-for-forests-2030/index.html>
 - ii. At the heart of the Strategic Plan are six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030, which are voluntary and universal.
 - e. Global Forest Goals
 - i. Global Forest Goal 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change.
 - ii. **Global Forest Goal 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.**
 - iii. **Global Forest Goal 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.**
 - iv. Global Forest Goal 4: Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships.
 - v. Global Forest Goal 5: Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the UN Forest Instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda.

- vi. Global Forest Goal 6: Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the UN System and across Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders.
- f. Next Session of UNFF
 - i. 18th session of the UNFF will be held in New York from 8 to 12 May 2023.

Thematic priorities for UNFF18 and UNFF19	GFGs
(i) Enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits	GFG2
(ii) Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests	GFG3

g. UNFF Bureau

- i. The UNFF Bureau consists of one Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

<https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/regional-groups>

1. Regional groups of Member States

- a. African States
- b. Asia-Pacific States
- c. Eastern European States
- d. Latin American and Caribbean States
- e. Western European and other States

- ii. The Bureau members are elected at the end of each UNFF session from among the members of UNFF.

<https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/bureau/unff-18-19/index.html>

- iii. The Bureau has several responsibilities including the follow up of decisions made at UNFF sessions, preparation for the subsequent session as well as the management and organization of sessions.

h. **There are 30 countries and the European Union in this group.**

1. Andorra	11. Greece	17. Liechtenstein	25. San Marino
2. Australia	12. Iceland	18. Malta	26. Spain
3. Austria	13. Ireland	19. Mexico	27. Sweden
4. Belgium	14. Israel	20. Monaco	28. Switzerland
5. Canada	15. Italy	21. the Netherlands	29. Türkiye
6. Denmark	16. Japan	22. New Zealand	30. the United Kingdom
7. European Union		23. Norway	31. the United States of America
8. Finland		24. Portugal	
9. France			
10. Germany			

- i. Ismail Belen has sent an excel with everyone's contact details and request that all countries that have not yet confirmed their representatives details, to do so soon. The names marked in yellow on the excel means that Ismail has already received your info.

3. Introductions by the attendants

a. Jessica Lawson Stein, Israel –

- i. Pleasure to be here and am looking forward to learning from all of you.

b. Conceicao Ferreira, Portugal

- i. Congratulations to Ismail on his new position.
- ii. Conceicao was the Vice-Chair of the UNFF in the past
- iii. Shares views with the previous emails that there is a need for more space for interacting.

c. Virginia Conti and Silvia Ferlazzo, Italy

- i. Good evening everyone, we are Virginia Conti and Silvia Ferlazzo and we work with Enrico Pompei, head of our forestry office in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Unfortunately Mr Pompei has another commitment and sends his greetings and congratulations on your new, important nomination.

- d. Maureen Whelan, Canada
 - i. Congratulations to Ismail on his new position.
 - ii. Would like to see the UNFF as a place for discussion that includes policy matters.
 - iii. Bring us where we need to be which is part of the discussion.
 - e. Keiran Andrusko, Australia
 - i. Congratulations to Ismail on his new position.
 - ii. Supports Canada's comments
 - iii. Introduces the Australian team
 - iv. Was disappointed by the panel at the last session as there was no room for comments and conversation.
 - f. Andre Blanchard, Australia
 - i. New to the team and is looking to this learning experience
 - g. Jorge Rodrigues Romero, EU
 - i. Congratulations to Ismail on his new appointment.
 - ii. Is with the European Commission
 - iii. Met some of the attendants last year at the UNFF
 - h. Rata Muda, New Zealand
 - i. Congratulations to Ismail on his new position.
 - ii. Looking forward to this group discussion
 - iii. Expressed support for the statement and encourages more policy discussion.
 - i. Aysha Ghadiali, USA
 - i. Congratulations to Ismail on his new position and has worked with Ismail in the past.
 - ii. Question – What was discussed at the bureau meeting last week, so we can be prepared for future meetings.
- Answer by Ismail – Shared with colleagues that there is a desire to have more discussions and dialogue for policy ideas and discussions.
- j. Ugur Karakoc, Turkey
 - i. Congratulations to Ismail on his new position.
 - ii. Well acquainted with the UNFF
 - k. Keith Anderson, Switzerland
 - i. Congratulations to Ismail on his new position.
 - ii. Looking for higher support to more countries and strengthening forest facilitation.
 - iii. Wants more interactive discussions and more dynamics that may generate good ideas.
 - l. Hediki Kawai, Japan
 - i. Congratulations to Ismail on his new position.
 - ii. Has been involved in the UNFF for 2 years
 - m. Michelle Furlong, Ireland
 - i. Congratulations to Ismail on his new position.
 - ii. Here to learn
 - n. Daniela Lince, Mexico
 - i. Congratulations to Ismail on his new position.

- ii. Excited about collaborating with this group
- 4. Ismail Belen
 - a. The Next Item is about Forest and Health (especially important following COVID)
 - b. Will do his best to represent all
 - c. Special thanks to Ercan Kaptanoglu for his technical contribution
 - d. Brief summary of meeting given by Jessica Lawson Stein .
 - e. Closing by Ismail Belen and he is looking forward to working with you all.

Summarized by Jessica Lawson Stein