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Dear Mr. Belen,

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you on your election as a member of the Bureau of the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF18-19).

The Bureau of UNFF18 is assuming its responsibility following the successful conclusion of the seventeenth session of the Forum (UNFF17), under the current challenging situation. UNFF17 adopted important decisions on: (i) implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, (ii) monitoring, assessment and reporting and assessment, (iii) means of implementation, and iv) the preparations for the midterm review of the International Arrangment on Forests (IAF). A copy of the agreed omnibus resolution of UNFF17 is attached for your information.

The UNFF17 omnibus resolution provides the basis for intensive intersessional activities in preparation for the eighteenth and nineteenth session of the Forum. In this regard, the UNFF Secretariat looks forward to working closely with you and other members of the Bureau to ensure successful organization of UNFF18 and UNFF19. A copy of the agreed omnibus resolution of UNFF17 is attached for your information.

For any information or assistance, please contact Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, Senior Forest Policy Officer in the UNFF Secretariat (moeini-meybodi@un.org), who serves as the focal point and liaison officer with the Bureau. Please be advised that all background information and minutes of the previous meetings of the UNFF Bureau are available on the UNFF website at: https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/bureau/index.html

Finally, I would like to ask you to kindly send us your digital photo, as well as your full contact information, and of a liaison officer at your Permanent Mission in New York. We will post the information in our web site to facilitate eventual contacts with countries and other interested parties.

Yours sincerely,

Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo
Director of the UNFF Secretariat

Mr. Ismail Belen Chief Inspector, General Directorate of Forest Ministry of Agriculture and Forest Republic of Turkey

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