

Preparations for the Midterm Review of the International Arrangement on Forests

UNFF Expert Group Meeting on the UNFF's contribution to the 2030 Agenda, Involvement of Regional/Subregional Entities, and Involvement of Major Group and Other Stakeholders 11-13 January 2023, UNESCAP, Bangkok-Thailand

Concept Note

I. Background

1. In its resolution 2015/33, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) strengthened and extended the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) to 2030. The Council further requested the Forum to undertake a midterm, and final review of the effectiveness of the IAF in achieving its objectives in 2024, and 2030. By the program of work of the Forum for 2021-2024, the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF17), which took place in May 2022, considered and decided the actions to be taken in preparation for the IAF midterm review in 2024 (ECOSOC Resolution 2022/17¹). These actions are contained in ten sections in the annex to ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, which include Section G: Actions related to the contributions of the Forum to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Section I: Actions related to the involvement of regional and subregional partners; and Section J: Actions related to the involvement of major groups and other stakeholders. In response to paragraphs G.4, I.4, and J.5 of annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, the UNFF Secretariat recruited several consultants to conduct preliminary assessments on Sections G, I, and J.

2. By ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, these preliminary assessments should be discussed at an intersessional meeting. In this respect, the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) is planning to organize an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) from 11 to 13 January 2023 at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand.

II. Objective

3. The objective of the EGM is to provide an opportunity for experts from Members of the Forum, regional and subregional partners, CPF member organizations, and major groups to review and discuss the result of the work of consultants, namely their assessment reports on Section G, I and J.

III. Format and the Expected Outcome

4. The EGM will be held from 11 to 13 January 2023 in a hybrid format, which includes an in-person component. The daily meetings will be held from 9:00 am to 1:15 pm local Bangkok time. Arrangements will be also made to allow participants who wish to do so, to join the meeting through virtual means.

5. The programme of work of the EGM is contained in the annex to this concept note. The meeting will be conducted in English. The meeting will be co-chaired by two Co-Chairs to be elected by the experts. Specific time will be allocated for each consultant to present his/her assessment during the EGM. These presentations will be followed by interactive discussions among participants regarding the finding,

¹ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/438/29/pdf/N2243829.pdf?OpenElement>

conclusions, and suggestions in the assessments, as well as the views and insights of participating experts on the issues under consideration.

6. The outcome of the EGM will be a concise summary of the discussions by the Co-Chairs. As per provisions of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, the outcome of this EGM will be presented to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) in the preparations for the midterm review of the IAF.

IV. Participants and Meeting Registration

7. The meeting will bring together designated experts from Members of the Forum, CPF member organizations, regional and subregional partners, as well as major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

8. Members of the Forum, CPF member organizations, regional and subregional partners, and major groups are invited to nominate their respective experts to the UNFF Secretariat by **3 November 2022** through an official letter. The nomination of experts of Members of the Forum should be sent to the UNFF Secretariat by an official communication by the respective Permanent Mission in New York; for the regional/subregional partners by the respective head of the entity on the entity's official letterhead, and for major groups by the respective group focal point. All communications should be sent to unff@un.org, with a copy to Ms. Edith Niamke at: niamke@un.org.

V. Background documents

9. Upon their completion, the consultants' assessment reports on Section G, I, and J of the annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17 will be shared in due course.

VII. Travel support

10. Limited resources are available to support the travel of one expert from eligible countries, and stakeholders on a first-come, first-served basis and until the resources are available. Request for such travel support should be included in the official letter of expert nomination and sent to the UNFF Secretariat no later than **3 November 2022**. Due to administrative constraints, requests for travel support received after above-mentioned deadline will not be considered for possible travel support.

VIII. Health insurance coverage, and visa-related matters

11. Those experts who are planning to join the EGM in person are responsible for making all necessary arrangements to obtain their visas. Experts are also expected to be in good health to travel and to ensure that they have their own (international) health insurance arrangement, including experts whose travel will be financed by the United Nations. No health insurance coverage or visa-related fees or services will be provided by the UN. Information on UNESCAP's measures regarding COVID-19 can be found at: [COVID-19-MeetingGuideESCAP-Participant.pdf \(unescap.org\)](#).

VIII. Contact Persons

12. For all issues related to the registration and travel support, please contact Ms. Edith Niamke at: niamke@un.org, with cc to Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchill at tavora-jainchill@un.org, Ms. Njeri Kariuki at kariuki@un.org, and Mr. Ryo Nakamura at: nakamura@un.org.

**Preparations for the Midterm Review of the International Arrangement on Forests
UNFF Expert Group Meeting on the
UNFF's contribution to the 2030 Agenda, Involvement of Regional/Subregional Entities and Major Groups and other Stakeholders
11-13 January 2023 - Bangkok, Thailand (hybrid)
Draft agenda and programme of work**

Time	Wednesday, 11 January 2023	Thursday, 12 January 2023	Friday, 13 January 2023
9:00am – 11am	<p>Item 1. Opening Remarks by the Director of the UNFF Secretariat</p> <p>Item 2. Election of the Co-Chairs; & opening remarks by the Co-Chairs</p> <p>Item 3. Adoption of agenda and programme of work (5 minutes)</p> <p>Item 4. Preparations for the Midterm review of the IAF</p> <p>a. Section G of the annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17; Contribution of the Forum to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> <p>- Presentation of the assessment report prepared by the consultant</p> <p><i>(Interactive discussion on the presentation and reactions/inputs from experts)</i></p>	<p>Item 4. Preparations for the Midterm review of the IAF</p> <p>b. <u>Section J</u> of the annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17; Involvement of regional and subregional partners</p> <p>- Presentation of the assessment report prepared by the consultant</p> <p><i>(Interactive discussion on the presentation and reactions/inputs from the participants)</i></p> <p><i>Co-Chair's highlight of the key points of the discussions on item 4b</i></p>	<p>Item 5. Key suggested actions regarding the contributions of the Forum to the 2030 Agenda, involvement of regional and subregional partners, and involvement of major groups and other stakeholders</p>
11am-11:15am	Break	Break	Break
11:15am- 1:15pm	<p>Item 4a <i>(discussions continued)</i></p> <p><i>Co-Chair's highlight of the key points of the discussions on item 4a</i></p>	<p>Item 4. Preparations for the Midterm review of the IAF</p> <p>c. <u>Section I</u> of the annex of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17: Involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders</p> <p><i>(Interactive discussion on the presentation and reactions/inputs from the participants)</i></p> <p><i>Co-Chair's highlight of the key points of the discussions on item 4c</i></p>	<p>Item 6: Next step and the closure of the meeting</p>