

9 December 2022

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Bureau of the eighteenth session of UN Forum on Forests (UNFF18), I would like to inform you that during its 2nd meeting on 5 December 2022, the Bureau of UNFF18 reviewed the preparations for UNFF18, including its provisional organization of work. I wish to remind that UNFF18 will be held from 8 to 12 May 2023 at UNHQ in New York. As there are no COVID-related distancing or occupancy restrictions in the UN premises in New York, at present, UNFF18 will meet in-person during the regular working hours of meetings in UNHQ in New York.

In reviewing and preparing the organization of work of UNFF18, the Bureau benefited from the responses to the UNFF17 survey, in particular, on avoiding organization of panels during the first day of the Forum, and allocating specific time for a general discussion during the opening meeting of the Forum. In this respect, the Bureau examined the means to ensure effective engagement of Members of the Forum, as well as other relevant partners and stakeholders in the deliberations of UNFF18, and agreed on the provisional organization of work of UNFF18 with the following details. A copy of the UNFF18 provisional organization of work is attached for your information.

General discussion at the opening segment on Monday 8 May 2023 (morning meeting)

During the first day of UNFF18 on 8 May in the morning, and after the introduction of agenda items 3 and 5, and the official opening remarks, there will be time allocated to a general discussion during which Members of the Forum and other relevant stakeholders may request for the floor to share their views on items 3 and 5 as a whole. To accommodate maximum number of interventions, the Bureau decided to set the limit of three minutes for individual national statements, and five minutes for group statements.

General discussion on the specific agenda items

Apart from the general discussion on the morning of 8 May 2023, there will be opportunities for discussions under each agenda item, or joint discussion on some agenda items during the session for Members and stakeholders to share their specific views in relation to each agenda item. The limit for national statements is three minutes, and for group statements is five minutes.

Panels

There will be a maximum of three panels to be organized during UNFF18. To encourage rich discussions during UNFF18 which is a technical session, and to promote involvement of all key stakeholders in the discussions of the Forum, the Bureau agreed to provide an opportunity for the private sector to share their contributions in a panel on Tuesday 9 May 2023 in the afternoon, under agenda item 3c(ii). The details of this event, including the relevant concept note will be available on the UNFF18 webpage at:

<https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>

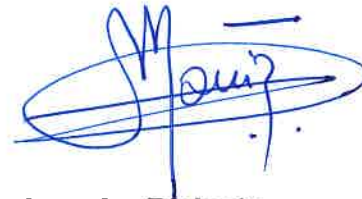
The Bureau, in consultation with the UNFF Secretariat is also considering to organize a panel on Tuesday morning, 9 May 2023, with the involvement of key players and external partners to the UNFF and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Further details on this panel will be provided at a later stage.

Emerging issues

The Bureau also discussed and agreed to hold technical discussions during UNFF18 on forests, energy, and livelihoods under agenda item 5 on emerging issues on Thursday afternoon, 11 May 2023. The Bureau considered these issues of high relevance to the thematic priorities of UNFF18, and also to the ongoing preparations for the high-level political forum under the auspices of the ECOSOC in July 2023 and the UN General Assembly Summit on Sustainable Development Goals in September 2023. To promote a science-policy interface, the Bureau, with the support of the UNFF Secretariat, is considering to organize a panel under agenda item 5 on emerging issues, and engage UNFF18 participants in interactive discussions following the presentations by the panelists. Further details on this panel will be provided at a later stage.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your support and look forward to your active participation and engagement in the deliberation of UNFF18.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Zéphyrin Maniratanga

**UNFF18 Chair & Permanent
Representative of the Republic of
Burundi to the United Nations**

To:

- UNFF National Focal Points
- Permanent Missions in New York
- Member Organization of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
- UNFF regional and subregional partners, major groups, and other relevant stakeholders