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| UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS | Thu, 11 May 2023 |
| Eighteenth Session              | 3 P.M.           |
| 9th meeting                     | CR 4             |


NOTE FOR THE VICE-CHAIR

[Mr. İsmail Belen (Türkiye)]

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Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

I call to order the ninth meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its eighteenth session. 

I now invite the Forum to begin its consideration of agenda item 5 “Emerging issues”.

Item 5: Emerging Issues

Panel discussions on forests, energy, and livelihoods, to be followed by interactive discussions.

The Forum will now hold the panel discussion on forests, energy, and livelihoods.

Distinguished delegates,

To seize the opportunity of the ongoing preparations for the SDG Summit in September 2023, the Bureau of UNFF18 convened an event on 4 April 2023 at UNHQ in New York on the important issues of forests, energy and livelihoods. In preparation for this event, the UNFF Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, IUFRO and UNDP prepared a concise Issue Brief to inform the discussions at the event. The issue brief is available on the UNFF18 webpage. The Bureau aimed to draw attention of those who are deeply involved in the preparations for the SDG Summit

to the significance of these issue and their interconnections for the achievement of the SDGs. We hope that the discussions during that event, generated necessary enthusiasm and impacts, leading to inclusion of specific actions in these areas in the outcomes of the Summit.

Building on the Bureau event, the panel today aims discussion on this important topics with a broader participation from the UNFF members and partners. The Bureau hope these actions will contribute to transmission of the important message on nexus of forests, energy and livelihoods to the SDG Summit this year.

I am now pleased to welcome the distinguished panelists.

I am also pleased to welcome the moderator, Ms. Paola Deda, Director of the Forest, Land and Housing Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Ms. Deda is an architect and holds a Ph.D. in Territorial Planning. Prior to joining the United Nations, Ms. Deda worked as a researcher in various universities. She joined the UN system in 1998, and has since worked in different UN entities and has been with UNECE since 2008 in various capacities.

I now give the floor to the moderator to conduct the deliberations and I look forward to an interesting discussion.

*[At about 5.58 p.m., the moderator concludes the panel discussion and turns the meeting over to the Co-Chair]*

We have reached the end of the panel discussion.

I thank the moderator for skilfully guiding the discussion, as well as our guest speakers and participants for their engagement and contribution.

## Organization of work

I would like to remind participants that the forum will reconvene tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. Time permitting, the Forum will conclude its work during the morning meeting after considering items 6, 7 and 8.

The meeting is adjourned. 