

9 November 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I refer to my letters of 30 May and 27 July 2023 on the modalities, and preparations for UNFF19. Following the successful conclusion of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on the preparations for the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), held from 10 to 13 October in Vienna, Austria, and as I announced during AHEG, it is my pleasure, on behalf of the Bureau of UNFF19, to inform you of the plans for the informal consultations on the expected outcome documents of UNFF19:

1. Preparation and distribution of the zero drafts

- a. There will be three zero drafts to be prepared and shared with UNFF members and partners, namely, the i) UNFF19 High Level Segment (HLS) Declaration, ii) UNFF Quadrennial Programme of Work (4PoW) for 2025-2028, and iii) outcome of the IAF midterm review.
- b. The zero drafts of the HLS declaration and the 4PoW will be prepared, taking into account the inputs submitted by UNFF Members and partners, and the global intergovernmental forest-related developments. The zero draft outcome of the IAF midterm review will be prepared, taking into account the proposal part of the AHEG Co-Chairs summary, held recently in Vienna.
- c. The above-mentioned drafts will be prepared under the guidance of the UNFF19 Bureau, and with the support of the UNFF Secretariat. As indicated in my earlier letter, the Bureau has delegated its authority to the AHEG Co-Chairs to conduct the informal consultations on the zero draft outcome of the IAF midterm review, and therefore, they will be fully and directly involved in the preparation of the respective zero draft.
- d. I will share with you the above-mentioned zero drafts by the end of November/early December 2023. In preparing these drafts, the Bureau will make efforts to share a concise UNFF19 HLS draft declaration, which would focus on the commitments, and guidance by the senior officials. At the same time, the Bureau and the AHEG Co-Chairs will work together on an action-oriented outcome on the IAF midterm review, building on the extensive preparatory work of the last two years, and more specifically the outcome of the AHEG. In this respect, on behalf of the Bureau, I would like to urge you to keep this consideration in mind, as it helps the informal consultations to be more productive.

2. Schedules for informal consultations on the zero drafts

- a. Three rounds of virtual informal consultations will be organized respectively, each round at the end of January, February, and March 2024. Each round of virtual informal consultations will be held for two consecutive days, each day for three hours. The first day during each round of informal consultation will be devoted to the discussions on the draft outcome of the IAF midterm

review, and the second day will be devoted to the informal consultations on the draft HLS declaration, and draft 4PoW.

- b. The informal consultations on the zero draft HLS declaration, and zero draft 4PoW will be facilitated by UNFF19 Bureau Vice-Chairs, Mr. Jaroslav Kubišta (Czechia), and Ms. Leticia Zamora Zumbado (Costa Rica). The informal consultations on the zero draft outcome on the IAF midterm review will be facilitated by the AHEG Co-Chairs, Ms. Maureen Whelan (Canada), and Mr. Avhashoni Renny Madula (South Africa).
- c. The three round of informal consultations will be held respectively from 8am to 11am (NY time and date) on 30-31 January 2024; 28-29 February 2024, and 28-29 March 2024. All informal consultations will be held virtually and its proceedings will be conducted in English, and without interpretation services in other UN official languages. The informal consultations will be open to all UNFF members, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, UNFF regional and subregional partners, and major groups. Additional virtual informal consultations will be organized as needed.
- d. After each round of informal consultations, the facilitators will revise the drafts, taking into account the views and suggestions expressed during the consultations, and share the revised drafts with UNFF members and partners, in advance of the next round of consultations. After the final round of informal consultations, the drafts will be further updated based on the views expressed during the consultations. The updated drafts will then be tabled as official drafts for issuance as L.documents in the UN official languages, and final consideration and agreement at UNFF19.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your support and look forward to your constructive engagement in the upcoming informal consultations.

Sincerely,



Zéphyrin Maniratanga
UNFF19 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