**Zero Draft Declaration of the High-Level Segment of the 19th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

1. We, the [Heads of State and Government and Ministers] responsible for forests, have gathered at the high-level segment of the nineteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests:
2. Expressing deep concerns about the effects of multiple interlinked global crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, continued trend in deforestation and forest degradation, the COVID-19 pandemic, global economic inflation and increased commodity prices, and armed conflicts and instability, which have reversed years of sustainable development gains and exacerbated poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and gender and socio-economic inequalities, and had negative impacts on natural resources, including forests, as well as human health and wellbeing, particularly in developing countries and for the poorest and most vulnerable.
3. Welcoming the developments and agreements under the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and other multilateral environmental agreements, and emphasize the significance of forest products and services, and the myriad benefits of all types of forests forests, including dryland forests to food security, employment, water, energy, and other interconnected sectors.
4. Applauding the diligent efforts and achievements by members of the Forum, its Secretariat, Colaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) member organizations, as well as partners, and stakeholders in making progress towards the objectives of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), and in increasing political commitment to the achievement of the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF).
5. Reaffirming our commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI) and the UNSPF, and the achievement of its GFGs, which provide an overarching roadmap for delivering on forest-related commitments, and unlocking the full potential of the world’s forests to contribute to sustainable development, and in furthering our efforts,
6. We commit to:
7. Take urgent action to halt and reverse forest loss and degradation, through addressing their drivers, including insects, and diseases, and adopt an integrated approach to prevent, manage, and address the drivers of wildfires, and post-fire landscape restoration through policy interventions, and work collaboratively to safeguard, protect, and restore forests, including through reforestation, afforestation, tree planting, and agroforestry activities, in line with the GFGs.
8. Strengthen political engagement and raise global awareness of the importance of forests as a climate solution.
9. Develop coherent targeted policies that recognize a diversity of interests and rights, foster a convergence of stakeholder interests and partnerships between actor groups, and deliver a balance between private, local benefits and wider, public benefits.
10. Promote adequate and sustainable long-term finance that mobilizes a range of funding sources, accommodates different investor interests and risk profiles, and is accessible and attractive to smallholders, indigenous peoples, women, youth, as well as larger actors.
11. Work collaboratively and urgently to address the social, economic, and environmental drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and monitor emerging threats to forests, including but not limited to climate change, wildfires, insects, diseases, floods, droughts, sand and dust storms, and pollution.
12. Strengthen political commitment at all levels and across relevant global agendas, increasing awareness and recognition of the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and other international forest-related processes.
13. Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies and reduce fragmentation at all levels on issues related to forests and sustainable forest management, including through promoting policy dialogues and cross-sectoral collaboration beyond the forest policy arena.
14. Meaningfully engage and actively support the contributions of all relevant partners and stakeholders, including CPF members, regional and subregional organizations and processes, forest owners, indigenous peoples, local communities, local authorities, the private sector, including small, medium and large forest-based enterprises, non-governmental organizations, women, children, youth, and scientific, academic and philanthropic organizations at all levels.
15. Improve forest-related legislation, strengthen forest law enforcement and promote good governance at all levels in order to support sustainable forest management, and to ensure safe and secure land tenure rights.
16. Promote trade in sustainably sourced and legally harvested forest products, and remove trade barriers, including through establishing universally accepted benchmarking standards for forest certification for adoption at a global scale and evaluating current certification programmes with respect to the universal standards.
17. Further harness funding from all sources for forest-based actions and measures to address global challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation.
18. Pledge additional resources to the Forum Trust Fund to support activities of Member States in accelerating implementation of the UNSPF and achievement of the GFGs.
19. Actively mobilize the necessary financial resources, capacity-building and other means of implementation for sustainable forest management, including but not limited to the development and application of new technologies and innovative financial mechanisms.
20. Improve forest monitoring, assessment, reporting and information systems, in particular with the aim to increase the availability of quantitive data for science-based policy decisions and actions on forests.
21. Convey consistent messages in different governing bodies of the CPF member organizations to promote achviment of the GFGs, and other globally agreed forest-related goals and targets.