

**Talking Points for Ambassador Maniratanga**  
**UNFF19 Briefing**  
**4 April 2024, 1:15pm-2:30pm, CR5, UNHQ, New York**

- As the Chair of the nineteenth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF19), I extend to all of you a warm welcome to this briefing. I am pleased to see many of you here in this conference room.
- At this briefing, and with the support of the Secretariat, I will share the latest information on the organizational, substantive, and logistical preparations for UNFF19.

**UNFF19 Registration, Accreditation**

- Detailed information about logistical arrangements, including registration and the issuance of UN grounds passes, and access to UN headquarters is included in the UNFF19 Information Note for Participants. I strongly encourage participants to review this Information Note which is available at UNFF19 webpage<sup>1</sup>. Additional information is also available at UNFF website<sup>2</sup>.
- For delegates based in New York, please be reminded to ensure that you have access to the pages dedicated to the Forum on the e-deleGATE portal to access the relevant modules and receive communications. Access to these e-deleGATE pages is granted by the Access Administrators in each mission, so please follow up with your permanent mission focal points.
- I would like to inform that the composition of the delegations should be submitted by the respective Permanent Missions through the e-list of participants module in the e-deleGATE Portal.

**UNFF19 Outcomes and Modalities**

- As you are aware, UNFF19 will meet from 6 to 10 May 2024 at UNHQ in NY, in a fully in-person format. This is an important UNFF policy session, which also includes a one-day High-Level Segment (HLS) on 9 May 2024. The plenary meetings will be held in Conference Room 4, from 10am to 1pm, and from 3pm to 6pm. The formal meetings of UNFF19 will be broadcasted live and archived through UN Web TV.
- In accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2021/6, UNFF19 will be a policy session, and it has several important issues in its agenda to decide upon. The key outcomes of UNFF19 are expected to be an omnibus resolution and an HLS declaration. The omnibus resolution will include decisions of the Forum on the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests, and the Forum's quadrennial programme of work for 2025-2028.
- Three rounds of virtual informal consultations for the development of the respective draft texts were conducted at the end of January, February, and March 2024. Based on these informal consultations, the draft outcomes will be prepared by the co-facilitators, in consultation with the Bureau. The draft omnibus resolution, and the draft HLS declaration will be shared with Member

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/UNFF19-Info-Note.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/unff-participant-registration/index.html>

States in the second half of April and in advance of UNFF19. These drafts will be considered and finalized during UNFF19.

- In my letter of 6 March 2024 sent to Permanent Missions, and UNFF National Focal Points, I provided detailed information about the modalities of UNFF19. In the same letter, I also highlighted the key impacts of the austerity measures which are in place due to the UN liquidity situation.
- Considering the implications of the austerity measures on the programme of work of UNFF19, and to ensure the success of UNFF19 considering its heavy workload, through my letter of 6 March 2024, I informed you of the decision of the Bureau on the modalities for UNFF19. I would like to remind you of these decisions once again.
- Considering the austerity measures, the regular meeting hours of 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for meetings with conference services will be strictly applied. Requests for meetings and events taking place in conference rooms before 10 a.m., after 6 p.m. or on weekends cannot be accommodated. Lunchtime consultations in Conference Rooms 4 and 2 are not possible, as these rooms are being used for UNFF19 side events. The limitation of time and availability of conference rooms outside official working hours, reminds us of the importance of the timely conclusion and finalization of consultations on the draft omnibus resolution and the draft HLS declaration.
- No parallel meetings of the same body can be accommodated. Therefore, there will be only one plenary meeting at a time on Monday, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday, and Friday in CR4. This provision does not apply to the parallel working groups for consultation on the draft omnibus resolution and the draft HLS declaration, scheduled for 6 May in the afternoon, and 7 and 8 May in CR 4 and CR2.
- During consultations on the draft outcomes at UNFF19, conference facilities for projection of the draft outcomes of UNFF19, and screen-editing will be available in both working groups. Due to the austerity measures, however, interpretation in all UN official languages will be only available in one of the working groups.
- The time limit for statement, and intervention during UNFF19 formal meetings, including the HLS will be 4 minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States, and three minutes for individual delegations. In the event of time constraints, the time limit for individual delegations and delegations speaking on behalf of groups will be reduced to 2 minutes, and 3 minutes respectively. These time limits will be strictly enforced including through the muting of microphones. This measure is necessary to ensure that as many delegations as possible are able to participate within the limited time available. I thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.
- Written copies of statements delivered in the Forum should be sent to [estatements@un.org](mailto:estatements@un.org) as soon as possible and no later than two hours in advance of delivery in order to facilitate interpretation, and for posting on eStatements. Statements submitted to [estatements@un.org](mailto:estatements@un.org) will be available on the UN Journal website.

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- During the HLS, priority will be given to delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States and representatives at the Ministerial and Director-General levels and above, pursuant to customary protocol.
- There will be no pre-determined list of speakers for the joint general discussions, scheduled for Monday 6 May in the morning. Delegations who wish to speak should request the floor by pressing their microphone button at their respective seats.
- For the HLS Roundtable, and the HLS Dialogue on 9 May 2024, delegations are invited to express their interest in intervening in the Roundtable and the Dialogue through the e-Speakers module on the e-deleGATE portal. These lists will be open for inscription from 12 April and will be closed on 1 May 2024.

### **UNFF19 organization of work**

- The provisional organization of work of UNFF19 was shared with you through my letter of 6 March 2024. The opening plenary meeting of UNFF19 is scheduled to be held on 6 May in the morning. The morning programme includes adoption of the agenda, and other organizational matters, opening remarks by the Chair, and UNFFS Director, introduction of UNFF19 official documents, brief report on the outcomes of the India Country-Led Initiative, and Major-Groups- Led Initiative, a short presentation on Forest Model Act Initiative, and finally a panel on: Valuing Forest Ecosystems in National Policy and Strategy. After that, there will be opportunity for joint general discussions during which delegations can make their general statements, interventions, and pose any question to the presenters and panelist. A Concept Note for the panel is available at the UNFF19 webpage<sup>3</sup>.
- Our aim is to begin informal consultations on the draft omnibus resolution and draft HLS declaration in two parallel working groups as early as possible on Monday afternoon. These consultations will continue on 7 and 8 May. There will be a short plenary meeting on Wednesday afternoon to consider final agreed drafts of omnibus resolution and HLS declaration.
- The HLS of UNFF19 will be held on 9 May 2024, and will include a Roundtable in the morning and a Dialogue with heads of CPF member organizations, and UNFF partners in the afternoon. There will be a dedicated time to adopt the HLS declaration before the conclusion of the HLS in the afternoon meeting of 9 May. The Concept notes for the HLS Roundtable and the Dialogue are available at the UNFF19 webpage<sup>4</sup>.
- On Friday, 10 May, the draft omnibus resolution will be considered for adoption by the Forum. Then the Forum will be invited to take decisions on the date and venue, as well as the provisional agenda for its twentieth session (UNFF20). The Forum is also expected to adopt the draft report of UNFF19. Should the work of UNFF19 proceed faster than expected, the conclusion of the session could take place on Friday morning, as needed.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>

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- I wish to add that three parallel side events will be held daily in an in-person format during UNFF19. Side events will be held from 1:15pm to 2:30p.m. each day, in CR4, CR2, and CR8. The final list of side events is available on the UNFF website soon.

#### **Election of Members of UNFF20-UNFF21 Bureau**

- Also on 10 May, and after the closure of UNFF19, the first meeting of the twentieth session of the Forum (UNFF20) will be held for the sole purpose of electing the officers for the Bureau of UNFF20 and UNFF21.
- Nominations have been received from the Group of Asia-Pacific States, the Group of Eastern European States, Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the Group of Western Europeans and other States. For the Group of Eastern European States, two nominations have been received for the one seat for Vice-Chair of UNFF20-UNFF21. For the Western Europeans and other States Group, one delegation from the group submitted its nomination for the Chair. Should the number of nominations from a group exceed the number of seats on the day of election, the elections for that group will take place by secret ballot. As mentioned above, the elections are expected to take place on 10 May following the closure of UNFF19.
- I encourage the Group of African States to present their nominations for the Bureau of UNFF20-UNFF21 as soon as possible.

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- I hope the information provided has been helpful and clarified different aspects of the work of UNFF19. Nevertheless, I would be happy, with the help of the Secretariat, to respond to any query you may have at this point.
- The floor is now open for questions. Delegates in the room can press the button on the microphone console to request for the floor.