

**Statement by Mr. Andrés Napuri Pita  
Vice-Chair of the Twentieth Session of the  
United Nations Forum on Forests**

**Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its twentieth session**

**2025 ECOSOC Management Segment  
Item 19: Economic and environmental questions:  
(k) United Nations Forum on Forests**

**29 July 2025, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ, New York**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In my capacity as the Vice-Chair of the twentieth session of the UN Forum on Forests, it is my pleasure to brief the Council on the outcomes of the twentieth session of the Forum.

Held from 5 to 9 May 2025 at UN Headquarters in New York, the session brought together over 450 participants, including representatives from Member States, the UN system and other international organizations, regional and subregional entities, and major groups and other stakeholders.

During the session, Members of the Forum reviewed progress made toward the Global Forest Goals of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 since the Forum's nineteenth session and identified key opportunities and challenges going forward. Discussions focused on several critical areas, including:

- Interlinkages between the Global Forest Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals under review by the 2025 and 2026 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
- Enhanced coherence, cooperation, and collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations, as well as with regional partners and stakeholders;
- Communications and outreach;
- Means of implementation;
- Monitoring, assessment, and reporting;
- Emerging issues, with particular attention to dryland forests.

Deliberations were guided by thematic priorities aligned with Global Forest Goals 1, 3, and 5, which respectively focuses on: reversing forest loss and increasing carbon stocks; expanding protected and sustainably managed forest areas; and strengthening governance and institutional capacities for sustainable forest management.

The Forum also featured three interactive panel discussions on:

- Valuation of forest ecosystems;
- Significance of a global hub on data, information, and knowledge on forest financing opportunities and best practices;
- Advancing the protection, conservation, and sustainable management of dryland forests.

Additionally, the Forum considered an Information Paper on the workload, gaps, and needs of the Forum Secretariat, as part of the follow-up to the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests.

Throughout the week, Members highlighted several priority actions for Member States, partners, and stakeholders, including:

- **Recognizing forests as critical to SDG progress**, given their roles in carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, water quality, livelihoods, and food security;
- **Accelerating implementation** of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and its Global Forest Goals as a global framework for transformative forest action by 2030, including urgent efforts to combat deforestation and forest degradation;
- **Promoting synergies** among the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Paris Agreement, including through enhanced coordination among related organizations, instruments, and processes, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;
- **Strengthening international cooperation** and collective action to mobilize financial, technological, and capacity-building support for developing countries, enabling them to manage forests sustainably as a core strategy for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and long-term environmental resilience.

The Forum also welcomed several Country-led Initiatives:

- The **Republic of Congo** presented the outcomes of the first International Conference on Afforestation and Reforestation, held in July 2024 in support of the Forum's work.
- **Morocco** announced a Country-led Initiative in June 2025 on technology, finance, and forest community development.
- **Austria** will host a Country-led Initiative in February 2026 on sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches.
- **Türkiye** will organize a forthcoming Country-led Initiative on forest fires and wildfires in October 2025.

These upcoming initiatives are especially timely, as they directly align with the thematic priorities of the Forum's twenty-first session and present concrete opportunities for collaboration and progress.

As this was a technical session, the Forum did not adopt negotiated outcomes. However, the report of the session includes a Chair's summary, which offers proposals for consideration at the Forum's twenty-first session, scheduled to be convened from 11 to 15 May 2026. That session will also initiate discussions on the final review of the effectiveness of the international Arrangement on Forests in achieving its objectives.

The UN Forum on Forests remains the sole intergovernmental body dedicated to providing a global framework for forests in support of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 and the broader 2030 Agenda. As we enter the final stretch toward 2030, we reaffirm our commitment to promoting greater coherence, synergy, and integration across the ECOSOC system to ensure forests are effectively leveraged in delivering our shared sustainable development goals.

Thank you.

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