

**Talking Points for Mr. Boris Greguška  
Chair of the UNFF15 Bureau**

**Annual Meeting of the ECOSOC Bureau with the  
Chairs of ECOSOC Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies**

**31 January 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ, New York**

UNFF15 and its contribution to the 2020 sessions of ECOSOC and HLPF (for agenda item 1)

- This meeting provides a critical window of opportunity for chairs of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to consider how we can further strengthen the synergies of our work with that of the Council, particularly ways in which we can substantively contribute to the work of the Council and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development – HLPF.
- On this point, what is equally important is to ensure that the Council and HLPF can also make full use of inputs from ECOSOC Functional Commissions for their planning and substantive deliberations, particularly through the Integration Segment and the HLPF session itself.
- The UN Forum on Forests has universal membership, comprising 197 Member States, and provides a global framework for policy development, coordination and implementation through the promotion of the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests at the national, regional and global levels, which is embodied in the first-ever UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 - UNSPF, adopted by the Council and subsequently by the General Assembly in 2017.
- The upcoming fifteenth session of the Forum -UNFF15- in May 2020 will hold a policy dialogue on the implementation of the UNSPF, among other agenda items. At this session, UNFF is expected to produce two outcome documents: an omnibus resolution and a Ministerial Declaration which will be considered at the high-level segment.
- The Omnibus Resolution will include several important decisions on the way forward. These include decisions on: (1) the Forum’s first-ever “flagship publication” on progress in implementing the UN Strategic Plan

for Forests and achieving the Global Forest Goals and targets; (2) the timing of the second round of voluntary national reporting, taking into account the mid-term review of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests in 2024; and (3) the Forum's quadrennial programme of work for the period 2021-2024, taking into account the programme of work of the HLPF and other international forest-related developments.

- The Ministerial Declaration will set out bold, forward-looking, concise, and clear messages to address global challenges facing forests, people, and the planet, and will focus on high-level commitments. In this regard, I will convene informal consultations with Member States in March 2020 in New York to advance the preparation of the draft Ministerial Declaration.
- With regard to the policy messages to address the 2020 theme of the Council and the HLPF, the Forum will consider submitting the outcome of its policy dialogue as its input to the 2020 HLPF, including the UNFF15 Ministerial Declaration.

#### UNFF Quadrennial Programme of Work and its alignment with the work of ECOSOC and HLPF (for agenda item 2)

- As part of the ECOSOC Functional Commissions, the UNFF continues to be in the forefront of setting the global agenda on forests, to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, and to strengthen long-term political commitment for this purpose.
- The current Quadrennial Programme of Work of the UNFF is fully aligned with the work of the Council and the HLPF since the UNFF considers its thematic priorities at its annual sessions taking into account the thematic and in-depth review of the SDGs by the HLPF.
- The UNFF will adopt its new programme of work for the period 2021-2024 at UNFF15 in May 2020, taking into account the new programme of work of the HLPF beyond 2021 as it becomes available.

#### Recommendations for themes for ECOSOC and HLPF (for agenda item 3)

- In terms of more coherence and coordinated institutional framework in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, there are some cross-cutting issues that are of particular importance to the work of the Council

and HLPF in light of their economic, social and environmental implications and connections.

- Such cross-cutting issues could include natural resource management and ecosystem services as these issues entail full consideration of its economic, social and environmental impacts and long-term bearings on people and the planet.
- On this point, the Forum addresses a full suit of issues related to forests that cut across all three dimensions of sustainable development. It would be mutually beneficial to ensure that the outcomes of UNFF deliberations inform the deliberations of the Council on these matters, and that the Forum is able to draw on the deliberations of the Council.

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