

**Suggested Talking Points for Ambassador Miriam Mac Intosh  
Chair of the UNFF17 Bureau**

**ECOSOC Briefing on the Outcomes of the 2021 UN Climate Conference  
(UNFCCC COP26)**

**14 December 2021, 10:00am to 12:00pm New York time (EST), virtual format**

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

Please allow me, to thank you Mr. President, for the invitation to participate in this important briefing.

I will highlight some key outcomes of COP26 regarding forests, what these outcomes mean to the work of the UN Forum on Forests, and how the Forum can help to advance these outcomes, as we prepare for the next session of the Forum – (UNFF17) to be convened in May 2022.

Indeed, COP26 placed forests and other nature-based solutions in the centre of its discussions.

**First**, the **Glasgow Climate Pact** recognized the need to tap into the potential of forests to more effectively mitigate and adapt to the climate change.

It also emphasized the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring forests along with other ecosystems.

In particular, this Pact focused on the important role of forests as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, and in protecting biodiversity, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards.

**Second**, under the initiative of the COP26 President, over 142 countries, accounting for more than 90% of the world's forests, have committed to working together to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 through the **Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use** adopted during the World Leaders Summit.

**Third**, high-level events during COP26 generated scores of pledges on forest finance to support sustainable forest management in developing countries.

These announcements include:

- the **12-billion-dollar Global Forest Finance Pledge** in support of forest-related efforts by developing countries,
- **1.5 billion dollars** to protect the forests of the Congo Basin, and
- **1.7 billion** to advance Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' forest tenure rights.

Several other initiatives on forest were announced by a group of partners and stakeholders, including a consortium of public and private financial institutions and the Coalition of the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance, mainly in support of shifting the financial system away from drivers of deforestation and reducing pressures on forests.

Noteworthy is also the initiative of the 3 carbon negative countries by adopting a **Carbon Negative Declaration** and recommitting to sustainable forest management.

Building on the current momentum and in order to advance our collective efforts to restore ecosystems and turn the tide on deforestation, what is required now is to upscale implementation and accelerate progress towards the existing global forest-related goals and targets, particularly, the 2030 Agenda and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.

These agreements include a number of specific goals and targets to maximize the contribution of forests and nature-based solutions to sustainable development and fight against climate change and deforestation.

In particular, the UN Strategic Plan for Forests contains six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030, including an ambitious target to increase global forest area by 3% by 2030.

It is therefore critically important to integrate these goals and targets into the national policies and strategies, and for the UN system to coherently support these efforts.

The next session of the UN Forum on Forests – UNFF17 – to be convened in May 2022 in New York will have policy discussions on the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.

UNFF17 is also expected to agree on the required preparations for the midterm review of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests in achieving its objectives.

We hope this process leads to strengthening the mandate of the Forum, in order to play a stronger role in global policy-setting on forests, and in promoting a synergetic agenda for forests, sustainable development, and climate change.

We also look forward to additional opportunities to see how the ECOSOC, and its subsidiary bodies can join forces and maximize synergies in taking follow-up joint actions to promote nature-based solutions to address global challenges in the future.

Thank you.

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