

**Remarks by Ambassador Miriam Mac Intosh
Chair of the Seventeenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

**Outcomes of the United Nations Forum on Forests on
its Seventeenth Session**

**2022 ECOSOC Management Segment
Item 18: Economic and environmental questions:
(j) United Nations Forum on Forests**

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Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As the Chair of the seventeenth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF17), it is my pleasure to brief the Council on the outcomes of UNFF17.

UNFF17 was held from 9 to 13 May 2022 in a hybrid format in UNHQ in New York. During its opening meeting, UNFF17 held a High-level Round Table. This High-Level Round Table provided an opportunity for senior officials from governments, the UN entities and other international organizations, as well as representatives from the private sector, and civil society, including youth and women, to discuss the Forum's response to major forest-related multilateral developments, as well as its role and expectations related to these developments.

Consistent with the mandate of the General Assembly that the outcomes of the subsidiary bodies of the Council should be more relevant, coherent and solution-oriented to address challenges in the implementation process, participants in the Round Table highlighted the potential of forests to address many of the current global challenges, particularly the disastrous effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change among others. Participants also underscored the need for the Forum to play a critical role in maximizing complementarities, synergies and coherence on forests and related issues at the global level.

Throughout UNFF17, Members of the Forum held policy discussions on the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan of Forests based on its thematic priorities for the session, namely, Global Forest Goal 1 (GFG) (reverse the loss of forest cover) and GFG 2 (enhance forest-based benefits) as the substantive goals, along with GFG 4 (forest finance), GFG5 (forest governance) and GFG6 (forest-related cooperation) as cross-cutting goals.

At UNFF17, Members of the Forum also provided information on their initiatives and actions undertaken to advance the achievement of the GFGs and implementation of their voluntary national contributions. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations, regional and subregional partners, major groups and other stakeholders also presented their respective initiatives and actions taken in support of the achievement of the GFGs.

During UNFF17, participants also discussed the interlinkages between the GFGs and the Sustainable Development Goals under in-depth review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2022. These discussions were in line with the General Assembly resolution 72/305, that

subsidiary bodies should produce technical and expert analysis, assessments and policy recommendations to inform the integrated view of the Council and inform efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

The UNFF17 Chair's summary includes main points and proposals made during the High-level Round Table and the Forum's input to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2022. In particular, the Forum during its deliberations highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed systemic risks and issues resulting from nature loss, in particular deforestation and forest degradation, as the sustainable utilization, protection, conservation and restoration of nature is essential to reduce the risk of infectious and zoonotic diseases, as well as to offset many of the social, economic and environmental impacts of other global challenges. The Forum also highlighted that it is critical that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development better leverages the Forum to promote and highlight forest-related contributions to sustainable development by helping to ensure and maximize complementarities, synergies and coherence among forest policies, programmes and projects of Member States, partners and stakeholders in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests. This summary is included in the report of UNFF17.

Following the conclusion of the policy discussions, Members of the Forum engaged in consultation on a draft omnibus resolution, which led to its adoption by consensus. This resolution contains important provisions regarding the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests; means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network; monitoring, assessment and reporting; and preparations for the midterm review of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). The annex to the resolution contains a comprehensive list of actions to be taken in preparations for the midterm review of the IAF, to be considered at the nineteenth session of the Forum in 2024.

The adoption of the UNFF17 omnibus resolution was an important step taken by the Forum in advancing its work at this critical juncture. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all Members of the Forum, and UNFF partners and stakeholders for their active and constructive engagement in the deliberations of UNFF17. Building on the successful conclusion of UNFF17 and its outcomes, the next session of the Forum -UNFF18- is scheduled to be convened from 8-12 May 2023 in New York. As a technical session, UNFF18 will hold technical discussions on the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, along with discussions on several other important issues in its agenda.

Thank you.
