

## **UNFF20 INPUT TO 2025 HLPF<sup>1</sup>**

The contributions of forests and the ecosystem services they provide are often undervalued or unrecorded in both national and international policy and economic frameworks. To address this gap, UNFF, its members, and stakeholders have continuously taken a wide range of sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based actions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind, bearing in mind environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets. These include actions at the policy, technical and operational level to address the root causes, e.g. drivers of deforestation and degradation of forests and promote sustainable forest management through a multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral approach.

In line with Global Forest Goal 1, countries have taken legislative and policy steps to combat forest loss and degradation, using existing laws and strategies as frameworks. Many updated these tools through stakeholder consultations. Some enacted laws to ensure deforestation-free markets. Despite coordination challenges, efforts were made to integrate forest concerns across sectors like energy and agriculture. In line with Global Forest Goal 3, many countries have taken concrete steps to protect and sustainably manage forests. They introduced laws and policies supporting protected areas, sustainable management, and markets for sustainably sourced forest products. As a result, about 18% of global forests are now protected, and more forests are under long-term management plans. However, progress varies across regions. In line with Global Forest Goal 5, many countries have established forest-related laws and policies, but enforcement varies, affecting their effectiveness. To combat illegal logging and trade, countries have introduced monitoring systems, traceability measures, and international cooperation efforts.

### **Suggested messages for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF**

- i. Recognize the broad economic, social, and environmental benefits of forests, including watershed protection, food and medicine, and human well-being—and integrate forests into national and global responses to sustainable development challenges.
- ii. Address rising threats from forest fires/wildfires, pests, and diseases exacerbated by climate change through active forest management and silvicultural practices, especially in dry and arid regions.
- iii. Urgently advance implementation of the UNSPF, and halt deforestation and land degradation by 2030.
- iv. Encourage participatory decision-making that includes Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women, ensuring forest management is equitable, inclusive, and reflective of diverse perspectives.
- v. Mobilize and increase resources from all sources, mainstream forest management in development strategies, enhance cross-sector collaboration, and contribute to sustainable development.

---

<sup>1</sup> This input accompanies the input by the UNFF20 Bureau to 2025 HLPF, which is available at: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2025/Inputs%202025%20UNFF.pdf>