International Union of Forest Research Organizations

Union Internationale des Instituts de Recherches Forestières	Unión Internacional de Organizaciones de Investigación Forestal	Internationaler Verband Forstlicher Forschungsanstalten

IUFRO statement during the UNFF16 Panel Discussion on items 3 (a) & 3 (c) on 27 April

Thank you for giving us the floor Mr/Ms Chair.

Forest science - across a wide range of disciplines - enhances our understanding of synergies and trade-offs between the different Global Forest Goals and related targets. It also provides an objective basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the UN Strategic Plan on Forests [UNSPF] and forest-related policies and programmes towards the achievement of the SDGs.

Beyond this, the forest science community has much to offer towards sustainable solutions to our many global challenges and crises, including the impacts of the ongoing pandemic. Over many decades, the forest science community has generated the knowledge needed to make the most of opportunities for the forest sector to "Build Back Better".

IUFRO's global network of more than 650 member organizations in 125 countries, represents a wealth of worldwide experience, knowledge and forest science capacity. Our work involves significant collaboration with a variety of partners within and outside of the forest sector, including the International Association of Forestry Students (IFSA) and organizations represented by the Major Group Science and Technology.

As a member of the CPF, IUFRO has played, and will continue to play, a very active role in the implementation the CPF's Work Plans. For example, the IUFRO-led CPF joint initiative known as GFEP - Global Forest Expert Panels, has produced 7 global scientific assessments since 2009 on many key forest-related issues, including its most recent assessment on Forest and Poverty, launched in October 2020. The results of these assessments have informed policy decisions in global forest-related forums and discussions, including here in the UNFF.

IUFRO very much welcomes the regular involvement of scientific experts from our global network in UNFF sessions, as authors of documents for Forum sessions and as speakers in Panels related to a number of SDGs. For this current UNFF session, IUFRO officeholders prepared background papers on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Sustainable Forest Management in Canada and the USA; and on impacts of disasters on forests, in particular forest fires. Another IUFRO officeholder, Dr. Linser, will be a Panelist on Item 3 (g), where she will present an overview of research and development of indicators for SFM.

These examples indicate a strong interest among policy- and decision-makers for guidance on important forest-related issues based on best available scientific knowledge and data. IUFRO remains committed to its work with CPF partners and strengthening collaboration with Major Groups in support of the Forum and its Member States in their efforts towards achievement of Global Forest Goals 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, and related targets.

Thank you for your attention.