

Tenth Session of the Assembly
17-18 April 2024, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Agenda Item 5.2

Updates on engagement in UNs and other meetings and fora in 2024

I. Background

1. As an intergovernmental organization granted with a Permanent Observer to the United Nations General Assembly in December 2020, the Secretariat has been engaging in the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the conventions, including UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). AFoCO is also invited to global meetings and relevant events.

II. Engagement plan in 2024

2. In order to increase visibility of the organization and engage in discussing integrated forest-based global agenda to cope with the ongoing challenges in forestry, the Secretariat is considered the following conventions and relevant meetings in 2024 where appropriate to attend:

- 19th Session of the UNFF, 6-10 May (New York, USA)
- UN High Level Political Forum, 8-12 July (New York, USA)
- 25th ASEAN-ROK Summit, 6-11 October (Lao PDR)
- 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, 10-24 September (New York, USA)
- CBD COP 16, 21-25 October (Colombia)
- UNFCCC COP29, 11-22 November (Baku, Azerbaijan)
- UNCCD COP 16, 2-13 December (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)

Forest Pavilion at UNFCCC COP29

3. UNFF is the only intergovernmental body with universal membership within the UNs system that deals with all issues related to forests. During a bilateral meeting between AFoCO and UNFF Secretariat, UNFF suggested working together on a multi-stakeholder Forest Pavilion at UNFCCC COP29. The draft concept note for the Forest Pavilion is summarized as follows:

Objective

The inaugural Forest Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP 29 in 2024 provides a central platform for all stakeholders to galvanize collective efforts at all levels in safeguarding and leveraging forests for a just, equitable and sustainable future for all. By bringing together world leaders in policy, science, and practice from around the world, this dedicated Forest Pavilion intends to raise the visibility of forests and showcase why forests matter in climate ambition, and to all life on our planet.

Centered around the achievement of the Global Forest Goals in support of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, issues to be highlighted will include, but not limited to:

- Ambition
- Dialogues
- Implementation
- Experiences & Lessons
- Evidence-based Solutions
- Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities
- Finance & Investment
- Interlinkages
- Capacity Building
- Science
- Multi-stakeholder Partnerships
- Data & Monitoring

It is expected that the lessons of the inaugural Forest Pavilion at COP29 will inform the design of the Forest Pavilion at UNFCCC COP30 in Brazil in 2025.

Arrangement

The Forest Pavilion is open to all across sectors and stakeholders committed to advancing the Global Forest Goals aligned with the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. It is expected that the Pavilion will feature spaces for interactive panel discussions, group/private meetings, and digital infrastructure for on-line/hybrid interactions and social media communications.

A coalition of multi-stakeholder founding partners will form an organizing committee and collaboratively plan and organize the Pavilion. The UN Forum on Forests secretariat (UNFFS), as the convener, will provide secretariat services and facilitate the organizing committee.

Partners are expected to commit to a 2-year partnership in support of the Forest Pavilion covering the COP29 in Azerbaijan and COP30 in Brazil, including by providing financial contributions towards the establishment and running of the Pavilion. The UNFFS is expecting to mobilize at least USD 2 million from all interested partners.

Timeline

Tentative timeline is as follows:

(January/March 2024)

- Draft concept note for the Forest Pavilion
- Expression of preliminary interests from partners
- First meeting of the organization committee
- Planning, budgets and financial commitments by partners
- Coordination on the Pavilion space with the host country and UNFCCC secretariat

(May 2024)

- Announcement of the inaugural Forest Pavilion at COP29, during the UNFF 19th session

(June-Oct 2024)

- Monthly meeting of the organization committee
- Programme/organization/communications

(November 2024)

- Forest Pavilion at UNFCCC COP29

(December 2024)

- Concept for the Forest Pavilion at COP30, building on lessons from the Forest Pavilion at COP29

III. Points for Consideration

4. The Assembly may wish to:
 - Take note of the information and provide further guidance and recommendations;
 - Task the Secretariat to closely communicate with the UNFFS for the Forest Pavilion and provide the Assembly with updated information on the progress of hosting the Pavilion; and
 - Authorize the use of funds available in the Working Capital Reserve to the Secretariat's Operational Cost to jointly host the Forest Pavilion subject to endorsement for co-hosting Forest Pavilion which will be informed by written document to the Member Countries for approval by the Assembly.

Queries on the content of the document may be addressed to:

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