Good afternoon. I would like to give a brief overview of the work that was carried out during the Expert Meeting on Reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), which was organized by the UNFF Secretariat and hosted by the Government of Brazil in Brasilia, between 7-10 February 2017.

It was a great pleasure for the Brazilian Government to host this important Expert Meeting, which brought together 49 participants from 14 countries and 12 international organizations and processes to discuss crucial issues for the future of the sustainable management of forests.

The Expert Meeting had the goal of contributing to the development of a format for voluntary national reporting on implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI).

The Expert Meeting also discussed (a) the development of a global set of forest indicators; (b) data sharing arrangements and the cycle for reporting to the UNFF; and (c) potential uses of information collected through reporting.

We are pleased to report that we had a very fruitful and productive week of discussions in Brasilia, which resulted in substantive proposals and suggestions on the aforementioned topics. I would like to quickly highlight some of the main outcomes of the Meeting.

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participants agreed on the importance of reducing reporting burdens and agreed that the format and cycle for reporting should complement other reporting processes and rely on data available through the FRA and other global sources wherever possible. Participants also recognized that the GFGs and targets are global in nature and that the relevance of the targets may vary from country to

country based on national circumstances. They also agreed that the reporting format should provide flexibility to countries in reporting to the UNFF. In line with these guiding principles, the meeting produced a revised draft reporting format, which provides an opportunity for Member States to report progress on the GFGs and targets, the UNFI and VNCs.

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participants had an initial exchange of views on a preliminary list of potential indicators for the GFG targets, which could be used to supplement information provided by countries in their national reporting to the UNFF. It was noted that: a) the indicators should be based on available data; b) the indicators should be clearly related to the GFG targets; and c) the list of indicators should be streamlined to the extent possible.

Participants considered that further work on the list was needed, taking into account the CPF-OLI follow up process of a global core set of forest indicators and further development by the UN Statistical Division on indicators for SDG 15.1, 15.2 and other forest-related indicators.

Regarding data sharing arrangements and the reporting cycle, participants agreed that the UNFF should decide its own reporting cycle, making full use of all available data and sources. They also considered that the UNFF reporting cycle should build on, add-value to and be mutually supporting with other forest-related reporting cycles. It should take into account the role of forests in achieving the SDG targets and serve to enhance linkages between the UNFF and the HLPF.

Finally, regarding the

participants agreed that ational reports prepared for UNFF are useful to show progress towards SFM and share best practices and lessons learned, including during Forum sessions. They also considered that a periodic "global forest outlook" report based on national reporting to UNFF could be an effective way to highlight and raise the profile of the UNSPF and UNFF, assuming resources are available. Another possible point raised was that the UNFF should consider how to provide input to the annual HLPF process.

As you all can see, the Expert Meeting in Brasilia resulted in important and insightful proposals for improving the implementation of sustainable forest management. We would like to sincerely thank all of the participants to this meeting for their t4( )-ontrribu Tibno ( )]TЖT5(t4h)4(iplike27)4(ld)rk,ik