

MALAYSIA'S POSITION
17th SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS
9–13 MAY 2022, UN HQ NEW YORK

Agenda	High Level Roundtable
Item	<p>High Level Roundtable</p> <p>“UNFF response to, role in, and expectations from forest-related multilateral developments”</p> <p>(General discussion on items 3 & 6)</p>
Doc. Ref.	Concept note UNFF 17 High-Level Round Table (HLRT)
<p>MALAYSIA'S INTERVENTION</p> <p>Madam Chair, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen</p> <p>Malaysia take notes on the progress made in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the recent World Forestry Congress (WFC). It is our view that each of these platform has its own objectives and purposes.</p> <p>At the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, Malaysia has made a pledge to maintain at least 50 percent of Malaysia's land mass under forest and tree cover. Today, almost three decades later, Malaysia has not abandoned on that pledge. Malaysia's forest cover is currently at 55.31% or 18.27 million hectares of its total land area.</p> <p>Malaysia's journey in achieving sustainable development has always been the Government's priority. Alongside this, Malaysia has been taking comprehensive measures to ensure that the country's economic development did not come at undue sacrifice of its natural resources.</p>	

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is pursued through various national strategies and programmes such as the forest management certification initiative, annual allowable coupes and the implementation of best practices in selective logging as well as strengthening forest laws enforcement.

Malaysia had implemented the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) since 2001 as a voluntary national timber certification scheme. The MTCS has since become a leading timber certification scheme for tropical forests in Southeast Asia and has accorded international recognition. As of 30 April 2022, a total of 5.5 million hectares of forests had been certified sustainably managed under the MTCS.

Malaysia strongly believes that further protection of forests needs to be supported by **sufficient financial, technical and technological support**, from all international forest-related platforms and developed countries, in line with the **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)** enshrined in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration.

In this regards, Malaysia would like to propose that:

- (i) developed countries, business sector, financial institutions and key stakeholders shall increase resource mobilization and access to finance in assisting members especially those from developing countries to help 'build back better' and meet the above actions and improve best practices for protection, conservation and sustainable use of forests; and
- (ii) the world community is encouraged to intensify reforestation and afforestation activities to increase global forest cover, restoring forest and other ecosystems in delivering benefits for climate adaptation and mitigation, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards.

Thank you.