



cooperation on forests and related themes under the aegis of the UNFF. This would ensure scientific basis for strategic decisions by the Forum.

2. The goal of strengthening communication and outreach activities is also reflected in the Strategic Plan on Forests. It is obvious that the annual sessions of the UNFF are not enough for information exchange. I stay confident that launch of a UNFF online platform for continuous and open exchange of experience will contribute to the success of the Forum.

3. Wider use of all the official languages of the UN, of course, will help better cooperation on forests.

4. We also believe that it is necessary to enhance the intersessional work of the UNFF. The virtual format tested during the pandemic may help to make more efficient use of financial and time resources.

Regarding the mid-term review of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests, I would like to share the following views.

The Russian Federation supports the initiative to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert group on the mid-term review the International Arrangement on Forests and work on the options for further implementation of the Strategic Plan on Forests. We support the open-ended membership of this expert group which will ensure the participation of all interested members of the Forum. We believe that a formal status would be advisable for this expert group on the mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests.

The Russian Federation is of the standpoint that the UN Strategic Plan on Forests remains relevant and of great importance to global development. Without any doubt, the work on the Global Forest Goals contributes to the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the goals of the Paris Agreement and the objectives