The side event will be open to all participants.

The side event aims to provide guidance to the HLPF regarding the linkages between forests (SDG 15) and other SDGs. During the event, IUFRO will launch a global assessment report and accompanying policy brief on the interactions between forests and water. This report by the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) on Forests and Water constitutes the most comprehensive systematic scientific syntheses on the interactions between forests and water on the global level to date. GFEP is a joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) led by IUFRO.

**OPENING REMARKS:**
- **HE Mr. Philipp Charwath**, Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires of Austria to the United Nations;
- **Dr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi**, Senior Forest Policy Officer, UNFF Secretariat, UN DESA;
- **Dr. Christoph Wildburger**, Coordinator Global Forest Expert Panels, IUFRO

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS**
Co-chairs of the GFEP assessment on Forests and Water:
- **Prof. Dr. Meine van Noordwijk** (ICRAF, Wageningen University);
- **Prof. Dr. Irena F. Creed** (University of Saskatchewan)

**STATEMENTS AND PANEL DISCUSSION**
- **Dr. Jaana Husu-Kallio**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland;
- **Dr. Ney Maranhão**, Director, National Water Resources Agency of Brazil;
- **Dr. Joakim Harlin**, Head of the Freshwater Unit of UN Environment and Vice-Chair of UN-Water

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE PUBLICATIONS**
GFEP assessment report “Forest and Water on a Changing Planet: Vulnerability, Adaptation and Governance Opportunities” and accompanying Policy Brief

**MODERATOR:** **Mr. Alexander Buck**, Executive Director, IUFRO