



## 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations in partnership with the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) invites you to a side-event on:

### **The Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa: The Unknown Lung of the Planet, Emerging Issues, and Future Prospects for the World**

**Wednesday, 9 May 2018**

1: 15 pm – 2: 30 pm

UN Headquarters, Trusteeship Chamber

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is part of United Nations subsidiary bodies established in 2000 to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests by limiting deforestation, harmonizing policies on forest management and certification, to make them more compatible with the protection of forest biodiversity.

The 13th session of UNFF is being held in New York from 7th to 11th May 2018. According to its provisional agenda, this session will examine a number of important topics which include:

- i) Implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests (2017-2030)
- ii) Monitoring, evaluation and reports
- iii) Means of implementation
- iv) New problems and issues
- v) Trust Fund in support of UNFF
- vi) Information about the activities of intersections
- vii) Progress in the implementation of the resolution 2015/33 of the Economic and Social Council. Etc.

COMIFAC is responsible for the orientation, harmonization and monitoring of forest and environmental policies and legislation in Central Africa. It provides for this purpose the monitoring of the implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration of Heads of State and Government of the Central African country in March 1999 on the joint management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa through its Convergence Plan. It also ensures the implementation of multilateral agreements in the area of environment and forestry development initiatives in Central Africa.

COMIFAC in partnership with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations is organizing a side event on 'The Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa: The Unknown Lung of the Planet, Emerging Issues, and Future Prospects for the World' to inform stakeholders on its achievements and to increase its visibility internationally. This meeting will bring together heads of diplomatic missions of the COMIFAC member countries accredited to the United Nations and donors, to present the missions and the institution's achievements and the challenges and prospects.

## AGENDA

Moderator: Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, Minister of State or its representative.

Segment 1: Introduction (15 min)

- Remarks by Mrs. Urujeni Bakuramutsa, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations (5 min).

Segment 2: 30 minutes

- Presentation 1: The importance of the Congo Basin forest and its impact on the climate cycle and global ecosystem.
- Presentation 2: The COMIFAC, a political instrument in advancing regional cooperation on Forest and Environment management.
- Presentation 3: The future of the Congo Basin forest ecosystems: challenges and prospects.

Interactive session: 35 min

This panel will involve a dialogue between the heads of diplomatic missions and various partners on the strengthening of financial support to mitigate the challenges of sustainable management, conservation and development in Central Africa.

Questions that may guide discussions may include:

- Apprehension by heads of diplomatic missions and efforts made by this sub-regional instrument.
- Central African countries' financing needs for forest management, biodiversity conservation, community development, mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- Possible actions by diplomatic missions to increase partners' attention to the Congo Basin and COMIFAC.

Summary, conclusions and recommendations: by the moderator (5 min)

- Closing remarks by Mrs. Urujeni Bakuramutsa, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations.