

21 September 2023

Second Announcement

Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum 2023

21–22 November 2023

Galaxy International Convention Center, Macao SAR, China

Background

The timber industry is facing major challenges. It must produce legal and sustainable timber products while also maintaining other important forest values. It must address issues in global timber supply chains arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. And it must bridge the widening gap between demand and supply as the world population grows and requirements escalate for construction timber and other wood products.

Give these and other challenges, it is essential to maintain and increase collaboration, and exchange views and information, among timber industry stakeholders worldwide—producers, buyers, processors and market players.

The **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)** formulated its Legal and Sustainable Supply Chain (LSSC) Programme with the aim of building legal and sustainable tropical timber supply chains through a multipronged, integrated approach of governmental frameworks, private-sector initiatives, financial resources and capacity building. In collaboration with partners, ITTO convened the international forum, *Together Towards Global Green Supply Chains*, in October 2019 in Shanghai, China—the first global dialogue on improving the legality and sustainability of tropical timber supply chains. As part of the LSSC Programme and given strong interest among actors in the global timber industry ITTO and the **Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM)** have entered into a collaborative framework agreement to co-host the **Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum** to accelerate the development of legal and sustainable wood product supply chains.

Objectives

The aim of the **Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum** is to increase networking, collaboration and business exchange among timber industry stakeholders—producers, buyers, processors and market players—with a view to promoting sustainable forest management, creating legal and sustainable wood product supply chains, facilitating the legal and sustainable use and trade of wood products in a stable, transparent and predictable business environment, and contributing to sustainable development and climate-change mitigation.

Forum structure

The Forum will be held annually starting in 2023, and it will comprise two components:

- 1) The Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum.
- 2) Several specialized sub-forums (see below).

In 2023, the Forum will:

- Raise the profile of productive forests and their contributions to sustainable development and climate-change mitigation.
- Identify challenges and opportunities for the recovery of the global wood industry.
- Review the role of the wood products sector in global supply chains and its contributions to sustainable development and climate-change mitigation.
- Discuss issues relating to sustainable forest management and deforestation-free practices within the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and the CPF initiative, Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World.
- Promote the sustainable production and consumption of legal and sustainable wood and other forest products in international and domestic markets.
- Review advanced technologies and machinery for timber processing and production.
- Discuss green finance, blockchain-based technologies and other tools to improve legal and sustainable timber supply chains.
- Make recommendations to promote partnerships for further building legal and sustainable timber supply chains.

Co-hosts & organizer

The Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum will be co-hosted by ITTO and IPIM and organized by the Secretariat of the Global Green Supply Chain Initiative (GGSC). The specialized sub-forums will be co-organized by partner agencies; ITTO, IPIM and the GGSC Secretariat may also organize such forums.

The **theme** of the 2023 Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum will be “connect, cooperate and share to promote the recovery of the global tropical timber market”.

Specialized sub-forums will be organized by partner agencies to contribute to the theme of the main forum. These might be on selected topics related to timber legality and sustainability; sustainable timber resources, markets and trade; advanced technology and machinery for wood processing; green finance and innovative facilitating measures for green supply chains.

A **legal and sustainable timber industry display** will be organized in parallel with the Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum, at a trial scale of 20–30 booths.

Other events and activities

The Global Timber Index (GTI) annual report and the Blockchain-based Timber Tracking System technical report (outputs of ITTO-IPIM collaborative projects implemented by GGSC) will be released at the Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum 2023. Other business activities, such as B2B matchings, can be arranged.

Date and venue

The Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum 2023 will be held on **21–22 November 2023** at the **Galaxy International Convention Center** in **Macao SAR, China**.

Participants

The Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum 2023 is expected to attract around 500 participants from wood enterprises and trading companies, industrial and business associations, governments, international organizations, research institutions, etc.

Sponsorship

Select speakers and panellists will be sponsored while limited sponsorship will be available for participants from selected developing countries.

Languages

The Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum 2023 will feature simultaneous interpretation in Chinese (Mandarin), English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

The draft agenda for the 2023 forum is attached.

For forum registration click: <http://glstf2023.ggscnet.info/reg-step1-en.php>

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Global Legal & Sustainable Timber Forum (GLSTF) 2023

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA

21–22 November 2023, Macao SAR, China

Day 1 (Tuesday 21 November)	
Date	Events and Topics
8:30-8:40 Opening	VIP Tour to the Legal & Sustainable Timber Display
8:40-8:55 Opening	Band Warm-up Performance
8:55-9:00 Opening	Group Photo Session
9:00-9:15 Opening	Opening Session Master of Ceremony: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome remarks by the high-level official of Macao SAR. Opening remarks by the Executive Director of ITTO. Opening remarks by the Chairman of IPIM.
Morning Sessions 9:15-10:30	Keynote Address Moderator: TBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Development status of the global timber industry.</i> <i>Timber industry and sustainable development.</i> <i>Opportunities and challenges in the global timber industry transformation.</i>
10:30-10:40	Tea/Coffee Break
Morning Sessions 10:40-11:50	High Level Segment: Global Timber Market Recovery under the Unprecedented Great Changing Time <i>This session will involve dialogue between government and the industrial sector to jointly explore the main challenges and opportunities faced by the global timber sector in an unprecedented changing time and explore possible solutions to promote the recovery and prosperity of the timber market.</i> Moderator: Ms. Sheam Satkuru, ITTO Executive Director Panel Discussion (60m): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest ministers, leading entrepreneurs, head of international organizations, and renowned experts (6-8 panelists). Q&A (10m)
Morning Sessions 11:50-12:10	Achievements Release <i>Forum related achievements will be released.</i>
12:10-14:00	Lunch Break
Afternoon Sessions 14:00-15:20	Session I: Contributions of Timber Industry to Climate Change Mitigation and Economic & Social Development <i>This session will further define the role of timber industry in mitigating climate change, driving employment for residents, and promoting local economic and social development.</i> Moderator: TBC Presentations (30m)

	<p><i>The economic, social, and environmental benefits amid the development of global timber industry.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Timber industry development ≠ deforestation.</i> • <i>Forestry carbon sinks and the market development.</i> <p>Panel Discussion (45m):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representatives from government agencies, high-profile timber enterprises, industry and business associations, research institutions, etc. (6-8 panelists).</i> <p>Q&A (5m)</p>
<p>Afternoon Sessions 15:20-16:50</p>	<p>Session II: Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Supply Chains</p> <p><i>This session will focus on discussing the legal and sustainable issues of the global timber supply chains, so as to explore new paths for empowering the development of the timber industry through legal and sustainable supply chains, involving aspects such as laws and regulations, policy requirements, legality recognition, new technologies, incentive mechanisms, and third-party timber certification in different countries.</i></p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <p>Presentations (40m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The development trend of legal and sustainable timber supply chains.</i> • <i>Enterprise practices and experiences for establishing legal and sustainable timber supply chains.</i> • <i>Financial incentives for legal and sustainable timber supply chains.</i> • <i>The recovery of China's real estate market and its impact on legal and sustainable timber supply chains.</i> <p>Panel Discussion (45m):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representatives from government agencies, timber enterprises, financial institutions, certification organizations, etc. (6-8 panelists).</i> <p>Q&A (5m)</p>
<p>Afternoon Sessions 16:50-18:10</p>	<p>Session III: Global Cooperating and Sharing Platform for the Timber Industry</p> <p><i>This session will discuss the concerned issues that the global cooperation and sharing platform for the timber industry intends to address in the new global situation, so as to strengthen supply & demand cooperation and information sharing for the international timber industry, and jointly promote the recovery and sustainable development of the industry.</i></p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <p>Presentations (30m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The key challenges and difficulties of international cooperation in timber supply chains.</i> • <i>The timber industry calls for global cooperation and sharing platform.</i> • <i>Together towards the global cooperating and sharing platform: lessons learned from the GTI platform case.</i> <p>Panel Discussion (45m):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representatives from timber enterprises, business associations, research institutions, etc. (6-8 panelists)</i> <p>Q&A (5m)</p>
<p>Afternoon Sessions 18:10-18:20</p>	<p>Forum Wrap-up</p>
<p>Afternoon Sessions 18:20-18:30</p>	<p>Press Release</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representatives of ITTO, IPIM, GGSC, and related stakeholders</i>

Day 2 (Wed 22 Nov)	
Date	Events and Topics
Morning Sessions 9:00-11:30	Specialized Sub-forum 1: Timber Legality and Sustainability <i>Discussions will focus on timber legality and sustainability, and the detailed agenda needs to be further specified by the partner agencies as the organizer of the parallel forum.</i> Moderator: Ms. Sheam Satkuru, ITTO Executive Director Panel discussion: representatives from government agencies, international organizations, leading timber enterprises, industry and business associations, research institutions, etc.
	Specialized Sub-forum 2: Resources, Markets and Trade of Legal and Sustainable Timber <i>Discussions will focus on the sustainable development of global timber resources and the global legal and sustainable timber trade, and the detailed agenda needs to be further specified by the partner agencies as the organizer of the parallel forum.</i> Moderator: TBC Panel discussion: representatives from leading timber enterprises, industry and business associations, government agencies, international organizations, research institutions, etc.
	Specialized Sub-forum 3: Advanced Technology and Machinery for Timber Processing <i>Discussions will focus on advanced wood processing technology and machinery, and the detailed agenda needs to be further specified by the partner agencies as the organizer of the parallel forum.</i> Moderator: TBC Panel discussion: representatives from leading timber enterprises, industry and business associations, research institutions, etc.
	Specialized Sub-forum 4: Green Finance and Innovative Facilitating Measures for Green Supply Chains <i>Discussions will focus on all the possible measures to promote global legal and sustainable timber supply chains, including the green finance (e.g., “blockchain technology + green finance” mechanism), the subsidies, and other related measures. The detailed agenda needs to be further specified by the partner agencies as the organizer of the parallel forum.</i> Moderator: TBC Panel discussion: representatives from government agencies, international organizations, leading timber enterprises, industry and business associations, financial agencies, research institutions, etc.
	Signing Ceremony, Forum Initiative or Major Release <i>The release will focus on the contract signing, initiatives and major cooperation related to the topics of the specialized sub-forums.</i>
12:00-14:00	Lunch
Afternoon Sessions 14:00-16:30	A number of side events will be organized by request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed-door meetings for ministers, leading enterprises, and financial institutions • B2B matchings • Seminar on the women power of the timber industry • Other side events
Afternoon Sessions 16:30-17:00	Press Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives of ITTO, IPIM, GGSC, and other stakeholders
2 Days	Legal & Sustainable Timber Display <i>The exhibits mainly include raw timbers, floorboard, wooden doors, wood products, furniture, machinery, etc.</i>