

FCLP Governance Framework

19 June 2024

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Governance Overview

This document summarises the governance arrangements for the FCLP. It builds on the original governance framework sent to members in 2022 ahead of COP27, and subsequent revision by the Steering Committee in 2023 and 2024.

The structure and hierarchy of FCLP bodies is summarized in the diagram below.

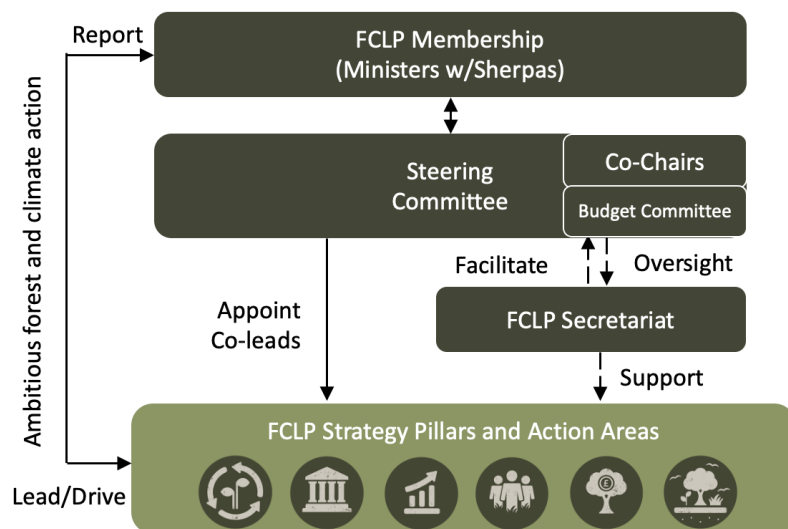


Figure 1 Governance structure

These governance arrangements are expected to evolve over time as the FCLP matures, based on further consultations with members and other stakeholders. This structure is intended to be as simple as possible while ensuring effective and transparent operation of the FCLP. The following Governance principles guide these and any future arrangements:

FCLP Governance Principles

Decision-making: The FCLP is an inclusive, transparent, and participatory space for countries with high ambition for forest and climate action, where groups of members can pursue outcomes without necessarily requiring consensus from all members.

Transparency: Decisions are taken in accordance with the provisions of this governance structure, composed of this governance framework and specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) prepared by the FCLP Secretariat and approved by the Steering Committee. These governance provisions will be shared with all FCLP members. Information on decisions, implementation of actions areas, and results will be made available to all FCLP members and other interested stakeholders, in a way as to enable effective follow up and contributions to the achievement of FCLP's goals, as well as member governments' national goals. The Secretariat will establish a member-only website with updated concept notes, workplans, timelines, and Steering Committee meeting summaries. The Secretariat will also host regular Sherpa level drop-in information-sharing sessions.

Accountability: Through the governance bodies under this framework, FCLP members, collectively and individually, take responsibility for taking and communicating their decisions. Decisions are reported on and explained as needed.

Inclusivity: FCLP's governance framework seeks to ensure that all member governments can: (a) have an equal voice in decision-making, either directly or through their input into bodies of this governance framework; and (b) be heard and considered in decision-making. This governance framework also seeks to ensure gender parity in all its bodies, and to mainstream gender on actions implemented under the scope of the FCLP. This governance framework is open to diverse voices of interested stakeholders and to receiving and discussing contributions aimed at reaching FCLP's goals. These diverse stakeholders include representatives of civil society organizations, private sector groups, representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and influential and diverse thinkers.

Participation: All members of the FCLP are encouraged to participate in this governance framework. FCLP places importance on being equitable, diverse, and balanced in its governance bodies, as well as ensuring that adequate and clear information is shared with interested new members and other stakeholders.

Efficiency: FCLP's governance framework will be implemented in as efficient a manner as possible, supported by a small, nimble and professional organization that values the views of members and supporters from different backgrounds, experience, and perspectives.

Governance Bodies

1. Members

FCLP Membership: the political body of the partnership of countries with high-ambition for forest and climate action to meet the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration. Membership requires representation at two levels, the Leader Delegate and the Sherpa Delegate.

- **Leader Delegate:** the political layer of the partnership is at the Ministerial or Envoy level. Delegates must be appointed by their country Leader and be participating with direct delegated decision-making authority.
- **Sherpa Delegate:** the working level of the partnership. Delegates must be appointed by their Leader Delegate and be participating with direct delegated decision-making authority.

Responsibilities of Members:

- Deliver domestic results in line with the FCLP's objectives and contribute to international efforts to do the same.
- Input to FCLP strategic objectives, policy priorities (Action Areas), and other critical issues (i.e. new membership, modalities to deploy support, actions to be framed within the partnership) through active engagement in FCLP meetings.
- Contribute directly to the implementation of FCLP strategic objectives and to at least one initiative, new or existing, under at least one FCLP Action Area.
- Provide strategic input on cutting-edge policy areas relevant to the FCLP.
- Attend and contribute to Annual Meetings and other relevant FCLP activities, including Ministerial meetings.
- Contribute to the FCLP Global Progress Report.
- Represent and advocate for the FCLP's work in other relevant forums.
- Serve as a link between the FCLP and related forest or forest and climate partnerships or coalitions, helping to facilitate a flow of information and identify opportunities to synergise and coordinate action.
- Relay information to their relevant government departments responsible for working group or initiative areas.
- Bring ideas for new, high impact initiatives to the wider membership, outlining why this work would contribute to the Mission of the FCLP and ensuring Ministerial ownership of the proposal.

Decision-making: FCLP Members are invited to put themselves forward to be part of the Steering Committee, when the Steering Committee is selected. This is based on a call for Expressions of Interest process, facilitated by the Co-Chairs. FCLP Members are then invited to approve Co-Chairs proposal for the new Steering Committee, with a 14 day no-objection period. Members will be asked to comment on and endorse the annual FCLP Strategy, through a 1 month comment and no-objection period. They will also be invited to comment on the Secretariat workplan to deliver the FCLP Strategy, again with a 1-month comment period.

Selection process and Composition: The FCLP comprises a high-ambition group of Member governments for forest and climate action, representing a range of regions, major forest areas, and centres of trade and finance, with at least half of the membership being developing countries. Members are expected to meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to working collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation globally through relevant domestic and international plans, policies and actions.
- Demonstrated commitment by developed countries to provide international climate finance, technical assistance or other policy support related to forests to developing countries on a voluntary basis; the same is welcome of all countries.
- Commitment to deliver the overarching Mission Statement and Objectives of the FCLP, including strong contribution to at least one Action Area or one initiative, and to actively participate in FCLP meetings.

Note: Membership does not require or imply participation or endorsement of all activities, nor financial support to the Secretariat.

New members should formally apply to join, as set out in the new member policy (Annex A).

Engagement modality: Ministers should meet annually at the UNFCCC COP, with provision for further meetings if the substance demands. Sherpas should also meet at least once per year.

2. Steering Committee

Steering Committee: The strategic and decision-making body of the FCLP, empowered by the membership to make decisions on behalf of all members. Steering Committee members are expected to lead or co-lead at least one FCLP working group or initiative. The Steering Committee operates at two levels:

- Steering Committee (Leader Delegate): providing regular oversight of political activities, including making key decisions on existing and new potential workstreams and policy proposals.
- Steering Committee (Sherpa Delegate): the operational decision-making body of the FCLP, including making decisions on work plans and budgets, and resource mobilisation. Also approves all Steering Committee meeting agendas and works to build coalitions and consensus (where appropriate) at the Leader Delegate level ahead of each Steering Committee meeting. A budget sub-committee, which can include other Secretariat funders, has budget oversight of the Secretariat.

Detailed Responsibilities:

Steering Committee (overall)

- Lead or Co-Lead at least one FCLP working group or initiative.
- Inform the FCLP membership of progress and actions and reflect the views of the membership.

Steering Committee (Leader Delegate)

- Agree the FCLP Strategy.
- Agree new working groups and initiatives as requested by members and appoint Leads or Co-Leads of those groups/initiatives.
- Agree the annual COP ambition events and deliverables.
- Represent the FCLP and provide political support to Leads/Co-leads where needed.
- Using collective political ambition to drive broad forest outcomes.
- Periodically review progress made on each policy initiative and working group, and hold Leads/Co-leads to account against their mandate.
- Engage with non-state actors to help identify new developments and build support for FCLP strategic objectives.

- Appoint a Sherpa, who will participate in Steering Committee Sherpa level meetings at least quarterly, and contribute to other work as needed.
- Lead resource mobilization for the FCLP Secretariat and initiatives.

Steering Committee (Sherpa Delegate)

- Input into the FCLP Strategy, for adoption by Members at the Leader Delegate level.
- Approve public-facing documents where relevant (e.g. public facing events, general reports).
- Provide guidance on the annual UNFCCC and CBD COP (and potentially other) ambition events and deliverables, for adoption by Members at the Leader Delegate level.
- Agree agendas for Ministerial-level meetings.
- Agree the governance of the FCLP.
- Oversee the Secretariat, including annual review of Secretariat workplan and budget as well as Secretariat staffing and performance.
- Engage with non-state actors to help identify new developments and build support for collective work.
- Ensure the FCLP Secretariat has sufficient resources to carry out the agreed workplan.

Decision-making: The decision-making process for the FCLP Steering Committee is by consensus. Consensus will be assumed after 10 days of no-objection for Sherpa decisions and positive affirmation of agreement or no objection for Ministerial decisions, with provision for additional facilitated support if consensus cannot be achieved.

Selection process and Composition: Six months before the end of the Steering Committee's term, the Co-Chairs will initiate the process to select the new Steering Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, by issuing a call for Expressions of Interest from the membership. Once members have expressed interest, the Co-Chairs will circulate the proposed Steering Committee composition to the FCLP Membership. The Co-Chairs will hear feedback on the proposal and revise the proposal at their discretion. The Co-Chairs will then seek final approval from the Membership on a no-objection basis. In addition, if during the Steering Committee term a member wishes to express their interest to be considered should vacancies arise, they can do so by writing to the Co-Chairs. Steering Committee members are appointed for a period of 3 years, with an option to serve multiple terms if desired. The Steering Committee should reflect the diversity of country contexts within the FCLP and ensuring at least 50% from developing countries.

Engagement modality: Ministers should meet at least once per year, ahead of the COP, with provision for further meetings if the substance demands. Sherpas should meet four times per year (quarterly), with at least two meetings in person. Meetings require at least 80% of Steering Committee members to be present.

3. Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee

Co-Chairs: two co-chairs (one representing Global South countries, one representing Global North countries), at both the Leader Delegate and Sherpa Delegate level are nominated by the Steering Committee countries to lead the Steering Committee and represent the FCLP in external engagements. Co-chairs are supported by the Secretariat and appointed for two years.

Responsibilities (in addition to Steering Committee responsibilities):

- Co-Chair Steering Committee meetings. This includes shaping meeting agendas by collecting agenda items from Steering Committee members who wish to bring an issue to the table

(for instance, a request for support in relation to one of the action areas/initiatives).

Members can prepare papers for the meetings, to be circulated by the Secretariat.

- Approving the minutes of the Steering Committee meetings, which will then be shared to the full membership by the Secretariat.
- Ensure adequate execution of Steering Committee decisions.
- Co-Chair All-member meetings.
- Provide an overview of progress at Annual Meetings (based on the Global Progress Report) and set out proposals for priorities of the FCLP and its initiatives.
- Represent the FCLP in relevant events and speaking opportunities, including representing the position of the Steering Committee.
- Secure the participation of the members in events and meetings (with the support of the Secretariat).
- Commission work from Leads or Co-Leads to support core FCLP planning (i.e. Annual Workplan).
- Lead resource mobilisation on behalf of the FCLP Secretariat.
- Appoint a senior official as sherpa and contact person for the Secretariat, and make available additional staff to support the Secretariat, initiatives and overall governance operations of the FCLP.
- Other functions as discussed and agreed by the members.

Decision-making: by mutual agreement between the two Co-Chairs.

Composition and Selection Criteria. The Co-Chairs should be one from the Global South and one from the Global North. Co-Chairs are appointed for two years. The Co-Chairs selection process is led by the outgoing Co-Chairs, with the support of the Secretariat, based on Expressions of Interest from the membership.

Engagement modalities. Ministers: chair one ministerial Steering Committee meeting per year, attend one all-member Ministerial (UNFCCC COP), other relevant external engagements, and social media. Sherpas: chair four Sherpa-level meetings per year and one all member meeting (mid-year), engage with the Secretariat on a weekly basis, and chair other FCLP meetings as required. There is provision for the Co-Chairs to deputise for each other if both cannot attend.

4. Budget Sub-Committee

Budget Sub-Committee: The Budget Sub-Committee of the Steering Committee oversees the Secretariat budget, workplan and operations. It is open to any Steering Committee member, plus the Secretariat host (UNOPS) and a normative UN Agency, as well as other Secretariat donors. It meets at least annually to approve the Secretariat budget and workplan (on a no objection basis), and quarterly as needed to review major budget revisions and implementation adjustments.

Detailed Responsibilities:

The Budget Sub-Committee provides operational oversight to the FCLP Secretariat, in particular with respect to the Secretariat's budget and workplan and implementation arrangements. It is specifically responsible for:

- Reviewing and approving (on a no-objection basis) the Secretariat budgets and workplans, budget revisions and substantive implementation arrangements, on an annual basis.

- Quarterly approvals of major deviations from these arrangements (defined as deviations of >20% by major budget lines).
- Reviewing donor contributions to the Secretariat, including the identity of the donor and proposed focus of the contribution. If any concerns are raised, these should then be referred to the FCLP Steering Committee Co-Chairs for decision.
- Reviewing FCLP Secretariat staffing, including capacities and delivery. If any concerns are raised, these should then be referred to the FCLP Steering Committee Co-Chairs for decision.

Decision-making: The decision-making process for the FCLP Budget Sub-Committee is by consensus. Consensus will be assumed after 10 business days are provided on a no-objection basis. A decisional meeting requires UNOPS and the UN agency with a relevant normative mandate (or their duly authorized proxy(ies)) and at least 80% of Steering Committee members (or their representatives) to be represented. It would be chaired by the FCLP Steering Committee Co-Chairs or their nominees.

Relationship to FCLP Steering Committee: The FCLP Budget Sub-Committee would approve a record of their decisions and recommendations, which is then forwarded to the FCLP Steering Committee for a decision on a no-objection basis. If the FCLP Steering Committee has concerns with the decisions made by the Budget Sub-Committee, it has the right to ask the Budget Sub-Committee (including UNOPS) to reconsider. Similarly, UNOPS has the right to ask the FCLP Steering Committee to reconsider if they have concerns with the decisions.

Composition: The Budget Sub-Committee has the following members:

- FCLP Steering Committee Co-Chair Sherpas (or their designates) to chair the meeting. The Co-Chair Sherpas can designate one of them, or their representative, to speak on their behalf and chair the meeting.
- All FCLP Steering Committee countries (at Sherpa level, or their designate). Groups of FCLP Steering Committee member countries may delegate one member to speak on their behalf.
- The UNOPS Executive Director, or his/her delegate, who shall participate as a non-voting, ex officio member of the Steering Committee
- A UN agency with a relevant normative mandate, in order to ensure that the Hosting Engagement upholds UN values, principles and goals as pertaining to the programmatic content. The UN agency representative shall be duly authorized by his/her agency to represent the agency as a full voting member of the Board/SC. If the UN agency representative is unable to attend, he/she must formally delegate an alternate to represent the UN agency.
- Other FCLP Member countries who are donors to the Secretariat of >\$100,000/year.

Engagement modality: The Budget Sub-Committee should meet at least once per year, in January or February, to review and approve the annual Secretariat workplan and budget. Thereafter it should meet quarterly, if needed, to approve changes of >20% to the Secretariat budget, by major budget lines (staff costs, travel and events, etc.). This includes if new contributions are received for the Secretariat, if that contribution increases any major budget line by >20%. All members of the Budget Sub-Committee, including ex officio members, shall be included in all formal communication to members of the Budget Sub-Committee. Budget Sub-Committee meetings may take the form of specific agenda items during the FCLP Steering Committee meeting, to which UNOPS, the UN Agency and other FCLP Members who are Secretariat donors, are invited. Meetings of the sub-committee may be held virtually.

5. Leads or Co-Leads

Lead or Co-Leads of working groups, initiatives or strategy pillars: The Steering Committee will appoint FCLP members to lead specific policy working groups (Action Areas), initiatives or strategy pillars, which are the primary FCLP delivery mechanisms. Leads or Co-leads have delegated responsibility, at ministerial level, for engaging with all interested FCLP members, non-members and non-state actors to develop and deliver policy actions. See Annexes B and C for further details.

Responsibilities:

- Provide strategic direction and set the ambition for a specific policy working group, initiative or strategy pillar.
- Determine workplan, including outcomes, activities and resourcing required, and work with the Secretariat and FCLP members and funders to ensure that sufficient resources are available.
- Agree a meeting rhythm that is acceptable to all co-leads and working group members.
- Effectively chair meetings and discussions.
- Engage their ministers to drive delivery of objectives.
- Engaging FCLP members, non-members and non-state actors, to develop and deliver policy objectives.
- Lead resource mobilisation for the working group or initiative.
- Assign one or more staff members (approximately 20% FTE) to lead the work of the group or initiative.
- Leads/Co-leads are required to seek approval from Steering Committee Co-Chairs (sherpas) for use of the FCLP brand, e.g. to organise public events, external publication of position papers, or letters sent on behalf of the FCLP.
- Decide who should be in the working group and invite them to participate.
- Facilitating the group to develop and agree the policy objectives, considering the views of participants.
- Agree papers and positions, and identifying where analysis and extra work needs to be commissioned to make progress.
- Regularly inform the Co-Chairs and Steering Committee on progress.
- Seek a renewed mandate from the Steering Committee where significant changes in strategic direction are needed.
- Communicate externally about the work of the group.
- Ensure transparency with the broader FCLP membership through regular updates or calls.

Decision-making: by agreement between the Co-Leads.

Composition and Selection Criteria. FCLP members can submit an expression of interest to the Secretariat if they wish to become a Co-lead, which is then submitted for approval by the Steering Committee. Each working group or initiative are expected to have at least two co-leads to proceed, although in some cases there may be only a single leading country appointed. All of the co-leads cannot be from only global north countries except in the case where the proposal is only relevant to domestic issues within the global north countries. There is no term limit for Lead/Co-leads, who may continue in their leadership position while sufficient interest in the group exists. Working groups can include non-members and non-state actors, at the discretion of the Lead/Co-leads. However, the leadership and decision making will remain with FCLP members and the co-leads.

Engagement modalities. Ministers: chair working group or initiative ministerial meetings; carry out meetings or activities to advance work priorities. Sherpas: provide sufficient (0.2 FTE) time and resource to lead the initiative, approve workplans and resourcing plans, agree policy documents, regularly engage with the Secretariat, and chair working group meetings and external meetings as required.

6. FCLP Secretariat

FCLP Secretariat: a small, delivery-focused entity, accountable to the FCLP Membership through the Steering Committee. The Secretariat supports the FCLP's government-government approach to delivery and draws on a range of resources, including professionals assigned from member governments, a limited number of expert consultants, and dedicated support on finance and administration.

Responsibilities:

- *Strategy:* Supporting effective development of the FCLP's strategy, under the guidance of the Co-chairs and the Steering committee and supporting delivery of that strategy via coordination of collective ambition, action areas, policy initiatives and other relevant activities.
- *Governance and decision-making:* Ensuring that FCLP governance functions appropriately and decisions are made in accordance with the agreed procedures detailed in this governance document.
- *Country engagement and diplomacy:* Engaging with the FCLP member countries, understanding their priorities and objectives for the FCLP, and supporting the Co-Chairs and Steering committee to consult with the membership on FCLP strategy.
- Providing support to Action Areas and initiatives, reporting to and under the leadership of Lead/Co-lead countries, including through (i) directly facilitating delivery; (ii) supporting the design and initial establishment of a working group or initiative; (iii) establishing new partnerships with external agencies/implementers to deliver; and (iv) supporting the design and establishment of governance and accountability mechanisms for working groups and initiatives. To fulfil these functions the Secretariat may provide facilitation support; technical assistance; engagement with FCLP members, non-members and non-government partners; hold meetings and events, and other activities as determined by Lead/Co-lead countries.
- *Monitoring and assessment of progress:* including development of the FCLP accountability framework and commissioning the Global Progress Report, which includes an independent assessment of impact and current challenges.
- *Engaging with non-member countries and non-state actors:* Working closely with non-FCLP member governments and non-state actors such as civil society, private sector and representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, to support design and delivery of the FCLP strategies.
- *High-level events and events management:* Engaging COP Presidencies, managing regular meetings and FCLP events, including ambition events and mid-year meetings.
- *Communications:* Ensuring that the outcomes of FCLP and member countries are appropriately communicated and widely understood and known.
- *Operations:* Effectively managing the FCLP budget and staffing.

Secretariat Accountability and Decision-Making. The Secretariat is responsible to:

- Steering Committee: for Strategy, governance and resource mobilization, with day-to-day oversight by Co-Chairs.
 - Budget sub-committee (which includes SC members and other donors): for Budget, resourcing and annual workplans.
- Leads/Co-leads: policy working group and initiative workplans, strategies, papers, outputs and resourcing, subject to the overall approved annual workplan.

Composition and Selection Criteria. The Secretariat will consist of a team, including professionals assigned by Member governments and a small number of external consultants and support staff. Members are invited to propose professionals or recommend profiles for specific roles. Additional financial support will be available for staff assigned from developing countries. Roles not filled by member governments will be contracted externally, including policy expertise and core functions (e.g. programme management, events, logistics, communications), with staff selection by the Secretariat Director ensuring that the Secretariat is appropriately diverse. The Secretariat Director is appointed by the Steering Committee, and Lead/Co-Lead countries may be involved in the selection of policy experts for their policy area, with ultimate decision-making over Secretariat staff sitting with the Director.

Decision Making and Ways of Working Summary

1. Review of Decision-Making

Decision	Decision-maker
FCLP (SC) meeting agenda	Co-Chairs
FCLP (SC) meeting papers	Co-Chairs
FCLP (SC) meeting minutes	Co-Chairs
FCLP correspondence from Co-Chairs	Co-Chairs
Appoint Co-leads	Steering Committee
SC member appointment	Members
FCLP (all-member) meeting agenda	Co-Chairs
FCLP (all-member) meeting papers	Co-Chairs
FCLP (all-member) meeting minutes	Co-Chairs
Secretariat Budget	Steering Committee
Secretariat Budget performance	Steering Committee
Secretariat workplan	Steering Committee
Secretariat performance	Steering Committee
New FCLP member appointment	Steering Committee
Co-chair appointment	Steering Committee
FCLP strategy	Members
Start FCLP work on initiative	Steering Committee
Review FCLP initiatives	Steering Committee
Stop FCLP work on initiative	Steering Committee
FCLP Brand use	Co-Chairs
FCLP governance	Steering Committee
FCLP press releases	Steering Committee
FCLP annual report	Steering Committee
FCLP event/speakers	Co-Chairs
Working Group/Initiative workplan	Co-leads
Working Group/Initiative events	Co-leads
Working Group/Initiative press releases	Co-leads
Working Group/Initiative partners	Co-leads

Decision	Decision-maker
Manage FCLP Secretariat budget and staff	Secretariat

2. Ways of Working

Who	Issue	Guidance
Co-Chairs	Secretariat updates	Weekly written email, as needed, with proposals for decisions.
	Co-Chair meeting	Optional, weekly
	Meeting timing	Co-chairs decide, based on Secretariat advice.
	Meeting agenda	Co-Chairs decide, based on Secretariat advice.
	Meeting materials	Paper or slidedeck, with decisions
	Meeting quorum	Both Co-Chairs
	Decisions	By positive affirmation to Secretariat within 2 days
Steering Committee (Sherpas)	Secretariat updates	Monthly written email, with decisions.
	Steering Committee Sherpa meeting	Quarterly review meeting, chaired by Co-Chairs
	Meeting timing	Co-chairs decide, based on Secretariat advice, six weeks notification needed.
	Meeting agenda	Co-Chairs decide, based on Secretariat advice.
	Meeting materials	Paper or slidedeck, with agenda and decisions, circulated 2 weeks in advance.
	Meeting quorum	80% of members
	Decisions	By no-objection within 10 days.
Steering Committee (Ministers)	Steering Committee Ministerial meeting	Once per year, chaired by Co-Chairs
	Meeting timing	Co-chairs decide, based on Secretariat advice, six weeks notification needed.
	Meeting agenda	Co-Chairs decide, based on Secretariat advice.
	Meeting materials	Paper or slidedeck, with agenda and decisions, circulated 2 weeks in advance.
	Meeting quorum	80% of members
	Decisions	By positive affirmation of agreement or no-objection.
Members	Secretariat updates	Monthly email, no decisions.
	Meetings	Mid-year and at COP.
	Meeting timing	Co-chairs decide, based on Secretariat advice, six weeks notification needed.
	Meeting agenda	Co-Chairs decide, based on Secretariat advice.
	Meeting materials	Paper or slidedeck, with agenda, circulated 1 week in advance.
	Meeting quorum	None
	Feedback and Decisions	Within specified timeframe (usually 2 weeks or 1 month).

Who	Issue	Guidance
Policy Working Groups	Updates	Regular email, by Co-leads
	Meetings	Decided and led by Co-leads
	Meeting timing	Virtual call, Co-leads decide, 1 week notification needed. In person meetings, Co-leads decide, based on Secretariat advice, six weeks notification needed.
	Meeting agenda	Co-leads decide.
	Meeting materials	Virtual calls: Paper or slidedeck, with agenda and questions, circulated 3 days in advance. In person meetings: Paper or slidedeck, with agenda and questions, circulated 1 week in advance.
	Meeting quorum	None
	Feedback	Within specified timeframe (usually 1-2 weeks).

Annex A: New Member Policy

Any country who wishes to be a member of the FCLP is welcome to apply, where they fulfil the criteria for entry.

Criteria for Entry:

1. Countries should be endorsers of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use and committed to deliver on the declaration's goals.
2. Countries should be able to demonstrate their commitment to the GLD through relevant domestic and international plans, policies and actions (e.g., through their NDCs, national policies and strategies).
3. Countries should be committed to actively participate in one or more FCLP initiatives or action areas, and to work collectively with others to scale action to deliver on the GLD.
4. Developed countries should be committed to providing international forest-relevant finance, technical assistance or other policy support to developing countries.
5. All countries should be committed to taking action at a national and international level in support of the GLD goals, including enhancing policies and actions, and ambition as expressed in political commitments.

Membership does not require or imply participation in or endorsement of all activities or linked initiatives of the FCLP. However all members are required to play an active role, including making a strong contribution to at least one working group or initiative and to be committed to delivering on the GLD. Within this, members will determine for themselves which detailed aspects of the FCLP's work they choose to engage in and help drive forward.

Members are expected to attend and actively contribute to Annual Meetings, Partnership working groups or initiatives, and other relevant activities of the FCLP, and to represent and advocate for the FCLP's work in other relevant forums. Members will identify senior Ministers or officials to engage in these activities, as appropriate.

The FCLP Steering Committee will take decisions on capping, expanding, or reducing the number of FCLP members on an annual basis.

Process for becoming an FCLP member:

There are three tracks for becoming an FCLP member:

- I. Invitation from the FCLP Co-chairs
 - a. Direct invitations from FCLP co-chairs must be approved by Steering Committee
 - b. Any country that is invited by the FCLP Co-chairs has already been determined to meet the relevant criteria
 - c. The prospective member can respond to the invitation directly (in writing) to confirm interest and commitment
- II. Proposal from an existing FCLP member
 - a. All proposals should be made to the Steering Committee
 - b. Submissions should include the same information as a direct request from an interested country
 - c. Submissions will be considered by the Steering Committee in accordance with the criteria outlined above
- III. Direct request from an interested country

Steps:

1. Submit an expression of interest on joining the Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership to both the Secretariat and the Co-Chairs. Submissions should include:
 - a. Letter of support from a relevant Minister/Climate Envoy for your country (i.e., the Minister responsible for Forests and/or Environment or Climate Envoy) and include a working-level main focal point for the FCLP.
 - b. A description of how the prospective member is working to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation domestically and globally.
 - c. An indication of the action areas or new efforts the prospective member will support or lead.
 - d. For developed countries, a commitment (or evidence of an existing commitment) to provide international finance, technical assistance or other policy support to developing countries.
2. The FCLP Secretariat will then invite the prospective member to discuss FCLP membership further, including engagement in existing and new initiatives and policy priorities.
3. The decision will be taken by the FCLP Steering Committee, taking into consideration above mentioned criteria.
4. The acceptance of new FCLP members will be communicated to all existing members by the Secretariat.
5. The Secretariat will publish a press release announcing the new member.

Annex B: FCLP Policy Leadership and Modalities of Working

Leadership

FCLP leadership and decision-making on the strategic pillars and policy work is as follows:

- Strategy Pillar 1 will be led by the Co-Chairs of the partnership who will report to the steering committee.
- Strategy Pillar 2 will be delegated to Leads/Co-Leads for each Action Area or initiative, or to the Co-Chairs where no Leads/Co-Leads have been yet appointed.
 - Action Area 1 initiative on “Greening Construction with Sustainable Wood” is led by Canada, France and Kenya.
 - Action Area 1 working group on “Advancing action on deforestation-free commodity production and supply chains” is currently being convened.
 - Action Area 2 initiative on “Country Packages for Forests, Nature and Climate” is led by Singapore and USA.
 - Action Area 2 working group on “Debt instruments and approaches for Nature” is led by Colombia and USA.
 - Other work under Action Area 2 on finance for forests is currently inactive.
 - Action Area 3 on “shifting the private finance system” is currently inactive.
 - Action Area 4 initiative on “supporting indigenous peoples and local communities” is led by Norway and Peru.
 - Action Area 5 initiative on “strengthening and scaling carbon markets for forests” is led by Ghana, Guyana and the UK.
 - Action Area 6 on “building international partnerships and incentives to preserve high integrity forests” is currently inactive.
- Strategy Pillar 3 will be initially led by the Co-Chairs of the partnership who will report to the steering committee, until Leads/Co-Leads are established, with the exception of “Country Packages for Forests, Nature and Climate” which is led by Singapore and USA.
- Strategy Pillar 4 will be led by members of the Steering Committee and decisions will be made through the Steering Committee.

Annex C: FCLP Policy Modalities of Working

FCLP Working Groups

Description: Members might wish to convene around a specific issue linked to one of the Action Areas or Strategic Pillar, for the purposes of exploring the issue, building understanding and identifying priorities, without necessarily having a pre-defined objective or goal. Leads/Co-Leads for the Working Group are decided by the Steering Committee, based upon an expression of interest from the member group. Where deemed appropriate, the Co-Chairs may ask the Secretariat to convene a working group on an important issue even if Leads/Co-Leads do not exist, subject to Steering Committee approval. Working Groups may remain as discussion groups for as long as member interest remains or may become or launch initiatives over time.

Establishment: A proposal should be put to the Steering Committee in writing, for approval.

Decision-making: by Leads/Co-Leads, or the Co-Chairs where no Leads/Co-Leads exist.

Resourcing: The FCLP Secretariat will support the working group with staff time and operational costs, subject to the agreed FCLP Secretariat budget.

Example: Colombia and USA have convened discussions around the potential of debt-related financial instruments to deliver for forests and nature outcomes.

FCLP Initiatives

Description. FCLP Initiatives have formally agreed objectives and appointed Leads/Co-leads, agreed with the Steering Committee, whose Ministers have agreed to take on a leadership role. Leads/Co-leads have delegated authority by the Steering Committee to convene members and other interested parties (non-members, non-state actors) to achieve the agreed objectives. Members are given the opportunity to join and contribute to initiatives. Initiatives can either focus on the whole Action Area or Strategic Pillar, or where appropriate, elements of it. The FCLP Secretariat supports initiatives with staff time and operational costs, subject to the agreed FCLP Secretariat budget.

Establishment: A proposal should be put to the Steering Committee in writing, for approval.

Decision-making: by Leads/Co-Leads.

Resourcing: The FCLP Secretariat will support the initiative with staff time and operational costs, subject to the agreed FCLP Secretariat budget.

Example: Canada, France and Kenya lead an initiative on Greening Construction with Sustainable Wood. 17 members are actively engaged. They have developed a small number of specific workstreams comprising subsets of members, non-member governments and non-state actors. There are regular meetings aimed at advancing the agenda.

Amplifying Existing or New Coalitions or Initiatives

Description: FCLP members recognise that the work of existing or new coalitions may be very relevant to deliver on the Glasgow Leaders Declaration and members' ambition on forests. These coalitions or initiatives may include or be led by non-state actors or non-members. Working with or supporting these coalitions, is one way to deliver FCLP objectives. Such initiatives are not branded as "FCLP" and are not required to be supported by the Secretariat. They may be recognised in FCLP reports or communications, invited to profile their work at FCLP events, and to engage with or work with formal FCLP Working Groups and Initiatives.

Decision-making: Leads/Co-Leads of strategic pillars, working groups or initiatives may choose to recognise the work of other initiatives and coalitions, and decide to recognise that work and/or invite them to collaborate with the FCLP.

Example: The Jurisdictional Technical Assistance Partnership was launched by Conservation International, Climate, Law and Policy; Environmental Defense Fund; Wildlife Conservation Society; and, Winrock Internationals' Ecosystem Services Unit at COP28. The JTAP partners brought the concept to FCLP members for input and requested that FCLP members support and advise and scrutinise the work of JTAP to ensure that it is delivering for tropical forest countries.