

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION NOTE**

### **United Nations Forum on Forests: Meeting for Promoting North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Forest Management**

#### **Summary:**

The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS), in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization, will organize a 2-day brainstorming meeting in Yokohama, Japan from 19 to 20 December 2009. The purpose of the meeting is to identify key elements for a strategy to promote South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable forest management (SFM) and implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forests Instrument).

While focusing on existing cooperative approaches, the meeting will examine factors of success, challenges requiring further action and options of support by the international community to promote South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation on SFM.

#### **Background:**

The 8<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFF adopted a resolution requesting the Secretariat to develop a strategy, in consultation with Member States, to promote South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation on SFM. The resolution further identified options of support by the international community, while noting that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Objective:**

In responding to ECOSOC resolution 2006/49 and UNFF8 resolution 8/1 the UNFF Secretariat convenes, in collaboration with ITTO, a brainstorming meeting in Yokohama, Japan and to invite selected participants to a first consultation on South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation on SFM.

The meeting will aim to first identify basic elements for a strategy on SFM. It will initiate discussions on and an understanding of the fundamental building blocks for any type of cooperation on forests. The second part of the meeting will set greater attention on specific aspects for North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, looking at existing cooperation and aspects of the cooperation that need improvement. The meeting should provide a solid input to developing a strategy stipulated by the ECOSOC resolution. The context of such a cooperation strategy should include the Forest Instrument and the Global Objectives on Forests.

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<sup>1</sup> UNFF Resolution 8/1 para 4i

**Outputs and Achievements:**

The expected outputs of the meeting will be:

- Identify
  - Key elements of a strategy for cooperation on SFM
  - Constraints and opportunities for cooperation on SFM
  - Areas requiring further support/focus
- Review
  - Of existing cooperation on SFM
  - Experiences from regions and other sectors
- Follow up actions required
- A report to guide the development of a strategy to promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on SFM by the UNFF Secretariat.

**Target group (participants):**

Participants would be from Developing countries, the Donor countries, Regional Secretariats/cooperation organizations, CPF, Major Groups

**Venue:**

International Tropical Timber Organization, Hotel Pacifico, 5th Floor, Pacifico-Yokohama, Japan

