

**Statement of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia,
Mr. Martins Roze
on the occasion of the adoption by the General Assembly of the
Resolution Report of the 7th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests,**

Mr. President, Excellence's, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor and pleasure for me to address High-Level Special Event "**The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests – Heralding a New Era in Implementing Sustainable Forest Management**".

Fifteen years have passed since Rio and this was the time needed for international community to realize, that something more is needed to stop global loss of forest cover and forest degradation. We have come from "statement" to "instrument".

Today we are celebrating remarkable step in development towards achieving sustainable forest management globally.

Instrument is the first of its kind at global level, and reflects international commitment to promote implementation of sustainable forest management through a new, more holistic approach. It recognizes forests' contribution to mitigation of climate change, eradication of poverty, and protection of biological diversity.

It incorporates basic components of sustainability - economic, environmental and social.

At the same time Forest policy is challenged from other policy areas and has become a really cross-sectoral issue and is bringing some basic policy issues together:

- Sustainable **land use**;
- Balanced and compatible development of some related policies such as **Forest** policy, **Energy** policy, **Agriculture** policy;
- **Environment and Nature** protection policies;
- Sustainable General **Economic and Social** development and overall - reaching Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President, Excellence's, Ladies and Gentlemen

Elaboration and adoption of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests and the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for 2007-2015 was possible thanks to cooperation and good will from member states and dedication and input from CPF member organisations.

I believe that the same preconditions are critical for implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests and for accomplishment of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for 2007-2015.

Fifteen years have passed since Rio and this was the time when Eastern European countries have developed democracy and changed their economies from centrally planned to market oriented. The same applies to forest sector and we are ready to share our experience. We believe, that human resource development challenge is the major one to address knowledge related technology and financial issues.

Finally Mr. President,

Let me thank UNFF Seventh Bureau and its chairman for their proactive and skilful preparations and leadership of the session.

Also I would like to thank UNFF secretariat and Mr. Pekka Patosaari for their dedication and professionalism.

Now we have Instrument – let's use it.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.