Dear Ambassador,

I wish to inform you that the third meeting of the Bureau of the tenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF10 Bureau) was held on 28 March 2012 in New York. During this meeting, UNFF10 Bureau took a number of important decisions in regard to preparations of the upcoming session of UNFF10 in Istanbul, Turkey in April 2013 as well as the intersessional activities on forest financing. I would like to draw your kind attention to the following two very important decisions:

1- Extension of the deadline for substantive submission on forest finance to 30 April 2012.

2- Solicit views from Member States of the Forum on the key issues that should be considered by ECOSOC and GA in the post-2015 agenda by 30 September 2012.

Background

You are no doubt aware that the UNFF9 Resolution on Forest for People requested Member States to transmit their substantive submissions on forest financing to the UNFF secretariat by 1 March 2012. This was communicated by the UNFF Secretariat to Missions in New York by a Note Verbale Ref. 11/247. In light of a number of requests from Member States to extend the above-mentioned deadline, I would like to inform you that the UNFF10 Bureau decided to extend the deadline of 1 March 2012 to 30 April 2012. In this context, it would be appreciated if this information could be communicated to the respective UNFF National Focal Point in your country. We hope this extension would result in receiving more substantive inputs from Member States and would very appreciate your facilitation of this with your country.

In his recent letter to the UNFF10 Bureau, the President of the Economic and Social Council has requested the views of Member States of the Forum on the key issues that should find their place in the post-2015 agenda. It is
expected that the contributions by the ECOSOC Functional Commission, including from UNFF, will be compiled into a report and discussed at a meeting of the ECOSOC in 2013. The input provided by the Council’s subsidiary bodies will form the core of its contributions to the General Assembly’s consideration of the post-2015 agenda at a special event during its 68th session in 2013.

Noting the significance of this decision in the context of the intergovernmental forest policy process, the UNFF10 Bureau decided to solicit views and input from Member States of the Forum on this important and crucial issue. In this regard, it would be appreciated if the views and input of your country could be provided to the Chair of the UNFF Bureau, with a copy to the UNFF Secretariat, at the latest by 30 September 2012. After receiving all countries input, the UNFF10 Bureau will compile, synthesize and present a final report to the ECOSOC President before the end of the year. I would appreciate the submissions could be sent to:

Mr. Mario Ruales Carranza  
Chair of the UNFF10 Bureau  
E-mail: mrualesec@gmail.com, mruales@ministeriopatrimonio.gob.ec

CC:  
Ms Jan L. McAlpine  
Director, United Nations Forum on Forests  
Email: unff@un.org

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mario Ruales Carranza  
Chair of the UNFF10 Bureau

To: All Permanent Missions in New York