

**BRAINSTORMING MEETING ON
PROMOTING NORTH-SOUTH, SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR
COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

This is the report of the two-day brainstorming meeting organised by the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization aimed at identifying basic elements for a strategy on North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on SFM, held in Yokohama from 19 to 20 December 2009.

1.2 Background

ECOSOC resolution 2006/49 and resolution 8/1 of the eighth session held on 27 April 2007 and from 20 April to 1 May 2009 the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) requested the secretariat of the Forum to develop a strategy, in consultation with Member States, for consideration by the Forum at its ninth session, to promote North-South as well as South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, on sustainable forest management, which also identifies 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. The meeting should provide a solid input to developing a strategy stipulated by the above resolution. The context of such a cooperation strategy should include the Forest Instrument and the Global Objectives on Forests.

Twenty three participants from 15 countries and four international and national organisations participated in the brainstorming meeting (Attachment 1).

2. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2.1 Election of Officers

Dr. Ben N. Donkor, Ghana Forestry Commission, Ghana, and Mr. A. R. Madula, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa, were elected Chairperson and Rapporteur for the meeting respectively.

2.1 Mr Amha bin Buang, Assistant Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), welcomed the participants on behalf of the Executive Director Mr Emmanuel Ze Meka. He noted that the meeting marked another milestone in the relationship between the two bodies and recognised it as part of the cooperation of members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), established specifically to support the UNFF. He further elaborated on the support provided by ITTO to the UNFF since its inception. He also emphasised the need for collective action in addressing the problems and challenges of forests (Refer to statement in Attachment 2).

2.2 Dr Junko Shimura, Programme Officer, made a statement on behalf of Mr Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). She highlighted a similar exercise undertaken by CBD and sought collaboration with UNFF in the proposed work (Refer to statement in Attachment 3).

2.3 Mr. Alhassan Attah, on behalf of the Director and Head of the UNFF Secretariat Ms Jan McAlpine, welcomed the participants. He explained the rationale and objectives of the meeting. He stressed that any strategy for promoting North-South, South-South and triangular

cooperation should take into account the 360° view of forests. (Refer statement in Attachment 4).

- 2.4 Mr. Francois Ekoko, UNDP Regional Coordinator for South-South Cooperation in Africa shared with the participants, experiences and lessons learnt on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in areas of agriculture and food security, for example, New Rice for Africa (NERICA) and broad support to development India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Development Initiative. He pointed out some elements used in those cases that could be considered for the development of a strategy for North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Forest Management.

3. KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES ON NORTH-SOUTH, SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION ON SFM

- 3.1 The meeting was structured as follows:

- A presentation of the background paper by the consultant;
- General discussion;
- Presentation of Country and Regional experiences;
- Participants forming a working group for detailed discussions; and
- Adoption of the outline of the draft report in plenary.

- 3.2 Mr. Don Wijewardana (UNFFS Consultant) made a presentation on the key challenges and opportunities for North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on SFM (See attachment 5). The presentation highlighted the background to cooperation within the UN sustainable forest management initiatives since the adoption of the Forest Principles in 1992. Analyzing reports emanating from different fora established to promote SFM he presented a list of specific areas often recommended for promotion under cooperation. The presentation further highlighted the challenges to developing a strategy to promote cooperation which he indicated had been exacerbated by the current economic crisis. These included:

- The general lack of political commitment for SFM;
- Weak demand for ODA in support of SFM by recipient countries;
- Paucity of finance for SFM;
- Divergence of views on the conceptual framework for South-South cooperation in the international development architecture.

The consultant drew participant's attention to the opportunity provided by the renewed interest in the role of forests in addressing issues related to climate change.

Finally, the Consultant invited participants to examine amongst others:

- The basic building blocks for cooperation on SFM;
- If there are any particular institutional arrangements between countries that would improve the likelihood of success for cooperation;
- What the essentials for cooperation are;
- What elements should be considered for a strategy on cooperation;
- The different types of cooperation in the context of SFM, Non Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI)-Forest Instrument and the Global Objectives on Forests (GOF).

- 3.3 The presentation was followed by a discussion wherein delegates highlighted their experiences regarding North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation. A number of countries and organizations made presentations. The following are the key issues that emerged from the discussions:

Type of Cooperation: The presentations distinguished between the three different types of cooperation, namely:

- i. North-South: Cooperation between developed and developing countries.
- ii. South-South: Cooperation between developing countries.
- iii. Triangular: Cooperation involving a combination of more than one of either.

The participants recognized the need to link any Strategy for promoting North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation with the NLBI and the Four Global Objectives on Forests.

The main objectives were (re-) emphasized:

- The main purpose of the NLBI is to strengthen **political commitment** and action at all levels to implement effectively sustainable management of all types of forests and
- To achieve the shared **global objectives** on forests;
- To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed **development goals** including Millennium Development Goals; and
- To provide a **framework for national action** and international cooperation.
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4. ELEMENTS OF A STRATEGY ON NORTH-SOUTH, SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION ON SFM

- 4.1 Most member states indicated that there are bilateral and multilateral relations between and amongst countries mainly created to pursue national and regional interests. These bilateral and multilateral cooperation arrangements have in most instances been the basis for sub-regional, regional and (to some extent) international collaborations and partnership. In this regard, the ASEAN, COMIFAC and SADC initiatives were highlighted. These regional and sub-regional institutions have thus far played a critical role in facilitating discussions and sharing experiences on SFM.
- 4.2 It was also pointed out that although there was cooperation within sub-regional and regional organization, there appeared to be limited or no collaboration between different regional and sub-regional groupings, for example, between COMIFAC and SADC, between COMIFAC and ASEAN, etc.

Challenges and opportunities

- 4.3 The group reflected on new and emerging challenges and opportunities in the forest discourse as in considering challenges and opportunities for cooperation. The following were highlighted as some of the challenges and/or constraints hampering cooperation. (See appendix 1 for details).
 - Lack of reliable data and recording of experiences;
 - Accumulate information and experiences;
 - Lack of adequate financing;
 - Certification of carbon: data collection;
 - Governance, including Illegal logging;
 - Inadequate participation of stakeholders;
 - Lack of inclusiveness;
 - Focus on projects rather than programmes;
 - Cultural and language barriers;
 - Geo-political dynamics;
 - Lack of awareness and enabling environment;
 - Institutional weakness / changes in recipient country and challenges for agencies involved (particularly government);

- Lack of coordination amongst donors;
- Lack of political commitment;
- Low demand for ODA for forestry;
- Technology transfer (especially related to value addition);
- Bureaucracy (high transaction costs);
- Lack of needs assessment;
- Lack of awareness and promotion of projects / initiatives and / or opportunities;
- Current economic environment; and
- Divergence of views on SSC.

5. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The following were identified by participants as areas important for SFM that could be promoted through cooperation. The rationale for selecting these is that they have been recurrent themes for international cooperation in ECOSOC and UNFF resolutions, expert meetings, country reports as well as IPF/IFF proposals for action. See appendix 2 for details.

5.1 Capacity Building (including governance)

- a. Reforming and updating legislative and policy frameworks (in particular encompassing SFM).
- b. Effective means of implementation.
- c. Improve application of Criteria and Indicator Processes.

5.2 Political Commitment

- a. Creating political commitment among selected like-minded countries.
- b. Addressing low demand for ODA from recipient countries and coordinating with other sectors of forestry.
- c. Incorporating forestry within national planning strategy.
- d. Expanding the basis of cooperation by involving non-traditional donors (south-south cooperation) and private sector.

5.3 Research and Technology

- a. Develop forest information management systems based on modern technology.
- b. Monitoring and assessment technologies (remote sensing, GIS, early warning systems).
- c. More efficient wood processing and utilisation (including energy efficient).
- d. Socially and environmentally sound technology.
- e. Bio-energy production.
- f. Biotechnology development (including non-wood products).
- g. Forestry information systems (one-stop shops).

5.4 Education and Training

- a. Promoting education and technical training encompassing SFM.

5.5 Awareness

- a. Outreach programmes for women.
- b. Awareness of SFM using modern techniques.

5.6 Illegal Logging

- a. Developing and promoting new timber tracking technologies.
- b. Market opportunities for legal and sustainably managed timber.

5.7 Ways to Address Deforestation

- a. Simultaneous efforts to combat illegal practices promote plantations and reduced hazards such as forest fires.

5.8 Emerging Issues

- a. Familiarizing countries with impact of decisions at Climate Change meetings.
- b. Carbon trading, REDD and other related matters.
- c.

5.9 Bilateral and multilateral relations were seen as the basic platforms used by governments to carry out their cooperation. Exchanges and cooperation happened at various levels, sub-regional, regional, inter-regional. It was however noted that more cooperation between the regions (inter-regional) was needed as body of experience and lessons learnt is available in various regions of the South. While noting the valuable role played by some CPF members in promoting cooperation at various levels participants also noted the role of FAO Regional (Forestry) Commissions as being important mechanism for fostering regional cooperation.

6. MECHANISMS

As possible mechanisms participants identified the following: (See appendix 3 for details)

- Disseminate priority areas for member states;
- Create database of countries needs;
- UNFF should encourage member states to initiate programmes drawn from the database;
- Create an advisory unit;
- Encourage member states to discuss and agree;
- Analytical work to share existing methodologies;
- Need to identify peculiarities;
- Need to streamline their procedures;
- Creation/reinforcement of inter-regional mechanisms/facilities;
- Facilitate cross-sectoral communication at national and regional levels to ensure the governmental endorsement on the proposals on SFM from multi-stakeholders can be made in timely manner;
- New and additional resources should be provided;
- Mechanism in UNFF dedicated to implementation of the NLBI;
- Look at innovative ways of finding resources (tax on climate)/link with climate change;
- Come up with good practices; and
- Regional and inter-regional mechanisms (pt 3 from suggestions for summary discussions):
 - Joint training programmes
 - Exchange of experts
 - Knowledge sharing
 - Networks
 - Communities exchange
 - Inter-regional mechanism

- International mechanism
- Joint research initiatives and activities
- Resource/additional resource mobilization
- Consultations and harmonization of positions for major conferences
- Platform

While means of Implementation were considered very important participants recognised that they were being considered under UNFF facilitative process.

7. NEXT STEPS/ ROADMAP

- 7.1 The meeting further discussed the process towards finalization of the ‘Strategy for North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on SFM’ - taking into account the time frames for ensuring that the official document is ready for UNFF-9 (Jan / Feb 2011). It was emphasised that the process has to be open and transparent and the need for further engagement after the first consultative (Yokohama brainstorming) meeting. To this end, it was suggested that a draft strategy could be circulated to member states for further comment and / or inputs.
- 7.2 It was further suggested that a set questionnaire could also be prepared to solicit inputs and comments. However, some delegates cautioned against this approach as experience has shown that the level of response – especially drawing from experience with submission of voluntary reports to UNFF – has been unsatisfactory.
- 7.3 It was agreed that an expert group could be convened prior to mid June 2010 to progress the issue further taking into account the work that would be undertaken through UNFF Means of implementation/Facilitative process considering the potential links between the strategy and resources. Composition of the group should include key stakeholders with broad participation.

7.4

8 PROPOSED STRATEGY

The meeting agreed on the following structure and elements for the proposed strategy for promoting North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation for SFM:

1. Introduction
 - a) Purpose of the exercise
 - b) Background
2. Objective
3. The context/situation analysis
 - a) Types of cooperation
 - b) Progress since UNCED
 - c) Role of the special unit for SSC at UNDP
 - d) Reasons for renewed focus
4. Challenges and opportunities
 - a) Key Challenges
 - Those relating to SFM
 - Specific to cooperation
 - b) Opportunities
 - Greater current recognition of SFM
 - Role of forests in climate change
 - Other
5. Guiding principles
 - a) Sovereignty of countries

- b) SSC as a supplement to NSC
- c) Enabling environment
 - Political commitment
 - Resources
- 6. Possible areas of cooperation
(See appendix 2 of meeting report for a detailed list)
- 7. Areas of cooperation with members of the CPF and SSC of the UNDP
- 8. Approaches and solutions
 - a) Mechanisms (See appendix 3 for more information)
 - b) Systems to identify needs and options
 - c) Tasks
- 9. Road Map
- 10.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting made the following recommendations:

- Develop a comparative analysis of existing procedures and institutional arrangements of donors.
- Identify opportunities to mainstream procedures, facilitate coordination with recipient and pivotal countries. This should also allow them to better adapt to procedures of developing countries, with a view to reduce the transaction costs.
- Noted the need for reinforcement of interregional mechanisms or facilities, for example, Africa-South Africa Summit (ASA), to facilitate collaboration between different regional and / or sub-regional organization.
- Noted the need for a thorough analysis of what has worked in North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation and come up with a good practice model to be followed in future cooperation – including developing synergies on the basis of North-South and South-South cooperation.
- Explore innovative ways including linking up with other processes such as REDD / Climate Change, tax on emissions, etc.
- Encourage countries to look at ways of ensuring that funds generated from forests are reinvested in forests (taking into account on-going work in the facilitative process)
- Recognition of the need for broad consultations with member countries in evolving a strategy for promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.
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11. CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded with Mr. Alhassan Attah thanking participants for their valuable contribution which helped to produce very useful inputs to take the process of promoting cooperation forward with a view to presenting robust recommendations to UNFF9. He assured participants that the draft report would be circulated to participants for their comments.

APPENDIX 1 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The followings were highlighted as some of the challenges hampering cooperation and/or opportunities for cooperation. They are listed here, where appropriate, with the gist of discussion that took place.

- *Lack of reliable data and recording of experiences*

Often there is a lot countries can learn from the experience of others. This saves the need for each one to learn from its own mistakes. However such experiences are not documented in a way others can benefit from them. It would be helpful if a group of countries can establish an information sharing facility that can help in implementing SFM.

- *Accumulate information and experiences*

This is related to the above. Documentation of accumulated experience could be drawn on by others.

- *Lack of adequate financing*

This is a recurring theme in most of the documentation relating to SFM. It covers several elements of funding SFM such as ODA, domestically generated funds, private sector financial flows etc. It is currently being addressed within the UNFF process. Best option is for member countries and regions to keep tuned in to developments. SSC and TC have been identified as possible additional sources of finance.

- *Certification of carbon: data collection*

Need for accurate data especially below ground.

- *Governance, including Illegal logging*

Lack of effective governance is a major problem in implementing SFM which also leads to perpetuation of illegal forest related activity.

- *Participation of stakeholders*

Stakeholder involvement is critical for the success of measures towards SFM and for successful cooperative effort towards it. But it is often lacking.

- *Focus on projects rather than programmes*

There is growing recognition now that promoting programmes, rather than projects, help achieve progress in SFM. ODA from many countries are now focused on this approach.

- *Cultural and language barriers*

Two problems making it difficult for cooperation are cultural and language barriers.

- *Geo-political dynamics.*

These are also factors that determine the limits of cooperation.

- *Lack of awareness and enabling environment*

A major problem faced by developing countries is the lack of awareness of issues by the stakeholders and the general public which inhibits action and SFM does not get the priority it requires. Another problem is even when aware not having an enabling environment to facilitate action.

- *Institutional weakness / changes in recipient country and challenges for agencies involved (particularly government)*

- *Lack of coordination amongst donors*

Better coordination among donors will help wasteful use of resources by funding projects already financed by others and/or not providing assistance to programmes that can benefit from multiple donors for different projects.

- *Lack of political commitment*
- *Low demand for ODA for forestry*

Lower priority assigned to SFM by recipient countries has been a problem to allocate ODA for forestry.

- *Technology transfer (especially related to value addition)*
- *Bureaucracy (high transaction costs)*
- *Lack of needs assessment*
- *Lack of awareness and promotion of projects / initiatives and / or opportunities.*

Lack of a central place to present needs and opportunities for cooperation in countries has left an information gap which precludes cooperation.

- *Current economic environment*

Current global economic recession has affected cooperative efforts to promote SFM in two ways. One is reducing the total amount of funds available for ODA. The other is recipient countries having other priorities than forestry because of the need to address food security needs, unemployment etc with greater priority.

- *Divergence of views on SSC*

Developed countries underscore that South-South cooperation should not be isolated conceptually from global development cooperation efforts, and that it should be governed by the same principles and commitments as official development assistance (ODA). Developing countries, on the other hand, maintain that South-South cooperation cannot mirror cooperation with the North, and that financial contributions in South-South cooperation should not be treated as traditional ODA. Efforts to foster a convergence of views will go a long way towards strengthening internationally coherent support for the growth of South-South cooperation.

APPENDIX 2
AREAS FOR COOPERATION

1. Capacity Building (including governance)

- a. *Reforming and updating legislative and policy frameworks (in particular encompassing SFM).*

A major factor causing failure of effective governance in countries is the lack of adequate legislation. In some countries the governing legislation may be centuries old. Also most countries, including some developed ones, may not have current legislation recognising 'sustainable forest management' although it should be the driving force behind forestry legislation.

- b. *Effective means of implementation.*

This is the second element that makes legislation effective. It covers not only adequate financial resources but also human resources as well as appropriate systems to implement legislation.

- c. *Improve application of Criteria and Indicator Processes.*

Criteria and indicators (C&I) are now being used as the basis of implementing SFM including preparing country reports of progress for the UNFF as well as most other organizations such as the FAO and the ITTO. The C&I are underpinned by nine regional and international C&I processes. However, in implementing them there are wide divergences. For instance ITTO has made major advances in applying C&I with the Pan-European and Montreal processes remaining current. But others may be in need of major revamping to ensure effective implementation. Furthermore, it is estimated that there are over 40 countries, some with large areas of forest, that do not belong to any C&I process.

2. Political Commitment

- a. *Creating political commitment among selected like-minded countries*

Lack of political commitment has been noted over and over for the slow pace of implementing SFM. Efforts made so far to address this at an international level seem to have had only limited impact. This was seen as an area most amenable to SSC among like minded countries with issues related to forestry often being similar.

- b. *Addressing low demand for ODA from recipient countries and coordinating with other sectors of forestry.*

Although the forestry sector in most developing countries is in need of adequate funding to implement SFM the sector is not high priority for ODA in most of them. The reason is there are other critical areas such as food, agriculture and unemployment. Unless countries accord priority donors will find it difficult to offer ODA to forestry.

- c. *Incorporating forestry within national planning strategy.*

Similar to b) above this is also critical to ensure forestry is treated with the required priority in national planning.

- d. *Expanding the basis of cooperation by involving non-traditional donors (south-south cooperation) and private sector*

While north-south cooperation will continue to be the anchor for resource and technology transfer, in recent years a new source has emerged with some major developing countries playing a pivotal role in providing resources and technology to other developing countries., e.g. China and India. Also, instead of relying entirely on government to government funding private sector and philanthropic organizations are also playing an important role.

3. Research and Technology

- a. *Develop forest information management systems based on modern technology*
Many countries continue to rely on traditional methods of gathering and presenting forest resource data. The availability of satellite technology has made this task much simpler and more accurate. Similarly computers have made the task of presenting and updating information much simpler and more accurate. However, the new technology comes at a price which many developing countries find hard to sustain.
- b. *Monitoring and assessment technologies (remote sensing, GIS, early warning systems)*
Similar to a) these new technologies offer more efficient systems for gathering information. Early warning systems, such as for natural and man-made disasters, can help in more effective protection of the forest resources.
- c. *More efficient wood processing and utilisation (including energy efficient)*
Efficient use of the resource is a crucial element of SFM. This will allow not only for better use of the resource but also for more competitive production of the final product which may have to compete in international markets. In this energy cost often plays the determining role.
- d. *Socially and environmentally sound technology*
While using efficient technology it is also important to balance social and environmental considerations. 'One size fits all' may not apply here since the circumstances of each country, including values placed on different elements could be different.
- e. *Bio-energy production*
One advantage in forestry is the potential it offers for bio energy production. Technology needs to be utilised for this purpose to make maximum gains which will allow for more efficient production.
- f. *Biotechnology development (including non-wood products)*
Current wood processing in many developing countries constitutes entirely timber production. But forests offer other material that can derive value using biotechnology. These need to be capitalised on to derive the real value of forests.
- g. *Forestry information systems (one-stop shops)*
One effective means of deriving greater value from forest is to assemble all forestry related information in one place. At present such information is held by different agencies making it cumbersome gathering the data. This can be expanded to cover regions as well so that planning forest management or utilisation of forest products can be done efficiently. New technology can assist enormously in this.

4. Education and Training

- a. *Promoting education and technical training encompassing SFM*
Several countries have reported that in recent years forestry training has declined at both academic and technical levels. In addition current curricula in many countries do not encompass the pivotal role of SFM in modern forest management. It is critical that these elements are addressed if SFM is to be achieved.

5. Awareness

- a. *Outreach programmes for women*
In many countries women are the people on the ground implementing SFM. They are also often the least involved in planning and decision making relating to SFM. This gap needs to be filled and cooperation can play a useful role in that.

b. Awareness of SFM using modern techniques

This is another cross-cutting issue that needs to be addressed to gain public support for SFM. Modern technology offers ample opportunities to take the SFM message to the public using new communication tools and mass media. Members of the public are major stakeholders in SFM and effort to convince them of the need and usefulness of SFM will pay dividends in the long term.

6. Illegal Logging

The value of Illegal logging is estimated to be around \$22 billion or 10 per cent of global timber production. Illegal logging not only undermines SFM it also deprives countries of much needed revenue from forestry.

a. Developing and promoting new timber tracking technologies

Timber tracking is one effective way to determine the source of material that enters the market. Until recently it had been a difficult task. But now modern technology allows such tracking.

b. Market opportunities for legal and sustainably managed timber

The crucial incentive for promoting SFM is prices that reflect the value and effort going into their production. There are two key elements to this. One is the legality of the product which identifies the source as legitimate and the other, the sustainability of the product. Timber certification systems have gone a long way in addressing both these issues. But certification systems cover only a small proportion of products entering the world market. There are issues relating to such schemes, particularly the cost and the action required to gain certification. Cooperation could help address the problems involved.

7. Ways to address deforestation

a. Simultaneous efforts to combat illegal practices promote plantations and reduced hazards such as forest fires.

The experience of some successful countries in implementing SFM is applying a combination of factors simultaneously. For example, addressing illegal logging along with creating new plantation forests to meet the demand, help in dealing with both sides of the equation. Similar package of measures involving a group of countries can help address deforestation more effectively.

8. Emerging issues

This category is to allow capturing emerging issues. Currently there are two that need addressing.

a. Familiarizing countries with impact of decisions at Climate Change meetings.

Forests play a role in both carbon sequestration and emitting. It is important for countries to fully understand the issues involved including decisions of the Copenhagen conference. It is best done cooperating among groups of countries with similar types of forest and facing similar problems and issues.

b. Carbon trading, REDD and other related matters.

Countries also need to learn the implications of new measures and schemes emanating from international climate fora in order to gain maximum benefits for SFM. Carbon trading and REDD are two such issues.

APPENDIX 3
MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTING COOPERATION

As possible mechanisms to implement cooperation participants identified the following:

- i. *Disseminate priority areas for member states*
This refers to the priority list in section 5. Areas of Cooperation, agreed to by the meeting.
- ii. *Create a database of needs of countries*
The idea behind this was that such a database will allow countries identify others with similar issues so that cooperation can take place. The home for such a database was seen as the UNFF secretariat.
- iii. *UNFF should encourage member states to initiate programmes drawn from the database*
Flowing from ii above this noted the need for promotion of the use of such a database.
- iv. *Create an advisory unit*
The purpose of such a unit comprising experienced people is to assist countries in working out cooperative arrangements.).
Modalities were not discussed
- v. *Encourage member states to discuss and agree*
Sustainable use of cooperation will depend on it meeting the needs of participating countries. As such it was important that relevant countries agree on both the issues for consideration as well as the type of cooperation desired (SSC, NSC or TC).
- vi. *Analytical work to share existing methodologies*
Work at v. above will be assisted by having a good understanding of existing types of cooperation as well as the results of various cooperative projects.
- vii. *Need to identify peculiarities*
The advantage of the cooperative approach is that it can be tailored to suit the needs of any group of countries on any type of issue. But for this to work effectively it is important to take into account the peculiarities of each case so that appropriate approaches can be devised. 'One size fits all' approach will not be very effective.
- viii. *Need to streamline their procedures*
While action identified at (vii.) is important it is also necessary to streamline procedures so that what is successful in one place could be repeated elsewhere. Then only countries can benefit from experience gained.
- ix. *Creation/reinforcement of inter-regional mechanisms/facilities*
The group found that more towards cooperation could be done intra-regionally but existing mechanisms have not been fully utilised for this purpose. There may also be a need to establish new arrangements depending on the issues related to SFM.
- x. *Facilitate cross-sectoral communication at national and regional levels to ensure the governmental endorsement on the proposals on SFM from multi-stakeholders can be made in timely manner*
It was considered that groups often use a 'silo' approach which does not allow for ideas and plans to cross fertilise among different stakeholders within a country or within a region. It was considered that for their success it was important that all stakeholders understand and support cooperation initiatives.
- xi. *New and additional resources should be provided*
The meeting discussed the importance of new and additional resources to help advance the cooperative approach but recognised that it is being progressed through the UNFF facilitative

process. (See also xiii).

- xii. *Mechanism in UNFF dedicated to implementation of the NLBI*
This idea emerged from the group since it recognised the importance of providing results of progress in implementing SFM for the UNFF session in 2015. That will determine our success or failure. This was seen as an effective way to achieve this result in addition to existing mechanisms such as MYPOW updates and country reports.
- xiii. *Look at innovative ways of finding resources (tax on climate)/link with climate change*
This was captured as one of the recommendations of the meeting in relation to the need to address emerging issues.
- xiv. *Come up with good practices*
With experience in cooperation it would be possible to document good practices as a way of allowing others to benefit from them.
- xv. *Regional and inter-regional mechanisms*
Participants discussed in detail the options for cooperative activity using regional and inter-regional mechanisms. They included the following:
 - a. Joint training programmes
 - b. Exchange of experts
 - c. Knowledge sharing
 - d. Networks
 - e. Communities exchange
 - f. Inter-regional mechanism
 - g. International mechanism
 - h. Joint research initiatives and activities
 - i. Resource/additional resource mobilization
 - j. Consultations and harmonization of positions for major conferences
 - k. Platform for exchange between private actors

ATTACHMENT 1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Anawat Sukhotanang
Senior Forestry Official
Royal Forest Department

United States

Mr Mietek Boduszynski
Second Secretary, Vice Consul
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CBD

Dr Junko Shimura
Programme Officer
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

ITTO

Mr Amha bin Buang
Assistant Director, Economic Information and Market Intelligence

Mr Mahboob Hassan,
Assistant Director, Management Services

Mr Charas Mayura
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Ms Kanako Sakaguchi

UNDP (South Africa)
Mr Francois Ekoko
Senior Policy Advisor

UNFF Secretariat

Mr Alhassan Attah
Principal Officer

Ms Njeri Kariuki
Programme Officer

Consultant
Mr Don Wijewardana

ATTACHMENT 2

**UNFF Brainstorming Meeting on Promoting North-South,
South-South and Triangular Cooperation for
Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), Yokohama, Japan, 19-20 December 2009**

Statement by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

Mr. Alhassan Attah,
Senior Trade Policy Adviser, UNFF Secretariat

Ms. Junko Shimura,
Representative of CBD Secretariat

Mr. Francois E. Ekoko,
Senior Policy Advisor, UNDP South Africa

Mr. Don Wijewardana,
Consultant for UNFF Secretariat

Distinguished Experts and Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of our Executive Director, Mr. Emmanuel Ze Meka, who sends his warmest greetings to you all but is unable to be with us today as he is on his way back after leading the ITTO delegation to the Fifteen Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Copenhagen, Denmark, I am pleased to cordially welcome all of you to the UNFF Brainstorming Meeting on Promoting North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) here in the City of Yokohama, Japan.

In spite of the short notice and the rather awkward dates and timing of the meeting, fixed on a weekend and very close to Christmas, we are pleasantly surprised and delighted by the favourable response and good turn-up at this event this morning.

As you are all aware, this brainstorming meeting is about enhancing cooperation in all its forms in support of SFM. Fittingly, this event is predicated on the principles of cooperation and co-organised by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations under which the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) operates and the ITTO Secretariat which is hosting the event and is responsible for all logistical and administrative arrangements.

The convening of this meeting marks yet another milestone in cooperation between ITTO and UNFFS. As a founding member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) exclusively set up to support the UNFF and enhance cooperation and coordination on forest issues, ITTO has established, maintained and strengthened cooperation with the UNFF since its inception in 2000. Indeed, prior to the establishment of the UNFF, ITTO cooperated closely and actively with the secretariats of its precursors including the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forest (IFF). Through this long standing and continuing cooperation with the UNFF, ITTO is greatly honoured to have been actively involved in the evolution and progress of the UNFF from the very beginning of its precursor processes through direct financial contributions, staff secondments, co-organization and

funding of UNFF activities, inputs for UNFF sessions through the CPF and participation in UNFF sessions and activities. It is, therefore, our earnest hope that, despite challenges and constraints, the strong existing cooperation between ITTO and UNFF can be further enhanced and sustained for the mutual benefit of both parties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The need for cooperation – the act of working together for a shared purpose and mutual benefits - is both essential and perennial in all aspects of human endeavour. The logic of collective action lies in its benefits in terms of synergies, efficiencies and effectiveness far out-stripping those emanating from a single or individual effort. These are indeed directly relevant to forests particularly tropical forests since virtually all of the pressing problems, challenges and issues on forests are heavily focused on and located in developing tropical countries. Yet, the magnitude of these challenges is far beyond the ability of any single party or entity in most of these countries to cope as they continue to grapple with competing demands for scarce financial and other resources in fulfilling basic needs of the highest priority including for food, shelter, health, education and employment.

It was against this challenging background that ITTO was established in 1986 to assist members in promoting trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests as well as the sustainable management of tropical production forests. And since its inception, cooperation has always been relied upon as one of ITTO's essential strategies and approaches in helping its members to implement SFM on the ground. It is only natural that cooperation is being taken up by the UNFF as one of the crucial planks for the implementation of its programme and activities in pursuit of the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests as well as the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instruments on all Types of Forests (NLBI) and its Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW).

It is our hope that this brainstorming meeting will be able to contribute concrete building blocks for the development of appropriate strategies for further promoting cooperation in all its forms in support of SFM for consideration by the UNFF at its Ninth Session in 2011. We wish you all a productive and successful deliberation towards this end.

Thank you.

ATTACHMENT 3

**STATEMENT
BY MR AHMED DJOGLAF
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
MEETING FOR PROMOTING NORTH-SOUTH, SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR
COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT
19 DECEMBER 2009 YOKOHAMA, JAPAN**

Ladies and
Gentlemen
,
Colleagues
,

We at the CBD Secretariat would like to commend those gathered at this meeting for your efforts to advance the important issue of south-south cooperation in the context of sustainable forest management. Most biodiversity in the world today is in developing countries, and it is therefore extremely important that countries from the South are able to use their vast biological resources both sustainably and to the full benefit of their citizens. Moreover, since a number of ecosystems in the developing world are relatively similar, countries from the South should be able to share their conservation expertise and knowledge with each other. South-south cooperation is an efficient and cost-effective complement to other forms of cooperation: no CBD objectives can be achieved without it.

That is why in decision IX/25 the CBD Conference of the Parties welcomed the initiative of developing countries, represented by the Group of 77, to prepare a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development in collaboration with the Secretariat and its partners. We are presently preparing a draft in close collaboration with the chair and Secretariat of G77 and other key stakeholders, building inter alia on several meetings held in Montreal over the course of the past thirteen months. These include a Brainstorming Meeting on South-South Cooperation in November 2008, a South-South-Exchange Meeting on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Biodiversity in July 2009, and the first meeting of the Steering Committee for a Global Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation this past October. The finalized plan will be presented at the CBD's tenth Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan, next October. In the lead up to COP-IO, an expert meeting will be organized in Kampala, Uganda, in May/June 2010, after the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, to validate the plan and prepare its submission.

Our work is progressing well. At the July 2009 meeting in Montreal, Mr James Seyani, the COP Bureau member for Africa, reminded us that until very recently the development agenda of the G- 77 was mostly focused on economic, social and trade-related issues:

sustainable management of natural resources was not discussed - an egregious omission in countries where so many people still depend directly on biodiversity, and in particular on forests, to meet their most basic needs. But the agenda is changing. At the meeting we made substantial progress on three technical aspects of sustainable forest management: payments for ecosystem services, access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD-plus).

The CBD is grateful to the UNFF Secretariat, as well as to ITTO, for their participation in the July 2009 meeting, as well as for organizing the current one. Indeed, as developing countries continue to cooperate, inter-agency cooperation will be equally important. For example, while the focus of UNFCCC efforts has been on greenhouse gas emissions, a major focus of the CBD and of the UNFF has always been on reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and on creating sustainable livelihoods. Hence, joining forces with the climate community will enable us to jointly address biodiversity loss, climate change, and poverty. The provisions of the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity and the UNFF forest instrument contain specific commitments and activities to slow and revert deforestation and forest degradation. As a result, the expertise of the biodiversity and forest constituencies will be an essential ingredient to any successful forest-based climate change mitigation or adaptation. Only by working together can we effectively implement new and existing international commitments.

Clear economic arguments will facilitate this task. For example, recent studies such as *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* indicate that the value of intact tropical rainforests far outmatches the economic gains of converting them to plantations or other land uses. Their value comes from inter alia their importance in generating rainfall for agriculture and in providing numerous non-timber products. Through climate change mitigation and other payments for ecosystem services, we have to find a way to recognize and account for these immense values, so our societies can make use of the economic assets of intact forests without destroying them. To quote biologist E.O. Wilson: "Destroying rainforests for economic gain is like burning a Renaissance painting to cook a meal". Today, we have the knowledge, and increasingly also the political will, to achieve synergies between climate protection, poverty alleviation, and the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity.

The International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and the International Year of Forests in 2011 will provide excellent opportunities to further intensify the collaboration between the UNFF, the CBD, and other processes. And indeed, just a few days ago at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, our two secretariats signed a Memorandum of Understanding to closely collaborate over the coming two years. We invite you to present the results of your work over the next ten months at COP-IO in Nagoya for inclusion in the CBD Plan of Action. Undoubtedly the closing ceremony of the International Year of Biodiversity - which will take place in December 2010 in Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan - will lead seamlessly into the International Year of Forests. Let us take 2010 and 2011 as an extended opportunity to work together with the countries of the South to manage our forests for the benefit of present and future generations.

Thank you for your kind attention.

ATTACHMENT 4



Meeting for Promoting North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation on Sustainable Forest Management

Statement by Alhassan N. Attah

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Yokohama, Japan
19 -20 December 2009

The Representative of the Executive Director of ITTO,
The Representative of the Executive Secretary of the CBD, Ms Junko Shimura,

Resource persons, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me first and foremost to express our appreciation to you all for being able to participate in this brainstorming meeting on North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation that is being co-organized by UNFF Secretariat and International Tropical Timber Organization. This initiative which has been funded fully through the Capacity Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC), United Nations reflects the collaborative spirit of the meeting and that of General Assembly Resolution 62/98 that invited members of the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to support the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (Forest Instrument) taking into account the mandates of these organizations. It also shows the will of the organizations to work together in true partnership by members of the CPF.

This two day brainstorming meeting is in response to ECOSOC resolution 2006/49 and UNFF8 resolution 8/1. In particular the UNFF8 resolution 8/1 tasked the UNFF Secretariat to:

Develop a strategy in consultation with Member States, for consideration by the Forum at its 9th Session, to promote North-South as well as South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, on SFM, which also identifies options of support by the international community, while noting that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but a complement to, North-South cooperation;

It is our hope that this first brainstorming meeting will provide the opportunity to start a process that will evolve a strategy to promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for the consideration of UNFF 9 in 2011.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the development of the strategy for cooperation on SFM it is critical to take into account the outcomes and the role of forests in the recent climate change negotiations in Copenhagen. Forests

and sustainable forest management will continue to play pivotal role in particular, in respect of providing an effective framework for forest based climate change mitigation and adaptation. Nevertheless, we should underscore the need for a 360° approach to forests. 1.6 billion People are dependent on forests for their livelihoods and sustenance and we therefore need to take into account the full range of forest goods and services in addressing threats and challenges to forests and climate change. A strategy which promotes North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for SFM should therefore reflect this holistic and collaborative approach

Distinguished participants,

I will now turn my attention to providing the context for our discussion over the next two days and provide you information on the United Nations Forum on Forests and the expected outcomes of this brainstorming meeting.

1. The UNFF was established in 2000 as a subsidiary body of ECOSOC of the United Nations to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and has universal membership of the 192 countries in the UN and reflects the collective vision of member states to support address global forest issues. The principal functions of the UNFF are:
 - a. To facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements and foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management'
 - b. Providing a forum for continued policy development among governments, international organizations and other interested parties to foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management and to address forest-related issues and emerging areas of priority concern in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner;
 - c. Enhancing cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, as well as contribute to synergies among them, including coordination among donors;
 - d. Fostering international cooperation including NS and public private partnerships, as well as cross-sectoral cooperation at national, regional and global levels.
 - e. Monitoring and assessing progress at the national, regional and global levels through reporting by governments, as well as by international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, and on this basis consider future actions needed;
 - f. Strengthening political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;
 - g. Enhancing the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals;
 - h. Encouraging and assisting countries, including those with low forest cover, to develop and implement forest conservation and rehabilitation strategies, increase the area of forests under sustainable management and reduce forest degradation and the loss of forest cover in order to maintain and improved their forest resources with the view to enhancing the benefits of forests to meet present and future needs, in particular the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities whose livelihoods depend on forests;
 - i. Strengthening interaction between the UNFF and relevant regional and sub regional forest related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes, with participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21 and relevant stakeholders to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management as well as contribute to the work of the Forum.

A key underlining feature in the functions is the element of cooperation and collaboration at the national, regional and global levels and creating a platform for broad participation in deliberating and addressing forest related issues. This approach to cooperation and collaboration is strongly reflected in the global objectives on forests, as contained in the Forest Instrument which provides a framework for national action and international cooperation. These are:

1. Reversing the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;
2. Enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;
3. Increasing significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forest
4. Reversing the decline in official development assistance for SFM and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resource from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

Distinguished participants as we discuss elements related to developing a strategy for North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation we should not lose sight of the work we did under the IPF/IFF process which through the proposals for action have identified potential areas of cooperation in SFM. These are still relevant today and allow us to take stock of work in this area and give focus and direction to the strategy that would be developed in this process. We should additionally bear in mind the Multi Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) that runs till 2015 and provides guidance on the work of the UNFF through its sessional themes by prioritizing activities in our strategy.

We should also take into account related work that is on-going in this area, particularly the work being undertaken by CPF member organizations such as the CBD Secretariat, the Special Unit on South-South Cooperation (UNDP) and cooperation programmes of ITTO. We will hear more about such activities later today.

At this juncture let me take the opportunity once more to thank you all for accepting our invitation and hope we will have 2 days of fruitful discussions. I hope experts would find it useful and provide good feed back to encourage support for this noble objective in 2010 and for us to meet the requirements of the resolution in addressing the needs of member states.

We appreciate your time in participating in these discussions despite the festive period. I would also wish to place on record our sincere appreciation to the Executive Director and the staff of ITTO who have put in so much effort to make this meeting a reality.

I thank you for your kind attention and look forward to successful deliberations.

Thank you

ATTACHMENT 5

Developing a strategy to promote North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation

*Background paper for the United Nations Forum on Forests:
Meeting for Promoting North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation
for sustainable forest management*

Don Wijewardana

19-20 December 2009
Yokohama, Japan

Developing a strategy to promote North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation

Don Wijewardana¹

1. INTRODUCTION

By ECOSOC resolution 2006/49 and UNFF8 resolution 8/1 the secretariat of the Forum (i) To develop a strategy, in consultation with Member States, for consideration by the Forum at its ninth session, to promote North-South as well as South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, on sustainable forest management, which also identifies options of support by the international community. In responding to these resolutions the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS), in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization has organized a two-day brainstorming meeting in Yokohama, Japan, from 19 to 20 December to develop a strategy.

The meeting will aim to first identify basic elements for a strategy on North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation 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 the 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 above resolution. The context of such a cooperation strategy should include the Forest Instrument and the Global Objectives on Forests.

The purpose of this paper is to facilitate discussion at the meeting. It reviews work and activities related to cooperation on SFM, in particular experiences in North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation from other sectors and regional initiatives and details the work of the Special Unit for South-South cooperation under UNDP. It then goes on to identify areas of cooperation in support of sustainable management and development of all types of forests; opportunities and constraints to North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation; and elements for the development of a strategy to promote cooperation in the context of the NLBI-Forests.

However, the paper is not a comprehensive analysis of the above issues. It is intended merely to trigger consideration, and discussion at the brainstorming session.

2. TYPES OF COOPERATION

The basis of United Nations related initiatives towards sustainable forest management since the process commenced with the adoption of the UNCED Forest Principles in 1992, has been cooperation among international, regional and national stakeholders. There are three broad types of cooperation. They are North-South Cooperation, South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation.

2.1 North-South Cooperation

This refers to cooperation between the developed and the developing countries. Most of the international initiatives relating to sustainable forest management commenced with the Forest Principles adopted by the international community in 1992. These include the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests during the period 1995 to 2000. In 2000 these ad hoc forums were superseded by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). And in 2006 the UNFF adopted the Non-legally binding Instrument on all types of Forests (NLBI).

¹ International Forestry Consultant. Email: donwije@paradise.net.nz

Two key features common to all these were:

- a) their focus on sustainable forest management, and
- b) the critical role played by North South Cooperation (NSC) in achieving their objectives.

While other levels of cooperation were also considered useful, the focus in the deliberations within these fora remained on NSC. It covered many areas including transfer of resources and technology, capacity building, training as well as creating market opportunities for sustainably managed forest products. This was logical given the stage of growth and the needs and abilities of the two groups of countries. NSC has continued to play a critical role in SFM and no doubt, will continue to do so in the future too.

2.2 South-South Cooperation

Besides NSC there was also a growing recognition of the role of South-South Cooperation (SSC). SSC refers to bilateral and multilateral relations involving Governments, institutions, corporations, individuals and non-governmental organizations of two or more developing countries in the same region or in more than one region. The scope of cooperation extends, in principle, to all aspects of development activity including SFM.

Developing countries have set in place an array of institutional structures for promoting South-South cooperation. This has resulted in almost all developing countries belonging to one or another cooperation institution, and most of them even members of two or more organizations. It is a significant indicator of their commitment to the spirit and objectives of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

In a review of 30 years of south-south cooperation² Secretary General noted that the number of countries actively engaged in South-South cooperation has grown in recent years and a select number of countries continue to play a leading and pivotal role. China and India are in a category of their own because of the scale and diversity of their South-South cooperation agendas. Both have ongoing technical assistance initiatives that cover almost all areas of interest to other developing countries, and both have, in the last decade, taken to underpinning technical assistance with financial support.

Since the 1990s, South-South cooperation has been strengthened with a number of middle-income countries in developing regions becoming important providers of technical cooperation, e.g., Egypt, South Africa and Tunisia in Africa; China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand in Asia; Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Cuba, Mexico, and Venezuela in Latin America; and Cyprus, Malta, Poland and Turkey in the Mediterranean and Europe.

These countries, formally recognized as pivotal countries of SSC, have been hubs of intra-South cooperation. At the same time, partnerships with developed countries, donor agencies and/or institutions have emerged in the form of Triangular South-South cooperation.

2.2.1 Addressing transnational challenges

South-South cooperation has also focused on dealing with topical issues of urgent concern to developing countries. In 1999, Indonesia hosted a series of interregional meetings on issues raised by globalization, including social safety nets, poverty alleviation policies and trade policies. In 2000, Tunisia organized a seminar on external debt for 24 African countries. The same year, Peru led an effort by Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Panama to better understand and deal with the impact of the El Niño phenomenon.

Another important initiative was the 2006 decision by the Group of 77 to re-focus the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations as the Consortium on Science, Technology and Innovation for the

² *The state of South-South cooperation, Report of the Secretary-General to the 64th session of the General Assembly, A/64/321, 24 August 2009*

South. Also in 2006, at the suggestion of the Group of 77, the Convention on Biological Diversity began the process of formulating a four-year plan of action on South-South cooperation in biodiversity.

2.2.2 Bilateral and multilateral initiatives

Most South-South cooperation takes place under bilateral agreements, including some negotiated at the institutional level. The Turkish Standards Institute has worked with partners in Bulgaria, Cuba, India, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Moldova. South-South cooperation also involves multi-country agreements or regional arrangements. In addition to bilateral agreements, the technical cooperation programme works under the umbrella of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), as does the Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin.

The roles of regional organizations have ranged from that of platform or umbrella to active promotion. The Latin American economic system has been remarkably proactive, helping to fashion regional technical cooperation strategies, getting national officials to focus on the need for joint strategy (1993), and then obtaining agreement on the methodology for programming, negotiation, follow-up and evaluation (1994).

2.2.3 South-South networking

Underpinning all of the above has been an increasingly complex network of experts, officials, business contacts, institutional linkages and information flows. The creation of such networks has been a key feature of South-South cooperation, and is perhaps its most valuable contribution to the collective self-reliance of developing countries. Technology has also played a part in this. The ease with which networks can be created and maintained on the Internet and World Wide Web, and the spread of mobile telephone usage across Africa, Asia and Latin America, have created an unprecedented level of social connectivity and democratized the historically elite privileges of long-range and mass communications. For instance, women, among the most vulnerable members of societies, have been active in building South-South non-governmental networks for improving their status and addressing major economic, social and political concerns.

In sum, all developing countries have been increasingly involved in South-South exchanges, though the more advanced play a pivotal role. Most initiatives are bilateral, but multilateral exchanges are on the increase in terms of dialogue and initiatives to address transnational challenges. Networks are also on the rise, but many more are needed. Multi-country activities need to go further and focus on strategic objectives, such as cooperation in science and technology, health, education, infrastructure development, energy and the environment.

2.3 Triangular cooperation

Another development in recent years has been Triangular Cooperation. Its objective is to advance technical cooperation through an association of funding sources or traditional donors (bilateral or multilateral) with a semi-developed country (an emerging country that acts as an anchor or recipient of Official Development Assistance Funds), with structure, legitimacy, and maturity as a provider of horizontal cooperation. These two parties work together to carry out joint measures in favour of a third applicant country, of less or similar relative development, carrying out initiatives of technical assistance and exchange in fields such as education, health care, science and technology, and especially in facets related to the fight against hunger and poverty.

Trilateral cooperation takes a broad-based approach that promotes partnership with various actors, which include traditional donors, multilateral agencies, private sector, academic institutions and CSOs. Hence, trilateral development cooperation does not necessarily mean involvement of three partners only. Nevertheless, it is a kind of partnership where three or three groups of actors are involved: donors,

technical assistance providers and the recipients. The kind of trilateral development cooperation discussed here should also not be confused with many other cooperation initiatives that involve three parties.

Development cooperation has traditionally been bilateral in nature even though the donors very often use services of private agencies or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in their home countries. This has led to the emergence of several large

NGOs mainly based in developed countries – CARE, Oxfam and Actionaid, to name a few. Some of them could attract support from other donor governments. Thus, a form of trilateral development cooperation involves developed country donors, foreign developed technical assistance providers and developing country recipients. This form of cooperation was extended when some developed country donors started involving agencies and experts from other developing countries. This was done through both involvement of other developing country governments or that of private or non-governmental organisations. Third World Network, CUTS, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) are some developing country based NGOs engaged in such activities³.

There are two major advantages in this approach. Firstly, it is cheaper. Secondly, learning from one developing country to another is more relevant than from a rich country to a poor one because of the common background and often similar circumstances.

Triangular cooperation, in which a developing country partners with either another developing country or an industrialized counterpart to lend technical assistance to a third country is a growing model of technical cooperation in the developing world.

The UNDP Administrator's Report⁴ indicates that the UNDP has identified South-South Cooperation as one of the drivers of development effectiveness, requiring its integration in the development cooperation activities of all the organizations in the UN system. Similarly, new trends are emerging in triangular cooperation, including the pairing of UN agencies with the private sector and with governments in the North and South, to foster South-South and triangular cooperation.

There are many successful examples of triangular cooperation in recent years. For instance Japan has been purposefully following such an approach in its support for developing countries over the past ten years⁵. It includes first, technical cooperation through the "Third-Country Training" and "Third Country Experts". The "Third Country Training" invites trainees of recipient countries to countries that provide training. The "Third-Country Experts" dispatches experts of the Third-Country or advanced developing countries to recipient countries. In 2006, Japan has provided assistance to a total of 175 courses of Third-Country Training conducted in 36 developing countries.

Second, Japan has also introduced the "Partnership Program for South-South Cooperation", a comprehensive framework by the government of Japan and advanced developing countries to jointly support developing countries. As of March 2004, Japan has concluded Programs with 12 countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa. The third approach has been holding Regional Cooperation Meetings for promoting the South-South Cooperation in the ASEAN region every year. Under this mechanism, the "needs-resource matching" which promotes assistance from countries with comparative advantage in solving specific issues to countries with similar difficulties in the same regions, as well as sharing experience and lessons learned on the South-South Cooperation are being implemented.

Besides these, Japan has also been supporting South-South Cooperation through international organizations including financial contributions to the "UNDP Partnership Fund" and the Asian

³ http://www.redsocial.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=62&Itemid=237&lang=en

⁴ http://www.undp.org/eo/documents/thematic/ssc/chapter/executive_summary.pdf

⁵ http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/Japan_Cairo.pdf

Productivity Organization available for each organization to tap into their comparative advantage and implement development projects in developing countries.

All along, partnerships with pivotal countries and donors have been explored extensively, creating a network in which participating agencies and institutions can share their experiences. An example of such efforts is the extraordinary success in West Africa of the New Rice for Africa, known as NERICA, highly promising upland rice varieties that are currently being disseminated in the region. The growing demand for NERICA rice has resulted in the creation of the African Rice Initiative (ARI). To implement ARI, a consortium of partners was established that includes 17 West African countries, the Government of Japan, UNDP, the African Development Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the Rockefeller Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development and the World Bank, ARI aims to increase NERICA dissemination in Africa⁶.

Another successful trilateral project is the Africa-Asia Business Forum (AABF), aims to stimulate trade and investment between countries on both continents. It brings together business representatives from Africa and Asia to discuss possible joint ventures, bilateral agreements, enterprise exchanges and a variety of business instruments. The project organised a series of capacity-building workshops at the national and regional levels on key business management and operational topics in order to screen qualified enterprises to attend the Business Forum.

It is clear from these that North-South and South-South cooperation have been in use for several decades in a wide range of activities and in a variety of ways to promote international cooperation. And in more recent years triangular cooperation has emerged as another useful form of international cooperation.

3. COOPERATION IN SFM

One of the major building blocks of sustainable forest management embedded in the Forest Principles adopted by the global community in 1992 was international cooperation⁷. Years that followed saw proposals for action to implement SFM being formulated within IPF and IFF. Similar emphasis, involving all three types of cooperation, has been fundamental to the work of the UNFF. And the significance is even greater for the forestry instrument: in addition to the heavy reliance on international cooperation underscored in the Instrument to achieve its objectives, international cooperation also comprises one of the four global objectives of the instrument.

Alongside this policy development numerous initiatives in international cooperation involving international and regional organisations, governments, private sector and NGOs have also emerged. One significant move in this direction was the establishment of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) among international organisations and instruments to support sustainable forest management efforts of the UNFF.

A number of such organizations involved in resource and technology transfer include the Global Environment Facility (GEF) under the cooperation among World Bank, UNDP and UNEP as one of major funding mechanisms for addressing issues, such as preservation of bio-diversity in developing countries. Others include the UN Environment Fund and the Trust Fund for Technological Cooperation of International Environment Technology Center under UNEP. The World Bank and CIFOR also play a

⁶ UNDP, UNDP/Japan Partnership supporting South-South Cooperation, New York.

⁷ See for instance paragraph 12 of Forest Principles: (b) National and, where appropriate, regional and international institutional capabilities in education, training, science, technology, economics, anthropology and social aspects of forests and forest management are essential to the conservation and sustainable development of forests and should be strengthened.

(c) International exchange of information on the results of forest and forest management research and development should be enhanced and broadened, as appropriate, making full use of education and training institutions, including those in the private sector.

useful role in terms of finance, technology and human resources. The FAO plays a similar role via the national forest programme system supported by a number of countries while the ITTO promotes the production of wood products from sustainably managed forests cooperating with countries regional organizations, criteria and indicator processes, as well as NGOs.

Others included regional as well as Public-Private Partnership for Sustainable Forest Management, e.g. Asia Forest Partnership, Regional Model Forest Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin Region. Two examples of other innovative partnerships are the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, instigated by IUCN, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and UK, and later including many other partners; and the World Bank-WWF Alliance for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Use. There were also significant private sector initiatives towards SFM such as the World Business Council for Sustainable Development involving major industry participants including wood processors. At the same time NGOs too played a role in developing cooperation related to SFM. One of the prominent projects in this regard was Forest Certification systems.

3.1 REGIONAL COOPERATION

A particular aspect of the NLBI is its emphasis on regional cooperation. The trans-boundary nature of SFM and the ability to capture a group of countries with a common interest made regional approaches very effective in dealing with issues of sustainability. Their diversity of mandates, functions, strengths, and degrees of freedom tended to help in forging effective solutions. Regional initiatives have also become an increasingly important pathway for translating research into action recognising the importance of informal dialogue across national and stakeholder groups.

An example of regional cooperation is the arrangement among the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (OTCA) and the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), to address issues related to cooperation on SFM, conservation of biodiversity, and climate change. This cooperation has led to an exchange of experts, coordination and development of programs, and the sharing of success stories.

Recently concluded UN High Level Conference on South-South cooperation placed particular emphasis on this in its final declaration calling for the strengthening of various interregional dialogues and exchange of experiences among sub-regional and regional economic groupings for the purposes of expanding South-South cooperation through integrating the various approaches of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. It also acknowledged the various national, regional and sub-regional initiatives to enhance South-South cooperation in the social (particularly health and education), economic, environmental, technical and political fields⁸.

South-South Cooperation emerging as a popular tool for cooperation stemmed from several factors. They included similar levels of economic development, similarity in the nature of issues faced, often similarity in the resources, for example in forestry the types of forest, close cultural relationships, similar economic standing are some of these. As a result they are increasingly building bilateral and multilateral collaborations, such as the Brazil–China Agricultural Collaboration and India–Brazil–South Africa Collaboration. Some of these arrangements have political origins, spurred as much by the agendas of political leaders as by demand from the community. But if they are viable and the end result is promotion of SFM they need to be encouraged.

⁸ High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, Outcome Document

4. UNDP SPECIAL UNIT FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC) was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1978. Hosted in UNDP, its primary mandate is to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation on a Global and United Nations system-wide basis. This signifies the importance placed by nations on SSC.

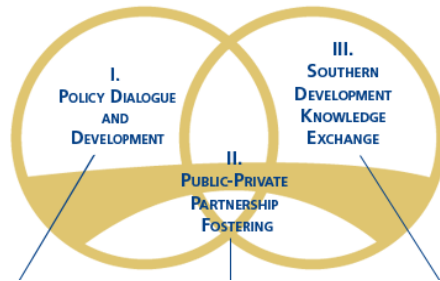
The Special Unit receives policy directives and guidance from the General Assembly High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation (HLC) which is a committee of the whole and a subsidiary body of the General Assembly that reviews worldwide progress in South-South Cooperation. The Special Unit serves as the HLC's full Secretariat, preparing all substantive reports, including the report to the Secretary General on the state of South-South Cooperation. It organizes the GA-proclaimed United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, celebrated annually on December 19. SS/SSC manages the United Nations Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSC) and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) and also implements programmes financed by United Nations Development Programme.

4.1 Resources and opportunities provided by the unit for partners.

WIDE (Web of Information for Development)

A global knowledge pool of expertise and experience from the South, and make it work for the South. Help is also available to expand the global community's knowledge on a wide variety of development related issues by sharing your experience with others. The Web of Information for Development - WIDE - is an on-line, Web-enabled system gathering information on experts and institutions of the South.

WIDE supports the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC) in its mission to identify, promote and facilitate the transfer of information on institutions, expertise, technologies and practices between countries of the South or development initiatives. As such, it is also the platform for a broad South-South knowledge-sharing strategy.



Fostering global South-South policy dialogue on major development issues and challenges.

The platform offers the entire international development community the opportunity to place South-South cooperation on the development agenda, complementing the more traditional North-South cooperation. Examples of initiatives under this platform include the:

- Global South Development Forum (GSDF)
- Cooperation South journal
- Global Science Corps (GSC) and Remittance of Development Programme

Creating an enabling environment for South-South private sector development and business collaboration for development.

This platform is designed to create public policy-supported but market-oriented mechanisms that will allow greater South-South flow of trade, investment, technology transfer as well as technical and humanitarian assistance. Examples of initiatives under this platform include the:

- South-South Global Assets & Technology Exchanges System (SS-GATE)
- Africa-Asia Business Forum (AABF), funded by Japan

Brokering for the Sharing of Southern Development Knowledge and Solutions.

This platform serves as a global hub for networking among Southern centers of excellence, in a collective effort, to document and disseminate successful Southern experiences, knowledge and solutions to specific development problems. Examples of initiatives under this platform include the:

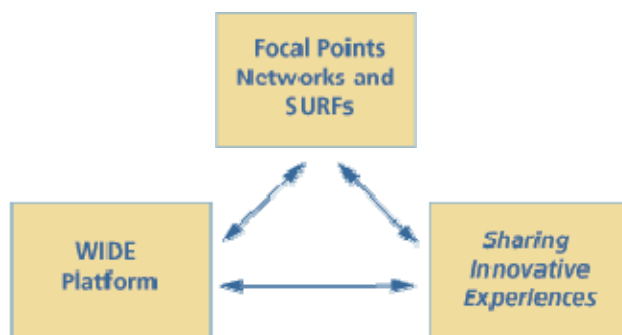
- WIDE Roster System (Web of information for Development)
- Publication of the series Sharing Innovation Experiences
- Publication of Southern Development Solutions
- Creative Economy for Development

4.2 Strategy for knowledge sharing

Despite its relevance for development, the extent of knowledge-sharing among Southern countries is still limited. With this in mind, countries of the South have requested that knowledge-sharing become a significant part of the agenda of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC).

In response, the Special Unit is following a multidimensional strategy to promote the sharing of practical knowledge and experiences from the South for the benefit of the South. This strategy includes three coordinated initiatives supported by Web-enabled services offered through WIDE:

- broadening of the access to southern expertise through the maintenance of rosters of experts and institutions.
- publication of the series *Sharing Innovative Experiences*;
- facilitation of a network of SSC focal points in developing countries.
- selection and distribution of good practices involving a wider audience
 - focal points mediating demands and offers of experiences
 - focal points and SURFs will be on WIDE a platform to build their rosters of experts
 - -make their local capacities and experiences visible to a broader audience



The WIDE platform will support a better process for selecting and promoting experiences. The process of selecting and promoting good practices will contribute to the dissemination and use of WIDE.

4.3 How does WIDE support the strategy?

WIDE's main activities as a platform for the knowledge-sharing strategy:

- broadening of the access to Southern expertise
- operating as a platform for building and managing rosters;

4.3.1 Contribute

UNDP SU/SSC, with the team on the ground, make every effort to match any contribution in kind with actual needs, in coordination with local governments, civil society organizations and other international organizations. The South-South Trust Fund, for instance, provides one of the effective mechanisms to collect and make use of resources in support of South-South cooperation initiatives, most recently the Tsunami relief projects.

4.3.2 Programmes

Allows for leveraging past experience and expertise while working hand-in-hand with partners. The SU/SSC can assist with the coordination, implementation and execution of programmes ranging from a few months to several years on a diverse range of initiatives and levels of complexity.

4.3.3 Events

Events provide an opportunity for partners to share their vision with a wider audience and to develop greater visibility for projects.

The Unit has been playing an essential role in promoting SSC. In recognition of its contribution the UN High Level meeting on South-South Cooperation held in Nairobi from 1-3 December 2009 commended the work of the Unit and recommended increased funding for its operations.

5. THE NON-LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON ALL TYPES OF FORESTS

At its seventh session the United Nations Forum on Forests agreed on the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument) that was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2007 as resolution 62/98. The Forum also adopted resolution 7/1 on its new multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015. These developments have opened a new era in the international forest policy process with the strongest ever focus on implementation and actions on the ground related to SFM.

The forest instrument is the first ever comprehensive and action-oriented global strategy towards achieving sustainable forest management. It grew out of the need of the international community to have a strategic framework that strengthens political commitment and action at all levels to implement effectively sustainable management of all types of forests and to achieve the shared global objectives on forests; enhances the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; and provides a framework for national action and international cooperation.

6. POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION FOR UNFF

There are four major sources that weigh in on determining the work programme of the UNFF. They are:

- A) ECOSOC resolutions or input from other relevant UN bodies
- B) IPF/IFF proposals for action and endorsements of UNFF
- C) Recommendations of expert groups, suggestions made in country reports and other similar sources.
- D) The multiyear programme of work approved by the Forum

It would be helpful to draw on all these sources to identify suitable areas for cooperation.

6.1 ECOSOC resolutions and input from other relevant UN bodies

The ECOSOC has underlined the importance of cooperation for the Forum in a number of statements⁹. As noted in resolution 2000/35, one of the main functions of the international arrangement on forests and the United Nations Forum on Forests is to enhance cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, as well as to contribute to synergies among them, including coordination among donors.

The Council, in further elaborating the issue highlighted the need for strengthening of forest education and research and development; strengthening of cooperation and partnerships at the regional level; and establishing or strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships and programmes.

One of the purposes of the forest instrument is to provide a framework for international cooperation and it includes a section on measures for Member States on achieving this purpose. These measures include enhancing bilateral, regional and international cooperation with a view to promoting international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests and enhancing cooperation to address illicit

⁹ For details see Economic and Social Council, Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, Report of the Secretary-General, E/CN.18/2009/10

international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance at all levels (*ibid.*, paras. 1 (c) and 7 (g)-(i)).

Promotion of international technical and scientific cooperation, including South- South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and strengthening of cooperation and partnerships at the regional and subregional levels were called for in order to promote sustainable forest management.

Also, in relation to national policies and measures Member States were urged to identify and implement measures to enhance cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination among sectors affecting and affected by forest policies and management, with a view to integrating the forest sector into national decision making processes and promoting sustainable forest management, including by addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and by promoting forest conservation (*ibid.*, para. 6 (k)).

At its seventh session, the Forum also adopted the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015. In the programme, one of the common agenda items for the Forum sessions during those years is enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, including activities and inputs of CPF.

6.1.2 Measures taken

The Secretary General's report underlines several measures taken in pursuit of the ECOSOC Resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49, to facilitate cooperation and coordination at the international, regional and national levels¹⁰. To mention a few, the Decision IX/5 of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, for example, is a considerable development in relation to the enhanced cooperation and collaboration with the Forum and its secretariat. Decision 2/CP.13 of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entitled "Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action" also provided, in paragraph 8 of the annex, that demonstration activities should be consistent with sustainable forest management, noting, *inter alia* the relevant provisions of the Forum. The work on enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination with regional and subregional organizations has been intense. The report noted that in certain areas, however, it may still require strengthening cooperation and coordination.

Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49 highlighted several priority areas related to means of implementation. In addition to a strong call for financial resources and developing innovative financing mechanisms, the resolution called for greater support for scientific and technological innovation, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, traditional knowledge and technologies, and capacity-building, building capacity of countries to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed forests and effectively combating illegal forest practices. The empowerment of stakeholders, especially local and forest-dependent communities, indigenous peoples, women, small-scale private forest owners and forest workers in sustainable forest management, was also underscored in the resolution.

The forest instrument further emphasized the need for capacity-building through education, training, extension programmes, and public awareness and sharing of information on sustainable forest management, best practices and lessons learned.

All these point to the emphasis placed on cooperation by the Economic and Social Council.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

6.2. IPF/IFF proposals for action and endorsements of UNFF

IPF/IFF proposals for action as well as reports of the UNFF highlight a number of areas for promotion of sustainable forest management that would benefit from North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. National reports to UNFF also have identified many important areas that would benefit from cooperation. By examining these it would be possible to derive a short list of areas recommended by these fora for cooperative action. An additional area of cooperation specific to the Forum is the support of relevant international organisations and instruments through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The following paragraphs in this section include suggestions drawn from these documents.

Closer cooperation between the Forum and other relevant organizations, agreements and institutions, especially in relation to promoting international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests and addressing illicit international trafficking in forest products, could take place as well as strengthening technical and scientific cooperation among countries.

The forest instrument and the multi-year programme of work of the Forum on Forests provide solid ground and guidance for enhanced cooperation and coordination. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests continues to provide effective means for enhanced cooperation and coordination among international bodies on issues and activities related to forests. Cooperation at the regional and national levels should also be fully maximized.

Reports also highlighted the need to identify additional opportunities to facilitate regional and subregional cooperation on forestry issues, including by developing guidelines to assist the preparation of regional inputs to the ninth session of the Forum, fostering active dialogues and convening workshops on specific themes of regional concerns

6.2.1 Financing

Several sources confirm that financing for sustainable forest management is not adequate, particularly in many developing countries. Funding is required for a wide gamut of forest management activities related to information, planning and silvicultural operations, as well as sustainable harvesting, processing and marketing. Furthermore, funding is needed for education, human resources management, research and technology development, market development, downstream processing, strengthening of legal, policy and institutional frameworks and capacity-building, among other needs. Report recommended that promoting international cooperation, including North- South, South-South and triangular cooperation to advance the implementation of the forest instrument¹¹.

6.2.2 Technology Transfer

As early as 1997 the IPF emphasized the need for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies in the forest sector to enable countries to manage, conserve and sustainably develop their forests. It also noted that new technologies are predominantly developed in the North and in the private domain, and emphasized the need for strengthening North-South cooperation in technology transfer under favourable (concessional) terms. It also recognized the importance of South-South cooperation. The Panel urged countries and organizations to formulate conducive policies and programmes, prepare inventories of the most appropriate forest-related technologies, develop improved forest information systems and capacity to utilize such information in the implementation of national forest programmes and sustainable forest management practices.

¹¹ Report of the Secretary-General on Finance and other means of implementation for sustainable forest management • E/CN.18/2009/9

The Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) further reviewed at its fourth session the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building issues.¹⁵ It urged organizations to act as clearing house mechanisms for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. It also noted the importance of human and institutional capacity-building; and the special need for rehabilitation technologies for critical areas, information-sharing and capacity-building and targeted outreach programmes for women.

A decade later these demands remained valid as they did in 1997.

Recommendations of expert groups, suggestions made in country reports and other similar sources.

National reports have repeatedly identified a great need of technology in the following areas: (a) development of information management systems for sustainable forest management; (b) utilization of modern monitoring and assessment technologies, including remote sensing and geographic information systems and tools for early warning for specific threats, such as fire; (c) improved harvesting and silvicultural practices; and (d) more efficient wood processing and utilization technologies¹²

The Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Finance and Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies, convened in December 2003, identified a number of areas where the transfer of modern technology and knowledge are needed, including socially and environmentally sound management systems, remote sensing and geographic information system technologies, pulp and paper technology, bio-energy production technology and biotechnology development for a wide range of forest products, including non-wood products. Industry can provide assistance in addressing the competitiveness of environmentally sound technologies utilized in industrial applications¹³.

National reports received for the eighth session shed light on some of the country experiences in capacity-building, technology transfer, public awareness and education. A number of countries noted the importance of capacity-building and technology transfer in achieving sustainable forest management. As part of capacity-building, reforming and updating the legislative and policy frameworks have been undertaken by a number of countries. Countries affected by illegal trade in forest products have started adopting new technology in tracking timber movement and using third party verification of legality in some instances. Some countries highlighted education and training as part of enhancing capacity domestically as well as in international cooperation programmes. Countries that have national forest programmes have found them a useful framework for capacity-building.

Public awareness and education were mentioned in several of the national reports. Formal forestry education is found in increasingly few specialized colleges and universities. The courses are increasingly being revised, with a focus on sustainability and related emerging aspects of forestry. Promoting awareness is critical in forestry, and for that reason countries are paying increased attention to informing, educating and engaging the public on many aspects of sustainable forest management. Some countries have in place a professional holiday with visible events, involving the broader community, especially the youth. Others run awareness campaigns, especially on forest fires and other forestry-related issues. Educational activities often include producing exhibitions, films, magazine articles and information materials and running visitor centres. In implementing these programmes, countries are resorting more and more to modern technology such as dedicated websites.

The multiyear programme of work approved by the Forum

¹² See E/CN.18/AC.2/2003/3.

¹³ See E/CN.18/2004/5.

The UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work or MYPOW (2007-2015) adopted at the seventh session of UNFF (UNFF7), sets out the detailed programme for implementing the NLBI. (See appendix for details). MYPOW is effectively the strategic plan of the Forum and it is important that any suggested cooperative action programme encompasses the key elements of the MYPOW.

7. DEVELOPING A STRATEGY TO PROMOTE COOPERATION

The first step in developing a strategy to promote cooperation is to derive a list of areas for cooperation that closely meets the needs of the UNFF. Details of the proposals for action emanating from the four main sources discussed above provide a reasonably comprehensive list of areas that could be addressed through cooperation to effectively progress the implementation of the NLBI.

Table 1: LIST OF AREAS OF COOPERATION TO SUPPORT SFM

No.	Area of cooperation	Sub themes	Follow up action
1	Transfer of technology	Wood processing, pulp and paper, tracking timber movement, 3 rd party verification systems, forest information systems, traditional knowledge technology, modern monitoring and assessment technology, remote sensing, early warning systems	Mostly NSC. Some SSC
2	Political commitment	Cross cutting	
3	Financing of SFM	Cross cutting	CPF, NSC,SSC
4	Education	Formal and technical	NSC,SSC,TC
5	Public awareness	Cross cutting	SSC,TC
6	Forest management	Silviculture, Sustainable harvesting, protected forests, biological diversity Reversing the loss of forest cover	NSC,SSC,TC Also piggy back with CBD, FAO initiatives
7	Capacity building	Applies to all areas	NSC,SSC,TC
8	Wood processing	Efficient downstream processing, pulp and paper, biotechnology, bio-energy,	NSC,SSC,TC
9	Legal, Policy and institutional frameworks	Effective governance, availability and effectiveness of legislation, adequate policies and legislation for SFM, framework for promotion of investment in SFM, illegal trade	NSC, TC
10	Outreach programmes for women		SSC,TC
11	International trade	Promotion of trade in sustainably managed products	NSC,SSC
12	Training and extension		NSC,SSC,TC
13	Climate change		CPF, FAO, NSC, SSC, TC
14	Desertification		CCCD, NSC,SSC,TC
15	Forest dependent communities		SSC,TC
16	Social and cultural aspects of forests		SSC,TC
17	Forests and urban communities		SSC,TC

The last column in the table includes the suggested form of follow up action, in particular the most appropriate form of cooperation. As noted it is only a suggested option. Where appropriate the column also identifies whether it is possible for the UNFF to piggy back on similar work being undertaken by other organisations. One item in this category is item 2 on Finance which is being addressed cooperatively already within the CPF. Within item 5 on Forest management there are several sub themes which can be dealt with in different ways. For instance protection forests and biological diversity can be

handled by piggy backing with work already underway with the CBD. Also in the same group is 'reversing the decline in forest cover' which is best dealt with the FAO and ITTO. FAO largely manages the collection of statistics while ITTO plays an important role in operational aspects. CBD too could have a useful role in this. Yet another area for a cooperative effort with members of the CPF is climate change. Such joint exercises will not only save time and effort but also minimise the impingement on those providing the basic data.

However, care needs to be exercised in adopting such approaches to ensure that the UNFF agenda and achievement of its objectives are not compromised, nor does it adversely affect the strategies of other cooperating parties. The interesting aspect of the three types of cooperation is that there are no fixed limits on numbers or type of participants or the issues to be addressed within any given set up. This flexibility allows for making up groups tailored to best address an issue rather than utilising the less useful 'one size fits all' approach. They can be made even more effective by establishing performance criteria and time limits for delivery and even linking up with the timing and other requirements of the MYPOW.

8. CHALLENGES

There are a number of challenges in developing a strategy to promote cooperation many of which are exacerbated by the current economic environment.

Critical to the success of cooperation is addressing a fundamental issue relating to political commitment. While cooperation at all levels could play a critical role in generating commitment a problem often encountered is a general lack of political commitment to sustainable forest management in some parts of the world. This has been a fundamental obstacle to implementing SFM. There are many reasons for this. When faced with urgent and politically sensitive alternative uses of forestland, such as maintaining food security and employment, SFM, where the benefits are largely long term, does not feature high in political priorities. The current economic environment has tended to make it even more difficult. Yet, cooperation, especially South-South cooperation could play an important part in addressing issues.

Perhaps emanating from the same source country demand for official development assistance for forests (e.g., requests for forest ODA by the recipient countries) has been relatively weak, despite the fact that the majority of developing countries need such ODA for sustainable forest management; this seems to be due to various reasons, most notably that forests are not high on national political and development agendas. Although most developing countries have been receiving some ODA for forests, its distribution has remained uneven, showing major geographic and thematic gaps. It is notable that only 10 developing countries have been receiving two thirds of total forest ODA, while no funding has been reported for about 30 countries¹⁴. This too is a difficult issue but if any process can address such matters cooperation appears high up in that.

Another critical constraint has been paucity of finance. Most of the means of implementation are intricately linked to the financing aspect of sustainable forest management, and any decision on a financial architecture for sustainable forest management would directly impact on the availability of these means of implementation. Recent levels of funding of South-South cooperation has been enough to demonstrate its effectiveness at the project and programme levels but wholly inadequate to give it larger impact, except in East and South-East Asia, where corporations invested massively in establishing regional production chains to serve global markets. A third constraint has been lack of information supportive of South-South cooperation, as global and regional flows do little to support South-South cooperation processes.

There is also another issue that needs to be addressed for SSC to work effectively beside NSC. That is the divergence of views on the conceptual framework governing South-South cooperation and the appropriate

¹⁴ Economic and Social Council, Finance and other means of implementation for sustainable forest management, Report of the Secretary-General** E/CN.18/2009/9

place of South-South cooperation in the international development architecture. Developed countries underscore that South-South cooperation should not be isolated conceptually from global development cooperation efforts, and that it should be governed by the same principles and commitments as official development assistance (ODA). Developing countries, on the other hand, maintain that South-South cooperation cannot mirror cooperation with the North, and that financial contributions in South-South cooperation should not be treated as traditional ODA. Efforts to foster a convergence of views will go a long way towards strengthening internationally coherent support for the growth of South-South cooperation¹⁵.

Illegal logging represents 8 to 10 percent of global wood products production and a similar share of global wood products trade, with an estimated value of \$22.5 billion according to a study conducted for the American Forest & Paper Association¹⁶. This has serious implications on efforts towards sustainable forest management. It is a daunting task to address the problem effectively. Cooperation holds some promise in dealing with the issue but it is a major challenge.

Financial support for SSC projects, especially in research is known to be considerably limited. As a result many South-South initiatives remain critically under-funded, and often fail to go beyond mere political slogans.

9. OPPORTUNITIES

There are a few emerging advantages for cooperation to benefit from. One of these is the greater awareness of what SFM means, why it is important and how it can be achieved. This has allowed for greater priority for SFM in the day to day activities of the industry as well as individual households. Certification which has reflected concerns about unsustainable management of forests in the market place may also continue to add to the recognition of SFM. This awareness will no doubt assist in any effort made towards SFM.

The role of forests in addressing issues related to climate change has also created new interest in forests. Forests will continue to be an integral part in whatever measures that are adopted at the Copenhagen Conference. This could have a major impact in terms of recognition of the role of forests as well as attracting much needed resources to support SFM. This will entail National forest institutions and other stakeholders (forest owners, forest concessionaires, industry owners, and indigenous and local communities) having to rapidly strengthen their understanding and capacities to deliver forest carbon as a product (service) and perform related activities, including accounting, marketing and negotiations.

10. CONCLUSION

As noted by the high level conference on South-South Cooperation earlier this month mass poverty continues to be the most serious challenge in many developing countries, including those with the largest and most dynamic economies. Millions of their people live in hunger, deprived of clean drinking water, adequate shelter, medical care, fuel and sanitation. Unemployment, underemployment, and lack of decent work remain major problems for almost all developing countries. Most African countries are not on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals set for 2015 at the Millennium Summit of the General Assembly in 2000 (see resolution 55/2). These trends have their obvious corollary on sustainable forest management.

This situation underlines the need for developing countries to scale up their cooperation to higher levels and give it much greater priority. A few developing countries have made it a priority to establish clear

¹⁵ Statement by Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to the High-Level Event on the Fourth United Nations Day For South-South Cooperation
New York, 19 December 2007 http://www.un.org/esa/desa/ousg/statements/2007/20071219_South_Cooperation.html

¹⁶ Seneca Creek Associates LLC and Wood Resources International LLC, "Illegal" logging and Global Wood Markets: The competitive impacts on the US WOood products Industry, p21.

policies and institutional mechanisms to coordinate, monitor and fund sufficient large-scale or strategic cross-border initiatives.

In the renewed focus on cooperation it is important to ensure the inclusion of two particular groups to achieve desired results. One of these is the private sector (e.g., through foreign direct investment) is a potent source for technology transfer and capacity-building through the diffusion of newer technologies, management skills and knowledge. Such diffusion could take place among the private sector entities of all countries, developing and developed. Encouraging North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships may pave the way for technology and capacity-building processes.

The second group constitute the involvement of regional and subregional organisations. New trends are emerging in triangular cooperation where pairing of UN agencies with the private sector and with governments in the North and South, to foster South-South and triangular cooperation. It has been recognised that such cooperation was more attuned to needs and demands of countries in the region, and more responsive to country priorities, and displayed better knowledge of country and regional perspectives. Involvement of the Asian Development Bank in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), and in sub-regional country groupings in South Asia are good examples of such cooperation. Regional cooperation is of particular use to build regional capacity; address technical and sensitive political issues; take into account the rights and interests of indigenous and forest-dwelling people; attract and channel funds; develop and promote common positions; and promote SFM and related subjects, such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and land Degradation (REDD), access and benefit sharing and payment for ecosystem services¹⁷.

While the traditional basis of support for SFM has been North South Cooperation, in recent years, South-South Cooperation has emerged as a tool with growing effectiveness in delivering results. Consequently, triangular cooperation too has become a useful mechanism to assist countries in diverse circumstances to make progress. All three types of cooperation have been a part of proposed action towards achieving SFM ever since the Forest Principles and Agenda 21 were adopted by the international community nearly two decades ago. It is an appropriate policy response in the changing environment to place new emphasis on cooperation, especially SSC and TC. However, if new and incremental gains are to be made from these moves it is important that South-South and Triangular cooperation supplement, and not substitute, for the traditional North-South cooperation. NSC has its own unique role continuing to play in supporting initiatives towards SFM including assisting triangular cooperation.

11. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

To take you back to the introduction to this paper the purpose of our meeting is first to identify basic elements for a strategy on North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation 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 the 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 above resolution. The context of such a cooperation strategy should include the Forest Instrument and the Global Objectives on Forests.

Answers to the following questions may help to take us in that direction.

1. What are the basic building blocks for cooperation in SFM?
2. Are there any particular institutional arrangements between countries that improve the likelihood of success?

¹⁷ World Forestry Congress 2009, <http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/forest/wfc13/html/ymbvol10num13e.html>

3. What do we mean by those different types of cooperation in the context of forests, SFM, NLBI, 4 GOFs, etc.
4. What are the essentials for successful cooperation?
5. what elements should be considered or included in a cooperation strategy for UNFF
6. How it should be similar or different to existing similar mechanisms – value added, or exclusive/specific needs of forests
7. What is the most effective way to proceed? A step-wise approach? timeline? Institutional aspect (e.g., invite relevant CPF members to take a lead?, partnership with research or private sector?, a very focused CLI?, etc.)

APPENDIX

a) The multiyear programme of work approved by the Forum

The UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work or MYPOW (2007-2015) was adopted at the seventh session of UNFF (UNFF7), and reflects the new biennial format for the Forum. For more details on the UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work (2007-2015) are contained in the [report of UNFF7](#).

	UNFF 8 (2009)	UNFF 9 (2011)	UNFF 10 (2013)	UNFF 11 (2015)
<i>Main task</i>	Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests		Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the international arrangement on forests	
<i>Overall themes</i>	Forests in a changing environment; Means of implementation for sustainable forest management	Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication	Forests and economic development	Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests
<i>Themes</i>	<p><i>Forests in a changing environment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forests and climate change - Reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including low forest cover countries - Forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas <p><i>Means of implementation for sustainable forest management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision on a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework <p>An emerging issue may be also considered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community-based forest management - Social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure - Social and cultural aspects <p>International Year of Forests 2011</p> <p>Assessment of Progress</p> <p>High-level segment</p> <p>An emerging issue may also be considered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest products and services - National forest programmes and other sectoral policies and strategies - Reducing risks and impacts of disasters - Benefits of forests and trees to urban communities <p>An emerging issue may be also considered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options, as stated by the Council in its resolution 2006/49, paragraph 32 - Reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests - Reviewing the contribution of forests and the international arrangement on forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, to the internationally agreed development goals <p>High-level segment</p> <p>An emerging issue may be also considered</p>
<i>Cross-cutting issues</i>	Means of implementation (finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building, awareness-raising, education and information-sharing); forest law enforcement and governance at all levels.			
<i>Common agenda items</i>	Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests; regional and subregional inputs; multi-stakeholder dialogues and participation; enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, including activities and inputs of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.			