

Advanced unedited text

United Nations Forum on Forests

**Report on the third session
(15 March 2002 and 26 May to 6 June 2003)**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2003
Supplement No. 22**

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I.

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft resolution

Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35, particularly paragraph 4 of the Resolution, establishing the Forum as the subsidiary body of the Council composed of all State Members of the United Nations and State Members of the specialized agencies with full and equal participation,

Also recalling paragraph 6 of the same Resolution, inviting voluntary extrabudgetary contributions in support of participation of representatives of developing countries, which are not members of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in sessions of the Forum and its subsidiary bodies,

Further recalling paragraph 16 of the same Resolution, calling upon interested donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations to make voluntary financial contributions to the trust fund in order to facilitate the continued work of the Forum and the secretariat,

Taking note of the report by the secretariat at its third session on the status of the secretariat, and the views expressed by many countries for the need of enhanced participation of Member States from developing countries and the least developed

countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, in the Forum sessions,

Also taking note that the Trust Fund is an important resource for carrying out activities to support the work of the Forum and to ensure the increased participation of representatives of developing countries, least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, and their experts in the sessions of the Forum, country-led initiatives, and in ad hoc expert groups,

Acknowledging with appreciation the voluntary extrabudgetary contributions made by a number of donor Governments to the Trust Fund to support the Forum and its secretariat, and recognizing the need for additional resources,

1. *Invites* donor Governments, institutions and other organizations to provide contributions to the Trust Fund;
2. *Decides* that support to participants from developing countries, with priority to the least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, may be provided from the Trust Fund for travel and daily subsistence allowance from funds designated for that purpose.

B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

2. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind paragraph 4 (i) of its resolution 2000/35, decides that the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests will be held in Geneva from 3 to 14 May 2004.

Draft decision II

Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its third session and provisional agenda for its fourth session

The Economic and Social Council,

- (a) Takes note of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its third session;
- (b) Approves the provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum as set out below.

Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Status of the Secretariat
4. Implementation of the proposal for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests / Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests.
 - (a) Progress in implementation
 - i. Traditional forest-related knowledge
 - ii. Forest-related scientific knowledge
 - iii. Social and cultural aspects of forests
 - iv. Monitoring assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions
 - v. Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management
 - (b) Means of implementation (finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity building for sustainable forest management) as a cross-cutting issue, considered in the context of sub-items 3 (a), (i-v) above.

-
5. Common items for each session:
 - (a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue
 - (b) Enhanced cooperation
 - (c) Country experiences and lessons learned
 - (d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation
 - (e) Intersessional work
 - (f) Monitoring assessment and reporting
 - (g) Promoting public participation
 - (h) National forest programmes
 - (i) Trade
 - (j) Enabling environment
 6. Other matters
 7. Dates and venue of the fifth session of the Forum
 8. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Forum
 9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session

Draft decision III

Intersessional work by ad hoc expert groups

The Economic and Social Council, *bearing in mind* paragraph 4 (k) of its resolution 2000/35 and *recalling* the United Nations Forum on Forests' multi-year programme of work adopted in UNFF's resolution 1/1, in particular paragraphs 23 and 24:

(a) *Decides* to establish the following three ad hoc expert groups to support the work of the Forum as contained in the annex to the present decision.

(b) *Invites* each of the five United Nations regional groups to nominate six country experts to the Secretariat for the ad hoc expert group on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting as well as six country experts for the ad hoc

expert group on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies by 15 September 2003.

(c) *Further Invites* member states of the UNFF to present a nomination of a country expert to the Secretariat for the ad hoc expert group on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests by 31 March 2004.

(d) *Further decided that* to ensure efficiency, transparency and balanced reflection of the range of views, the following preparations should be performed for the meeting of the ad hoc expert group meeting on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests:

- (i) Presentation of factual and technical information including updated information on existing regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes relevant to forests and that of other relevant organizations and agreements, including multilateral environmental agreements and regional conventions and processes,
- (ii) Compilation of the progress made, catalysts and obstacles encountered by member states and CPF member organizations in implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action and the decisions and resolutions of UNFF sessions
- (iii) Presentation and detailed description of a range of options, including their legal, financial and institutional modalities.

The UNFF member states are invited to submit their views on (i), (ii) and (iii) above. The members of the CPF are invited to provide information on (i) and (ii) above. These views and information should be provided to the UNFF Secretariat by 31 January 2004.

Accordingly, the UNFF Secretariat shall compile the views submitted by the member states and the information provided by the members of the CPF in preparation for the ad hoc expert group meeting.

The Bureau of UNFF4 shall keep member states apprised of the progress made in the preparation of documentation for the ad hoc expert group. The Bureau will undertake consultations with the member states through convening a one-day informal meeting in New York immediately after a meeting of the UNFF 4 Bureau prior to UNFF4.

The UNFF4 will receive an information note on the progress of the preparation of documentation for the ad hoc expert group meeting. This note is neither subject to discussion nor negotiation in UNFF4.

The official documentation for consideration of the ad hoc expert group shall be made available to countries 60 days in advance of the meeting of the ad hoc expert group.

Annex

A

Ad hoc expert group on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting

Scope and work programme

1. The ad hoc expert group shall provide scientific and technical advice to the United Nations Forum on Forests on approaches and mechanisms for the work of the Forum on monitoring, assessment and reporting. Its work should be undertaken within the context of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and relevant resolutions of the Forum at its sessions, and should also consider, inter alia, related

intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF)
proposals for action and the outcomes of Forum sessions, including its reports.

Tasks

2. For monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress in implementing IPF/IFF proposals for action and progress towards sustainable forest management, the ad hoc expert group will:

- (a) Assess existing reporting requirements under relevant international conventions, processes, instruments and organizations in order to identify strengths, weaknesses and duplication in reporting processes, taking into account the relevant work undertaken by Collaborative Partnership on Forests members;
- (b) Assess existing monitoring and assessment procedures in international conventions, processes, instruments and organizations related to forests in order to identify strengths, weaknesses and duplications, taking into account the relevant work undertaken by Collaborative Partnership on Forests members;
- (c) Propose ways for the Forum to monitor and assess progress, based on:
 - (i) Voluntary reporting by countries on implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action;
 - (ii) Voluntary reporting by Collaborative Partnership on Forests members and other relevant organizations, international and regional processes on implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action;
 - (iii) Ongoing work on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management being undertaken at the national, regional and international levels;
 - (iv) Existing data and information as well as reporting systems and structures;

(d) Propose an outline for voluntary reporting to the Forum;

(e) Recommend options for drawing upon the reports provided to Forum sessions to identify trends and lessons learned;

(f) Develop recommendations on how to build capacity in countries, including the increase of resources for that goal, for monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account the special needs of developing countries.

3. In carrying out these tasks, the ad hoc expert group should take into account the results of intersessional activities related to monitoring, assessment and reporting led by countries, organizations, international and regional processes. Its reports should be made available as a contribution to the discussions at Forum country- and organization-led initiatives that are related to the present terms of reference. As relevant, the ad hoc expert group should also take into account the results of the work undertaken by Collaborative Partnership on Forests members on forest-related concepts, terminology and definitions.

Composition and participation

4. The ad hoc expert group shall be composed of 30 experts designated by Governments, six from each of the five United Nations regional groups.

5. The government-designated experts shall have well-recognized scientific and technical expertise in monitoring, assessment and reporting and knowledge of the intergovernmental forest policy deliberations of IPF, IFF and the Forum.

6. Representatives of the United Nations Forum on Forests Member States shall be allowed to participate in the first two days of the meeting of the ad hoc expert group and remain as observers for the last three days of the meeting.

7. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests shall be invited to make scientific and technical contributions to the work of the ad hoc expert group to support the work of the ad hoc expert group in a resource capacity.

8. Intergovernmental organizations and representatives of major groups, with relevant expertise, may participate in the meeting, in accordance with the rules and procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as practices established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, IPF and IFF. They may be invited to make scientific and technical contributions.

Travel assistance

9. Travel support and daily subsistence allowance at established United Nations rates will be provided to each of the government-designated experts, if the budget allows, with priority to developing countries, particularly least developed countries as well as countries with economies in transition.

Officers

10. The Chairmanship of the ad hoc expert group shall be elected from among the government-designated experts at its meeting.

Duration of work

11. The ad hoc expert group shall initiate its work after the third session of the Forum and complete its work at least three months in advance of UNFF 4.

Meeting

12. The ad hoc expert group will hold one meeting for up to five days before the end of 2003. It will also use electronic means of communication to the greatest extent possible. The ad hoc expert group meeting will be organized at a United Nations venue where meeting facilities are available, preferably in New York, taking into account cost-effectiveness. To the extent possible, the ad hoc expert group will hold its meeting back to back to the meeting of the Ad hoc expert group on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

Proposals and recommendations for consideration by the Forum

13. The proposals and recommendations of the ad hoc expert group should be provided by consensus. In the absence of consensus, the report of the ad hoc expert group shall fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

Reports

14. The ad hoc expert group shall prepare its report, taking into consideration the views of all participants and contributions received, and shall submit its report to the fourth session of the Forum for consideration. The report shall specify major outcomes of the ad hoc expert group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.

Secretariat

15. The Forum secretariat shall serve as the secretariat for the ad hoc expert group, supported by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

B

Ad hoc expert group on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies

Scope and work programme

16. The ad hoc expert group shall provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum for its work on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. The work of the ad hoc expert group should be undertaken within the context of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and relevant resolutions adopted by the Forum at its sessions, and should also consider, inter alia, related IPF/IFF proposals for action and outcomes of Forum sessions, including its reports.

Tasks

17. The ad hoc expert group will undertake the following specific tasks on finance:

Finance

(a) Consider previous initiatives on finance, including recommendations from the Croydon, Oslo and Pretoria workshops, as well as the relevant IPF/IFF proposals for action, background papers and strategy documents of Collaborative Partnership on Forests members;

(b) Assess the role and status of official development assistance (ODA) directed towards sustainable forest management and consider ways for enhancing its availability and effectiveness. In this regard, identify possible means to enhance developed countries efforts to fulfil their commitments on ODA;

(c) Review the effectiveness of existing international financing for sustainable forest management, including methods and mechanisms, analyze opportunities, country-level gaps, limitations and donor and recipient priorities, as well as the contribution of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests towards financing sustainable forest management. Propose measures to improve the effectiveness of that financing to enhancing the enabling environment at both the national and international levels and to attract increased financing from all sources;

(d) Explore the potential of new and innovative approaches to attract increased financing for sustainable forest management. Discuss and make suggestions for expanded use of those approaches to address the need for financial resources for financing sustainable forest management, including through national forest programmes or equivalent processes;

(e) Assess country experiences towards mobilization of financial resources to support sustainable forest management. In this regard, identify gaps, potentials and limitations of current financing sources and financial mechanisms to implement sustainable forest management. Further, propose approaches to enhance and more effectively use and mobilize national and international financial resources;

(f) Assess and consider the role of the private sector in financing sustainable forest management. In this regard, recommend measures to improve the enabling environment for private investment in sustainable forest management, at both the national and international levels, and encourage increased private resource flows to the forest sector, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

18. The ad hoc expert group will undertake the following specific tasks on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies:

Transfer of environmentally sound technologies

(a) Review and assess existing initiatives on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and knowledge diffusion for the promotion of sustainable forest management among countries and sectors and stakeholders, including through North-South, North-North and South-South cooperation and programmes of Collaborative Partnership on Forests members. This should include an analysis of incentives that promote and obstacles that inhibit the transfer of forest-related environmentally sound technologies between and/or within countries, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in both the private and public sectors;

(b) Recommend approaches to improve transfer of forest-related environmentally sound technologies. The recommendation may include the role of various policy instruments, such as concessional and preferential terms, public private partnerships and research cooperation, as well as capacity-building in the use and application of current and emerging environmentally sound technologies, including remote sensing.

Composition and participation

19. The ad hoc expert group shall consist of 30 experts designated by Governments, six from each of the five United Nations regional groups.

20. The government-designated experts shall have well recognized scientific and technical expertise in finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and knowledge of the intergovernmental forest policy deliberations of IPF, IFF and the Forum.

21. Representatives of the United Nations Forum on Forests Member States shall be allowed to participate in the first two days of the meetings of the ad hoc expert group and remain as observers for the last three days of the meeting.

22. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests shall be invited to make scientific and technical contributions to the work of the ad hoc expert group to support the work of the ad hoc expert group in a resource capacity.

23. Intergovernmental organizations and representatives of major groups, with relevant expertise, may participate in the meeting, in accordance with the rules and procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as practices established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, IPF and IFF. They may be invited to make scientific and technical contributions.

Travel assistance

24. Travel support and daily subsistence allowance at established United Nations rates will be provided to each of the government-designated experts, if the budget allows, with priority to developing countries, particularly least developed countries as well as countries with economies in transition.

Officers

25. The Chairmanship of the ad hoc expert group shall be elected from among the government-designated experts at its meeting.

Duration of work

26. The ad hoc expert group shall initiate its work after the third session of the Forum and complete its work at least three months in advance of UNFF 4.

Meeting

27. The ad hoc expert group will hold one meeting for up to five days before the end of 2003. It will also use electronic means of communication to the greatest extent possible. The ad hoc expert group meeting will be organized at a United Nations venue, where meeting facilities are available, preferably in New York, taking into account cost-effectiveness. To the extent possible, the ad hoc expert group will hold its meeting back to back to the meeting of the ad hoc expert group on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting.

Proposals and recommendations for consideration by the Forum

28. The proposals and recommendations of the ad hoc expert group should be provided by consensus. In the absence of consensus, the reports of the ad hoc expert group shall fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

Reports

29. The ad hoc expert group shall prepare its report, taking into consideration the views of all participants and contributions received, and shall submit its report to the fourth session of the Forum for consideration. The report shall specify major outcomes of the ad hoc expert group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.

Secretariat

30. The Forum secretariat shall serve as the secretariat for the ad hoc expert group, supported by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

C

Ad hoc expert group on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests

Scope and work programme

31. The ad hoc expert group shall provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum for its work on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. The work of the ad hoc expert group should be undertaken within the context of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and resolutions adopted by the Forum at its sessions, in particular those referring to the creation and scope of the ad hoc expert groups.

Tasks

32. The reports of the ad hoc expert groups on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting and on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies will serve as inputs to the work of this ad hoc expert group.

33. The ad hoc expert group will undertake the following specific tasks on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests:

(a) Assess existing regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes relevant to forests; the assessment should include, inter alia, analysis of complementarities, gaps and duplications, and should take into account Forum resolution 2/3 on the specific criteria for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests.

(b) Consider reports prepared by countries, as referred to in the decision to which this annex is attached, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests members and the Forum secretariat, and outcomes of Forum sessions;

(c) Consider other outcomes of the international arrangement on forests, including inter alia, countries' efforts to implement the IPF/IFF proposals for action, other expert groups, Forum country- and organization-led initiatives and previous relevant initiatives, and forest-related work undertaken by the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(d) Review the relevant experiences of existing forest-related and other relevant organizations and agreements, including multilateral environmental agreements and regional conventions and processes, focusing on complementarities, gaps and duplications.

(e) Provide for consideration of UNFF5, a balanced range of options with respect to “consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests”.

Composition and participation

34. The ad hoc expert group shall be composed of experts designated by Governments from the Member States of UNFF .

35. The Government-designated experts shall have well-recognized scientific and technical expertise on the forest regime, Rio conventions and knowledge of the intergovernmental forest policy deliberations of IPF, IFF and the Forum.

36. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests shall be invited to make scientific and technical contributions to the work of the ad hoc expert group to support the work of the ad hoc expert group in a resource capacity.

37. Intergovernmental organizations and representatives of major groups, with relevant expertise, may participate in the meeting, in accordance with the rules and procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as practices established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, IPF and IFF. They may be invited to make scientific and technical contributions.

Travel assistance

38. Travel support and daily subsistence allowance at the established United Nations rates will be provided to one country expert from each developing country as well as to one country expert from countries with economies in transition, to the maximum extent from the budget, supplemented by voluntary extra budgetary contributions

Officers

39. Two Co-Chairpersons of the ad hoc expert group shall be elected from among the government-designated experts at its meeting, one from a developing country and one from a developed country.

Duration of work

40. The ad hoc expert group shall initiate its work immediately after the fourth session of the Forum and complete its work at least three months in advance of the fifth session of the Forum.

Meeting

41. The ad hoc expert group will hold one meeting for up to five days. It will also use electronic means of communication to the greatest extent possible. The ad hoc expert group meeting will be organized at a United Nations venue, where meeting facilities is available, preferably in New York, taking into account cost-effectiveness.

Proposals and recommendations for consideration by the Forum

42. The proposals and recommendations of the ad hoc expert group should be provided by consensus. In the absence of consensus, the reports of the ad hoc expert group shall fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

Reports

43. The ad hoc expert group shall adopt a report at its meeting, for submission to the Forum at its fifth session. The report shall specify major outcomes of the ad hoc expert group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.

Secretariat

44. The Forum secretariat shall serve as the secretariat for the ad hoc expert group, supported by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

C. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

3. The following resolutions adopted by the Forum are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 3/1

Economic aspects of forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Taking note of the views exchanged by countries and major groups at its third session on the status of countries' efforts to implement the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) proposals for action related to the economic aspects of forests, which identified progress, obstacles and lessons learned.

Highlighting the following lessons learned through the exchange of country experiences:

(a) Cross-sectoral policies, both at national and international levels, are necessary measures since policies in other sectors may often impact severely on sustainable forest management; the economic and other benefits of SFM should be mainstreamed in overall development policies;

(b) The accurate valuation of goods and environmental services provided by forests is essential for sustainable resource management;

(c) Clear and secure land tenure, effective forest law enforcement and governance are essential elements for economic viability of sustainable forest management. Thus, examples and lessons learned in this regard should be effectively shared and utilized;

(d) Timely and accurate collection and dissemination of information on forest valuation, resources, demand, supply and prices are important elements for well-functioning and transparent markets for products derived from sustainably managed forests, support decision-making and promote SFM;

(e) Private sector investments in sustainable forest management are important recognizing that public funding continues to remain critical especially in developing

countries. Partnerships between governments, private sector, local communities and other sectors of the society are of importance in SFM;

(f) Noting the forest partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the WSSD including FLEG, paid particular attention to the issue of forest law enforcement and governance, and taking into account the relevant decision of the eleventh session of the CSD on partnership initiatives in this regard;

(g) Emphasizing that in line with the commitments reached at WSSD and consistent with the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and recognizing the common goal of all countries to attain sustainable forest management, and the importance of the means of implementation to this end, immediate action at all levels to facilitate the provision of financial resources, transfer and development of environmentally sound technologies and capacity building is required to help to achieve the actions listed below, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to support their efforts to achieve sustainable forest management;

1. *Urges* countries to integrate, within their priorities and capacities, sustainable forest management into their overall national poverty reduction and development strategies, especially through their national forest programmes processes;

2. *Invites* the member organizations of CPF to assist countries in their efforts to implement the pertinent IPF/IFF proposals for action in respect to the full cost internalization of both wood products and non-wood substitutes and to undertake market and economic analysis of their implications for forest management and development costs and for SFM as well as in developing financial mechanisms that would help to develop new markets for environmental services as an important component of SFM;

3. *Calls* upon countries to take immediate action on domestic forest law enforcement and illegal international trade in forest products, including in forest biological resources, with the support of the international community, and provide human and institutional capacity-building related to the enforcement of national legislation in those areas;

4. *Invites* countries to take immediate action on domestic forest law enforcement, including where appropriate, through regional processes, taking into full account their national conditions and priorities;

5. *Encourages* countries to create new voluntary partnerships to promote sustainable forest management actions such as the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and the Asia Forest Partnership, taking into account the relevant CSD 11 decisions in this regard;

6. *Invites* countries to participate in the ITTO voluntary case studies that assess export and import data, so as to help countries to identify gaps and discrepancies in countries' own data collection and reporting systems and invites ITTO to report to UNFF upon the completion of that work;

7. *Requests* countries to enhance market access for forest products and services, understanding the special needs of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in ways that simultaneously promote trade and sustainable forest management. New efforts have to be made in relation to the development of new markets for environmental services, as important component of SFM in line with pertinent IPF/IFF proposals for action. *Encourages* CPF members to develop work on environmental services and potential markets; and in this regard, *notes* the work being undertaken by several CPF members on this subject;

8. *Invites* the CPF member organizations, in cooperation with others, to work on operationalizing the IPF/IFF proposals for action on voluntary certification of forest management and related voluntary labelling, with a view to promote SFM in a way that does not create unnecessary barriers to international trade, is non-discriminatory, transparent, and in accordance with commitments and obligations under relevant multilateral agreements. Such work should focus on building country capacity and not favour or endorse any particular certification scheme;

9. *Urges* countries to include in their NFPs or other similar framework programmes to support the empowerment of women to develop their entrepreneurial capacities, and to promote their participation in forest related decision-making processes at all levels;

10. *Urges* countries to foster greater involvement of local and indigenous communities into decision-making and implementation on sustainable forest management, and *encourages* countries to support broad-based participation and clarification of ownership rights in conformity with national legislation;

11. *Encourages* CPF members and other relevant actors to promote public awareness of the *Sourcebook on Funding Sustainable Forest Management* developed by the CPF; consider whether and to what extent the *Sourcebook* meets the needs of intended users; and work with each other to update and improve this important resource;

12. *Encourages* countries and the international community, recognizing the importance of promoting the needs of small and medium forest industries and their access to affordable and environmentally sound technologies, to support specific initiatives in this field, particularly in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition.

Resolution 3/2

Forest health and productivity

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Taking note of the exchange of views by countries and major groups at its third session on the status of country efforts to implement the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) proposals for action and on emerging issues related to forest health and productivity in which progress, obstacles and lessons learned were identified,

Highlighting, through the exchange of country experiences, the following lessons learned:

(a) Forest health and productivity are affected by a variety of factors, including air pollution and climate change, as well as wildfires, pests and diseases, water cycles, forest fragmentation, alien invasive species, overgrazing and drought;

(b) There has been promising progress in efforts at national and regional levels to monitor and address air pollution and its effects on forests;

(c) Climate change affects forest health, consequently may have adverse impacts on forest-dependent communities, and poses a serious threat to, *inter alia*, forests in vulnerable ecosystems, Small Island Developing States and coastal areas;

(d) Sustainable management promotes healthy forests and ecosystems that are more resilient to a variety of negative factors;

(e) Proactive national fire management strategies and programmes, in conjunction with international and regional collaboration, can improve forest fire prevention and response in terms of effective forest fire control;

(f) The restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forest ecosystems and measures to address forest fragmentation require integrated and participatory approaches and benefit from cross-sectoral collaboration;

(g) Taking effective measures in national forest programmes to improve forest health protection strategies and prevent pests and diseases, consistent with relevant provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO), have shown to help reduce and more effectively respond to outbreaks;

(h) Alien invasive species can jeopardize native plants and animals and affect forest health and productivity, and addressing this issue in national forest programmes can be beneficial;

(i) Additional research, data collection and analysis as well as information sharing on factors affecting forest health and productivity can significantly improve understanding of their impacts and enhance the development of appropriate measures and early responses;

1. *Urges* countries to strengthen international cooperation in the areas of financial resources, transfer of environmentally sound technology and capacity-building, in particular, for developing countries as well as for countries with economies in transition to maintain and enhance forest health and productivity through, *inter alia*, mainstreaming sustainable forest management in their poverty reduction strategies and/or national development programs.

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2. *Invites* members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations to facilitate regional, intergovernmental, and international cooperation in order to assist countries, upon request, to develop effective ways to identify and assess the main factors affecting or threatening forest health;
 3. *Encourages* countries, with the support of regional, intergovernmental, and international organizations, to further develop cross-sectoral preventive measures and remedial action that reduce negative impacts on the health of forests;
 4. *Encourages* countries to develop, within their national forest programmes, forest protection strategies to reduce negative impacts on forest health and productivity and strengthen cross-sectoral bilateral, regional and international co-operation in order to further the control of trans-boundary movement of pests and diseases as well as other factors, consistent with WTO provisions;
 5. *Encourages* countries to develop forest fire management strategies, which may include community based fire management programmes, and to consider, in this context, regional and international cooperation;
 6. *Encourages* countries to pursue integrated approaches to forest health and productivity in the context of sustainable forest management, including through strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration and mutually supportive national forest programmes and other national strategies relevant to forests;
 7. *Encourages* countries and regional and international organizations to continue to gather, analyze and widely disseminate reliable data and information on forest health, to promote international cooperation, and to strengthen research in these areas. The use of voluntarily adopted criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management is helpful in this respect.

Resolution 3/3

Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling its resolution 1/1 on the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in which it was decided that maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs be discussed at the third session of the Forum,

Noting the close linkages between maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs with many other elements addressed by the Forum, such as forest health and productivity and economic aspects of forests, in particular the economic value of forest products and services,

Also noting the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals as set out in the Millennium Summit, which directs increased attention to the role of forests in poverty eradication and sustainable development,

Welcoming intersessional activities carried out in support of the Forum, and in this regard, noting the outcomes of the International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: the Way Forward (Guatemala, 3-7 February 2003); country led-initiative on “Lessons Learned in Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action” (Italy, 17-20 March 2003); and the Expert Meeting on the Role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management (New Zealand, 25-27 March 2003),

Recognizing that maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs requires national actions and international cooperation,

Taking note of the rich exchange of views by countries and major groups at its third session on the status of country efforts to implement the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and on lessons learned related to maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs, in which the following were highlighted, representing a range of views,

Highlighting, through the exchange of country experiences, the following lessons learned:

- (a) Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs means, inter alia, meeting present and future demands for wood and non-wood forest products and services within the framework of sustainable forest management;
- (b) There has been a steady development of forest sector planning efforts at the national level, complemented by regional and global outlook studies for the forest sector, which provide valuable information that can assist countries in making long term and comprehensive forest sector assessments;
- (c) National forest programmes and other national forest-related strategies are useful tools to address sustained production of the full range of forest products and services at the national level;
- (d) Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management are useful frameworks for the development of national forest policy and planning efforts;

(e) Cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration at national, regional and global levels are necessary in order to address the under-valuation of forests, and to achieve effective inter-sectoral cooperation for sustainable forest management;

(f) Sustainable forest management of all types of forests is essential in maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs;

(g) Sustainably managed forest plantations, including their role in restoring degraded lands and increasing forest cover, contribute to meeting present and future needs of timber and non-timber forest products and services;

(h) The process of forecasting long term trends in forest goods and services is particularly challenging in developing countries that often have a weak information base and shortage of financial resources and institutional capacities;

(i) Secure land tenure and property rights are vital to the well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities that live in and around forests and are important to maintaining forest cover;

(j) The involvement of major groups is important in maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs and, in particular, the participation and education of women and youth are vital contributions to the future delivery of sustainable forest management;

(k) There is an urgent need to combat deforestation and forest degradation by addressing the underlying causes,

1. Urges countries in the context of their national development programmes, to strengthen efforts to combat deforestation and forest degradation, while reaffirming

the importance of international cooperation in the areas of finance, transfer of environmentally sound technology and capacity building for developing countries;

2. Encourages countries, within their capacities, to strengthen efforts to assess long-term trends in supply and demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services and to use the findings of these assessments in the development and implementation of their national forest programmes and strategies;

3. Calls upon the donor community, CPF members and other international organizations to assist countries, at their request, in strengthening their capacities for long-term strategic planning at national level, inter alia, in data and information collection, analysis and dissemination;

4. Encourages relevant members of the CPF to explore the possibilities for the most appropriate mechanisms for sourcing information related to forest cover, taking into account the need for all countries to have access to such information;

5. Invites FAO to continue to conduct regular global forest resources assessments and global and regional forestry outlook studies that take into account a broad range of forest products and services;

6. Encourages countries to promote efforts towards afforestation and reforestation, including in marginal lands, wastelands and degraded lands; policies that are designed to promote forest plantations should be in accordance with the principles of sustainable forest management and should not significantly adversely affect a country's forest cover and composition;

7. Encourages countries, within their capacities, to integrate criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management into national forest programmes on a voluntary

basis so as to strengthen efforts to take into account the full range of forest products and services in long-term planning;

8. Encourages countries, within their capacities, to consider the relevance of voluntarily adopted criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management to reporting on the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to maintaining forest cover;

9. Urges countries to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in order to improve efforts to maintain forest cover;

10. Encourages countries to recognize the importance of maintaining forest cover in contributing to poverty eradication and the need to integrate forest issues into national poverty reduction and development strategies, especially in developing countries;

11. Encourages countries to foster synergies between national forest programmes and other national strategies relevant to forests;

12. Also encourages relevant stakeholders to actively participate in efforts aimed at maintaining forest cover, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities;

13. Encourages support, particularly in developing countries, for national programmes for education, communication and capacity-building regarding sustainable forest management among youth, in order to promote their involvement in maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs.

Resolution 3/4

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling the Resolution 1/1 on the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), in which enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, inter alia, with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and other relevant functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, as well as other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments,

Further recalling the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular its goal on halving poverty by the year 2015 and the important contribution of sustainable forest management for the realization of this goal,

Welcoming the adoption of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), in which forest issues were addressed in the context of sustainable development,

Noting with appreciation the forest partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the WSSD, taking into account the relevant decision of the eleventh session of the CSD on partnership initiatives,

Noting with appreciation the decision VI/22 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), specifically regarding the mutual supportiveness of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forest (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity of the Convention,

Further welcoming the designation of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation as a new focal area of the Global Environment Facility (GEF),

Recalling the need for promoting public participation and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and in this regard welcoming the Forum's innovative multi-stakeholder dialogue, through facilitating interaction with all major groups,

Expressing its appreciation to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests for its strong support to the work of the Forum and its member countries; and for its contributions in enhancing cooperation and coordination on forest issues, in particular the CPF members individual and collective efforts to facilitate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and CPF's joint activities, including the recent work on the Sourcebook on Funding Sustainable Forest Management, the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting, and efforts to collect and harmonize forest-related definitions,

Noting that the Collaborative Partnership on Forests was formed by the invitation of the ECOSOC in resolution E/2000/35 to support the work of UNFF and is made up of representatives of the secretariats of relevant organizations of the UN system, and other relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, each with its own mandate, priorities and limited resources.

1. *Stresses* the need to further strengthen UNFF, with the support of CPF members, as the key intergovernmental mechanism to facilitate and coordinate implementation of sustainable forest management, through interactive exchange of experiences and lessons learned and policy cooperation, in particular focusing on obstacles and opportunities for advancing implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action;
2. *Invites* the CPF members to continue their important work to support the UNFF and its member countries and *encourages* CPF members to take concrete steps towards the establishment of partnerships between themselves and with Governments,

as well as with other relevant stakeholders for practical implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, including through national forest programmes;

3. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue its efforts to streamline forest-related reporting;
4. *Urges* Governments to identify the IPF/IFF proposals for action to the governing bodies of the members of CPF as priority areas of action, consistent with national priorities and the mandate of those bodies;
5. *Calls upon* donors, countries and International Financial Institutions, as well as CPF members to more effectively advance the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the areas of finance, trade, transfer of technology and capacity building, including the mobilization and prioritization of financial resources and allocation of ODA in support of sustainable forest management;
6. *Request* UNFF Secretariat to collaborate closely, to the extent practicable, with relevant organizations of the UN system, and other relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments to improve information exchange and cooperation in areas of common concern;
7. *Welcomes* the request of the CBD to work collaboratively on issues of common interest and *requests* the Coordinator and Head of the UNFF Secretariat to reflect the IPF/IFF/UNFF experiences on sustainable forest management at relevant meetings of the CBD;
8. *Invites* Member States of the Forum and CPF members to provide their views by the end of February 2004 to the UNFF Secretariat on the following issues and *requests* the UNFF Secretariat to submit a compilation of those views to UNFF 4:

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- (i) clarifying the concept of the ecosystem approach and the concept of sustainable forest management;
 - (ii) management, sustainable use and benefit-sharing of forest biological diversity;
 - (iii) relationship between IPF/IFF proposals for action and the activities of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity;

The outcome of the discussion on these issues at UNFF 4 will be provided to the Conference of the Parties of the CBD for information. In this regard, *further invites*:

- (i) organization of a country- and organization-led initiative in support of UNFF on the issues above;
- (ii) participation of forest experts in the relevant CBD meetings and conferences;

9. *Invites* the GEF, within its mandate and respective operational programs and strategies, to give due consideration to financing the projects on, *inter alia*, combating deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems, rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover, rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests;

10. *Emphasizes* the necessity to continue to closely collaborate with the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, in particular as regards to the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

11. *Encourages* countries to mainstream sustainable forest management into their national poverty reduction strategies, national development programmes and to foster linkages between national forest programmes and other national strategies that are relevant to forests, and thereby enhancing national cross-sectoral coordination;

12. *Invites* representatives of various regional institutions, bodies and processes to participate in the Forum's discussions on lessons learned in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action, and *encourages* further cooperation on sustainable forest management at the sub-regional and regional levels, as appropriate;

13. *Requests* the UNFF Secretariat to facilitate intersessional activities, such as country- and organization-led initiatives in support of the work of the Forum, and *invites* CPF members to support these initiatives, as appropriate.

Resolution 3/5

Strengthening the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35, particularly paragraph 10, that the secretariat should service the UNFF and support the CPF,

Also recalling the Multi-year programme of work and related UNFF decisions and resolutions particularly in the context of the preparation of UNFF 4, and UNFF 5, which will, inter alia, consider the outcome of the ad hoc expert group on consideration with a view to recommend the parameters for developing a legal framework on all types of forests,

Considering the significance and the magnitude of tasks involved,

Taking note of the report by the secretariat at its third session on the status of the secretariat human resources,

1. *Urges* countries and organizations to provide voluntary extrabudgetary contributions to the trust fund for the purpose of strengthening the secretariat for this important endeavour;

2. *Requests* the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat to expedite the work of identifying and proposing a process within the timeframe provided to the secretariat;

3. *Also requests* the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat to mobilize necessary human, financial and technical resources.

D. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following decisions adopted by the Forum are brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 3/1

Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations

The United Nations Forum on Forests decides to accord observer status to the following intergovernmental organizations:

- (a) International Network for Bamboo and Rattan;
- (b) International Centre for Research in Agroforestry;
- (c) Tehran Process Secretariat of Low Forest Cover Countries.

Decision 3/2

Format for voluntary reporting to the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Noting decision 2/1 of the second session of the UNFF on “Format for voluntary reporting to the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests” and the format prepared by the UNFF Secretariat pursuant to this decision,

Noting with appreciation the following initiatives related to monitoring, assessment and reporting on forests, including the “International Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on the Progress Toward Sustainable Forest Management”, hosted by Japan in Yokohama in November 2001; the initiative on “Lessons Learned in Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action”, hosted by Italy in Viterbo in March 2003; the

“International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: the Way Forward”, hosted by Guatemala in Guatemala City in February 2003; and the work of the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting,

Highlighting, through the exchange of views, the importance of reporting on implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action as well as of the benefits to countries of reporting, and of continuing to work to harmonize and streamline forest-related reporting to lessen the burden upon countries,

1. *Requests* the UNFF Secretariat, in order to assist countries in preparing their voluntary reports, to develop a suggested format to serve as a basis for countries to use and report on their implementation of the relevant IPF/IFF proposals for action at its fourth session, taking into account the views and relevant work of CPF members, and bearing in mind the following principles:

- (a) The format should be simple, streamlined and flexible;
- (b) The format should cover the thematic issues of the fourth session of the UNFF as well as the common items and cross-cutting issues;
- (c) The format should take into account the results of the above-mentioned country- led initiatives and conferences, as appropriate;
- (d) The format should be made available to allow sufficient time for countries to prepare their reports;

2. *Urges* countries and the international community to assist developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in strengthening their capacity to provide voluntary reports.

Decision 3/3

Documentation considered by the Forum at its third session

The Forum takes note of the following documents:

- (a) Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2003/2);
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper contributed by the forest workers and trade unions major group (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.1);
- (c) Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper contributed by the youth and children major group (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.2);
- (d) Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper contributed by the forest business and industry major group (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.3);
- (e) Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper contributed by the scientific and technological community: science and technology: building the future of the world's forests (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.4);
- (f) Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper contributed by the Women's Major Group (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.5);
- (g) Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper contributed by the small forest owners major group: building partnerships for sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.6);
- (h) Note by the Secretariat on intersessional work, including further discussion concerning the ad hoc expert groups (E/CN.18/2003/3);
- (i) Note by the Secretariat on a format for voluntary reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its third session (E/CN.18/2003/4);
- (j) Report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementation: forest health and productivity (E/CN.18/2003/5);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2003/6)

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on economic aspects of forests (E/CN.18/2003/7);

(m) Report of the Secretary-General on maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs (E/CN.18/2003/8).