

PROPOSAL BY BRAZIL

NON-LEGALLY BINDING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL TYPES OF FORESTS

1. States, in order to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests,

a) Reaffirm the relevance of the forest-related commitments made in the Agenda 21, in the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, and in the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation;

b) Reaffirm the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals within their timeframe and their concern that some countries may not be in a position to do so in view of lack of adequate financial and technical resources;

c) Reaffirm the Principles of the Declaration of Rio on Environment and Development, in particular those relating to the sovereign right of Countries to take advantage of their own resources according to their policies on environment and development as well as to the common but differentiated responsibilities of the Countries, based on their historical contribution toward the degradation of the global environment;

c) Reaffirm the decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the proposals for action identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), and the importance of ongoing efforts to implement such actions;

d) Reaffirm also ECOSOC resolution 2000/35 which states that the main objective of the international arrangement on forests is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end;

e) Understand that the purpose of the non-legally binding international arrangement on forests should be: i) to promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests, at the national, regional and global levels, ii) to provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development, and iii) to carry out principal functions, based on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles), Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, and the Proposals for Action adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, in

a manner consistent with and complementary to existing international legally binding instruments relevant to forests;

f) Express their concern regarding the continued deforestation and forest degradation and its adverse impact on the livelihoods of over a billion people, including many of the poorest and most vulnerable, and the need for more effective implementation of actions to facilitate the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;

g) Reaffirm that the UNFF, with the assistance of the CPF, is the key inter-governmental mechanism to support, facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels, and stress the importance of its appropriate strengthening;

h) Recognize that the implementation of policies and measures to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests requires significant technical and institutional capacities, as well as considerable financial commitments;

i) Recognize also that sufficient new and additional financial resources have yet to be channeled to support national policies and programmes aimed at the conservation, management and sustainable development of forests;

j) Understand that policies and measures adopted at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels should, as appropriate, enhance the capacity of countries to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed sources;

k) Also understand that States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries to better address the problems of environmental degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade;

l) Reaffirm the special needs and requirements of low forest covered countries and other countries with fragile ecosystems; and

m) Agree to the following Non-Legally Binding International Understanding on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (henceforth referred to as the "Understanding") as a voluntary instrument to enhance international cooperation and to support national, regional and sub regional policies and measures, within the International Arrangement of Forests and the mandate of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

2. The Understanding builds upon the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests.

3. Implementation of the Understanding should take into account that:

- a) Each country is responsible for the conservation and sustainable management of its forests and for the enforcement of its forest laws, which is essential to achieving sustainable forest management;
- b) International cooperation plays a crucial and catalytic role in reinforcing the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve the management of their forests; and
- c) The private sector, forest owners, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders can contribute to achieving sustainable forest management and should be involved in a transparent and participatory way in forest decision-making that affects them.

I. Global Objectives

4. The following Global Objectives should be achieved through the implementation of the Understanding:

- i) Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;
- ii) Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;
- iii) Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, and increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests; and
- iv) Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

II. Policies & Measures

5. The following actions should be developed at global, regional and sub-regional levels to achieve the above-mentioned global objectives:

- a) Initiating or strengthening, where appropriate, public-private partnerships with the private sector, civil society organizations, including community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to promote implementation of national forest programs,

criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, good business practices and improved market transparency;

b) Promoting research and development of forests, by means of a network of established centres of excellence, in all regions of the world, especially in developing countries;

c) Promoting international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, and the participation of local communities; and

d) Promoting long-term political commitments and strengthening existing commitments, which would allow countries to adopt concrete actions in institutional, economic and social fields, for the integration of conservation and sustainable forest management, within national development policies.

6. The following actions should be developed at national level to achieve the above-mentioned global objectives:

a) Formulating, implementing, publishing and regularly updating national programs containing measures to support and increase sustainable forest management and to combat deforestation, as well as measures related to the Global Objectives contained in paragraph 4(i) to (iv) of this Understanding;

b) Developing, periodically updating and making available to UNFF national reports on actions and instruments adopted to achieve the global objectives of this Understanding, using comparable methodologies to be agreed upon by the UNFF and taking into account reports required by other multilateral environmental agreements;

c) Including forests in national poverty reduction strategies and, as appropriate, in strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to carry out the actions agreed upon in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, with a view to mobilizing new and additional financial resources for international cooperation on sustainable forest management; and

d) Integrating conservation and sustainable forest management within national development policies.

III. Means of Implementation

7. In order to ensure the achievement of the Global Objectives set out in paragraph 4 above, the following means of implementation should be pursued:

a) Securing high-level political commitment and support to provide financial and technical resources to meet the global objectives of this resolution, including by the establishment of a global financing mechanism with the aim of providing specific financial resources for achieving the objectives of this Understanding;

b) Establishing a clearing-house mechanism to facilitate a better exchange of experiences and good practices, as well as access by developing countries to better technology for sustainable forest management and an increase of *in situ* added value for forest products;

c) Promoting the transfer of technology to and capacity building in developing countries to enable them to implement national policies and measures aimed at reversing the loss of forest cover in their territories as well as significantly increase the area of protected and sustainably managed forests; and

d) Inviting the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to strengthen its role in implementing sustainable forest management by establishing a new operational program on forests, with sufficient additional funds to be allocated without prejudice to other operational programs.

IV. Institutional modalities

8. The Proposals for Action adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) should be fully taken into account in the development of the Global Objectives referred to in paragraph 4 above.

9. The UNFF should periodically assess the implementation of this Understanding, review national reports, the provision of financial resources, and the adequacy of the modalities for transfer of technology, and should provide guidance for further action to achieve the objectives established above.

10. Regional and sub-regional meetings should be held to discuss practical steps at that level for the implementation of this Understanding. Such meetings should be conducted by regional or sub-regional organizations mandated by their member States and acknowledged by the UNFF. Such meetings should be prepared jointly by the designated organizations and the UNFF Secretariat.

11. The UNFF should continue to encourage and facilitate the participation of stakeholders from all major groups in its work, in an open and transparent way.

12. The UNFF should agree on a multiyear programme of work for the period 2007-2015 and on the strengthening of the Secretariat to fulfill its mandate.