

IPF Proposals for Action

A. Progress through national forest and land-use programmes

17 (a) The Panel encouraged countries, in accordance with their national sovereignty, specific country conditions and national legislation, to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate national forest programmes, which include a wide range of approaches for sustainable forest management, taking into consideration the following: consistency with national, subnational or local policies and strategies, and - as appropriate - international agreements; partnership and participatory mechanisms to involve interested parties; recognition and respect for customary and traditional rights of, *inter alia*, indigenous people and local communities; secure land tenure arrangements; holistic, intersectoral and iterative approaches; ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources; and adequate provision and valuation of forest goods and services;

17 (b) The Panel called for improved cooperation in support of the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, and urged all countries to use national forest programmes, as appropriate, as a basis for international cooperation in the forest sector;

17 (c) The Panel stressed the need for international cooperation in the adequate provision of ODA, as well as possible new and additional funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other appropriate innovative sources of finance for the effective development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national forest programmes;

17 (d) The Panel encouraged countries to integrate suitable criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, as appropriate, into the overall process of the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national forest programmes, on a step-by-step basis;

17 (e) The Panel urged countries to develop, test and implement appropriate participatory mechanisms for integrating timely and continuous multidisciplinary research into all stages of the planning cycle;

17 (f) The Panel encouraged countries to elaborate systems, including private and community forest management systems, for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating national forest programmes that identify and involve, where appropriate, a broad participation of indigenous people, forest dwellers, forest owners and local communities in meaningful decision-making regarding the management of state forest lands in their proximity, within the context of national laws and legislation;

17 (g) The Panel urged countries, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to include capacity-building as an objective of national forest programmes, paying particular attention to training, extension services and technology transfer and financial assistance from developed countries, taking due account of local traditional forest-related knowledge;

17 (h) The Panel encouraged countries to establish sound national coordination mechanisms or strategies among all interested parties, based on consensus-building principles, to promote the implementation of national forest programmes;

17 (i) The Panel encouraged countries to further develop the concept and practice of partnership, which could include partnership agreements, in the implementation of national forest programmes, as one of the potential approaches for improved coordination and cooperation between all national and international partners.

B. Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation

27 (a) The Panel urged countries, as relevant and appropriate, with the support of international organizations and the participation of major groups, where relevant, to prepare in-depth studies of the underlying causes at the national and international levels of deforestation and forest degradation;

27 (b) The Panel urged countries, as relevant and appropriate, with the support of international organizations and the participation of major groups, where relevant, to analyse comprehensively the historical perspective of the causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the world, and other international underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, including transboundary economic forces;

27 (c) The Panel urged countries, as relevant and appropriate, with the support of international organizations and the participation of major groups, where relevant, to provide new factual information on the significance of transboundary pollution.

28 (a) The Panel urged countries to assess long-term trends in their supply and demand for wood, and to consider actions to promote the sustainability of their wood supply and their means for meeting demand, with a special emphasis on investment in sustainable forest management and the strengthening of institutions for forest resource and forest plantations management;

28 (b) The Panel urged countries to recognize and enhance the role of forest plantations as an important element of sustainable forest management complementary to natural forests;

28 (c) The Panel urged countries to support the convening, as soon as possible, of a global workshop on the international underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and their relationship to national underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation.

29 (a) The Panel also encouraged countries to undertake, as needed, to formulate and implement national strategies, through an open and participatory process, for addressing the underlying causes of deforestation, and, if appropriate, to define policy goals for national forest cover as inputs to the implementation of national forest programmes;

29 (b) The Panel also encouraged countries to undertake, as needed, to develop mechanisms, such as environmental impact assessments, to improve policy formulation and coordination, through an open and participatory process;

29 (c) The Panel also encouraged countries to undertake, as needed, to formulate policies aiming at securing land tenure for local communities and indigenous people, including policies, as appropriate, aimed at the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of forests.

30 (a) The Panel also encouraged countries and international organizations to provide timely, reliable and accurate information on the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, where needed, as well as on the multiple roles of forests, as a foundation for public understanding and decision-making;

30 (b) The Panel also encouraged countries and international organizations to assist developing countries in promoting an integrated approach towards the formulation and application of national policy frameworks, and in conducting strategic analyses of relevant political, legal and institutional policies that have contributed to deforestation and forest

degradation, as well as of policies that have had a positive effect.

31 (a) The Panel encouraged countries to undertake case studies using the diagnostic framework described above in order to:

- (i) Identify underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation;
- (ii) Develop and test the usefulness of the framework as an analytical tool in assessing options for utilization of forest and forest lands;
- (iii) Refine it, disseminate the results and apply it more widely as appropriate;

31 (b) The Panel urged developed countries, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other multilateral and international organizations, including regional development banks, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in those activities;

31 (c) The Panel invited interested parties to lend support, as appropriate, to the preparation of the programme of work for forest biological diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with respect to analysing measures for mitigating the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, as stated in decision III/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

C. Traditional forest-related knowledge

40. Recognizing that indigenous people and forest-dependent people who possess TRFK could play an important role in sustainable forest management, the Panel:

40 (a) Taking into account the decisions arising from the 3rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular decisions related to the implementation of article 8 (j), invited Governments, international agencies, research institutions, representatives of indigenous people and forest-dependent people who possess TFRK, and non-governmental organizations to promote activities aimed at advancing international understanding on the role of TFRK in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests to complement activities undertaken by the Convention;

40 (b) Invited countries and relevant international organizations, especially the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to collaborate with indigenous people and forest-dependent people who possess TFRK to promote an internationally acceptable understanding of TFRK, and to identify, respect, preserve and maintain TRFK, including innovations and practices that are relevant for the conservation of forest biological diversity and the sustainable use of forest biological resources;

40 (c) Invited countries to explore further, at appropriate levels, different options for the policy, institutional and legal frameworks that are required to support the application of intellectual property rights and/or other protection regimes for TFRK, the fair and equitable sharing of its benefits, and the possible development of formal agreements by which TFRK can be accessed;

40 (d) Urged countries, in implementing their forest programmes, to take measures to rehabilitate and protect TFRK, taking into account that an essential condition for the effective protection and rehabilitation of TFRK is the integrity

and cultural survival of forest-dependent people;

40 (e) Called on countries, in the context of their national legal systems, to promote and provide opportunities for the participation, *inter alia*, of indigenous people, forest-dependent people who possess TFRK and forest owners in the planning, development and implementation of national forest policies and programmes, taking into account principles 2 (d) and 5 (a) of the Forest Principles;

40 (f) Called on countries, with the full support of relevant international organizations, to work with all interested parties to bring together knowledge and experience of the approaches that work in practice, including credit, rewards, the recognition of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits, and, where appropriate, the preparation of technical guidelines on TFRK application;

40 (g) Called on countries, with the assistance of international organizations, where appropriate, to support national, regional and international efforts that will enhance the capacity of indigenous people, forest-dependent people who possess TFRK and appropriate forest owners to participate, *inter alia*, in agreements that apply TFRK for sustainable forest management, and to promote partnerships among all interested parties;

40 (h) Encouraged countries to recognize and support traditional resource use systems incorporating TFRK, including, where appropriate, through the development of new instruments and mechanisms that enhance the security of forest-dependent groups;

40 (i) Urged countries to work with communities and build on their knowledge to establish stronger linkages between traditional and emerging national sustainable forest management systems;

40 (j) Encouraged countries and relevant international organizations to identify ways to inventory, store, catalogue and retrieve TFRK, and to support its effective protection and application, including developing local and indigenous capacity, and to examine opportunities to apply TFRK related to the management of particular types of forests to other similar forest ecosystems, doing so only with the free and informed consent of the holders of TFRK. The Panel also encouraged countries and international organizations to work out a methodological framework of compatibility between TFRK and new technologies;

40 (k) Urged countries, with the support of international organizations, to promote research on TFRK in regional and national institutions, with the full involvement of the holders of that knowledge, to maintain and enhance the capacity of such institutions, and to advance the wider understanding and use of the knowledge gained;

40 (l) Urged countries, national institutions and academic centres to incorporate TFRK in forest management training as a way to sensitize forest managers to the importance of respect for and protection of TFRK; to the need to observe the principle of fair and equitable sharing of benefits; and to the advantages of using it and the disadvantages of ignoring it. They should also emphasize the importance of recognizing TFRK in developing national criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of forests within the context of national forest programmes, and, where appropriate, in forest management certification schemes;

40 (m) Invited countries, with the support of donors and international organizations, to assist financially and otherwise existing networks that are promoting the sharing of TFRK on mutually agreed terms, as well as the sharing of technology and profits arising from the use of such knowledge among concerned groups and institutions, in collaboration with all involved parties, including indigenous people and forest-dependent people who possess TFRK;

40 (n) Encouraged countries, in collaboration with indigenous people and forest-dependent people who possess TFRK, to promote digital mapping using geographic information systems and geographic position systems, combined, where appropriate, with social mapping for assisting with the establishment of forest holdings, assisting planning and management partnerships; and to assist in the location and storage of cultural and geographical information required to support the management, protection and use of TFRK;

40 (o) Invited the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), taking into account decision III/14 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to undertake a study aimed at advancing international understanding of the relationship between intellectual property and TFRK, and to develop ways and means to promote effective protection of TFRK, in particular against illegal international trafficking, and also to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from such knowledge;

40 (p) Encouraged countries to undertake additional pilot studies on the relationship between intellectual property rights systems and TFRK, at the national level, in accordance with a decision made at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

40 (q) Requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Convention, to produce a compilation of international instruments and national legislation, including draft legislation, pertaining to the protection and use of TFRK and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from such knowledge, and encouraged countries to exchange information on national experiences in that field;

40 (r) Urged countries to consider developing mechanisms, subject to national legislation, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing with local and indigenous communities of benefits; including payments where appropriate, arising from the use of traditional technologies developed by them for sustainable forest management.

D. Fragile ecosystems affected by desertification and drought

46 (a) The Panel urged countries and international organizations to undertake national and international action to address the complex issues related to dryland forest ecosystems in countries affected by desertification and drought, *inter alia*, by adopting an integrated approach to the development and implementation of national forest and/or dryland programmes and other forest and/or dryland policies, and by coordinating action, where appropriate, at the regional level;

46 (b) The Panel called on countries to continue to analyse past experiences and to monitor trends in forests and related ecosystems affected by desertification and drought, including biophysical, ecological, economic, social, land tenure and institutional factors;

46 (c) The Panel urged countries to establish protected areas to safeguard forest and related ecosystems, their water supplies, and historical and traditional uses in appropriate localities in areas affected by drought, particularly in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions;

46 (d) The Panel called on countries, donors and international organizations to support education, training, extension systems and participatory research involving indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests in fragile ecosystems

affected by desertification and drought;

46 (e) The Panel urged countries and international organizations to strengthen and further develop partnerships and collaboration between local communities, Governments, non-governmental organizations and other major groups in order to promote the sustainable management and regeneration of natural vegetation in ecosystems affected by desertification and drought;

46 (f) The Panel urged donors, international agencies and recipient Governments to develop efficient and coordinated programmes of international cooperation and action on forests and related ecosystems affected by desertification and drought, within the context of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the broader mandate of the Panel, the Forest Principles and Agenda 21;

46 (g) The Panel invited the Committee on Science and Technology of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification to support research on appropriate plant species for use in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid land restoration; on rehabilitation of existing vegetation; on related water management techniques; and on the potential for multipurpose trees and the supply of timber and non-timber forest products.

E. Impact of airborne pollution on forests

50 (a) The Panel encouraged countries to adopt a preventative approach to the reduction of damaging air pollution, which may include long-range transboundary air pollution, in national strategies for sustainable development;

50 (b) The Panel encouraged countries to strengthen international cooperation for building scientific knowledge, such as techniques for monitoring and analysing airborne causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and to cooperate in activities related to the impact of air-borne pollution on forest health, including the provision of access to existing data by potential users, including managers and policy makers and the dissemination of information to the public;

50 (c) The Panel recommended that existing regional programmes monitoring the impact of airborne pollution on forest health in affected countries should continue and be extended to other regions where necessary;

50 (d) The Panel encouraged the development of methods for the assessment and monitoring of national-level criteria and indicators for airborne pollutants in the context of sustainable forest management;

50 (e) The Panel recommended countries to consider entering into international agreements, as appropriate, on the reduction of long-range transboundary air pollution.

F. Needs and requirements of developing and other countries with low forest cover

58 (a) The Panel called upon FAO, in consultation with relevant organizations and countries, as appropriate, to develop a workable and precise definition of low forest cover, applicable to all countries and suitable for use in the forest resources assessment in the year 2000;

58 (b) The Panel urged countries with low forest cover:

58 (b) (i) The Panel urged countries with low forest cover to seek long-term security of forest goods and services through the development of national forest programmes for sustainable forest management, in

accordance with the guiding principles set out in subsection IA above, taking into account the particular conditions of each country, defining as far as possible in those programmes their national requirements for a permanent forest estate, in those countries that may have a need to define a permanent forest estate as a policy goal;

- 58 (b) (ii) The Panel urged countries with low forest cover to plan and manage forest plantations, where appropriate, to enhance production and provision of goods and services, paying due attention to relevant social, cultural, economic and environmental considerations in the selection of species, areas and silviculture systems, preferring native species, where appropriate, and taking all practicable steps to avoid replacing natural ecosystems of high ecological and cultural values with forest plantations, particularly monocultures;
- 58 (b) (iii) The Panel urged countries with low forest cover to promote the regeneration and restoration of degraded forest areas, including by involving, *inter alia*, indigenous people, local communities, forest dwellers and forest owners in their protection and management;
- 58 (b) (iv) The Panel urged countries with low forest cover to fully analyse and take into account the related social, economic and environmental implications and costs and benefits, when considering non-wood substitutes or imports of forest products;
- 58 (b) (v) The Panel urged countries with low forest cover to establish or expand networks of protected areas, buffer zones and ecological corridors, where possible, in order to conserve biodiversity, particularly in unique types of forests, working in close liaison with the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international environmental agreements;
- 58 (b) (vi) The Panel urged countries with low forest cover, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to embark on capacity-building programmes at national, subnational and local levels, including especially existing national institutions, to promote effective participation in decision-making with respect to forests throughout the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes, and taking full advantage of the wealth of traditional knowledge available in the country;
- 58 (b) (vii) The Panel urged countries with low forest cover to develop adequate research and information systems based on reliable evaluations and periodic assessments, including the use of national-level criteria and indicators and establishing sectoral and cross-sectoral mechanisms for information exchange, in order to allow for timely decisions related to national forest policies and programmes;

58 (c) The Panel urged developed countries with low forest cover that are nevertheless endowed with suitable land and climate conditions to take positive and transparent action towards reforestation, afforestation and forest conservation, while urging other developed countries, where appropriate, notably those with low forest cover but with limited land and unsuitable climatic conditions, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular countries with low forest cover, to expand their forest cover, taking into account principle 8 (a) of the Forest Principles, through the provision of financial resources and transfer of appropriate technology, as well as through the exchange of information and access to technical know-how and knowledge;

58 (d) The Panel urged countries and international organizations to improve the efficiency of and procedures for international cooperation to support the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests

in developing countries and countries with economies in transition with low forest cover;

58 (e) The Panel urged donor countries and multilateral and international organizations to facilitate and assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition with low forest cover, where required, in building capacity for data gathering and analysis so as to enable them to monitor their forest resources.

II. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

A. Financial assistance

Proposals for action to strengthen financial assistance

67 (a) The Panel recalled the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and relevant chapters of Agenda 21, as well as paragraph 10 of the Forest Principles, which states that new and additional financial resources should be provided to developing countries to enable them to sustainably manage, conserve and develop their forest resources, including through afforestation, reforestation and combating deforestation and forest and land degradation;

67 (b) The Panel urged recipient countries to prioritize forest activities or national resources development strategies that would favour sustainable forest management and related activities in programming the ODA available to them, and also urged donor countries and international organizations to increase the proportion and availability of their ODA contribution to programmes supporting the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests in order to respond to increased priorities for sustainable forest management in recipient countries;

67 (c) The Panel requested the relevant United Nations organizations, international financial institutions, other international organizations and the donor community to work with developing countries, on the basis of national forest programmes, to identify their needs for sustainable forest management, estimate the resources required to finance such needs and identify the resources available to them for such purposes, including ODA;

67 (d) The Panel urged international organizations and international financial institutions to use national forest programmes, as appropriate, as a framework for the support and coordination of forest-related activities;

67 (e) The Panel encouraged countries, through appropriate channels, to support increased and improved programmes promoting the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests and related activities in international organizations and international financial institutions, whose programmes should consider further concessional lending for the forest sector;

67 (f) The Panel invited UNDP and the Bretton Woods institutions, together with other relevant international organizations, to explore innovative ways to both use existing financial mechanisms more effectively and generate new and additional public and private financial resources at the domestic and international levels in order to support activities for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;

67 (g) The Panel recognized the importance of increasing resources available to developing countries for promoting the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests, welcomed the progress that has been made in devising and implementing debt relief initiatives, and bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 50/92, urged the international community, particularly the creditor countries and international financial institutions, as well as commercial banks and other lending institutions, to continue the implementation of various measures aimed at

effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, particularly the poorest and heavily indebted countries, including exploring the opportunities for innovative mechanisms, such as debt-for-nature swaps related to forests and other environmentally oriented debt reduction programmes.

68. The Panel also discussed the proposal that an international fund be established to support activities for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, particularly in developing countries. The following options for action were discussed, without a consensus being reached on those or other possible procedures:

68 (a) To urge the establishment of such a fund;

68 (b) To invite the international community to discuss the proposal;

68 (c) To pursue action to enhance funding in other ways, *inter alia*, as proposed in paragraph 67 (f) above.

Proposals for action to enhance private-sector investment

69 (a) The Panel urged all countries, within their respective legal frameworks, to encourage efforts by the private sector to formulate, in consultation with interested parties, and implement voluntary codes of conduct aimed at promoting sustainable forest management through private-sector actions, including through management practices, technology transfer, education and investment;

69 (b) The Panel urged countries to explore mechanisms, within their respective legal frameworks, to encourage their private sector to act consistently with sustainable forest management and to invest financial resources generated from forest-based activities in actions that support sustainable forest management;

69 (c) The Panel urged countries to explore mechanisms, within their respective legal frameworks, to encourage the reinvestment of revenues generated from forest goods and services back into the forests where those revenues were generated;

69 (d) The Panel invited developing countries to promote policies and regulations aimed at creating a favourable environment to attract the domestic and foreign private sectors, as well as local community investment, for sustainable forest management, environmentally sound forest-based industries, reforestation, afforestation, non-wood forest product industries, and conservation and protection of forests;

69 (e) The Panel urged developed countries to formulate and create incentives, such as loan and investment guarantees, to encourage their private sector to invest in sustainable forest management in developing countries, as well as in countries with economies in transition.

Proposals for action to enhance national capacity and national coordination

70 (a) The Panel urged recipient countries to establish country-driven national forest programmes that include priority needs and that serve as an overall framework for forest-related policies and actions, including the coordination of financing and international cooperation, and urged donor countries and international organizations to support national initiatives to create national forest programmes and policy framework in developing countries;

70 (b) The Panel encouraged countries in a position to do so to continue to develop and employ appropriate market-based and other economic instruments and incentives to increase rent capture and mobilize domestic financial resources in support of sustainable forest management, as well as to reduce social costs and negative environmental impacts due to unsustainable forest and land management practices;

70 (c) The Panel encouraged countries, within their respective legal frameworks, international organizations and financial institutions, to enhance, subject to national legislation, community financing as an important strategy to promote sustainable forest management, and to establish policy and programmatic mechanisms and instruments that facilitate local investments in sustainable forest management by, *inter alia*, indigenous groups and forest owners;

70 (d) The Panel suggested that recipient countries, where appropriate, identify a national authority responsible for in-country coordination in the deployment of financial resources, including ODA, and in requests for external assistance;

70 (e) The Panel urged developed countries, international organizations and international financial institutions to support the efforts of developing countries in capacity-building in the management, conservation and sustainable development of their forests.

Proposals for action to enhance international cooperation

71 (a) The Panel called for enhanced coordination, collaboration and complementarity of activities among bilateral and multilateral donors and among international instruments related to forests, notably the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Tropical Timber Agreement;

71 (b) The Panel urged recipient and donor countries to jointly explore, as a priority activity, appropriate indicators for monitoring and evaluating the adequacy and effectiveness of forest programmes and projects at the national and local levels, supported by international cooperation in financial assistance and technology transfer;

71 (c) The Panel encouraged countries to explore the feasibility of innovative financial initiatives to support the implementation of national forest programmes.

B. Technology transfer and capacity-building and information

Proposals for action to enhance technology transfer and capacity-building

77 (a) The Panel urged developed countries to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account chapter 34 of Agenda 21 and paragraph 11 of the Forest Principles;

77 (b) The Panel encouraged countries, where needed, to assess and identify their national technological requirements and capabilities in order to achieve the management, conservation and sustainable development of their forests. The assessment and identification of specific technology needs should be consistent with priorities in national forest programmes;

77 (c) The Panel called for the strengthening of North-South cooperation and the promotion of South-South as well as trilateral North-South-South cooperation in forest-related technology transfer, through public and private-sector investment and partnerships, joint ventures, exchange of information and greater networking among forest-related institutions, taking due note of related work being conducted in other international forums, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

77 (d) The Panel called upon countries to formulate policies and incentives that encourage all concerned to develop and use environmentally sound technologies;

77 (e) The Panel called for greater emphasis on national and local capacity-building in the development and implementation of national forest programmes and in international cooperation programmes, as well as in the development of mechanisms for the dissemination and adaptation of technologies to national and local conditions;

77 (f) The Panel invited Governments, within their respective legal frameworks, and international organizations, in consultation with countries, to consider supporting indigenous people, local communities, other inhabitants of forests, small-scale forest owners and forest-dependent communities by funding sustainable forest management projects, capacity-building and information dissemination, and by supporting direct participation of all interested parties in forest policy discussions and planning;

77 (g) The Panel urged United Nations organizations, with the support of the international financial institutions, to prepare inventories of the most appropriate forest-related technologies, as well as the most effective methods of transfer of those technologies to developing countries among Governments, between Governments and private sector, and within the private sector.

Proposals for action to improve information systems

78 (a) The Panel invited relevant international organizations and international financial institutions to review and initiate the development of improved forest information systems with a view to enhancing coordination and data-sharing among interested parties regarding the implementation of national forest programmes, ODA programming, the provision of new and additional financial resources, increased private-sector investment, efficient development and transfer of technology;

78 (b) The Panel urged developed countries and appropriate international organizations to establish mechanisms to assist the interpretation and dissemination of information relevant to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests to countries and interested parties who have difficulties in accessing internationally available information, including dissemination through electronic means;

78 (c) The Panel invited members of the informal high-level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests, including FAO, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), UNDP, the World Bank, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other relevant international bodies to facilitate the provision of a better flow to both the policy and operational levels of synthesized information on programme progress, policy development, best management practices and financial strategies for forest sector, for both the public and private sectors, including through the establishment of specialized databases.

III. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, FOREST ASSESSMENT, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA AND

INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

A. Assessment of the multiple benefits of all types of forests

89 (a) The Panel encouraged countries to integrate national-level criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in national forest assessments, including qualitative indicators, where appropriate;

89 (b) The Panel encouraged all countries, where appropriate and on a step-by-step basis, to improve national forest resources assessment, forest statistics and the capacity to analyse and make proper use of forest resources information, and encouraged donor countries and international organizations to support those initiatives;

89 (c) The Panel urged countries, universities and relevant organizations and major groups to strengthen research on forest inventory and monitoring techniques with a view to expanding the scope and improving the quality of forest assessments;

89 (d) The Panel requested FAO, in consultation with Governments and relevant organizations, including UNEP, to prepare and distribute a detailed plan for the implementation of the global forest resources assessment for the year 2000. The plan should provide for the inclusion of a broad range of forest values, including non-timber values, and should include detailed cost and funding options associated with potential new parameters, actions, targets and responsibilities for carrying out the assessment consistent with the recommendations of the Expert Consultation and with due regard to the requirements arising from internationally or regionally agreed criteria and relevant indicators for sustainable forest management;

89 (e) The Panel requested FAO to implement the global forest resources assessment 2000, in collaboration with international organizations, countries and other organizations with competence in assessments, and to share the results of the assessment effectively with the international community;

89 (f) The Panel requested FAO, in consultation with countries and relevant international organizations and in an open and transparent manner, to formulate an internationally acceptable set of definitions of key terms used in the assessment of all types of forests and their resources, and to promote their adoption;

89 (g) The Panel urged FAO, in partnership with other international organizations, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Statistics, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, to address the need for better coordination and avoidance of overlap between forest and other related information systems, and for clearer prioritization in data collection;

89 (h) The Panel encouraged countries to begin a consultation process with all interested parties at the national, subnational and local levels to identify the full range of benefits that a given society derives from forests, taking the ecosystem approach fully into consideration.

B. Forest research

94 (a) The Panel requested the Centre for International Forestry Research, in collaboration with relevant organizations and in consultation with a group of internationally recognized experts, as well as in conjunction with national, regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, to develop as soon as possible mechanisms to:

94 (i) Guide the identification and definition as well as prioritization of global and eco-regional interdisciplinary research problems, taking into account national priorities and closely linked to practical and operational forest management issues;

94 (ii) Promote consortia or networks to lead and organize global forest research and ensure that results are made available to all users;

(iii) Build global capacity for forest research and develop new and innovative means for disseminating information and technologies;

(iv) Mobilize resources to accomplish the above objectives;

94 (b) The Panel called on the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification, within their areas of competence, to promote research and analysis undertaken by those Conventions and to address gaps in existing knowledge where relevant to their mandate;

94 (c) The Panel urged the United Nations system, international financial institutions and countries to examine the need to expand the capacity of existing research institutions at the regional and subregional levels, and where appropriate the establishment of new regional/subregional centres for research, development and extension, including for biological diversity and forest products and other forest goods and services;

94 (d) The Panel encouraged countries and regional and international research organizations to extend on-site research and to enhance its prioritization and the application of its results, with the involvement of all interested parties, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of research so as to enhance its relevance and impact.

C. Methodologies for the proper valuation of the multiple benefits of forests

104 (a) The Panel encouraged countries, in collaboration with international organizations, to make use of available methodologies to provide improved estimates of the value of all forest goods and services and allow for more informed decision-making about the implications of alternative proposals for forest programmes and land-use plans, taking into account that the wide range of benefits provided by forests are not adequately covered by present valuation methodology, and that economic valuation cannot become a substitute for the process of political decision, which includes consideration of wide-ranging environmental, socio-economic, ethical, cultural and religious concerns;

104 (b) The Panel requested international organizations and relevant institutions to prepare comprehensive documents on the available forest valuation methods and data-sets required for the evaluation of forest goods and services, in particular those that are not traded in the marketplace;

104 (c) The Panel invited countries and relevant international organizations and institutions to promote research to further develop forest valuation methodologies, in particular those related to deforestation and forest degradation, erosion, and criteria and indicators, taking into account the particular circumstances of each country.

D. Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management

115 (a) The Panel encouraged countries to proceed to prepare, through a participatory approach, national-level criteria

and indicators for sustainable forest management, and, taking cognizance of specific country conditions and on the basis of internationally and regionally agreed initiatives, to initiate and to implement them, where appropriate, while recognizing that further scientific and technical examination, including field testing, will itself provide valuable experience and assist in further refinement and development;

115 (b) The Panel urged countries to promote, as appropriate, the use of internationally, regionally, subregionally and nationally agreed criteria and indicators as a framework for promoting best forest practices and in facilitating sustainable forest management; to encourage the formulation and implementation of criteria and indicators on a cross-sectoral basis and with the full participation of all interested parties; to include them in national forest programmes; to establish and, where appropriate, clarify links between criteria and indicators employed at the national level and at the subnational or at the forest management unit/operational levels; and to promote their compatibility at all levels;

115 (c) The Panel encouraged countries not yet participating in any of the ongoing international and regional initiatives on criteria and indicators to become involved as soon as possible, thereby gaining benefit from the experience of the existing processes as well as contributing new insights; and urged donor countries and multilateral and international organizations to provide adequate technical and financial assistance to developing countries and economies in transition to enable them to be involved and participate in the further development, field testing and implementation of criteria and indicators at the national, subnational and forest management unit/operational levels;

115 (d) The Panel urged countries and international organizations, in particular FAO, UNEP and other participants in international and regional initiatives, to undertake efforts to achieve a common international understanding on concepts, essential terms and definitions used in formulating and developing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (and to promote their adoption); on indicators for forests in similar ecological zones; on mutual recognition among sets of criteria and indicators as tools for assessing trends in forest management and conditions at the national level; and on transparent methods for the measurement of indicators and the collection, assembly, storage and dissemination of data;

115 (e) The Panel recommended that FAO and participants in regional and international initiatives draw on commonalities between criteria and indicators developed in such initiatives, as well as on the Forest Principles, and recommended that criteria and indicators be used by FAO and other relevant organizations in order to improve consistency in reporting on forest assessment and sustainable forest management;

115 (f) The Panel requested that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity take note of the work of the various existing initiatives on criteria and indicators to ensure that the work done by the Convention on Biological Diversity on developing and implementing biodiversity indicators would be consistent with and complementary to them.

IV. TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT IN RELATION TO FOREST PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Proposals for action on market access

128 (a) The Panel urged countries and relevant international organizations to study the environmental, social and economic impacts of trade-related measures affecting forest products and services;

128 (b) The Panel requested countries to undertake measures for improving market access for forest goods and services, including the reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in accordance with existing international

obligations and commitments, and in that context to promote a mutually supportive relationship between environment and trade in forest goods and services, and to avoid conflict between measures that affect trade in forest goods and services and existing international obligations so that environmental concerns do not lead to disguised barriers to trade;

128 (c) The Panel urged all countries, subject to their national legislation, to encourage efforts by the private sector, in consultation with interested parties, to formulate and implement voluntary codes of conduct for promoting sustainable forest management for forest owners, forest developers and international investors in forestry so as to improve trade in forest products, and to endeavour to ensure that external trade policies take into account community rights, where appropriate.

129. The Panel discussed the following options for action relating to possible agreement for forest products from all types of forests, based on non-discriminatory rules and multilaterally agreed procedures, without reaching a consensus on these or other possible procedures:

129 (a) To take note of the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) of 1994, in particular the commitment made by ITTO members to review the scope of the agreement four years after its entry into force on 1 January 1997;

129 (b) To explore the possibility of extending the concept of the Year 2000 Objective of ITTA for all types of forests;

129 (c) To explore the possibility of an international agreement on trade in forest products from all types of forests;

129 (d) To examine the possibilities of further initiatives on trade liberalization within the auspices of the World Trade Organization;

129 (e) To explore, within an intergovernmental forum on forests, intergovernmental negotiating committee or other arrangements decided upon at an appropriate time, the possibilities of promoting the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and trade in forest products in the context of an international, comprehensive and legally binding instrument on all types of forests.

130. The Panel considered the question of the relationship between obligations under international agreement and national measures, including actions imposed by subnational jurisdictions, but was not able to reach a consensus. Options for action proposed included:

130 (a) Urging countries to remove all unilateral measures to the extent that those are inconsistent with international agreements;

130 (b) Urging countries to remove all unilateral bans and boycotts inconsistent with the rules of the international trade system, including those imposed by subnational jurisdictions, in order to facilitate the long-term management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Forest Principles;

130 (c) Recognizing that those matters are also considered in forums whose primary competence is to address trade issues.

Proposals for action on the relative competitiveness of forest products

131 (a) The Panel called upon relevant organizations to support efforts to gather more information and conduct more independent market and economic studies of potential competition between wood and non-wood substitutes, analysing the costs and benefits, including any substitution effects, and the overall impact on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;

131 (b) The Panel urged developed countries and relevant international organizations to support efforts by developing countries, consistent with policies and programmes for sustainable forest management, to increase their productivity and efficiency in downstream processing activities, and to support, where appropriate, community-based processing and marketing of wood and non-timber forest products.

Proposals for action on lesser used species

132 (a) The Panel called upon countries and relevant international organizations and research institutions to intensify efforts to promote lesser used forest species in domestic and international markets, where increased use is consistent with sustainable forest management;

132 (b) The Panel urged producer countries to implement policies that are compatible and consistent with sustainable forest management for the utilization of economically viable lesser used species;

132 (c) The Panel urged international organizations and research institutions to transfer technology, and to support national and community level efforts to develop and adapt technologies including traditional forest-related knowledge, for increasing the sustainable utilization of lesser used species.

Proposals for action on certification and labelling

133 (a) The Panel urged countries, within their respective legal frameworks, and international organizations to consider the potentially mutually supportive relationship between sustainable forest management, trade, and voluntary certification and labelling schemes operating in accordance with relevant national legislations, and to endeavour to ensure, as necessary, that such schemes are not used as a form of disguised protectionism, and to help to ensure, as necessary, that they do not conflict with international obligations;

133 (b) The Panel invited developed countries and international organizations to support, including through technical and financial assistance, efforts in developing countries to enhance the assessment capabilities of developing countries in relation to voluntary certification and labelling;

133 (c) The Panel urged countries to support the application to certification schemes of such concepts as:

- (i) Open access and non-discrimination in respect of all types of forests, forest owners, managers and operators;
- (ii) Credibility;
- (iii) Non-deceptiveness;
- (iv) Cost-effectiveness;

- (v) Participation that seeks to involve all interested parties, including local communities;
- (vi) Sustainable forest management;
- (vii) Transparency;

133 (d) Invited relevant organizations, in accordance with their mandate, to carry out further studies on various aspects of voluntary certification and labelling schemes, including:

- (i) Effectiveness in promoting sustainable forest management;
- (ii) The relationships between various criteria and indicator frameworks and certification;
- (iii) Issues relevant to the development, implementation, promotion, equivalency and mutual recognition of voluntary certification and labelling schemes, and the role of government in that context;
- (iv) The special needs of local communities, other forest-dependent populations and owners of small forests;
- (v) The need to monitor practical experience with certification, including accreditation processes;
- (vi) The development of consistent terminology;
- (vii) The impacts of such schemes on the relative competitiveness of forest goods and services in the absence of equivalent schemes for substitutes;
- (viii) The needs of countries with low forest cover;

133 (e) Invited countries to consider the relevance to certification schemes of the Centre for International Forestry Research project on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management;

133 (f) Urged countries and relevant international organizations dealing with trade in forest products to bring the current trends on certification into perspective, and to promote comparability and avoid duplication of efforts among various voluntary certification and labelling schemes;

133 (g) Called upon countries and relevant agencies to make arrangements for and support an exchange of information and experience on certification and labelling schemes, in appropriate forums, to ensure transparency on an ongoing basis.

Proposals for action on full-cost internalization

134 (a) The Panel called upon countries and relevant international organizations concerned with forestry and trade to explore ways and means to establish full cost internalization of both wood products and non-wood substitutes, and to undertake market and economic analyses of their implications for forest management and development costs and for sustainable forest management. Such analyses should also examine the potential cost and benefits of improved efficiency and sustainability at all levels of the forest industry;

134 (b) The Panel, drawing upon the work being carried out by countries and relevant international organizations, encouraged the sharing of information on research findings and experiences concerning the implementation of full cost internalization and its application to sustainable forest management, and relevant policy mechanisms.

Proposals for action on market transparency

135 (a) The Panel called upon relevant international organizations and national institutions to expand their work on market transparency for trade in forest products and services, and to include the possible development of a global database;

135 (b) The Panel invited countries to provide an assessment and share relevant information on the nature and extent of illegal trade in forest products, and to consider measures to counter such illegal trade.

V. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE LEGAL MECHANISMS

144. The Panel urged international organizations, in cooperation with countries, to support and implement its proposals for action.

145. The Panel called upon the appropriate international institutions and organizations to continue their work in the informal high-level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests, under the chairmanship of FAO as task manager for chapter 11 of Agenda 21, focusing on the proposals for action recommended by the Panel, in accordance with their respective mandates and comparative advantage, and proposed that the Task Force, in a transparent and participatory manner, undertake further coordination and explore means for collaboration and coherent action at the international, regional and country levels, in support of any continuing intergovernmental dialogue on forests.

146 (a) The Panel called on countries to support the work on forest-related issues undertaken by international and regional organizations and agencies and under relevant instruments;

146 (b) The Panel called on countries to clarify the mandates of the relevant international institutions and organizations related to forest issues, *inter alia*, through their respective governing bodies, in order to improve integration and coordination of their efforts and to guide the activities of each organization to areas in which they can be most effective;

146 (c) The Panel called on countries, through the respective governing bodies, to work to eliminate waste and duplication, thereby using available resources in an efficient manner;

146 (d) The Panel called on countries to guide relevant international and regional institutions and those administering instruments, through their governing bodies, to accelerate incorporation into their relevant work programmes of the forest-related results of UNCED and of further progress achieved since then, and of the proposals for action recommended by the Panel;

146 (e) The Panel called on countries to support activities related to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

147. The Panel examined a number of options for action at the intergovernmental level to continue the intergovernmental policy dialogue on all types of forests and to monitor progress in and promote the implementation of the Panel's proposals for action. It proposed the following options, which were not necessarily seen to be mutually exclusive:

147 (a) To continue the intergovernmental policy dialogue on forests and the consideration of all aspects and programmes aimed at the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests in a holistic manner within existing forums, such as the Commission, FAO and their respective institutional structures, as well as other appropriate international organizations, institutions and instruments;

147 (b) To continue the intergovernmental policy dialogue on forests through the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental forum on forests under the auspices of the Commission, with a focused and time-limited mandate, charged with, *inter alia*, reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Panel's proposals for action, and either:

- (i) On that basis, considering and advising on the need for other arrangements and mechanisms, including legal arrangements covering all types of forests, and reporting on those matters to the Commission at the appropriate time in its work programme, which has yet to be defined; and/or:
- (ii) Preparing the basis and building the necessary consensus for a decision to negotiate and elaborate possible elements of a legally binding instrument, reporting to the Commission in 1999 on its work;

147 (c) To carry forward intergovernmental policy action on forests through the establishment, as soon as possible, under the authority of the General Assembly, of an intergovernmental negotiating committee on a legally binding instrument on all types of forest, with a focused and time-limited mandate.

148. The Panel also examined numerous detailed suggestions on the mandate and programme of work under the above options; these were noted by the Secretariat for future reference and consideration, and will be included in a forthcoming compilation.

149. The Panel recommended that the options contained in paragraph 147 (b) and (c) above, if endorsed, should be serviced by a small secretariat within the secretariat of the Commission in the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, and should be supported by the Task Force.

IFF Proposals for Action

I. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests

A. Promoting and facilitating implementation

9. The Forum agreed that the following are particularly important for the implementation of IPF proposals for action:

9 (a) Provision, taking into consideration the relevant chapters of Agenda 21¹ and paragraph 10 of the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles),² by the international donor community, including international organizations and international financial institutions of increased financial resources, including through innovative strategies to mobilize finance, technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technology at the international and domestic levels, as well as through better use of existing mechanisms and measures, to support national forest programmes in developing countries, including countries with low forest cover and particularly the least developed countries;

9 (b) Promotion, where appropriate, of an integrated approach by countries through their national forest programmes as defined by IPF, and in collaboration with international organizations, to the implementation of the IPF proposals for action and forest-related work as set out under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

9 (c) Creation and/or strengthening, by countries and international organizations, of initiatives, approaches and partnerships, which could include partnership agreements, to encourage long-term political commitment; relevant, effective, sustained and reliable donor support; and participation by the private sector and major groups; as well as recognition of the special role of ODA in meeting the needs of developing countries, in particular least developed countries and countries with low forest cover;

9 (d) A systematic assessment, by all countries, of the IPF proposals for action and planning for their implementation in the context of countries' own national processes aimed at sustainable forest management;

9 (e) Implementation by countries of the IPF proposals for action in the context of their national forest programmes/national policy framework in a coordinated manner and with the participation of all interested parties. Clear objectives and criteria should help promote effective implementation of sustainable forest management. The policy framework should be kept under review in order to continue to embody capabilities for intersectoral planning, coordination and implementation, and adequate resource allocation;

9 (f) Establishment, by each country, of a focal point to guide and coordinate the implementation and assessment process of the IPF proposals for action, including the participation of all relevant interested parties;

9 (g) Further assistance by the international community to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the IPF proposals for action as needed. National forest programmes could be used as a framework for channelling development assistance for implementation. Such support is particularly needed for capacity-building, and for creating participatory mechanisms and innovative financing arrangements.

¹ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex II.

² Ibid., annex III.

B. Monitoring progress in implementation

17 (a) IFF encouraged countries to prepare national information on the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests as the basis for any consolidated information on forests at the international level. Adequate financial resources, both domestic and international, should be available for capacity-building and implementation of national reporting initiatives;

17 (b) IFF encouraged countries to make forest-related information for reviewing, monitoring and reporting progress in implementation of sustainable forest management widely available and accessible to policy makers and to interested groups, noting the important role that subnational levels of government and interested groups play in contributing to assessment and information gathering;

17 (c) IFF encouraged countries to report on the implementation of IPF proposals for action in the context of reporting on forests to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session, taking into account, where appropriate, the process used to assess the relevance of the proposals and priorities for action, the organizations and interested parties involved, and noting progress made and the areas where new actions could be undertaken;

17 (d) IFF encouraged countries to further develop and implement, with the support of international organizations, as appropriate, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, and use them as a basis for reviewing, monitoring and reporting national trends in the state of forests, as well as progress on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;

17 (e) IFF encouraged countries to encourage the donor community to assist developing countries in preparing national information and reports on forests, recognizing that information collection and reporting are costly activities.

18. IFF encouraged ITFF member organizations and other relevant international and regional organizations to consult with countries regarding collection and synthesis of national information in order to facilitate accurate reporting with a view to having countries verify the information synthesized, and give effective feedback on the overall results of data collection and reporting and make such information widely available and accessible to policy makers and to interested groups.

19 (a) IFF encouraged countries, ITFF member organizations and other relevant international and regional organizations to develop harmonized, cost-effective, comprehensive reporting formats for collecting and synthesizing national forest information to meet the diverse demands for reliable and timely data by various forest-related international organizations and instruments. There is a need to incorporate information on relevant criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, including indicators on environmental, social and economic functions, such as non-wood products, forest resources and services, and the competitiveness of forest products at the domestic and international levels, into such reporting formats in order to reduce reporting burdens on countries and increase the timeliness and consistency of reporting;

19 (b) IFF encouraged countries, ITFF member organizations and other relevant international and regional organizations to improve the effectiveness of coordination and partnership within countries and with international organizations and instruments as a means of building the capacity in developing countries for periodic and timely collection, review, synthesis and utilization of information related to sustainable forest management.

II. Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process

A. Need for financial resources

30 (a) IFF called upon countries and relevant international organizations to increase financial resources and make or intensify efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of available resources for sustainable forest management, and use national forest programmes or other integrated programmes as the basis for channelling, prioritizing and

increasing financial assistance to the forest sector in developing countries;

30 (b) IFF called upon countries and relevant international organizations to give special consideration to developing countries, including countries with low forest cover and particularly the least developed countries, in financial cooperation to meet their needs for forest products and services sustainably and sustainably manage their forests, and in some cases expand their forest cover;

30 (c) IFF called upon countries and relevant international organizations to encourage private investments in sustainable forest management by providing a stable and transparent investment environment within an adequate regulatory framework that also encourages the reinvestment of forest revenues into sustainable forest management;

30 (d) IFF called upon countries and relevant international organizations to undertake activities for systematic collection and analysis of financial flows data in the forest sector in order to enable informed and rational policy decisions based on reliable information;

30 (e) Explore the feasibility of operationalizing an investment promotion entity taking into account the functions and circumstances under which such an entity would operate as well as its scope in relation to the existing financial mechanisms.

³31. *The Forum discussed but was not able to reach consensus on the following proposals for action:*

31 (a) *Continue further exploration, identification, and development of new and improved and more effective financial mechanisms, and further explore the potential and results of innovative use of existing mechanisms to promote sustainable forest management, taking into account the full range of goods and services, including forest related biological resources, and sharing experience and information on such mechanisms;*

31 (b) *Create an international forest fund to support, inter alia, the additional costs during the transition period towards sustainable forest management;*

31 (c) *Make full use of the potential of existing mechanisms, such as GEF, consistent with their mandates, and explore options to expand their scope/and review their scope for financing a wider range of sustainable forest management activities;*

31 (d) *Consider the need for preparing a study integrating such issues as the valuation of forest goods and services, including biological resources, and the international trade of forest goods, taking due account of the effects of international restrictions, such as tariff escalations, and other protective measures.*

B. Trade and environment

41. IFF stressed the importance of implementing the IPF proposals for action on trade and environment. In order to further their effective implementation IFF:

41 (a) Urged countries, including trade partners, to contribute to achieving trade in wood and non-wood products and services from sustainably managed forests, and implement policies and actions, in particular avoiding policies that have adverse effects, either on trade or on sustainable forest management;

41 (b) Urged countries, international organizations, including WTO,⁴ and other interested parties to undertake, as appropriate, further cooperative work on voluntary certification and/or labelling schemes, in line with the recommendations of IPF, while seeking to enhance their international comparability and considering their equivalence, taking into account the diversity of national and regional situations, and to ensure adequate transparency and non-discrimination in the design and operation of such schemes, and are consistent with international obligations so as to promote sustainable forest management and not to lead to unjustifiable obstacles to market access;

41 (c) Urged countries to undertake analyses of the implications of full-cost internalization on forest management and economic development and implement full-cost internalization strategies for forest products and services and their

³ The Forum was not able to reach consensus on this proposal for action

⁴ The Forum discussed, but could not reach consensus to the specific reference to WTO in this context.

substitutes;

41 (d) Requested countries, international organizations and other interested parties to undertake further work on full life-cycle analysis of the environmental impacts of forest products and their substitutes;

41 (e) Called upon all interested parties to take action to improve market transparency, taking into account the role of the private sector, to help promote responsible producer and consumer choices in the supply and demand for forest products, forest services and their substitutes;

41 (f) Called upon countries to consider appropriate national-level actions and promote international cooperation to reduce the illegal trade in wood and non-wood forest products including forest related biological resources, with the aim of its elimination;

41 (g) Urged countries to develop strategies for sustainable forest management with a long-term perspective so that the negative effects of short-term market changes, such as the recent regional financial crises, can be minimized;

41 (h) Urged countries to recognize the special importance of imports of forest products for countries with low forest cover and fragile forest ecosystems, and small island developing States to satisfy their needs for forest products and services to assist them in expanding and rehabilitating their forest cover.

⁵42. *The Forum discussed but was not able to reach consensus on the following proposal for action:*
“Supported continued efforts by countries and the World Trade Organization towards trade liberalization giving special attention to removing remaining and emerging trade restrictions which constrain market access, particularly for value added forest products;”.

C. Transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management

56. IFF stressed the importance of implementing the IPF proposals for action on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. In order to further their effective implementation, IFF:

56 (a) Urged countries, consistent with decision 6/3 of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as paragraph 77 of the IPF proposals for action (E/CN.17/1997/12), to initiate actions towards the broadening and development of mechanisms and/or further initiatives to enhance the transfer of technology from developed countries to developing countries to promote sustainable forest management;

56 (b) Urged all countries to develop an enabling policy, legal and institutional framework that encourages appropriate public and private sector investments in environmentally sound technologies for sustainable forest management in line with the respective national forest programmes, where applicable;

56 (c) Urged countries and relevant international organizations to support the strengthening of cooperation between institutions to facilitate the assessment of needs for adaptation and transfer of forest-related environmentally sound technologies through North-South and South-South cooperation. Those institutions recognized as centres of excellence should act as clearing houses, in line with Agenda 21, chapter 34, in order to expedite the flow of these technologies;

56 (d) Urged all countries to recognize the importance of the transfer of technologies to developing countries and economies in transition, including human and institutional capacity-building, as an integral part of the process of investment and sustainable development; and the importance of combining technology transfer with training, education and institutional strengthening in order to promote effective use and broad dissemination of environmentally sound technologies;

56 (e) Urged all countries, in particular developed countries, to take further concrete measures to promote and

⁵ The Forum was not able to reach consensus on this proposal for action

facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights in accordance with the relevant international and domestic laws, in order to put into further practice the recommendations of Agenda 21, the Commission on Sustainable Development and IPF, and in this context to mobilize further support for the development and application of appropriate technologies and corresponding know-how within these countries to enhance their capacities to implement sustainable forest management;

56 (f) Urged countries and relevant international organizations to consider practical measures to promote the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to end-users, particularly in local communities in developing countries, through the efficient use of extension services;

56 (g) Urged countries and relevant international organizations to enhance partnerships, and to initiate, as appropriate, coordinate and cooperate in forest-related technical and financial assistance and capacity-building in respect of the transfer, development and application of environmentally sound technologies;

56 (h) Encouraged countries, with the cooperation of international organizations, to promote appropriate transfer of environmentally sound rehabilitation technologies for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in environmentally critical areas, and to develop appropriate means to promote sharing of environmentally sound technologies between and within countries, including effective links between research, extension and implementation;

56 (i) Underscored the importance of assisting developing countries with low forest cover and those with fragile forest ecosystems in their efforts in respect of capacity-building that would facilitate the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to address those needs;

56 (j) Urged countries to promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources (as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity) and the results and applications of research, upon mutually agreed terms, and to work, as necessary, on addressing issues of the identification of origins of forest genetic resources within their intellectual property rights, *sui generis* or other relevant systems for protection, as appropriate, taking into account the work being advanced by the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international agreements, in accordance with national laws;

56 (k) The Forum also discussed but could not conclude the debate or reach consensus on the proposal to encourage countries to develop appropriate mechanisms and/or measures to enable indigenous people, local communities and forest-dependent groups to realize the potential benefits of traditional forest-related knowledge in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity, through the establishment and enforcement of intellectual property rights linked to this knowledge, including the giving of due recognition to the use of traditional forest-related knowledge in patent applications for technologies;

56 (l) Urged all countries, in particular developed countries, to pursue actions that would facilitate the transfer, development and application of environmentally sound technologies for and analyse the implications of the use of wood and non-wood by-products created by forest harvesting and wood processing for industrial and domestic purposes, giving special attention to wood-waste materials as an energy source;

56 (m) Called upon countries to undertake steps to ensure equal opportunities for women, in particular indigenous women and women in rural areas, to become beneficiaries of environmentally sound forest-related technologies, know-how and extension services;

56 (n) Urged countries to strengthen outreach programmes targeted at women in the areas of education, training and microcredit, related to community development programmes and household use of wood, wood lots for fuelwood and energy-efficient cooking technology;

56 (o) Urged countries and relevant international organizations to use data and information that are disaggregated by gender in sectoral surveys and studies used in the development of technologies for sustainable forest management policies and projects.

D. Issues that need further clarification

1. Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation

64. IFF stressed the importance of implementing the IPF proposals for action on underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, with particular emphasis on the needs and requirements of low forest cover countries and countries with fragile forest ecosystems. In order to further their effective implementation, IFF encouraged countries, with the assistance of international organizations, donor countries and financial institutions, to implement the following additional proposals through partnerships involving, where appropriate, the participation of government institutions, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, indigenous and local communities, forest owners and the private sector:

64 (a) Further study and take practical measures to address the chains of causality of the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation within each country, including the impact of poverty and the impact of processes outside the forest sector;

64 (b) Create appropriate procedures in order to promote effective participation of all interested parties in decision-making about forest management;

64 (c) Support appropriate land tenure law and/or arrangements as a means to define clearly land ownership, as well as the rights of indigenous and local communities and forest owners, for the sustainable use of forest resources, taking into account the sovereign right of each country and its legal framework;

64 (d) Develop mechanisms, as appropriate, to improve land access and use of forest resources on a sustainable basis;

64 (e) Support capacity-building in communities, in particular for those with responsibilities in forest management, including in low forest cover countries, and create awareness in the society at large on the importance of issues related to deforestation and forest degradation;

64 (f) Support and promote community involvement in sustainable forest management through technical guidance, economic incentives and, where appropriate, legal frameworks;

64 (g) Promote maintenance and enhancement of forest resources through sustainable forest management practices, and promote the creation of new forest resources through the establishment of planted forests and other means, such as rehabilitation of degraded forests, taking into consideration their social, cultural and environmental impacts, and economic costs and benefits;

64 (h) Identify and measure internalization of externalities, and introduce positive incentives in both the forest and non-forest sectors that may help combat deforestation and forest degradation;

64 (i) Support local community programmes for capacity-building and credit facilities, and facilitate access to domestic and external markets of forest products and services;

64 (j) Request international financial institutions to analyse the impacts of foreign debt on deforestation and forest degradation, and request international financial institutions to explore, in cooperation with donor and recipient countries, innovative financial approaches and schemes for helping countries to promote sustainable forest management.

65. IFF invited international financial institutions to strengthen transparency in decision-making as it affects sustainable forest management, and to ensure that their policies support sustainable forest management.

66. IFF also invited countries to use national forest programmes, as appropriate, or other relevant programmes to involve indigenous and local communities and women to participate in the formulation and implementation of measures

that aim to protect their rights and privileges in relation to forest lands, traditional forest-related knowledge and forest biological resources (as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity).

67. IFF encouraged ITFF member organizations to support the elaboration of a comprehensive study of land tenure issues related to deforestation and forest degradation.

2. Traditional forest-related knowledge

74 (a) IFF called upon countries to implement effective measures to recognize, respect, protect and maintain traditional forest-related knowledge in sustainable forest management, including forest biological resources (as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity) within their intellectual property rights, *sui generis* or other relevant systems for protection, as appropriate, taking into account the relevant work being advanced by the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international agreements;

74 (b) IFF called upon countries to promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits, including consideration of payments, where appropriate, arising from the use of such knowledge, innovations and practices, in accordance with, *inter alia*, article 8 (j) and related provisions of articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international agreements and taking into account national law, with the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

74 (c) IFF called upon countries to work with relevant international organizations to help to develop a common appreciation and understanding of the relationship between the intellectual property rights, *sui generis* or other relevant systems for protection, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, including work, as necessary, on addressing issues related to the identification of origins of traditional forest-related knowledge, and of the knowledge that results from the use of forest genetic resources (as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity), with a view to protecting such knowledge from inappropriate use;

74 (d) IFF called upon countries to develop or strengthen, as appropriate, and implement, at the national level, legislation and policies to achieve objectives under article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and support efforts by relevant international organizations and institutions regarding the protection and application of traditional forest-related knowledge, which can include the development of guidelines, in accordance with their mandates.

75. IFF invited the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the participation of indigenous people and local communities, through the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group, in its programme of work, under the related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to include options for collecting, recording, applying and locating traditional forest-related knowledge, recognizing the need to foster the wider application of such knowledge, innovations and practices, with the approval and effective involvement of the holders throughout the process.

3. Forest conservation and protected areas

84. The Forum invited countries to implement, with the assistance of international organizations, donor countries and financial institutions, the proposals for action of this new programme element through partnership mechanisms involving, where appropriate, the participation of governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and indigenous and local communities.

85 (a) The Forum encouraged countries to commit themselves to the protection, conservation and representativeness of all types of forests, consistent with national forest policies and programmes that recognize the linkage between forest conservation and sustainable development. This commitment may be achieved through a range of conservation mechanisms, reflecting varying national circumstances, applied within and outside of protected forest areas, and the complementary roles of protected forest areas and other sustainable forest management activities — for example, the production of wood and non-wood products and services, where forest conservation is promoted by other means.

85 (b) The Forum encouraged countries to develop and implement appropriate strategies for the protection of the full range of forest values, including cultural, social, spiritual, environmental and economic aspects; recognition of the multiple functions and sustainable use of all types of forests, with particular regard to biological diversity; participation of communities and other interested parties; integration of the livelihood needs of indigenous and local communities; and planning and management on an ecosystem basis, in which special emphasis should be put on the continued integrity of genetic diversity.

85 (c) The Forum encouraged countries to develop and implement forest management mechanisms, as appropriate, that provide for partnerships and the participation of forest owners and of indigenous and local communities in support of forest conservation initiatives for sustainable forest management within the legal framework of each country.

85 (d) The Forum encouraged countries to develop financial support mechanisms to engage all interested parties, in particular forest owners and the private sector, in the planning and management of protected forest areas; and recognize protected forest areas under the stewardship of private forest owners or indigenous and local communities.

85 (e) The Forum encouraged countries to develop and apply consistently, as needed, criteria based on the adequacy, consistency and effectiveness of protected areas, following an ecosystem approach and incorporating reserve design principles that identify the need for new protected areas critical to the protection and maintenance of environmental services. In this regard, consideration should be given to linking protected areas, where possible, with corridors and buffer zones in order to form networks.

85 (f) The Forum encouraged countries to develop and implement a range of innovative mechanisms for financing and encouraging forest conservation, including economic incentives, voluntary guidelines, forest regulations, private contracts, taxes and charges, reinvestment of returns from protected areas, forest-related industries, and environmental services in forest conservation; tax deductions for private forest conservation; direct charges for protected area use; and possible returns from carbon sequestration, in accordance with, and within the context of the implementation of relevant articles of the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

85 (g) The Forum encouraged countries to contribute to a global and regional assessment of the current status of protected forest areas, including total number, extent of each area, objectives of establishment, effectiveness of management, IUCN-system equivalent category, and basic biological and social information available. This can assist in the establishment of bio-geographically balanced networks of protected forest areas.

86. The Forum encouraged countries that share ecologically important or unique transboundary forests to establish joint protected forest areas, including ecological corridors of regional and/or global significance, and establish agreed guidelines concerning their collaborative management.

87. The Forum called upon countries, international financial institutions and other donors to provide financial support and other resources to activities in developing countries related to forest conservation and to the implementation and management of protected areas in the surrounding landscape, in accordance with national action plans, where such plans exist, through, *inter alia*, institutional strengthening and capacity-building; research and education and public awareness; promotion of access, development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; and technical and scientific cooperation.

88. The Forum encouraged countries, relevant international organizations and institutions to cooperate in developing methodologies for assessing the conditions and management effectiveness in existing protected forest areas and the surrounding landscape and in protected forest area networks, taking into account the various efforts under way in several countries to build further capacity to collect, organize, utilize and share information and experience, including indigenous and local knowledge, in order to create and manage protected forest areas.

89. The Forum invited countries, relevant international organizations and institutions to work collectively to develop further guidelines for consistency in the interpretation and use of existing IUCN categories of protected areas for application in a national context, and to develop a global approach for assessing the effectiveness of protected forest area management in relation to environmental, social, cultural and other relevant objectives.

90. The Forum urged countries, international financial institutions and other donors to improve coordination, at both the national and international levels, of policies and programmes that affect forest conservation and to address cross-sectoral policies, structural adjustment packages and perverse incentives.

4. Forest research

96 (a) IFF called upon countries to improve national efforts to strengthen forest research by formulating policies, programmes and strategies, as appropriate, within the context of national forest programmes in order to identify research needs and priorities as well as to coordinate the implementation of research programmes relevant to sustainable forest management.

96 (b) IFF called upon countries to consider examination of new ways of mobilizing funding for forest research, including changes to the charters of research institutions that would allow them to address diverse sources of funding, as well as changes to research agendas.

96 (c) IFF called upon countries to improve linkage between forest science and forest policy processes at the national and subnational levels by creating opportunities for policy makers, scientists, donors, and other interested parties to provide guidance to research and forest policy discussions.

96 (d) IFF called upon countries to ensure that forest research in countries be undertaken with prior consent of the country/countries concerned.

97 (a) IFF urged international organizations, donor countries and financial institutions to contribute to fund forest research in developing countries.

97 (b) IFF urged international organizations, donor countries and financial institutions to examine new ways for mobilizing funding for forest research and intensify efforts, including development assistance, to strengthen research networks and build capacity at the national, regional and global levels, to facilitate all countries to meet the broad economic, social, cultural and environmental demands upon forests.

97 (c) IFF urged international organizations, donor countries and financial institutions to enhance access to forest-related information by all interested parties, making best use of existing institutions, mechanisms and networks, including national, regional and international research information systems.

97 (d) IFF urged international organizations, donor countries and financial institutions to foster joint ventures in forest research involving both the public (research institutions) and private sector.

98 (a) IFF requested ITFF member organizations to explore ways and means of improving priority setting and support for national, regional and international forest-related research efforts.

98 (b) IFF requested ITFF member organizations to explore options for providing guidance to forest science initiatives, strengthening linkages between science and policy, mobilizing resources, including financial resources, and increasing international efforts in support of forest research and research capacity-building.

98 (c) IFF requested ITFF member organizations to work with IUFRO in exploring possibilities for a global forest information service.

5. Valuation of forest goods and services

107 (a) The Forum urged Governments to improve collection of quantitative data to enumerate and develop physical accounts of the full range of forest goods and services, including inventories of timber and other goods and services, and impacts of changes in forest use on the environment. This should also be done for substitute non-wood materials.

107 (d) The Forum encouraged further development, by countries and international organizations, of rapid and low-cost valuation methods, including a focus on the development of approaches which incorporate a wide range of values, reflect the overall value of forest ecosystems, as appropriate, and identify the costs and benefits of sustainable forest management, as well as ways to internalize externalities.

107 (c) The Forum requested relevant international organizations to develop and test rapid valuation methods that are policy relevant and efficient, that reflect regional and national characteristics and requirements, and to develop approaches for the identification of the costs and benefits, including incremental costs and benefits, of sustainable forest management which can be employed for a cost-efficient use of investment funds for forests.

107 (d) The Forum requested countries and international organizations to assist developing countries in building and promoting capacity for the development and application of forest valuation methods.

6. Economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure

115 (a) The Forum encouraged countries, with the assistance of relevant international organizations, to assess the potential scope and effective combination of economic instruments and tax policies as tools for promoting sustainable forest management, as appropriate, as part of their national forest programmes. This assessment should include but not be limited to collection of forest revenue from timber extraction.

115 (b) The Forum encouraged countries to recognize and use, where applicable, an appropriate combination of regulations and economic instruments for achieving the objectives of forest policies, including the use of charges and forest revenue collection that also offer incentives for sustainable forest management practices.

115 (c) The Forum encouraged countries to recognize the actual and potential impacts of economic instruments and tax policies as a means of providing incentives to engage in activities that avoid deforestation and forest degradation and that support sustainable forest management practices; and to examine, in collaboration with international organizations, when requested, the role of forest policy failures and policies in other sectors as a contributing factor in deforestation, forest degradation or unsustainable forest management; and to collaborate with international organizations in developing mitigating policies.

115 (d) The Forum encouraged countries, within their respective legal framework, to support land tenure policies that recognize and respect legitimate access and use, and property rights in order to support sustainable forest management and investment, recognizing that institutionalizing tenure is a long-term and complex process which requires interim measures to address urgent needs, in particular of local and/or indigenous communities.

115 (e) The Forum requested relevant international organizations to undertake an up-to-date review of contemporary forest revenue collection systems for the use of forest products and services. The Forum encouraged countries to share their experiences in this area and to support this effort.

115 (f) The Forum invited relevant international organizations to provide, on request, general and specific advice to countries on the design and administration of economic instruments and tax policies to promote sustainable forest management, and encouraged countries to offer examples of successes in using economic instruments to advance the practice of sustainable forest management.

115 (g) The Forum encouraged countries to develop macroeconomic policies and policies in other sectors that support and contribute to sustainable forest management; and requested international financial and lending institutions to consider mitigating the impacts of macroeconomic structural adjustment programmes on forests consistent with sustainable forest management.

7. Future supply of and demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services

121 (a) The Forum encourages countries and international organizations to improve data collection and information dissemination through increasing the extent, quality and comparability of inventory data on forest resources, including

both wood and non-wood forest products and services.

121 (b) The Forum encourages countries and international organizations to improve data collection and information dissemination through giving adequate attention to collection and reporting on the use of a broad range of non-wood products, including quantities gathered and consumed, ownership rights and their importance to rural and indigenous communities.

121 (c) The Forum encourages countries and international organizations to improve data collection and information dissemination through the systematic collection and reporting of information on the source and use of wood fuels; and

121 (d) The Forum encourages countries and international organizations to improve data collection and information dissemination through the provision of timely, useful and comparable data on prices of wood and non-wood products as well as their substitutes.

122 (a) The Forum further encourages countries, including through international cooperation, to promote policies, as needed, to meet increasing demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services, through sustainable forest management, including, where appropriate, planted forests and trees outside forests, and work towards an internationally agreed definition of planted forests.

122 (b) The Forum further encourages countries, including through international cooperation, to recognize the role of the private sector, where appropriate, in producing forest products and services. This role may need to be supported within a framework of policies, incentives and regulations, such as secure land tenure and appropriate tax policies to help ensure the improved management of forests and sustained production of a wide range of goods and services.

122 (c) The Forum further encourages countries, including through international cooperation, to incorporate the supply of fuelwood and wood energy as well as efficient wood energy technologies as a crucial part of policy and planning exercises within the forestry, agriculture and energy sectors, and develop pilot studies to assess more accurately the impacts of fuelwood collection on trees and forests.

122 (d) The Forum further encourages countries, including through international cooperation, to develop and implement policies designed to promote sustainable production of wood and non-wood forest goods and services that reflect a wide range of values, and to ensure that the benefits of commercialization of wood and non-wood forest goods and services contribute to improved management of forests and are equitably distributed to the people who protect and provide them.

122 (e) The Forum further encourages countries, including through international cooperation, to review policies that have a direct effect on the price of forest products and of their substitutes, initiate studies on market behaviour, when appropriate, and recognize that appropriate prices can encourage and support sustainable forest management while discouraging overuse, waste, excess and inefficient manufacturing.

122 (f) The Forum further encourages countries, including through international cooperation, to undertake studies on the cost and benefits of using renewable wood and non-wood forest products, as opposed to non-renewable substitutes.

8. Assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas

129 (a) The Forum encouraged countries and relevant international organizations and major groups to cooperate and coordinate activities concerning forests and trees in environmentally critical areas, and to contribute to more systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of information, including social and economic data.

129 (b) The Forum urged countries to place rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests and trees in environmentally critical areas as a higher priority on national development agendas within the context of national forest programmes, as appropriate.

129 (c) The Forum encouraged countries, in particular countries with low forest cover, to use planted forests and other

means, including trees outside forests, in agroforestry, silvipastoral and analog forestry systems (forest management systems that seek to mimic natural forests in rehabilitation of degraded land), giving special consideration to using native species, where appropriate, as options for rehabilitating degraded lands and, where possible, as a basis for re-establishing natural forests.

129 (d) The Forum urged countries to engage in raising awareness of the ecological, social, cultural and economic roles that planted and natural forests might fulfil in the rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests in environmentally critical areas.

129 (e) The Forum further urged international organizations and donor countries to strengthen their support to and collaboration with international programmes, including through the provision of financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies as set out in chapters 33 and 34 of Agenda 21 and through conventions directed to fragile ecosystems, in particular concerning the role of forests, other wooded lands and trees in the Convention to Combat Desertification and Agenda 21, chapters 12 and 13, which address the concerns of the poorer communities.

E. Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments

139 (a) The Forum called upon all interested parties, including the governing bodies of relevant international and regional organizations and instruments, to identify practical means for mobilizing their diverse strengths and capabilities to support country-level efforts in implementing the proposals for action adopted by IPF, taking into account the need to enhance the active participation of all parties concerned.

139 (b) The Forum called upon all interested parties, including the governing bodies of relevant international and regional organizations and instruments, to foster synergies among different international and regional organizations and instruments, and encourage their active participation in and contribution to international forest policy dialogue, with due consideration to the Forest Principles, chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the IPF/Forum proposals for action.

139 (c) The Forum called upon all interested parties, including the governing bodies of relevant international and regional organizations and instruments, to clarify the respective roles and work to be carried out by international and regional organizations and instruments with respect to the forest-related programmes of action of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its follow-up.

140 (a) The Forum called upon Governments to utilize, as appropriate, the expertise provided by international and regional organizations and instruments in the formulation of their national forest programmes, in particular to better integrate cross-sectoral linkages and the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable forest management into national policies.

140 (b) The Forum called upon Governments to establish and strengthen, as appropriate, effective national arrangements to provide coordinated and effective guidance to multilateral organizations.

141 (a) The Forum called upon the secretariats of the Task Force member organizations to inform their governing bodies about the progress and outcome of the IPF/IFF process so as to strengthen their forest-related activities and their inter-agency cooperation in this regard.

141 (b) The Forum called upon the secretariats of the Task Force member organizations to explore and develop the potential for institutional synergies with other partners, especially with regional development banks, regional commissions and other regional intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, other international organizations and private sector institutions.

141 (c) The Forum called upon the secretariats of the Task Force member organizations to cooperate towards developing a comprehensive directory of forest-related international and regional organizations and instruments engaged in forest-related activities, including their mandates, missions, organizational structures, programmes, activities, personnel and budget, as well as information on collaborative forest-related work and activities of organizations and instruments. The directory should be updated on a regular basis. FAO, in cooperation with other

member organizations of the Task Force, could have a leading role in this task.

142 (a) The Forum called upon Governments to provide guidance to the governing bodies of international and regional organizations and instruments, and to encourage non-governmental organizations to cooperate in implementing activities to increase public awareness of the direct and indirect benefits derived from forests, at national, subregional, regional and global levels.

142 (b) The Forum called upon Governments to provide guidance to the governing bodies of international and regional organizations and instruments, and to encourage non-governmental organizations to cooperate in facilitating inter-institutional consultation on cross-sectoral forest policies, policy reforms, and planning and programmes for sustainable forest management.

142 (c) The Forum called upon Governments to provide guidance to the governing bodies of international and regional organizations and instruments, and to encourage non-governmental organizations to cooperate in enhancing cost-effective data systems, to allow the preparation and the timely dissemination of information on progress in sustainable forest management.

143. The Forum called upon relevant international and regional organizations and instruments to consider, in their relevant policies and programmes, the needs and requirements of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with special attention to low forest cover countries.

144. The Forum urged international and regional organizations and governing bodies of instruments to support forest programmes and to integrate forest-related aspects in programmes aimed at poverty alleviation, decreasing population pressures, promoting food security and promoting environmental awareness.