

**Summary**  
**United Nations Forum on Forests Multi-Stakeholder Consultation 1**  
**8 - 9 March 2003**  
**FAO Headquarters - Rome, Italy**

**Participants**

**Business and Industry<sup>i</sup>**

International Council of Forestry and Paper Associations (ICFPA), Mr. Marvin Brown  
World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), Mr. James Griffiths

**Scientific and Technological Community<sup>ii</sup>**

International Union of Forest and Research Organizations (IUFRO), Mr. Risto Seppala  
IUFRO, Mr. Heinrich Schmutzenhofer  
IUFRO, Mr. Alexander Buck

**Trade Unions<sup>iii</sup>**

International Federation of Building and Wood Workers (IFBWW), Mr. William Street

**Private Forest Landowners<sup>iv</sup>**

Confederation of European Private Forest Landowners (CEPF), Ms. Natalie Hufnagl

**Women<sup>v</sup>**

Greener Earth Organization, Ms. Sandra Kesse

**UNFF Secretariat**

Mr. Pekka Patosaari  
Ms. Susan Braatz  
Ms. Mia Soderlund  
Ms. Abigail Sarmac

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**1. Introduction**

The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests arranged for a Major Group consultation on 8-9 March 2003 at FAO headquarters in Rome Italy in preparation for the multi-stakeholder dialogue during UNFF 3 as well as to discuss major groups involvement in the UNFF process in general.

Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Coordinator and Head of the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFF-S) opened the first UNFF Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) Consultation. He emphasized the importance of MSD to the UNFF3 session and the enhancement of the ongoing MSD process in order to make the engagement and inputs of the nine major groups<sup>1</sup> more efficient at the UNFF sessions as well as inter-sessionally. FAO was thanked for providing facilities for the MSD Consultation. Ms. Natalie Hufnagl, of the Confederation of European Private Forest Landowners (CEPF), representative of private forest landowners, was nominated chairman of the MSD Consultation.

**2. Aims of the Consultation**

Given the overarching goal of effectively communicating a clear message to governments, major groups agreed to focus on producing the following outputs of the consultation:

1. A list of clearly articulated expected outcomes of UNFF3 and the UNFF MSD process in general
2. An outline of suggestions for a satisfactory mechanism of facilitating major group input into UNFF3 deliberations and outcomes, including suggestions on the orchestration of the MSD at UNFF sessions
3. A synthesis message common to all participating major groups providing substantive suggestions to UNFF3

**3. Results of the Consultation**

***3.1 Desired Outcomes by the Major Groups of the UNFF MSD Process and UNFF3***

The major groups stated that for them the ultimate desirable outcomes of the UNFF MSD process are two-fold: 1) mutually beneficial discussion between governments and an inclusive representation of major

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<sup>1</sup> The major groups are identified in Agenda 21 as: Business and Industry, Environmental NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, Local Authorities, Farmers, Scientific and Technological Community, Trade Unions, Women, Youth and Children.

groups and 2) evidence that governments are interested in taking action on the concerns expressed by major groups.

With respect to UNFF3, the major groups participating in the consultation articulated what they felt would be ideal outcomes for them in line with this overall vision, including:

1. Successful communication of key issues important to major groups as well as an articulation of the common shared views as synthesized across all major groups.
2. Articulation of major group success stories in implementation of the proposals for action to highlight their contribution to SFM. Success stories indicate valuable lessons learned in the UNFF3 elements, constraints encountered and what the international community can concretely do to address these constraints.
3. Major group views reflected in key outcomes of UNFF, e.g. the UNFF report, MSD Chairman's Summary, decisions and resolutions. Once major group concerns are reflected in these final official outcomes, these official priorities can be built upon through regional and local partnering.
4. Increased mobilization of representative major group networks.

### ***3.2 Suggested Format for UNFF3 Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue***

Given the clear desired outcomes outlined above, major groups suggested a format for the MSD during UNFF 3 to begin working towards their stated desired outcomes at UNFF3.

#### **3.2.1 Organization of UNFF3 MSD**

The UNFF3 MSD will take place 27 May 2003, from 10h-13h and 15h-18h. Within ECOSOC rules, these six hours should be coordinated so as to best convey the message major groups wish to provide governments at UNFF. It is clear that major groups want the MSD to be a positive forum for interactive exchange that will be useful to governments and major groups alike. In order to assist in this, major groups suggested the following format.

A Vice-chair of the UNFF Bureau will chair the UNFF MSD. Major groups also suggested, as a possibility, using a facilitator to assist in the discussions. The three-hour morning session would be dedicated to three presentations by major group representatives. These presentations will treat issues common to all major groups relevant to the three UNFF3 elements<sup>2</sup> and each will be 20 minutes long, followed by 30 minutes of questions and reactions from the floor. The afternoon segment of the MSD would constitute of a response group consisting of key governments and CPF members. To start off the afternoon, a short presentation will be given, ending with key questions to the response group. This will be followed by an hour of responses by the group, and interactive reactions and facilitated debate.

#### **3.2.2 Major Group Synthesis Contributions to UNFF**

During the consultation major groups presented their individual contributions to UNFF from their discussion papers. Each highlighted key topics under lessons learned, recommendations and issues of conflict relevant to UNFF3 elements. These issues represent priorities as seen by each major group for funding, extension and technological support. Major groups encountered several common elements in the discussion of their individual group contributions. As a coordinated and consolidated summary of recommendations by all the major groups together would be a more powerful statement to governments, major groups decided to develop a framework for synthesis contributions on the UNFF3 elements.

### ***3.3 Inter-sessional UNFF MSD Process***

During the consultations major groups indicated strong interest in starting discussions with the UNFF Secretariat on more inter-sessional interaction and involvement by stakeholders

**The focal points system** thus far established was endorsed at the meeting, and will be a flexible system to fit the needs of each major group. Major groups present noted the financial and other issues restraining major groups from participating in UNFF. Options to address these factors will be explored by major groups and the UNFF-S.

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<sup>2</sup> Economic Aspects on Forests, Forest Health and Productivity and Maintaining Forest Cover for Present and Future Needs.

The issue of **accreditation** was also brought up in view of the call for action by governments and major groups at UNFF2. Relevant forest major group organizations are facing accreditation challenges and the UNFF Secretariat is in contact with DESA NGO Unit regarding the possibilities of facilitating the accreditation and participation of major group organizations. However, it was understood that decision on accreditation is within the purview of ECOSOC.

The Major groups also expressed interest in further **facilitating linkages with Member States of UNFF, members of the CPF and the CPF-Network**. To further this goal, it was suggested that besides the actual MSD discussion day during UNFF sessions, the UNFF-S could also facilitate links between governments and major groups through the catalyzing of specific partnerships between governments and major groups that have indicated interest in specific SFM issues. Also, recognizing the important role CPF plays within the UNFF, major groups expressed interest in exploring appropriate, mutually beneficial options for creating informal linkages between CPF and major groups. The CPF Network is one direct way to increase information exchange between CPF members and major groups. Trade Unions brought up the importance of labour in forest issues and highlighted the idea of increasing consultation between CPF and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Finally, linkages between CPF members, current consultative processes and UNFF MSD should also be examined.

Major groups encouraged UNFF-S to view MSD as a series of various inter-sessional activities, including preparatory consensus building meetings aimed at each UNFF session. These meetings should take advantage of stakeholder processes already established to most efficiently draw on existing synergies within the global policy process, such as The Forest Dialogue<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>i</sup> **Business and Industry** was represented by ICPFA and the WBCSD. The ICPFA is an association of associations dealing in forest products. The organization participates in several international forest discussions including forest criteria & indicators, UNFF, the US Congo Basin Partnership and international dialogues on the illegal logging issue. The WBCSD, through its Global Forests Program, works with some of the largest private sector players in forest products, and other related global forest industries. WBCSD operates through stakeholder dialogues, and is on the steering council of The Forest Dialogue, a stakeholder process aimed at providing useful input to forest business and industry.

<sup>ii</sup> IUFRO, representing the **forest scientific and technological community**, was created in 1892 and exists to provide an interface between forest science and policy interface through development and provision to policy-makers of timely, science based forest literature relevant to sustainable forest management (SFM) decision-making. IUFRO is a network of 15, 000 scientists in 111 countries and 700 member organizations.

<sup>iii</sup> **Trade unions** and forest workers were represented by IFBWW, a global trade union federation advocating for around 10 million members, 60% construction workers and 40% workers along the wood fiber value chain. The IFBWW Global Forest Program runs activities through affiliates on every continent, including 3 community forest programs in Africa, lobbying to incorporate International Labour Organization (ILO) core labour standards into forest certification schemes such as the FSC, PEFC, the Malaysian Timber Certification Council, among others, and finally, training of local workers in sustainable forestry.

<sup>iv</sup> **Private forest land owners** were represented by the Confederation of European Private Forest Landowners (CEPF). The CEPF manages an international alliance of landowners in the Americas, Canada, Australia and Europe.

<sup>v</sup> Green Earth Organization (GEO) of Ghana represented **women** in forests. GEO is a national NGO operating over the past fourteen years in mobilization of women in sustainable forest livelihoods, watershed management and forestation activities.

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<sup>3</sup> A stakeholder dialogue aimed at providing input to forest business and industry was mentioned as a possible process the UNFF could explore for exchange of information.