
Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF8

Regional/ Sub-regional Organization [name of the regional/sub-regional organization]:

Name: [Head of the organization]

Title:

Address:

Phone/Fax:

E-mail:

Person to contact concerning the submission, if different from the focal point:

Name:

Title:

Address:

Phone/Fax:

E-mail:

General Information

The multi-year programme of work (2007–2015) of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), in accordance with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2006/49 and its Resolution 7/1, sets a new focus on regional collaboration and partnerships. Through Resolution 2006/49, member States agreed to “*Strengthen interaction between the Forum and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes¹, with participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, and relevant stakeholders to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum.*”²

In this regard, the Forum invited relevant regional and subregional entities “to address issues and agenda items planned for each Forum session, and to submit a concise summary of their deliberations” to the Forum secretariat prior to upcoming Forum sessions. UNFF also encouraged such entities to contribute to the discussions of the Forum sessions, according to their respective mandates³, and requested the Secretary-General to “prepare a report summarizing these submissions”⁴. The Secretary-General’s report on regional and subregional submissions will be prepared for each session, starting with the Eighth Session, which will be held from 20 April to 1 May 2009.

The Forum Secretariat will be coordinating the preparation of the above-mentioned report. To facilitate summarized inputs, it has prepared this Note, which highlights matters to consider on the thematic focus of “Forests in a Changing Environment” and “Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management”⁵. The Note intends to serve as an outline for your input. It also invites feedback concerning experiences and opportunities on regional and sub-regional cross-sectoral cooperation and partnership approaches,⁶ as well as joint activities⁷.

¹ Forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes will be referred to as “entities”.

² Paragraph 2 (c), Resolution E/2006/49

³ Paragraph 7, UNFF Resolution 7/1

⁴ Paragraph 8, UNFF Resolution 7/1

⁵ Paragraph 1 (b)(i), UNFF Resolution 7/1

⁶ Paragraph 7 (c), Resolution E/2006/49

⁷ Paragraph 13, UNFF Resolution 7/1

If information is available in an existing report or document, you may choose to extract the relevant information and include it in the submission. Otherwise, you may provide the reference or document itself to the UNFF Secretariat, indicating the relevant section.

The size of the report of the Secretary General will be a maximum of 16 pages. In view of this, the Forum Secretariat suggests no more than five pages of written input. We would be most grateful if you could send your inputs to Ms. Catalina Santamaria (santamaria@un.org, fax: 917-367-3186) by **30 October 2008**. In light of time constraints and financial limitations, you are kindly asked to provide your input in English, Spanish or French.

Sections for Consideration

This Note has been prepared to highlight aspects for consideration when submitting regional and sub-regional input to the UNFF Secretariat. It consists of two sections:

Section I: Substantive matters of the Forum

Forests in a Changing Environment; and Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management (See Annex 3: Provisional Agenda of UNFF8)

1. Forests and climate change
 2. Reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including low forest cover countries
 3. Forests and Biodiversity Conservation, including Protected Areas
 4. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management
- a. Please indicate major developments and challenges, discussions and/or analyses carried out in relation to the four topics above.
 - b. Please indicate regional/ sub-regional level experiences on the application of any of the following cross-cutting issues: finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building, awareness-raising, education, information-sharing and forest law enforcement and governance, in relation to the four topics above.
 - c. In view of challenges identified, please mention key issues, which need to be tackled in the near future, to help contribute to the implementation of the four topics above.

Section II: Characteristics of regional and sub-regional cooperation and partnerships

- a. Please provide examples of how existing regional and/or sub-regional cooperation, including the following cross-cutting issues: financial support, technology transfer, capacity-building and education, have played a catalytic role in supporting the efforts of countries to achieve sustainable forest management. Kindly indicate any relevant lessons learned related to the application of these cross-cutting issues.
- b. Please indicate how you have addressed multi-stakeholder dialogues and participation.

- c. Please describe any joint activity relevant to the Forum's work undertaken with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and/or major groups (as identified by Agenda 21).
- d. Please mention whether this input was prepared in consultation with government representatives, other regional bodies and stakeholder groups, and the extent to which they contributed.
- e. Please provide information on lessons learned, challenges and the value added in preparing this input.

Annex 1

Summary of regional measures contained in the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests under the section on international trade in forest products

VI. International cooperation and means of implementation (*Para 7 g, h, i, n, p, q*)

7. To achieve the purpose of this instrument, Member States should:

- (g) Enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation, with a view to promoting international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested according to domestic legislation;
- (h) Enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance at all levels;
- (i) Strengthen, through enhanced bilateral, regional and international cooperation, the capacity of countries to effectively combat illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources;
- (n) Promote international technical and scientific cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the field of sustainable forest management, through the appropriate international, regional and national institutions and processes;
- (p) Strengthen forestry research and development in all regions, particularly in developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, through relevant organizations, institutions and centres of excellence, as well as through global, regional and subregional networks; and
- (q) Strengthen cooperation and partnerships at the regional and subregional levels to promote sustainable forest management.

Four Global Objectives on Forests

Global Objective 1

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.

Global Objective 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.

Global Objective 3

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.

Global Objective 4

Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources, for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

Provisional Agenda for the Eighth Session of UNFF

UNFF EIGHTH SESSION

20 April - 1 May 2009

United Nations, UNHQ, New York

Draft provisional agenda:

- 1) Election of officers
- 2) Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
- 3) Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- 4) Regional and sub-regional inputs
- 5) Forests in a changing environment:
 - a) Forests and climate change
 - b) Reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including low forest cover countries
 - c) Forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas
- 6) Means of implementation for sustainable forest management:
 - a) Applying means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technology
 - b) Decision on voluntary global financial mechanisms, a portfolio approach and a forest financing frame work
- 7) Multi-stakeholder dialogue
- 8) Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
- 9) Dates and venue for the ninth session of the Forum
- 10) Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Forum
- 11) Adoption of the report of the Forum on its eighth session