

# Preparatory Meeting for African Delegates to UNFF8

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# United Nations Forum on Forests

- A unique UN body, formed in 2000
- Universal membership
- To promote SFM and strengthen political commitment
- To advance international policy dialogue and cooperation



# UNFF's Regional Component

## Regional –Global Interaction


- Regional Panel Events
- Position negotiations for UNFF sessions
- Cooperative work between countries and civil society
- Information exchange and awareness building



# UNFF's Regional Component

- Gearing discussions at regional and sub-regional experiences and activities of SFM.
- ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49: added a Principal Function on stronger regional interaction between UNFF and regional/subregional entities to enhance cooperation & implementation and to contribute to the Forum's work





## 7<sup>th</sup> session of UNFF (UNFF7)

- The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (the forest instrument)
- Adopted by the General Assembly in December 2007
- UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work 2007-2015



# UNFF Intersessional Activities

- 1st Region Led Initiative in support of the Forum (January 2008)
- Durban CLI on Forest Governance and Decentralization in Africa (April 2008)
- Suriname CLI on forest financing (September 2008)
- Intersessional coordination useful to prepare for Forum sessions



## UNFF7 agreed to:

- Develop and consider a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework for all types of forests



# UNFF8 (20 April - 1 May 2009)

- Overall themes
- **Forests in a Changing Environment**
  - Biodiversity Conservation
  - Climate Change
  - Deforestation, forest degradation, desertification, LFCC
- **Means of Implementation**
  - Financial mechanism/  
approach/framework



## UNFF8 (20 April - 1 May 2009)


- High-level panels
  - The financial crisis & SFM: threats and opportunities
  - Forests and conflict: a focus on women and fuelwood
  - 3 Rio conventions and GEF
  - Regional and sub-regional perspectives on SFM



# Addressing key challenges of forests in a changing environment

- UNFF8 Secretariat Note “Forests in a changing environment: LFCCs, SIDS and high and medium forest cover countries” (E/CN.18/2009/7)
- UNFF8 SG Report: Recommendations for addressing key challenges of forests in a changing environment (E/CN.18/2009/8)
  - Inextricable links among the three issues contained in forests in a changing environment
  - The forest instrument is an effective tool for integrating these three issues in a holistic and coordinated manner within the framework of SFM
  - Provides a set of recommendations on these issues





Means of Implementation: A finance mechanism/ approach/ framework which:


- Will mobilize significantly increased, new and additional resources from all sources, based on existing and emerging innovative approaches, also taking into account assessment and reviews of current financial mechanisms, to support the implementation of SFM, the achievement of GOFs, and the implementation of the forest instrument.
- Is mandated for a decision at UNFF8






# UNFF Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on Financing Outcome

- Two key concepts emerged for further consideration:
  - A distinct fund dedicated or earmarked for implementation of sustainable forest management and the global objectives (for example, a global forest fund) and which would implement the forest instrument
  - A facilitative mechanism which could help mobilize existing and emerging funds, and facilitate access to other sources of finance
  - The portfolio approach was considered implicit in the above two concepts



## UNFF AHEG also recommended:

- Informal consultations on finance, e.g., on the margins of COFO (March 2009)
- A Survey to Member States and Major Groups on financing approaches for SFM which should be considered for UNFF8
  - *The Secretariat received 22 contributions from 19 member States, the European Union, and two major groups.*



# Potential Regional Contributions

- Provide regional and sub-regional inputs on agenda items and issues
- Highlight emerging and urgent issues as well as gaps and constraints in implementation
- Engage in dialogues to exchange experiences and raise awareness on specific regional challenges and priorities
- Develop partnerships, synergies and joint activities
- Interact in High-Level Segments
- Foster existing information systems: C&I
- Organize and support intersessional activities

Thank you!

