


**Briefing on the UN Forum on Forests
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7th 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



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



Forests in a Changing Environment

UNFF8 SG Report: Forests and biodiversity (E/CN.18/2009/6)

- An overview of forest biodiversity
- Relevant conservation approaches through SFM
- Potential opportunities for closer links with biodiversity-related organizations and processes, and integrated work approaches



Forests & Biodiversity conservation

Forests provide a wide range of benefits:

- Livelihoods of 1.6 billion people, including indigenous communities
- Conservation of forest biological diversity - widely recognized as an important SFM objective
- A number of pressures continue to threaten the world's forest biodiversity
- Effective management of protected areas is of critical importance
- Climate change and biofuels require further discussion




Areas for future cooperation

- IYB- 2010 and the IYF- 2011: excellent opportunity for cooperation and raising awareness
- Achieving the MDGs and the forest instrument, including the four GOFs
- Improving communication and public education on SFM
- Strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination to achieve forest and biodiversity commitments
- Opportunities ahead for UNFF9 (Social Development) and joint CPF activities



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.*

Thank you!

