

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)

- Forests in a Changing Environment
 - Biodiversity
 - Climate Change
 - Desertification
- Means of Implementation
 - Financial mechanism/
approach/framework



UNFF8 (20 April – 1 May 2009)

- High-level panels
 - Impacts of the financial crisis on Natural resources and SFM
 - Forests and conflict: a focus on women and fuelwood
 - 3 Rio conventions
 - Regional panel



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 global objectives on forests, 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
- A Survey to Member States and Major Groups on financing approaches for SFM which should be considered for UNFF8



UNFF Financing Survey Outcome

- The Secretariat received 22 contributions from 19 member States, the European Union, and two major groups.
- The Secretariat will provide a report on the Survey results, this morning.



UNFF Rome Informal on Finance

- The Informal provided an important opportunity to further discuss and expand on the understanding by Member States on options for forest financing and the role and actions of the UNFF in this regard.
- The productive discussions at the Informal will help facilitate and advance consensus on the decision at UNFF8 (20 April to 1 May, 2009).



UNFF Rome Informal on Finance

- The outcome of the Informal is a Chairman's summary
- However the real benefit is the deepened understanding of finance options and possibilities by participants, in preparation for UNFF8 discussions on Means of Implementation.



UNFF8 finance discussions

- The basis for discussion the 1st week of UNFF8 will be the Secretary-General's Report on Means of Implementation, the report of AHEG, the report of the Advisory Group on Finance, with the added benefit of the input by the Suriname Country-led Initiative and the informal discussions in Rome.
- The Bureau will consider providing text for the 2nd week of UNFF8 to facilitate the adoption of an approach on financing of SFM.

Thank you!

