



**Statement by the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat at the 30th session of SBSTA,
Bonn, Germany (1-10 June 2009)**

Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving this opportunity to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat to inform SBSTA on recent developments. At the eighth session of the UNFF, held from 20 April to 1 May this year, the Forum focused on the theme of “Forests in a Changing Environment”, including forests and climate change. The Forum is an intergovernmental body with universal UN membership, all 192 member States adopted an important resolution on forests in a changing environment, enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, regional and sub-regional inputs just a few weeks ago.

The Forum expressed its significant concern on the impacts of climate change on forests, and the associated impacts on over 1.6 billion people who depend on forests for subsistence and livelihoods, while also recognizing the contribution of forests in addressing climate change, biodiversity conservation and combating desertification. The Forum highlighted the importance of sustainable forest management and its implementation through enhanced cooperation, to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental benefits of forests and as such to significantly contribute to addressing climate change, desertification, and forest and land degradation.

Madam Chair,

To address these crucial issues, collaboration at all levels is required. Member States must advance the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (forest instrument), adopted by the General assembly in 2007 and the four Global Objectives on Forests therein. This instrument can facilitate the achievement of the goals in the Bali Action Plan, in particular in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation within the broader framework of sustainable forest management.

It is our sincere hope that the UNFCCC will take into consideration the comprehensive framework of sustainable forest management incorporated in the forest instrument when dealing with forests in the climate change context.

We would like to assure you, **Madam Chair**, our commitment to work in full collaboration with this body and the Climate Change Secretariat on issues of common interest, including through the fruitful cooperation in the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the UNFCCC Secretariat and the distinguished delegates for their participation and contributions in the recently concluded eighth session of the Forum.

Thank you for your attention.