



**Statement by
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TO THE

**Country-led Initiative (CLI) in support of the UN Forum on Forests:
Multi-year Programme of Work of the UN Forum on Forests
“Charting the Way Forward to 2015”**

Bali, 13 February 2007

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Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Director, UN Forum on Forests Secretariat

Presented on 13 February 2007

*Rt. Honorable Minister of Forestry, Mr. M.S. Kaban,
Dr. Boen Purnama, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Forestry,
Distinguished Experts, Ladies and Gentlemen*

- It gives me great pleasure to be here this morning, in this beautiful city of Denpasar in Bali.
- I would like to start by thanking the people of Bali for their warm welcome and hospitality.
- Let me also express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for hosting this important meeting in support of the UN Forum on Forests.
- I am also particularly grateful to the Rt. Hon. Minister of Forestry for being here today. Your presence clearly demonstrates the strong political commitment of your Government to sustainable management of forests and to the work of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF).
- My appreciation to the Government of Germany for co-hosting, and to all other donors who contributed to this meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- We in the international forest community are well aware of the importance of forests in global sustainable development.
- For over a decade now, from the Rio Forest Principles-Agenda 21, and subsequently the Inter-governmental Panel on Forests (IPF), Inter-governmental Forum on Forests (IFF), to now, in the UN Forum on Forests – the international community has been discussing critical issues related to forests, and considering options to achieve sustainable forest management.
- The establishment of the UNFF in 2000, with universal membership, has been instrumental in providing a much-needed global policy forum on forests for member States. It is also an effective mechanism for dialogue between government delegates, international organizations and major groups.
- Over the past six years, the Forum has helped keep forests at a high level of political visibility. The recent decision by the UN General Assembly to declare 2011 as the International Year of Forests, is another step to this end.
- The outcome of the sixth session shows much promise for the future. Its adoption of the four shared Global Objectives on Forests, emphasis on stronger global-regional interaction, and on linking forests with internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, are all significant outcomes.
- Every year, millions of hectares of natural forests are still being lost, largely as a result of human activities.

- The four shared Global Objectives on Forests, set out by ECOSOC resolution 2006/49, particularly aim to advance sustainable forest management, curb deforestation and enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of international development goals.
- Through the NLBI, we have the opportunity to bring together these issues into a framework that can guide us in our efforts toward SFM. We are at a juncture where we have an opportunity to revisit past decisions, re-evaluate our priorities, and define a strategy for accomplishing our common Global Objectives on Forests.
- Because of the centrality of the Global Objectives, the new MYPOW should be based primarily on these objectives, incorporate the strengthened mandate of the UNFF and the expanded principal functions of the International Arrangement on Forests.
- To help facilitate discussions at this meeting, we have prepared a paper providing relevant background information on the UNFF and a suggested framework for the multi-year programme of work for 2007-2015. I will be making a detailed presentation on this paper, after the coffee break.
- This Country-led initiative in support of the UNFF provides an excellent opportunity to clarify technical and policy issues and provide constructive input to the Forum. We appreciate your help in developing a dynamic, action-oriented and practical multi-year programme of work for the UN Forum on Forests.
- Your participation reflects the high level of interest in this important process, and we hope that it will translate into a dynamic and comprehensive discussion.