Draft resolution by the Vice-Chairs of WG 1 on Agenda Items 3, 4, 5 and 8

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

PP1 Recalling the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests; chapter 11 of Agenda 21; the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – “The Future We Want”;

PP2 Recalling further the Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 9th session of the UNFF on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Forests, 2011, as well as the Forum’s resolutions at its 8th and 9th sessions;

PP3 Recalling General Assembly resolution 61/193 proclaiming 2011 as the International Year of Forests, and General Assembly resolution 67/200 proclaiming 21 March of each year the International Day of Forests;

PP4 Welcoming the progress made by Member States on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

PP5 Welcoming also the collaborative activities undertaken by the CPF in 2011 and 2012 in support of the Forum and the NLBI on all types of forests, as well as the inputs and contributions of regional and subregional organizations and processes and major groups;

PP6 Recalling the multi-year programme of work of the Forum (2007-2015) and the overall theme of its tenth session, “Forests and economic development”, as well as intersessional initiatives organized and led by countries, regions and organizations in support of the overall theme;

PP7 Recognizing the positive contribution of forests to economic growth, job creation particularly for women and young people, gender equality, rural development, transformation to a green economy, poverty eradication, disaster risk reduction, and human well-being;

PP8 Emphasizing that forests, trees outside forests and SFM provide direct and indirect social, economic and environmental benefits at all levels and are essential to sustainable development.

PP9 Noting the importance of including forests in the deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda;

Forests and economic development

1. Urges Member States to:

   (a) Improve the systematic collection, analysis and reporting of information and data on the cash and non-cash contributions of forest products and services, including non wood forest products (NWFPs), to national and local economies, as well as the valuation of the social and environmental benefits of forests to rural and urban communities, in order to recognize and integrate such values in national accounting systems and development policies and planning at all levels;

   (b) Integrate SFM into national development strategies, as well as utilize the non legally binding instrument on all types of forests and national forest programmes as platforms to assess linkages with other sectors and identify collaborative and integrated approaches to land management which minimize negative impacts on forests;

   (c) Create, strengthen and implement strategies which focus on enhancing the environmental, social and economic aspects of SFM as a cross-sectoral approach at the national landscape level;

   (d) Strengthen enabling environments to attract increased long-term private sector investment in the forest sector and SFM, including reforestation, afforestation, and forest restoration,
as well as opportunities for employment and training, rural development, technology innovation and transfer, research and development, and diversification of markets, products and services, including bio-based products and services;

(e) Strengthen governance and institutional frameworks needed to realize the full potential of forests contributions to economic development, including through the development and enforcement of laws and policies addressing land tenure and ownership rights, in particular the rights of indigenous and local communities, participatory processes, gender equality, cross-sectoral coordination and the underlying causes of deforestation and forest and land degradation;

(f) Develop positive incentives for investment in locally managed forests, including community and family forests, to facilitate the contribution of such forests to economic development at local and national levels;

(g) Develop integrated strategies to reduce the risks and impacts of natural disasters and extreme climatic events and promote resilience through SFM, afforestation and reforestation, as well as to restore forest ecosystems damaged or lost as a result of such disasters and events;

2. Calls upon the donor community to provide financial resources, environmentally sound technology and know how to build the capacity of developing countries to enhance the contribution of forests to economic development, recognizing the special needs and requirements of Africa, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, low forest cover countries, countries with arid and semi-arid conditions;

3. Urges Member States, CPF member organizations, the scientific community and the private sector to enhance cooperation, including south-south cooperation, to increase national and local research capacity and develop regional databases and knowledge management networks to facilitate the sharing of scientific and technical information;

4. Invites CPF member organizations to assist countries in assessing the non-market values of forest products and services, including NWFPs;

5. Invites CPF member organizations to consider ways to harmonize ongoing international initiatives on recognition and valuation of the full range of forest values, including cash and non cash values;

6. Requests the Forum secretariat to:

   (a) Collaborate with other CPF member organisations, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (C&I) processes and other relevant organizations on ways to address information and data gaps on values and contributions of forest products and services, and contribute to ongoing initiatives in this area;

   (b) Build partnerships with the regional development banks and other regional and international financial institutions concerned with the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to economic development.

**Progress on implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and achieving its global objectives on forests**

7. Urges Members States to continue and enhance their efforts to implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and achieve the four global objectives on forests, as well as to report on progress;

8. Encourages Member States, in reporting to the 11th session of the Forum, to highlight success stories and best practices and address all aspects of the four global objectives on forests;

9. Calls upon the donor community to assist countries, upon request, in their implementation and reporting efforts, including by supporting pilot projects;
10. **Requests** the Forum secretariat to:

   (a) Strengthen collaboration with FAO and Member States on pilot projects for the implementation of the forest instrument;

   (b) Convene a technical expert group meeting to propose the reporting methodology for the 11th session of the Forum;

   (c) Further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the 11th session of the Forum, taking into account information provided to other CPF member organisations and through C&I processes and regional workshops;

   (d) Explore opportunities to further incorporate elements of the forest instrument into the work programmes of other CPF member organisations, consistent with their mandates.

**Enhanced cooperation**

11. **Encourages** regional and subregional organizations and processes and major groups to continue to provide coordinated inputs to the Forum, and **urges** donor countries and CPF organizations to support these efforts;

12. **Invites** the CPF to:

   (a) Continue and expand efforts, in collaboration with C&I processes, to streamline and harmonize guidelines for national forest-related reporting to CPF member organizations, building on the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire and broadening it to other CPF member organisations, in order to further reduce reporting burdens on countries;

   (b) Explore, in collaboration with C&I processes, the feasibility of establishing a forest indicators network to facilitate knowledge sharing, collaboration and use of information collected under processes for C&I for SFM and other forest-related indicator initiatives;

13. **Requests** the Forum Secretariat to:

   (a) Continue and strengthen its activities to effectively engage all major groups in support of the work of the Forum; including business and industry;

   (b) Continue working to foster synergies among the forest-related activities and programmes of CPF member organisations, in particular the Rio conventions, to promote a holistic and integrated approach to the multiple social, economic and environmental benefits and values of forests;

   (c) Develop communication tools on the contribution of forests to sustainable development, poverty eradication and human well-being, including the importance of forests and trees to urban communities.

   (d) To promote the inclusion of forests in the discussions of the post 2015 development agenda

**International Day of Forests**

14. **Encourages** Member States to organize activities each year celebrating the International Day of Forests, at the time most appropriate to each State, to raise awareness of the multiple social, economic and environmental values and benefits of forests, trees outside forests and SFM and their important contribution to sustainable development, poverty eradication, empowerment of women, gender equality and the well-being of people worldwide;

15. **Requests** the Forum secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, to facilitate celebration of the International Day of Forests in collaboration with Member States, other CPF member organisations and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, as well as major groups.