Draft Resolution by the Vice-Chairs of Working Group Two on Emerging Issues (Item 6) and Means of Implementation (Item 9)

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

PP.1 Recalling the multi-year programme of work adopted in 2007 (ECOSOC resolution 207/42), in which the eleventh session of the Forum is mandated to discuss the overall theme of “Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement” as well as its two themes, and recognizing the need to make necessary preparations to enable the Forum to take an informed decision on this matter;

PP.2 Recalling further the provisions of the resolution of the UNFF9 special session, in which the tenth session of UNFF is mandated to make a decision on financing sustainable forest management, as well as the UNFF9 Ministerial Declaration in which the Ministers committed to take a meaningful decision on forest financing at UNFF10;

PP.3 Recalling also the Rio+20 outcome on “The Future We Want”;

PP.4 Emphasizing the interconnections of the post 2015 UN development agenda, follow up to the Rio+20 outcome and the overall theme and the themes of the eleventh session of the Forum in 2015;

Interconnections of the post-2015 UN development agenda, Rio+20 outcome and the future international arrangement on forests

1- Reiterates the vital role and significant contribution of all types of forests and trees for achieving sustainable development and in addressing the complex and interconnected global challenges related to economic and social development, poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, food security and agriculture, energy, water, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, combating desertification and land degradation, conservation of biodiversity, watershed protection and disaster risk reduction;

2- Invites the country representatives participating in the consultations on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, and the Rio+20 outcome to integrate forests into the post-2015 UN development agenda and among the sustainable development goals;

3- Decides to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group to consider the overall theme and the themes of the eleventh session, with a view to making proposals to the Forum at its eleventh session;

4- Decides also that the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group should take into account the interconnections and implications of, and the progress in the post-2015 UN development agenda, the Rio+20 outcome;

5- Decides further that the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group should meet twice during the intersessional period between the tenth and eleventh sessions of the Forum;

6- Invites Member States, members of the CPF, relevant regional organizations and processes and major groups to:

a. Submit their views on the full range of options on the future international arrangement on forests, and requests the Forum’s Secretariat to compile all the above-mentioned views for consideration at the first meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group;
b. Actively participate in and contribute to the work of the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group including through holding country, regional and organization led initiatives;

7- Requests the Forum’s Secretariat to prepare a Note to update the first meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group, on the progress in consultations on the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Rio+20 outcome;

8- Also decides that the first meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group should consider all the inputs, and discuss the full range of options on the future international arrangement on forests, with the view to consolidating the options for further consideration at its second meeting;

9- Calls Member States to provide financial support to the Forum Trust Fund in order to ensure the full participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group and to enable the Forum’s Secretariat to carry out the relevant intersessional activities in preparation for the meetings of the ad hoc expert group and the eleventh session.

**Means of Implementation**

1- Acknowledges with appreciation the significant inputs that were provided as the result of the intersessional work on forest financing, including the report of the second meeting of the open ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on forest financing, and the Facilitative Process;

2- Reiterates further that there is no single solution to address all of the needs in financing forests, and a step-wise approach and combination of actions are required at all levels, by all stakeholders and from all sources;

**Actions at all levels**

3- Invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to:

   a. Create enabling conditions at all levels, especially effective institutions, legal frameworks and political engagement, and promote participation of all stakeholders including women, girls, local communities, indigenous peoples, and the private sector to attract forest financing from all sources, as well as enhance secure land tenure;

   b. Devote adequate resources to address thematic, geographic and data gaps in forest financing, and increase financing for the implementation of the forest instrument;

   c. Strengthen North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in the areas of finance, trade, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building and governance, and improve access to finance for forests.

**National actions**

4- Invites also Member States to:

   a. Integrate forests in the priority areas of national development plans, decision-making processes and investments, and capture cash and non-cash values of forests;

   b. Incorporate in national forest programmes or their equivalent, a combination of financing approaches, including the creation of national forest funds, national investment portfolios, and/or development of national forest financing strategies or equivalent strategies, and identify other opportunities for financing at the national level;
c. Mobilize financing for all types of forests and trees outside of forests from all sources including from other sectors such as watershed, rangeland, energy, agriculture and tourism sectors, at the national level, by applying a cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach;

d. Establish a forest finance data development programme at the national level.

Regional actions

5- **Calls** donors and other relevant stakeholders to support regional and sub-regional organizations, processes and networks to develop strategies on, identify gaps in and opportunities for forest financing, and to share relevant experience, knowledge and expertise;

Actions at the international level

6- **Invites** existing forest-related financing mechanisms to further simplify and streamline procedures to improve access to their funds, as well as devote specific financial resources and develop programmes to address thematic, geographic and data gaps in forest financing;

7- **Invites** the Global Environment Facility to consider the establishment of a new focal area on forests during the next Global Environment Facility replenishment;

8- **Gives** special consideration to dryland forests and the special needs of low forest cover countries, small island developing States, high forest cover countries, African countries, and least developed countries;

9- **Invites** donors to provide resources to the Facilitative Process to carry all its functions, as envisaged in the resolution of the UNFF9 special session;

10- **Invites** members of the CPF to strengthen their mechanisms to collect and facilitate access to data, in order to address data gaps in forest financing in a systematic, coordinated and coherent manner, with the view to providing consistent and accurate data, and inviting countries to provide funding for this purpose;

11- **Invites** the Rio Conventions, as well as the regional development banks and programmes, to increase financing for sustainable forest management in their relevant funds and operational programmes, including in their new and emerging funding opportunities;

12- **Decides** to further consider the establishment of a voluntary global forest fund, as an element for consideration by the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group, established by this resolution.

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