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Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Report of the Secretary General

Summary
As one of the main functions of the international arrangement on forests¹, the United Nations Forum on Forests addresses enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination at each session. This report builds on the structure of past reports and provides a brief overview of the activities undertaken since the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests related to enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The report highlights further possibilities for cooperation in the context of the overall theme of the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests “Forests and Economic Development”, as well as, in furthering implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (the forest instrument) and the four global objectives on forests (GOFs).

The present report is intended to facilitate deliberations of Member States at the current session of the Forum in relation to cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination. It highlights emerging policy issues crucial for strengthening political commitments on forests and new opportunities and suggests some points for consideration by the Forum.

* E/CN.18/2013/1

¹ ECOSOC resolution 2000/35 and UNFF resolution 1/1
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I. Introduction

1. As one of the main functions of the international arrangement on forests, the United Nations Forum on Forests addresses issues related to promoting enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination among member States, international and regional organizations, major group stakeholders, and provides guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), at each Forum session. At its eighth session the Forum requested the Forum secretariat in its resolution entitled “Forests in a changing environment, enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, regional and subregional inputs” to synthesize, in cooperation with the members of the CPF, current information on studies and implementation activities related to the recognition of the range of values derived from goods and services provided by all types of forests and trees outside forests, as well as ways to reflect such values in the market place, taking into account relevant national legislation and policies, and present the results at the 10th session of the Forum in the context of the overall theme “Forests and economic development”.

2. Furthermore, through its resolution at the ninth session, the Forum invited the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to continue to provide scientific information relevant to the themes of future Forum sessions, through adequate modalities, including forest expert panels, which should continue to include experts from developing countries. The Forum also requested the secretariat of the Forum to continue further cooperation with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions towards a comprehensive approach to the multiple values of forests and sustainable forest management.

3. At its ninth session, the Forum requested the Secretary General to continue to address the relationship between forests and trees outside forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), at relevant international and regional meetings addressing sustainable development.

4. This report provides an overview of activities that have been undertaken by the Forum Secretariat since the ninth session of the Forum to enhance cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues. This report also provides a brief overview of such activities among relevant Member States, organizations, processes and stakeholders. It should be noted that a number of such activities are covered in detail in other relevant reports of the Secretary-General to the tenth session of the Forum, and in particular in the Information Note on the CPF contained in document E/CN.18/2013/XX

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2 ECOSOC resolution 2000/35 and UNFF resolution 1/1
II. System-wide cooperation and policy and programme coordination

A. Economic and Social Council

5. In an effort to improve system-wide coordination and coherence, the General Assembly in its resolution 61/16 on strengthening of Economic and Social Council, decided that the Council should hold an annual ministerial-level review as part of the high-level segment, and requested the Council to consider launching a development cooperation forum on the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs. The themes of the 2011 and 2012 annual ministerial reviews of the Council were “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education”, and “Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals”, respectively.

6. The Forum secretariat contributed substantively to the preparation of the annual ministerial review, held by the Council during its annual sessions in 2011 and 2012. The Forum secretariat provided relevant provisions of the Forum decisions and information for inclusion in the official documents of the reviews.

7. In addition, the Chair of the Bureau of the tenth session of the Forum and the Forum secretariat participated in the annual joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council Bureau and the Chairpersons of the functional commissions held in February 2011 and in May 2012 in New York. Those joint meetings were organized to enhance coordination and cooperation between the Council and its functional commissions as well as among the functional commissions. During these annual joint meetings the Bureau of the tenth session of the Forum provided the Forum’s contribution to the themes of the 2011 and 2012 annual ministerial reviews.

8. The Forum secretariat also contributed to the annual consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and provided information and policy recommendations relevant to the themes considered by the Council in 2011 and 2012.

B. Activities of the Forum secretariat in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

9. The Forum secretariat continued to actively participate in the inter-departmental activities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and contributed to the inter-departmental work in preparation for the Rio+20 Conference, the post 2015 UN Development Agenda and follow-up on the outcome of the Rio+20 conference. The Forum secretariat facilitated the work of the UNFF10 Bureau in transmitting the Ministerial Declaration from the ninth session of the Forum to the Co-Chairs of the Rio+20 preparatory committee and the Secretary General of the Rio+20 Conference, as the Forum’s input. The
Forum secretariat also provided substantive support to the informal consultations process and negotiations on forests in the outcome document, and provided relevant technical and policy advice to Member States, per their requests. As a result of these inputs from the Forum and the Forum secretariat, the outcome document, “The Future We Want” fully recognized the significance of forests in addressing pressing sustainable development challenges, and underscored the role of the Forum, the Forest Instrument and the CPF. For further information, please refer to E/CN.18/2013/XX for more details.

10. The Forum secretariat has also been active in interdepartmental work on the post 2015 UN Development Agenda. In September 2011, the Secretary-General requested the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Administrator of UNDP to establish a core group of dedicated senior technical experts to coordinate system-wide preparations on on-going efforts and propose a unified vision and road-map for the definition of a UN development agenda post-2015, in consultation with all stakeholders. Launched in January 2012 and led by DESA and UNDP, the UN Task Team brings together over 60 UN system entities, including all of ECESA Plus and the UNDG. The UN Task Team was formed to assess on-going efforts within the UN system; consult external stakeholders such as civil society, academia and the private sector; and to develop a system-wide vision and road-map to support the deliberations on the post-2015 UN development agenda.

11. The Task Team submitted its first report to the Secretary-General, covering these three aspects, in June 2012. The Forum secretariat contributed to this report through its engagement in the development of a “Think Piece” on Sustainable Development. This report was a basis for the work of the Secretary General’s High Level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons on the post-2015 Development Agenda, which held its first meeting in September 2012 and is scheduled to present its final report in May 2013. The HLP is mandated to further elaborate on the possible content of the post-2015 development agenda. The HLP report to the Secretary-General will be an input for the inter-governmental debate on this topic during the 2013 UN General Assembly which will start with a high level summit to review progress on the MDGs.

12. The Forum secretariat has also been active in interdepartmental work on post 2015 UN Development Agenda. The Forum secretariat contributed the preparation of a “Think Piece on Sustainable Development” which was included in the first report of the UN Task Team set up to develop a system-wide vision and road-map to support the deliberations on the post-2015 UN development agenda. The report of the UN Task Team was also the basis for the work of the Secretary General’s High Level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons on the post-2015 Development Agenda, which held its first meeting in September 2012 and is scheduled to present its final report in May 2013. For more information on the
work the Forum secretariat on the post 2015 Development Agenda, please refer to E/CN.18/2013/XX

13. The Forum secretariat also contributed to the annual consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and provided information and policy recommendations relevant to the themes considered by the Council in 2011 and 2012.

14. The Forum secretariat co-led the development of a concept note on conflict and fragility, and as a member of the core team on environmental sustainability, has contributed to the development of its concept note. These papers will feed into the thematic consultations which were referred to above.

C. United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

15. The Forum secretariat and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues have continued to work together participating in the Post-2015 Development Agenda discussions on indigenous peoples and inequalities. The Forum secretariat contributed the tenth and eleventh sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues held in May 2011 and May 2012. The Forum secretariat also actively participated in an Expert Group Meeting on indigenous peoples and forests, in January 2011 in New York, coinciding with the full-year celebrations of International Year of Forests, 2011. The Expert Group Meeting called upon member States to recognize indigenous peoples’ rights to forests; for the inclusion of indigenous peoples in Rio+20 and in the commemoration of the International Year of Forests, 2011.

III. Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations programmes, multilateral financial mechanisms and other international entities

16. At its ninth session, the Forum encouraged Member States to send consistent messages to the governing bodies of the organizations that form the CPF to continue to support the work of the Forum in order to ensure coherence and synergies related to forests. The Forum also invited the CPF to continue to provide scientific information relevant to the themes of future sessions of the Forum, through adequate modalities, including the global forest expert panels, which should continue to include experts from developing countries.

17. The Forum secretariat worked closely with a number of international organizations and MEA Secretariats within and outside of the CPF on issues of common interests to promote SFM. Some of the key activities and initiatives are listed below. For more detailed information on cooperation and collaboration among the CPF member organization, please refer to session document E/CN.18/2013/XX).

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO):
18. The importance of cooperation and coordination between the Forum secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was also noted by the Forum at its ninth session. Throughout 2011 and 2012, the Forum Secretariat has worked collaboratively with FAO on a number of important forest issues that greatly enhanced cooperation and coordination between these two organizations.

19. In cooperation with FAO, the Forum secretariat organized five inter-regional capacity building workshops under the Facilitative Process (Thailand-October 2011, Kenya-December 2011, Ghana-February 2012, Lebanon-April 2012, Chile – April 2012.). The overall objective of these inter-regional workshops was to strengthen and support the capacity of UNFF, FRA and NFP focal points in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in reporting to the tenth session of the Forum on progress made in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (the forest instrument), in the context of the overall theme “Forests and economic development”. The workshops also aimed to strengthen and support the focal points’ capacity to conduct monitoring assessment and reporting (MAR) required for the preparation of voluntary national reports to the Forum; and focused on enhancing their understanding of the importance of implementing the forest instrument at the national level. Workshop participants contributed to a proposed monitoring architecture which was finalized in the form of a reporting template and guidelines for voluntary national reports to the Forum. These capacity building workshops were in response to the Forum’s decisions that a simple voluntary national reporting for the tenth session would focus on the implementation of the forest instrument and a balanced reporting on its four global objectives on forests. In addition, the ninth session also requested the secretariat of the Forum to this end to develop a streamlined reporting format, in consultation with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. With funding from the German Government and in collaboration with the National Forest Programme Facility, FAO also implemented pilot projects on strengthening implementation of the forest instrument in Ghana, Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines.

20. As a member of the Advisory Group on Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the Forum secretariat actively engaged and cooperated on 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2015), and participated in the Advisory Group Meeting, in June 2011, in Rome, Italy. The meeting reviewed progress on the dissemination of FRA 2010 and lessons learned to date. It also reviewed the draft Long-Term FRA Strategy and provided guidance on the remote sensing study reporting, and preparations for the Expert Consultation on Global Forest Resources Assessment and FRA 2015. A presentation of the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) was also provided. The Forum secretariat informed the Advisory Group of the outcomes of the ninth session of the Forum and preparations for the development of a streamlined reporting format for the tenth and future session. It also informed the Group of existing reporting gaps and indicators to better measure progress in achieving implementation of the forest instrument, the
global objectives on forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs. Further information is included the report of the Secretary General on E/CN.18/2013/XX.
21. The Forum Secretariat participated in the twenty-first session of the Committee on Forestry held at FAO headquarters in Rome in September 2012 and shared with the Committee on Forestry the UNFF’s ongoing cooperation and collaboration with FAO and other CPF members.

22. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO): The Secretariat maintained active engagement with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and participated at its forty-seventh and forty-eighth Council sessions and Associated Sessions of the Committees held in November 2011 and 2012, in Yokohama, Japan. The Secretariat informed and engaged the Council on Forum decisions pertinent to greater cooperation and coordination with ITTO and CPF. The response was very positive.

23. In July 2011, the Forum secretariat also participated in the International Conference on entitled “Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise: Experiences and Opportunities for Asia in a Changing Context”, which was organized jointly by the International Timber Organizations, Government of Indonesia, Rights and Resources Initiatives (RRI) in collaboration with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Samdhana Institute, the Forest Peoples Programme, the Global Alliance of Community Forestry (GACF), Kemitraan, and Epistema Institute. The International Conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond with the aim of promoting an in-depth assessment of the relationship between forest tenure, sustainable forest management and income generating enterprises to promote action across a range of Asian countries.

24. **Rio Conventions:** The Forum requested the secretariat of the Forum to continue to further cooperate with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions to promote cooperation towards a comprehensive approach to the multiple values of forests and sustainable forest management. The Secretariat collaborated with the Rio Convention Secretariats, participating at their respective COPs in 2011 and 2012, namely: The tenth session of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification (UNCCD 10), held in October 2011 in Changwon, Republic of Korea; The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 11) held in October 2012, in Hyderabad, India.; and the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Desertification (UNFCCC) held respectively in December 2011, in Durban, South Africa and in December 2012 in Doha, Qatar. Within the context of CPF, the Forum secretariat also engaged in a number of initiatives with each of the Rio Convention Secretariats.
25. The Forum secretariat continued to participate actively in forest-related meetings, conferences and events in an effort to reach and explore new areas and new partners for cooperation and coordination on forests.

26. In March 2011, the Forum Secretariat participated in the International Symposium on Ecosystem and Landscape-level Approaches to Sustainability in Spain. The Symposium focused on highlighting the body of work being delivered globally to advance the understanding and application of ecosystem and landscape-level approaches to sustainable land use and management. It also generated discussion on ways to create a forum comprising representatives with experience in landscape-level management worldwide and to develop a strategy for how to ensure this work is integrated into problem solving on sustainable use and management of landscapes and natural resources in light of critical current and future challenges.

27. In May 2011, the Forum Secretariat participated in the Australia New Zealand Institute of Forestry’s (ANZIF) Conference entitled “Pacific Forestry – Growing a Forestry Future” held in New Zealand. The Conference targeted forestry policy makers, managers and practitioners from the South Pacific region and aimed to demonstrate key aspects of New Zealand forestry and a model of managing forests sustainably.

28. In July 2011, the Forum secretariat participated in the Asian Wetland Symposium (AWS), in Malaysia. The theme of the Symposium was, “Integrated biodiversity conservation: Linking forests and wetlands”. The Asian Wetland Symposium is part of a series of international symposia on wetland issues, focused on achieving integration in biodiversity conservation with practical strategies and mechanisms, particularly the linking of forests on highlands and in wetlands. The Symposium was hosted by the Sabah Government, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Malaysia, the JICA-Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation (BBEC) Phase 2, and the Ramsar Center Japan. AWS embodies a regional effort to enhance delivery of the goals of the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme and the Forest Instrument.

29. In October 2011, the Forum secretariat participated in the annual meeting of the Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF), held in Washington D.C. The Foundation works to improve tropical forest management by promoting dialogue and alliances among industry, government, and academia, as well as research and conservation organisations. The Forum secretariat highlighted both the successes and challenges faced in promoting greater recognition of people-centred forest management.

30. The Forum secretariat has continued to actively work with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The Forum’s cooperation with those organizations and entities is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the Collaborative Partnership on Forest Framework 2011-2012 (E/CN.18/2013/10)
International Year of Forests, 2011

31. At its ninth session, the Forum encouraged all relevant organs of the United Nations, including the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the regional commissions, as well as United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes, to fully support, contribute to and participate in the activities envisaged for the observance of 2011 as the International Year of Forests. The Forum secretariat worked in close coordination with member States, regional entities, members of the CPF and major groups in the observance of the International Year of Forests, 2011. An overview of the Secretariat’s cooperation with those organizations and entities is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Forests (E/CN.18/2013/9).

International Day of the Forests

32. At its ninth session, in the context of the International Year of Forests, the Forum recommended that the Economic and Social Council and, through it, the General Assembly consider the establishment of an International Day of the Forest with the aim of recognizing the significant contribution of forests to sustainable development, the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and the corresponding need to strengthen the sustainable management of all types of forests for the benefit of future generations. In December 2012, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 21 March as the International Day of Forests (A/RES/67/200), in order to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests. The Resolution on the International Day requests the Forum Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, to facilitate the implementation of the International Day, in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes as well as relevant major groups. The Forum Secretariat and FAO provided technical support to Member States in the negotiations leading to the adoption of this resolution.

IV. Stakeholder involvement

33. During the ninth session, the Forum invited Member States to support major group initiatives to maintain their engagement in the Forum and their commitment to the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. Stakeholder participation in the Forum remains a crucial component of the Forums multi-year programme of works. In preparation for the current session, the Forum secretariat organized regular consultations with the focal points of the major groups throughout 2011 and 2012.

34. In line with the decision taken by major groups to develop coordinated and focused contributions and policy recommendations for the ninth session of the Forum, major groups submitted one joint discussion paper reflecting their views on the theme of the tenth session of the Forum. The Forum’s engagement with major groups is contained in the joint major groups discussion note. (E/CN.18/2013/7)
V. Country-led, organization-led, region-led and major group-led initiatives in support of the Forum

35. Country-led, organization-led and major group-led initiatives in the form of international expert meetings in support of the work of the Forum have made important and extremely significant contributions to the work of the Forum. These initiatives are innovative and unique mechanisms that have contributed to the knowledge on important issues related to sustainable forest management and international, are useful and important. To make these initiatives even more dynamic and relevant to the work of the Forum, it adopted a set of draft guidelines for country-led, organization-led, region-led and major group-led initiatives in support of the Forum at its ninth session.

36. At its ninth session, the Forum took note of the guidelines for country-led, organization-led, region-led and major group-led initiatives in support of the Forum. The guidelines prepared by the Forum secretariat built on previous guidelines contained in resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests. The Forum requested countries to consider the guidelines when planning country-led, organization-led, region-led and major group-led initiatives.

37. In March 2011, in support of the Forum, the Governments of Indonesia and Japan, in collaboration with ITTO, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the UNFF Secretariat organized a country-led initiative titled, “International Seminar on Challenges of Sustainable Forest Management, a Country-Led Initiative which was held in Tokyo, Japan in March 2011. The objective of the CLI was to present an overview of international trends related to sustainable forest management (SFM) since UNCED, including discussions on emerging issues such as REDD+ and biodiversity conservation. It also aimed to review the development and implementation of a range of policy tools and instruments for the practice of sustainable forest management and to share experiences and lessons learned. Representatives of governments, criteria and indicator processes, international organizations, private sector and civil society attended and participated in the CLI.

38. In October 2011, a conference entitled “Contributions of Forests to a Green Economy” was held in Bonn, Germany. The conference participants exchanged ideas and experiences concerning the roles of forests and sustainable forest management for developing a Green Economy. The conference which was held in support of the work of the Forum was one of the activities organized by the Federal Republic of Germany’s to celebrate the International Year of Forests, 2011. It was organized with support from Finland and Austria and in close collaboration with the Forum secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Conference objectives included exchanging ideas and experiences on the roles of forests and sustainable forest management for developing a Green Economy; and promoting alliances, partnerships and networking within and among the Forum and the Commission on Sustainable Development focused on developing
recommendations on how to realize the potential of forests to help building a Green Economy, aimed for Rio+20 and UNFF-10.

39. In January 2012, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with the support of Finland and the Netherlands hosted an expert meeting as a country-led initiative in support of the Forum entitled “A pathway to a green economy in the context of sustainable development: Focus on the role of markets in the promotion of sustainable forest management”. The expert meeting aimed to foster dialogue and cooperation on how to enhance synergies and resolve frictions between the major challenges facing forest policymakers and land use managers; to strengthen sustainable forest management and sustainable land use while enhancing the contribution of forests and land use management to improving the livelihoods of rural communities and small- and medium-scale forest enterprises; and to address international trade of products from sustainably managed forests as a possible instrument to contribute to an enabling environment for legal and sustainable production of timber and sustainable forest management.

40. In September 2012, the Government of Ukraine hosted an expert meeting entitled “the Lviv Forum on Forests in a Green Economy: Actions and Challenges for the Countries of Eastern and Northern and Central Asia”. The Lviv Forum brought together different stakeholders, policy makers and international experts to share experiences and explore opportunities for implementing the concepts and requirements of a Green Economy in the forest sector. The overall aim of the Lviv Forum was to make the concept meaningful, operational and beneficial for forest management and forest communities in the countries of Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia. Participants discussed regional initiatives for the implementation of Green Economy concepts and requirements in the forest sector, with special reference to the outcome of Rio+20; and the role of forests in carbon economies, biodiversity conservation, and the sustainable use of forests, among other issues. The Lviv Forum also developed recommendations on actions to strengthen forest policies, institutions and practices that support the Green Economy. The meeting was organized and supported by the governments of Ukraine and Switzerland, FAO, the Forum secretariat and Forests Europe.

41. In September 2012, the CPF organized and held the CPF Organization-led Initiative (OLI) on forest financing in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The Initiative was hosted by the FAO, and co-organized by the Forum Secretariat of with the support of other members of the CPF, and financial support from several governments. The Organization-led Initiative was held in response to the invitation addressed to the CPF in the UNFF9 Resolution on Forests for People, and the resolution of the special session of the ninth session in October 2009. Its main objective was to deepen the understanding and knowledge of all stakeholders on the state of forest financing, the opportunities and challenges, and to allow experts to provide suggestions to improve the situation through the sharing of information and best practices. It offered participants the space and opportunity to exchange views on the findings of the 2012 Advisory Group on Finance (AGF)
study to provide further analyses on forest financing and was an occasion to further clarify and broaden the scope of information for a knowledge-based discussion during the Second Ad-Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Forest Financing (AHEG2). The OLI provided an ideal non-political platform for government experts, relevant international and regional organizations including CPF member organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders to thoroughly and analytically discuss several issues on forest financing. The OLI Co-Chairs summary of the discussions including the key points and recommendations was submitted to the Second Ad-Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Forest Financing (AHEG2). This summary is also part of official documents for the tenth session and is contained in document E/CN.18/AEG/2013/2.

VI. Cooperation with regional and subregional partnerships and processes

42. Cooperation and collaboration with regional and subregional forest-related organizations, processes and partnerships has remained a key aspect of the Forum. This aspect was further strengthened by ECOSOC resolution 2006/49 which specifically added “strengthening interaction with regional and subregional forest-related organizations, processes, institutions as an additional main function of international arrangement on forests. The forest instrument also encouraged greater engagement of regional and subregional bodies. Accordingly, the Forum set a new focus in its multi-year programme of work (2007–2015) on regional collaboration and partnerships. Since its eighth session in 2009 the Forum has solicited inputs from relevant regional and subregional forest related mechanisms, institutions, organizations and processes and deliberated on ways for further enhancement of such cooperation and collaboration.

43. At its ninth session, the Forum invited regional and subregional organizations to strengthen their contributions to the work of the Forum and to provide input, in the context of the overall theme for UNFF10, on their efforts towards the implementation of the forest instrument and its four Global Objectives on Forests, through sharing regional perspectives, approaches and experiences. Regional activities on North-South and South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation on SFM were also encouraged.

44. The Forum Secretariat prepared a questionnaire to facilitate regional and subregional inputs to the Forum at its tenth session. For the Forum’s Tenth Session, the Secretariat received fourteen regional and subregional inputs from the African Forest Forum, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, the East African Community, the European Forest Institute, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Near East Forestry and Range Commission, Organization of American States, Réseau des Parlementaires pour la Gestion Durable des Écosystèmes Forestiers d’Afrique Centrale, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe-Food and Agriculture Organization Forestry and Timber Section. These reports from regional and subregional organizations are clear
indication of the growing relationship between the Forum and regions and subregions organizations, and are invaluable to the reports of the Secretary General on regional and subregional inputs. Information on the Forum’s cooperation with regional and subregional partnerships and processes is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on regional and subregional inputs E/CN.18/2013/XX.

45. In 2011, in close cooperation with regional bodies, the Forum secretariat launched an electronic newsletter called “Regional Voices”. Regional Voices is aimed to provide a platform for regions to share their experiences and lessons learned, and exchange information amongst one another, and with the Forum. Thus the electronic newsletter also aims to help organizations to develop bilateral, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation network on sustainable forest management. The newsletter is in an early stage of its operations and needs support from stakeholders in order to be more informative and outreaching.

VII. Issues for further consideration

46. Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, and within the UN system plays an important role in the achievement of sustainable forest management, the implementation of the forest instrument and the attainment of the four global objectives on forests. During the current intersessional period, the Forum secretariat, the Members of the CPF, other intergovernmental organizations, institutions and processes, as well as a wide range of stakeholders, have increasingly found opportunities to enhance cooperation and inter-sectoral programme and policy coordination on forest-related issues. These efforts have culminated in the many activities outlined in the present note and increased understanding of the importance of sustainable forest management, the implementation of the forest instrument, the four global objectives on forests and the role of forests in contributing to sustainable development and the post 2015 UN Development Agenda.

47. The CPF has demonstrated its abilities and potential over time for enhanced cooperation and coordination on forest issues and in providing support for the implementation of the work of the Forum. With proper recognition of its work and appropriate new guidance to it by the Forum, the Partnership should be able to act more collaboratively and provide focused and substantive support to the Forum, in particular in view of the important task ahead of it at its eleventh session in 2015. To encourage CPF to support the intersessional preparatory work for UNFF11, the Forum may wish to invite the governing bodies of the member organizations to specifically advise their organizations accordingly.

48. The Forum secretariat is keen on further improving and strengthening modalities of global-regional interaction and information sharing. Within its limited resources, the Forum secretariat is doing as much as it can. Several workshops and meetings organized by the Forum secretariat in the context of forest finance and solicitation of inputs from regional subregional bodies to the forum
sessions have further increased the interaction in the recent years. It is working closely with regional and subregional organization and developing new approaches such as electronic newsletter to enhance networking and cooperation.

49. Maintaining and enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination across the international, regional, subregional and national levels on forest-related issues and and promoting coherence and synergies in cross-sectoral fashion require constant and sustained effort and resources from all stakeholders, in particular from the Member States. In a rapidly changing economic, social, environmental, technological world, addressing challenges to and maximizing the potentials of sustainable forest management enhanced cooperation, coordination and collaboration must receive strong support from all. The Forum has played a key role in it and should continue to do so.

- Incorporate and strengthen activities related to the observance of the International Day of Forests

- Continue to support major group related activities in support of the Forum and their engagement with the Forum to participate effectively in initiatives and activities in support of the Forum.

- Support CPF to carry out targeted activities in support of UNFF11 and its joint initiatives.