Regional and subregional inputs

Report of the Secretary General

Summary
The present report highlights the actions taken to foster progress towards the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument) in the context of the overall theme of the tenth session of the Forum “forests and economic development”; progress towards achievement of the four global objectives on forests and the millennium development goals; and characteristics of regional and subregional cooperation and partnerships in facilitating cooperation in sustainable forest management including North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation.

* E.CN.18/2013/1

**The delay in the issuance of the present report was due to the need for extended consultations.
Contents

Introduction
I. Overview

II. Substantive matters to be considered by the Forum
   A. Assessment of progress towards the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests in the context of the overall theme “Forests and Economic Development”.
      a. Actions to enhance regional cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance
      b. Regional and subregional efforts to implement the forest instrument and the impact made by the forest instrument on enhancing forest-based economic development
   B. Progress towards achievement of the global objectives on forests
      a. GOF 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;
      b. GOF2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people
      c. GOF3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.
      d. GOF4: Reverse the decline in ODA for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management
   C. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
      a. MDG 1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
   D. Characteristics of regional and subregional cooperation and partnerships in facilitating sustainable forest management
      a. Partnerships with CPF member organizations

III. Lessons learned

Annex

Regional and subregional entities providing inputs to the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.
I. Introduction

1. The Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2007-2015¹ set a new focus 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 as an integral part of session deliberations.

2. At its ninth session, the Forum invited regional and subregional organizations to strengthen their contributions to the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and to provide input, in the context of the overall theme of its tenth session, on their efforts towards the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument) and its four Global Objectives on Forests, through sharing regional perspectives, approaches and experiences as well as regional activities on North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation on sustainable forest management.

3. To facilitate the submission of inputs for the current session, the Forum Secretariat prepared an information note and developed a reporting format for regional and subregional entities in order to facilitate regional inputs to the tenth session of the Forum. The present report summarizes the submissions received from the entities listed in the annex to the report.

II. Overview

4. The responses to the reporting questionnaire for regional and subregional entities sent out by the Forum secretariat were prepared by the entities using the reporting questionnaire. A few responses were based on the results of specific meetings organized by the entities to discuss their contributions. The Forum secretariat received fourteen regional and sub-regional responses. Most responses reveal that the forest instrument² and the four global objectives contained therein are being taken into account in the design and implementation of forest-related policies.

5. The reports highlight regional perspectives and subregional on efforts towards the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the four Global Objectives on Forests.

6. Regarding economic, social and environmental measures, the responding regional and subregional entities revealed that forests benefit the people who depend on them for their livelihoods. However, progress differed among the reporting entities. Challenges highlighted included the lack of adequate funding for activities that increase political commitment and generate information necessary for sustainable forest management; and weak FLEG structures, among other issues.

¹ E/2007/42, E/CN.18/2007/8 (Resolution 7/1)
² General Assembly resolution 62/98
III. Substantive matters to be considered by the Forum

A. Assessment of progress towards the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests in the context of the overall theme “Forest and Economic Development”.

7. Responses revealed that the entities were committed to promoting sustainable forest management and were aware of the importance of strong political commitment in implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument). In an effort to foster political commitment for SFM, the African Forest Forum (AFF) serves as platform for forest stakeholders on the continent. The AFF continued to support African delegates, technically and logistically, to participate in different meetings and other forums that deal with the forest instrument, such as on financing the implementation of the forest instrument. AFF also continues to foster political commitment for sustainable forest management by providing sound and reliable scientific and technical information that guides decision-making and technical application for forest and tree management in Africa.

8. Many countries in Africa national forest policies, strategies and plans contain elements of the forest instruments. For instance, the East African Community adopted common policies for, and the exchange of information on, the development, conservation and management of natural forests, commercial plantations and natural reserves. However, challenges encountered in implementing these policies include uncoordinated institutional efforts, conflicting institutional mandates, and administrative and bureaucratic procedures. At the same time, support for REDD+ has enabled countries to address implementation of the forest instrument through climate change support programmes, national forest programmes, CBD and UNCCD programmes. Countries have also linked their national forest plans to overall national development plans and programmes, linking forest to address poverty eradication, employment creation, environment protection, raising national incomes. In Africa, there are now a number of pilot projects aimed at enhancing forest based economic development. Various organizations have established sustainable supplies of hardwood from certified well managed forests. The adoption of the forest instrument at the global level has given a new twist in the SFM in the Congo Basin Forests in supporting the implementation of the Treaty on the Conservation and Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa.

9. In the Asia-Pacific region, despite increased recognition of the unique role forests play in socio-economic development, relatively unified standards and approaches of sustainable forest management have not been agreed to which impedes the fulfilment of the political commitment on the ground. There is a need to follow up on the strong political commitments. The Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) remains committed to promoting sustainable development in Asia-Pacific and values regional high-level cooperation mechanisms and endeavours as opportunities to address sustainable forest management. In June 2011, APFNet organized the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management to address climate change including actions taken by each government to promote sustainable forest management; the significance of applying sustainable forest management to address
climate change; and best practices of sustainable forest management and its effect on climate change mitigation in each country. ASEM is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation bringing together the 27 European Union member states, 2 European countries, and the European Commission with 20 Asian countries and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat. The ASEM dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues, with the objective of strengthening the relationship between the two regions, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. In September 2011 AFPNet organized and supported the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forestry Ministerial Meeting. This was the first ever meeting of ministers responsible for forests, it was attended by twenty-one APEC economies, heads of states, international organizations and CEOs from the private sector. The Ministers adopted the Beijing Statement on Forests and Forestry which outlines further cooperation on forests, and APFNet’s potential in forming synergy among the multiple stakeholders in the region.

10. In the Pacific sub-region, forests and trees are vital to the wellbeing of Pacific peoples. However, despite this, forests and trees continue to be converted and degraded as populations increase with the consequent need to satisfy socio-economic development demands. The inability to allocate sufficient funding for Pacific island countries to implement programmes and activities towards the sustainable forest management remains a challenge. In response to this challenge, in 2000, as part of its core programme, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) initiated a regional resource mobilizing effort focused on capacity development for SFM. In pursuing this regional approach, SPC acts as the regional focal point for forests and trees, effectively coordinating with other development partners, to avoid duplication of efforts and enhancing synergies, working towards deepening partnerships and collaborations. As part of the SPC Land Resource Division Strategic Plan Objectives, the organization continues to support national forest policy formulation and review.

11. The Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO) facilitates the Amazon region level processes of cooperation among its member countries, having developed, among other instruments such as the implementation of pilot/demonstration aimed at promoting the region’s sustainable development with the emphasis of improving livelihoods for local communities. PS/ACTO also generates inputs for the national and regional political dialogue aimed at enhancing regional cooperation; and documenting and disseminating best practices for possible replication.

12. In order to foster political commitment, the European Forest Institute (EFI) took a decisive step towards strengthening its policy support activities by establishing a Policy Support Office in Barcelona. EFI launched ThinkForest, a high-level discussion and information-sharing forum on the future of forests. Presided over by Mr. Göran Persson, former Prime Minister of Sweden, ThinkForest is a unique science-policy action forum that brings together high-level policy makers and leading European forest scientists to discuss science-policy dialogue on strategic forest-related issues. EFI actively participated in the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe; and launched a new publications series, entitled “What Science Can Tell Us”. The first issue, “Water for Forests and People in the Mediterranean – A Challenging Balance” aimed to improve the science-policy interface on
water and forest interactions and trade-offs. These publications provide unbiased scientific information on SFM related issues.

13. Since 2004, EFI coordinated a regional level multi-year capacity development project on Forest Policy and Economics Education and Research (FOPER) in South-East European Countries consisting of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia with nine partner research and education institutions. The project aimed at fostering a holistic approach to SFM.

a. Actions to enhance regional cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance

14. The AFF has continued to promote the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) mainly in Southern, Eastern and Western, Africa and the Sahel with commendable progress. The South African Development Community (SADC) established two working groups, one to guide the evolution of good forest governance and law enforcement and another to spearhead the formation of a timber association that would oversee legal harvesting and processing of timber, and fair trade in forest products. These will contribute to improving SFM by reducing illegality in forest practises, increase incomes at various levels, and reduce deforestation and degradation of forest lands. African governments have also established an intergovernmental institution namely, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) responsible for reducing and ultimately eliminating illegal trade in wild fauna and flora on the continent. LATF works through facilitating cooperative activities on law enforcement operations; investigating violations of national wildlife legislations; disseminating and exchanging information on illegal trade activities, and capacity building including on awareness raising. In addition, some countries have started implementing FLEGT through voluntary partnership agreements (VPA).

15. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has strengthened sustainable forest management (SFM) through improving monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) format with agreed criteria and indicators (C&I). Member States developed and agreed to use the online MAR format as a regional reporting mechanism. The ASEAN Declaration of Environmental Sustainability aims to strengthen law enforcement, combating illegal logging and illegal trade.

16. In the Amazon region, ACTO has contributed to strengthening the capacity of forest authorities to address illegal forest-related activities through a regional pilot project implemented by PS/ACTO on “Electronic identification key of timber and spectroscopy method of infrared light”: the pilot project aimed to develop a regional electronic key and database on timber species in the Amazon region.

b. Region and subregional efforts to implement the forest instrument and the impact made by the forest instrument on enhancing forest-based economic development
17. In Africa, many countries have elements of the forest instrument contained in their national forest policies, strategies and plans. In this regard the forest instrument has underlined the relevance of these elements and the need to implement them holistically. At the same time, climate change discussions have also contributed to raising the profile of forests and forests contribution to addressing the adverse effects of climate change. All elements that constitute the definition of REDD+ are also elements of the forest instrument and as such support that has been and continues to be given through REDD+ and CDM (afforestation and reforestation) has enabled many countries in Africa for instance to address the forest instrument, albeit indirectly. Implementation of the forest instrument has also been through national and international support through the climate change support programmes and ongoing national programmes from other conventions like such as CBD and UNCCD. At the same time, many countries now link national forest plans to overall national development plans and programmes, linking forests to broader national goals and objectives, such as, poverty eradication, employment creation, environment protection, raising national incomes.

18. During the intersessional period, PS/ACTO implemented two pilot projects. The first project implemented with the support of the Amazon Regional Program (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ) was entitled “sustainable forest handling in native forests and legal timber marketing chains in the centre-south of Equatorial Amazon”, and focused on developing a community forest management model. The other entitled “strengthening of the value chains of natural products from the Amazon through the sustainable handling of the communities of Shuar of Transkutukú, Province of Morona-Santiago, Ecuador associated to PALMASAD of producer in Madre de Dios, Peru”, focused on the production and trade of non-timber forestry products (NTFP) aimed at increasing revenue for the Shuar communities.

19. ACTO also has developed an initiative on accountability of the forest sector in the national accounts which aims to incorporate forest statistics into national statistics through the establishment of satellite forest accounts which will evaluate economic, social and environmental variables of forests and incorporate them in the national statistics enabling the measurement of the effective contribution of forests to national economies. The initiative was developed in coordination with FAO.

20. In an effort to enhance regional cooperation to promote international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested, UNECE/FAO produced the UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review 2011-2012, a keystone publication that provides general and statistical information on forest product markets in the UN Economic Commission for Europe region (Europe, North America and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia). Based on the Review, Market Discussions were held in Geneva on October 2012 to produce forecasts and market developments in the UNECE region, discuss policy developments influencing forest products markets; and produce a Market Statement. The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section was also actively engaged in wood energy work, working with the International Energy Agency (IEA) the European Commission (EC) the Section developed a "Joint Wood Energy Enquiry" which collects data of both sources and uses of wood and promotes cooperation between
the energy and forest sectors, providing a comprehensive framework on the role of wood energy in Member States. In addition, the Section has organized various events in the last three years to provide policymakers in the UNECE region with a set of views from a wide range of involved sectors to address the economic, social and environmental aspects of the growing demand for and use of wood for energy.

B. Progress towards achievement of the global objectives on forests

21. In Asia-Pacific and Europe, progress continued towards the achievement of the global objectives 1, “Reversing the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation”; global objective 2 “Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent peoples”; and global objective 3 “Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests”. In the Asia-Pacific region, there was a reported increase in forest financing especially demonstrated by the region’s efforts and commitment to reverse the decline in ODA for SFM, though much of the increase was for select few countries qualifying for REDD+ financing and also in mobilizing more financial resources for SFM.

a. GOF 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation”

22. AFF activities have during this intersessional period been focused on reversing the loss of forest cover through the forum’s efforts to participate in, and support the participation of delegates from African countries in forums, meetings and workshops that address global objective 1. The AFF has also continued effort and work on identifying measures to address global objective 1 by undertaking activities that promote SFM, restoration of degraded forests through afforestation and reforestation as well as making efforts in sensitizing practitioners and policy makers at the national, subregional and regional level on forest degradation prevention measures. In this regard, one key activity the forum has focused on has been in generating and disseminating relevant information to all stakeholders in African forests through multiple media channels.

23. APFNet launched a national project in Cambodia entitled “Multi-Functional Restoration and Management of Degraded Forest Areas” which was developed and implemented by the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IRD). The environmental protection and biodiversity conservation project aims to enhance the country’s capacity to restore degraded forest lands in Koh Kong Province; and to enhance the restoration of a community forests in Siem Reap province to improve the local community’s livelihood through timber and non-wood forest products production.

24. ACTO implemented a regional project entitled “Monitoring of Deforestation, Forest Use and of Changes in the Use of Land in the Pan Amazon Forests” aimed at supporting member countries in developing and applying deforestation monitoring systems and forest cover national monitoring plans. The project has contributed to building an
implementation institutional structure at both regional and national levels; close to forty-five experts were trained in the use of monitoring systems developed by the National Institute of Space Research (INPE); and a network across participating institutions was developed. The first seven national deforestation monitoring plans were completed in early 2013. An initiative to develop a regional protocol on combating and controlling forest fires was also under consideration. Once completed, the protocol will promote the establishment of mechanisms for coordination and joint work between two or more institutions responsible for combating and controlling forest fires at borderlines. It will also facilitate cross-border actions to reduce forest cover loss and forest degradation in the Amazon region.

25. EFI hosts the EU REDD Facility, one of several European initiatives to address the underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and to foster sustainable forest management in developing countries. The EU REDD Facility established by EFI in 2010 with the financial support of the European Commission supports developing countries in preparing for and implementing REDD+. The Facility also assists developing countries meet their goals in building needed capacity for REDD+, with a focus on improving governance; enhancing lessons learned from and exploring interactions between the FLEGT and REDD+ processes at the country level. The Facility also informs policy making by the European Commission and EU Member States on REDD+ support to developing countries.

b. **GOF2:** “Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people”

26. In 2012, APFNet launched the APFNet-Nepal project “Demonstration of Sustainable Forest Management with Community Participation in Nepal”. The project which was implemented together with the Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) focused on creating green job opportunities, improving local livelihoods and shaping the national forest policy and strategic planning through the establishment of community-based cooperatives and enterprises that reinforced SFM and biodiversity conservation.

27. In 2011, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, in cooperation with the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE); UNECE Water Convention; FAO; United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH); UNEP and IUCN prepared a paper on “Payments for Forest–related Ecosystem Services: What role for a Green Economy?”

c. **GOF3** “Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests”

28. AFF continued to support delegates from African countries in discourses at various levels that could raise attention, political commitment, and resources to attain global objective 3. The Forum’s work on rehabilitating degraded lands will also contribute to efforts in increasing forest cover Africa. AFF also plans to strengthen certification capacity in the African forest sector in the short to medium term.
29. Two of the four thematic priorities in the 2011-2015 APFNet strategic plan: (i) improving forest management to reduce forest loss and degradation, and (ii) monitoring progress towards APEC 2020 forest cover objective, are related to increasing forest cover. The activities included in this strategic plan are designed to contribute to increasing the area of sustainably managed forests.

30. A proposal by ACTO on a regional plan of action for the Amazon Biodiversity and the organization’s programme for protected areas aims to contribute to the development of a common regional view and practice in the management of protected areas, with an emphasis on protected areas in the border areas, and conservation corridors including in more than one country. The approved “Program of Protected Areas” seeks to develop coordination mechanisms and technical and financial instruments to complement the management of the National Systems of Protected Areas and to promote joint action with a regional focus for the conservation of biodiversity. Implementation of this programme will also complement national efforts to manage protected areas in the Amazon region.

d. GOF4: “Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM”

31. In the African region, emerging issues such as REDD+, the green economy and FLEGT hold the potential to reverse the decline of ODA for SFM. However, a broad assessment needs to be done on the impacts of these emerging issues on SFM funding in Africa.

32. In Asia-Pacific, the launch of the APFNet is an important example of channelling financial resources for SFM implementation. APFNet has secured a commitment of $15 million over a five-year period from the Government of China for SFM implementation in the Asia-Pacific region. Since 2008, APFNet co-sponsors such as Australia, the United States have also continued to provide financial contributions to the entity. In addition, the SPC Land Resources Division, through the Forests and Trees Team, and with the support of GIZ, assists Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in their REDD+ readiness programmes. In September 2011, the Forests and Trees Team, in collaboration with its partners, namely GIZ, JICA, FAO and UN-REDD, organized a Pacific regional technical meeting on forestry to discuss various emerging issues, challenges and opportunities, including possible ways forward for forestry in the Pacific. A significant portion of the programme discussed the main themes for a Regional Policy Framework for REDD+, which was recommended by the Pacific Heads of Forestry in 2009.

C. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

33. The EFI FOPER project contributed to the progress towards the MDGs, especially on poverty eradication, gender equality, environmental sustainability and global partnership for development. In support of forest-based sustainability and improved forest sector governance the project aims to graduate forty MSc. students in forest economics and policy, compatible with Bologna –process; enhance the experience of ten regional university lecturers in modern teaching and research methodologies and improved access to European expert networks; train fifteen researchers on modern research methodologies in forest policy science and socio-economics, and offer short courses to close to three hundred professional in relevant forest policy, governance and economic issues.
a. **MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger**

34. In the Asia-Pacific Region, through the promotion of community-based forest management, forests have significantly contributed to poverty reduction, and the achievement of MDG 1. Indicators to assess contributions of forests to MDG1 in the Asia-Pacific region include: secure forest tenure rights, the utilization of non-timber forest products, the number of forest-based community enterprises and the local rural jobs created through these enterprises, an increase in local average income and the improvement of the rural infrastructure. Governments in the region remain committed to halving extreme poverty by 2015 and many have already adopted poverty-related measures in their national forest policies and programmes. The high incidence of poverty in forested areas and the high dependence of the poor on forest resources reinforces the role that forests play in poverty eradication. The publication “Making Forestry Work for the Poor: assessment of the contribution of forestry to poverty alleviation in Asia and the Pacific” produced by APFNet examines the potential of pro-poor forest management in improving livelihoods and also in helping to achieve MDG 1. This publication was part of a project jointly implemented by APFNet and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The publication presents key policies and plans relevant to poverty alleviation in eleven target economies and draws attention to the need for concrete measures to support livelihood development at the local level; and includes case studies on community-based approaches and engagement in forest management. These case studies are also relevant to economies with similar conditions.

35. ACTO has developed initiatives that contribute directly to the achievement of MDG1 including a regional project on monitoring afforestation, forest use and changes in the use of soil in the pan Amazon forest; and the negotiation of an agreement on cooperation to combat borderline forest fires.

D. **Characteristics of regional and sub-regional cooperation and partnerships**

36. Responses from regional and subregional entities also revealed engagement in North-South and South-South and demonstrated wishes for stronger cooperation capacity building, scientific research, training and education, promoting SFM, Criteria and Indicators, among other areas. Most regions are engaged in the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

37. In facilitating cooperation on SFM, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, the Montréal Process, FOREST EUROPE, the Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa (OFAC), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) continue to cooperate on opportunities for international and inter-organizational cooperation to streamline the international reporting on forests and forest management. The ECE/FAO Team of Specialist on Monitoring SFM provided advice from a regional perspective on several matters related to FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment and Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire—the new initiative developed jointly by the FAO, FOREST EUROPE, ITTO, the Montréal Process, OFAC and UNECE/FAO. At the ECE/FAO Team of Specialist on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management which took place in May 2012 in Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation, experts supported the proposal for developing a periodic, jointly owned bulletin based on existing initiatives among organizations and among countries to improve cooperation among different actors in the pan-European region. The advanced versions of documents for the collaborative reporting on forests prepared by all actors involved were
discussed and agreed at a meeting on ‘Streamlining forest based reporting – a collaboration workshop’ in Jacksonville, Florida, United States, on 19-23 August 2012, including the overall structure of reporting, basic terms and definitions as well as the general schedule.

38. In the Asia-Pacific region, forest related development is uneven and requires coordinated efforts from all forest stakeholders. In order to benefit from technical expertise, APFNet projects and activities have successfully sought the participation of academic institutions in the United States, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the People’s Republic of China, the Philippines and Indonesia. APFNet would like to see more vibrant international cooperation among different stakeholders, so as to promote SFM in the region. Although standard codes of conduct on SFM may be a norm for developed economies, for many emerging economies and least developed economies, managing techniques may still be lacking.

39. The SPC Land Resources Division, through its Forests and Trees Team, continues to pursue partnerships to strengthen its capacity to support its member countries in better managing and use their forest and tree resources.

40. Through the Montréal Process, member countries continue to make a voluntary commitment to work alongside each other to further SFM and to create a pathway for collaboration and capacity-building. The Montréal Process, through its criteria and indicators (C&I) of SFM, provides its member countries with an internationally-agreed, locally-supported tool to integrate issues as they apply to forests; a common ground on which stakeholders, public agencies and countries can work out shared objectives and collaborative actions toward SFM; a common framework to monitor, assess and report on trends in forest conditions with respect to the full range of forest values and, in turn, on progress toward SFM; and a network and forum for exchanging knowledge and experience deliberating policy tools, maintaining awareness of the important role of forests and fostering collaboration among countries with diverse natural, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. One of the most notable and valuable achievements of the Montréal Process has been the establishment of mutual trust and confidence, which has encouraged the twelve member countries to develop a “network of knowledge.” Through discussion, research, cooperation, communication and capacity-building between countries, this network has enabled member countries to make individual and collective progress in tackling new and emerging issues, such as climate change, water, bioenergy and biodiversity.

41. Recently, the Montréal Process formed a new strategic partnership with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), FOREST EUROPE and FAO to find innovative ways to streamline global forest reporting, reduce the burden of reporting on countries and promote sustainable forest management. In October 2011, Canada, as Chair of the Montréal Process Working Group, hosted a Workshop of International and Regional Criteria and Indicator Processes that brought these four organizations/processes together to review their evolution, examine emerging forest issues, and explore possibilities to collaborate and to streamline SFM reporting. The four bodies recognize the value of working with other processes and organizations to avoid the proliferation of monitoring requirements and associated reporting burdens. The four bodies have also initiated the development of a joint communications plan to improve communication around SFM and have met regularly to enhance global collaboration in addressing issues of common interest. Through the International Model Forest Network (IMFN), Argentina, Canada, Chile, China and Russia are
among a number of countries that are collaborating on methods to demonstrate SFM using the Montréal Process C&I. They have found innovative, low-cost and long-term solutions to the challenges facing advocates and practitioners of SFM. At the same time, participation by Argentina, Chile and Uruguay in the Montréal Process has facilitated communication, consultation and dialogue on global and local forest sustainability among Southern Cone countries. In 2009, these member countries played a key role in the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project on "Strengthening the capacities of the Southern Cone countries for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on progress towards SFM through the development, use and implementation of criteria and indicators". During the 23rd IUFRO World Congress held in Seoul, Korea in August 2010, the Montréal Process hosted two technical sessions on reporting on sustainability of temperate and boreal forests using criteria and indicators. In March 2011, Japan hosted the International Seminar on Challenges of Sustainable Forest Management – Integrating Environmental Social and Economic Values of Forests in Tokyo. This country-led initiative in support of UNFF was co-hosted by Indonesia and co-organized by the Montréal Process, ITTO and FOREST EUROPE.

a. Partnerships with CPF member organizations

42. Partnerships are indispensable tools and bridges for the entity to add value to and leverage resources available for joint program activities. In Africa, regional economic communities (RECs) continue to promote collaboration between countries on forest-related issues of relevance to the respective sub-regions. This is in addition to several initiatives such as FLEGT that have a North-South character. AFF and FAO have jointly worked on climate change issues in the as well as on work related to the Great Green Wall of Sahara and Sahel Initiative. ICRAF and AFF have also collaborated on climate change tasks including activities related to ‘greening the Sahel’.

43. AFPNet entity has conducted joint activities with several member organizations of the CPF, namely, FAO, ITTO and IUCN. In November, 2011, APFNet co-organized the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week with FAO/RAP. In October 2012, APFNet, ITTO and IUCN among other organizations, co-organized the Regional Workshop on Incentives to Catalyze Sustainable Management and Restoration of Mangroves in Asia and the Pacific.

44. In cooperation with FAO, SPC supports Pacific island countries in areas related to Global FRA, the Global report on the status of FGR, and working together through the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC). Through the APFC, the Forests and Trees Team was actively involved in Asia Pacific Forest Outlook Study 2020, participating in the executive committee and also providing support to the various sub-regional and national studies. Also, through the APFC, the Forests and Trees Team is currently participating in the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank, which is providing support and assistance to member countries on forest policy analysis and formulation.

45. The Montréal Process has also built linkages with other C&I processes. As a result of the strengthened relationships and goodwill developed at the Victoria workshop (October 2011), the Montréal Process, ITTO, FOREST EUROPE and UN FAO endorsed a joint statement in January 2012 to streamline global forest reporting through enhanced collaboration. The joint statement is a milestone in the global process of developing SFM indicators. It compliments the directions adopted at the 2010 Committee on Forestry (COFO) meeting that countries would seek ways to converge global reporting approaches to
reduce the overall reporting burden. By working together, the Montréal Process, ITTO, FOREST EUROPE and FAO, along with the Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa (OFAC) initiative and the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, have developed a new Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) that better aligns global data collection schedules and requirements. The CFRQ will greatly increase the consistency of global forest data and the efficiency of its collection and dissemination, which will in turn contribute to reducing the reporting burden on countries. Effectively, countries that report to more than one of these bodies can now provide their data once to meet multiple reporting requirements. The goal is to ensure that the data being requested by the UN FAO’s Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) is consistent with the data already being reported within the C&I processes. The closer link between the GFRA and the regional and international C&I processes is also expected to increase the relevance and use of the GFRA. The CFRQ is one of the most tangible, broadly-based outcomes to emerge from recent efforts to streamline forest-based reporting. The first global datasets from the CFRQ will be available by 2015 as part of the next GFRA. In August 2012, the United States, a member of the Montréal Process, hosted a workshop with the CFRQ partner organizations and the secretariats of Forum, CBD and UNFCCC. The participants recommended increased interaction with the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest Indicators and the Rio Conventions (e.g., CBD and UNFCCC) to highlight the value of the forest indicator expertise and information possessed by the regional and international C&I processes, as well as gain greater insight into emerging issues such as biodiversity and climate change and their impacts on SFM.

Conclusions and recommendation

46. Some regional and subregional entities shared lessons learned more attention should be paid to demonstrate the relevance of the work done on criteria and indicators at the international level. Interaction among forest related processes and organisations whose work focuses on forest-related issues should be fostered through flexible initiatives, tailored to the needs and situations of countries.

47. The development and adoption of the CFRQ, as a tool for the joint collection and dissemination of forest data and information, is a significant step towards better cooperation between forest data collection partners for the benefit of multiple users. However, stronger international cooperation is needed to further promote the use of information provided by C&I processes on SFM and the gathering, analyzing and reporting of data to audiences within and beyond the forest community. In this context, efforts to further develop the establishment of a “Forest Indicators Partnership” – a virtual platform for collaboration on forest indicators – may be useful.

48. There is a need to develop and strengthen the private sector engagement in the African region such primary forest production by smallholders (farm forestry), value addition to primary and secondary forest production, forest-water relations, capacity and skills development at various levels especially with respect to issues related to climate change and rehabilitation of degraded lands.

49. FLEGT, especially law enforcement, requires mobilization of several outside forests where the forest sector lacks convening power. Harmonising such sectors require pragmatism (consulting, assigning roles & responsibilities). In addition, since many of these
issues are under national governments, there is a need for a platform, resources and mechanisms to bring together stakeholders, and resources to implement recommendations from such encounters.
Annex

Regional and subregional entities providing inputs to the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Association of Southeast Asian Nations
Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission
Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
African Forest Forum
East African Community
Economic Commission for Europe
European Forestry Institute
Forest Europe
InterAmerican Biodiversity Information Network
Montreal Process
Near East Forestry Commission
Parliamentarian Network for Sustainable Forest Management in Central Africa
Secretariat of the Pacific Community