Resolution of Working Group One on
Progress in implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (Item 3), Regional and subregional inputs (Item 4), Forests and economic development (Item 5), and Enhanced cooperation (Item 8)

(As adopted during the last session of UNFF10 on Saturday 20 April 2013)

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests; the Rio Declaration of Environment and Development, which set forth principles including, inter alia, principle 7 on common but differentiated responsibilities; chapter 11 of Agenda 21; the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – “The Future We Want”;

Recalling further the Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the ninth session of the Forum on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Forests, 2011,

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

Welcoming progress made by Member States on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, while emphasizing that gaps remain with respect to means of implementation for many countries especially for low forest cover countries, the least developed countries, small island developing States, and African countries, and further emphasizes the need to mobilize enhanced resources from all sources,

Welcoming also the efforts of the Forum Secretariat and the collaborative activities undertaken by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations in 2011 and 2012 in support of the Forum and towards implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, as well as the inputs and contributions of regional and subregional organizations and processes and major groups,

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

Recognizing the positive contribution of sustainable forest management to achieve sustainable development, including inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication, livelihoods and human well-being,

Highlighting the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests to people and the contributions of sustainable forest management to sustainable development and reaffirming that the wide range of products and services that forests provide create opportunities to address many of the most pressing sustainable development challenges,
Emphasizing that forests, trees outside forests and sustainable forest management provide direct and indirect social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits at all levels and are essential to sustainable development,

Also Recognizing the importance of strengthening the role of sustainable forest management in enhancing resilience to disaster risks and impacts, and to the adverse impacts of climate change, in particular in developing countries, such as small island developing States and low forest cover countries,

Emphasizing the significance of the discussions on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 / post-2015 development agenda and on the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests,

Recognizing the challenges posed to sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests by an increasing urban population,

Forests and economic development

1. **Invites** Member States to:

   (a) Recognize contributions of forest goods and services to national and local economies, as well as to the social, cultural and environmental impacts of forests, to rural and urban communities, and to integrate such values in national accounting systems, as appropriate, and development policies and planning at all levels, in accordance with national legislation and policies through:

      (i) Improving the collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination of information and data;

      (ii) Developing methodologies for the recognition and valuation of the wide range of forest values derived from forest goods and services, including non-wood forest products;

   (b) Establish and develop data collection, analysis and reporting, also considering non-market based approaches on national forest monitoring systems, to better understand the multiple benefits of forests consistent with national legislations, as appropriate;

   (c) Integrate sustainable forest management into national development strategies, as well as utilize the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and national forest programmes, as appropriate, as platforms to develop or strengthen linkages with other related sectors, and identify collaborative and integrated approaches to land management which maximize benefits from forests and which minimize or avoid negative impacts on forests;

   (d) Take action to address the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation by supporting economic development strategies that avoid forest degradation and loss and minimize negative impacts on forests;

   (e) Create, strengthen and implement holistic, balanced, comprehensive and coherent policies and strategies which focus on enhancing and promoting the environmental, social, cultural and economic aspects of sustainable forest management as a cross-sectoral approach at
the local, national and subregional levels, and at a landscape level in countries that recognize it;

(f) Recognize the role that forest ecosystem services play in economic development;

(g) Strengthen enabling environments in accordance with national priorities and legislations to attract increased long-term public and private sector investment in sustainable forest management and the forest sector;

(h) Enhance the role and full participation of all relevant stakeholders in the forest sector, including indigenous peoples and local communities, on sustainable forest management, as well as opportunities for employment and training, rural development, technology innovation and transfer, research and development, and diversification of markets, goods and services;

(i) Establish and/or strengthen legal frameworks as well as governance and institutional frameworks and policies needed to realize the full potential of forests’ contributions to economic development, addressing sustainable forest management, including clarifying and strengthening the security of tenure rights, in accordance with national legislation and circumstances; taking into account participatory processes; gender equality and related strategies; and cross-sectoral coordination;

(j) Review and as needed improve forest related legislation, strengthen forest law enforcement and promote good governance at all levels in order to support sustainable forest management, to create an enabling environment for forest investment and to combat and eradicate illegal practices in accordance with national legislations, in forest and other related sectors;

(k) Promote public and private investments in sustainable forest management, according to national legislations, in locally managed forests, in particular community-managed forests and those owned by small forest holders, to facilitate the contribution of such forests to sustainable development and poverty eradication at local and national levels;

(l) Recognize the importance of urban forests and trees and the need to integrate them into urban planning;

(m) Develop integrated, comprehensive, balanced and coherent policies including, as appropriate, technical, financial and cooperation strategies to reduce the risks and impacts of natural disasters as well as the adverse effects and impacts of climate change, and promote resilience of forest ecosystems, through sustainable forest management and integrated risk management, as well as to restore damaged forest ecosystems or those lost as a result of such disasters and events;

Regional and subregional inputs

2. Welcomes efforts by regional and subregional processes to provide inputs to the Forum and to strengthen collaboration with Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations to advance sustainable forest management;

3. Requests the Forum Secretariat and invites other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in conjunction with regional and subregional processes such as the New Partnership for Africa’s Development initiative on sustainable forest management, the Tehran Process for Low
Forest Cover Countries, and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, among others, to continue to collaborate on issues related to sustainable forest management and to promote North-South as well as South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;

4. *Invites* Member States, Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations and other organizations to enhance the role of forests and sustainable forest management in sustainable development, taking into account different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve sustainable development, including green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and considering that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of promotion of sustainable development, and encourage the development of action plans in this regard;

5. *Encourages* Member States and *invites* Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, the scientific community, civil society organizations and the private sector to enhance cooperation, including north-south, south-south and triangular cooperation, to scale up national and local research and education capacities and develop and consolidate as appropriate, databases and knowledge management networks among the Member States, as well as the above mentioned bodies, to facilitate the sharing of scientific and technical information;

6. *Invites* Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations to assist countries in assessing the non-market values of forest products, goods and services, including non-wood forest products, and sharing lessons learned on different financial tools and instruments for recognizing these values;

7. *Encourages* the Forum Secretariat and Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations to assist Member States upon request in the development of holistic and integrated non-market based approaches to achieve sustainable forest management, based on management of environmental functions of forests in harmony with nature, including approaches such as joint mitigation and adaptation for the integral and sustainable management of forests;

8. *Invites* Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations to continue on-going international initiatives on recognition and valuation of the wide range of forest values, including monetary and non-monetary values, and consider ways to strengthen the integration of such information and to address information and data gaps on values and contributions of forest goods and services, including through different accounting approaches, *inter alia* natural capital accounting being developed in the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services partnership;

9. *Requests* the Forum Secretariat to:

   (a) Collaborate with United Nations bodies and Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organisations, regional and other relevant organizations and processes including international financial institutions on ways to address information and data gaps on values and contributions of forest goods and services to ongoing and new initiatives in this area;

**Progress on implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and achieving its global objectives on forests**
10. **Encourages** Member States, in reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum, to highlight success stories and best practices and address all aspects of the four global objectives on forests;

11. **Invites** Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to strengthen collaboration with Member States on pilot projects for the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

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

   (a) Utilize web-based tools to improve knowledge and communications on the reporting methodology for the eleventh session of the Forum;

   (b) Further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations and through criteria and indicators and other regional processes and balanced regional workshops depending on available resources;

### Enhanced cooperation

13. **Encourages** Member States, Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, regional and subregional organizations and relevant stakeholders to share experiences, lessons learned, and best practices, regarding sustainable forest management, including, *inter alia*, through demonstration sites and pilot projects;

14. **Encourages** regional and subregional organizations and processes and major groups to continue to provide coordinated inputs to the Forum and **invites** Member States, the donor community and Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations to support these efforts;

15. **Invites** the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to:

   (a) Continue and expand efforts, in collaboration with regional and relevant international criteria and indicators processes, to streamline and harmonize guidelines for national forest-related reporting to Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, in order to further reduce reporting burdens on countries and to promote consistency in reporting;

   (b) Continue working to foster synergies among the forest-related activities and programmes of its member organizations and, in particular the Rio Conventions, to promote a holistic, comprehensive and integrated approach to sustainable forest management, including the multiple social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits and values of forests;

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

   (a) Continue and strengthen its activities to effectively engage all major groups, noting the importance of forests to indigenous peoples and local communities;

   (b) Develop communication tools and media products, including in collaboration with
Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, to raise awareness on the importance of forests and trees outside forests, including to rural and urban communities, and on the contribution of sustainable forest management to sustainable development and poverty eradication, livelihoods and human well-being;

**International Day of Forests**

17. *Noting* with satisfaction the adoption by General Assembly resolution A/RES/67/200 concerning the establishment of the International Day of Forests, *invites* Member States, the Forum Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, regional and subregional organizations, and major groups to facilitate and/or organize activities to celebrate this Day, consistent with A/RES/67/200;

18. *Encourages* Member States to organize activities each year to celebrate the International Day of Forests on 21 March or at the time most appropriate to each State, to raise awareness of all types of forests and trees outside forests.

**************************