United Nations Forum on Forests
Eleventh session
New York, 4-15 May 2015
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations
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2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests:

(a) Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options;

(b) Reviewing the progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(c) Reviewing the contribution of forests and the international arrangement on
forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, to the internationally agreed development goals.

4. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels.

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

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairperson and such other officers as may be required (see E/5975/Rev.1). In accordance with Council resolution 2000/35, by which the Forum was established, the Bureau of the Forum shall consist of a Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall also act as the Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. By its decision 2007/273, the
Council decided that, commencing with the eighth session of the Forum, officers elected to the Bureau shall hold office for a term of two years.

At the first meeting of its eleventh session, on 19 April 2013, the Forum elected Mr. Macharia Kamau (Kenya), Mr. Srećko Jurčić (Croatia) and Mr. Heikki Granholm (Finland) as members of the Bureau for the eleventh session of the Forum. At the same meeting, the Forum decided to postpone the election of the other members of the Bureau to a later date. Subsequently, the Secretariat has received the nominations of Mr. Wu Zhimin (China), and Mr. Raphael Azeredo (Brazil). The Secretariat has further received the nomination of Mr. Noel Messone (Gabon) to replace Mr. Macharia Kamau, and Mr. Vicente Bezerra (Brazil) to replace Mr. Raphael Azeredo (Brazil) in the Bureau. The Forum is expected to elect the remaining members of the Bureau at the second meeting of its eleventh session on 4 May 2015, as well as designate the Chair and the Rapporteur of the eleventh session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda and organization of work for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.18/2015/1)

3. Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests:

(a) Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options;

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015, the overall theme of the eleventh session of the Forum in 2015 is “Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests”¹, with three themes, including reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options. In this regard, ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49, Resolution 7/1 of UNFF7 and its annex, and Resolution 10/2 of the tenth session of the Forum and its annex provide the framework for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, and a decision on the future of the international arrangement on forests at the eleventh session of the Forum in May 2015. The Forum, at its tenth session, held from 8 to 19 April 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey adopted Resolution 10/2², in which it decided to undertake several intersessional activities in preparation for the eleventh session of the Forum to review the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, and to make a decision on the future of this arrangement. The first component of the intersessional activities was to solicit views from Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the IAF. The submitted views and proposals were compiled and

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¹ Resolution 7/1 of UNFF7 and its annex, contained in document E/2007/42, E/CN.18/2007/8 at:

² Document E/2013/42-E/CN.18/2013/18 at:
considered at the first and second meeting of the ad hoc expert group on the international arrangement on forests. The second component of the intersessional activities on the intersessional arrangement on forests was to carry out an independent assessment of the intersessional arrangement on forests. The third component of the intersessional activities was to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on the international arrangement on forests. The first meeting of the Expert Group in February 2014 reviewed and discussed the strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement of the current arrangement and provided some suggestions for the future arrangement after 2015. The second meeting of the ad hoc expert group reviewed and considered all inputs including the independent assessment of the international arrangement on forests report, and thoroughly discussed the actions and options for the future international arrangement on forests. The report of the second meeting of the expert group includes a Co-Chairs summary of discussions, as well as a set of recommendations by the Co-Chairs to the eleventh session, on the function and institutional arrangements of the international arrangement on forests for the period beyond 2015. Consistent with other official documents of the eleventh session, and taking into account the report of the second meeting of the expert group, the report of the Secretary-General on this agenda item contains conclusions and recommendations on key components of the future of the international arrangement on forests after 2015. This report also highlights some key areas for political support by senior officials of countries during the High Level Segment of the eleventh session.

**Documentation**

- Report of the Secretary-General on: Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options (E/CN.18/2015/2)
- Report of the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (E/CN.18/2015/10)
- Report of the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (E/CN.18/2015/9)

(b) **Reviewing the progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;**

The General Assembly, by its resolution 62/98, adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. The multi-year program of work for the Forum for the period 2007-2015, adopted at its seventh session, stipulates that the Forum at its eleventh session will focus on, *inter alia*, reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as one of the themes, and also as one of the common agenda items.

Resolution 10/1 of the tenth session of the Forum requested the UNFF Secretariat to further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum. The UNFF
Secretariat in collaboration with the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and in close consultation with countries, has revised and streamlined the reporting format, which has been used by Member States to report to the eleventh session of the Forum. The overall assessment presented in the report of the Secretary-General on this agenda item is based on the national reports of countries to the eleventh session, taking into account their previous national reports to the eight, ninth and tenth sessions of the Forum.

Documentation

- Report of the Secretary-General on assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests (E/CN.18/2015/3)

(c) Reviewing the contribution of forests and the international arrangement on forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, to the internationally agreed development goals;

The multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015 stipulates that the Forum at its eleventh session should review the contribution of forests and the international arrangement on forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, to the internationally agreed development goals, as one of the three themes under the overall theme for the Session. The report of the Secretary-General under item 3 (a) serves as the basis for discussions of the Forum on both agenda items 3 (a) and 3 (c) due to the close interlinkages between the two sub-items.

Documentation

- Report of the Secretary-General on Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options (E/CN.18/2015/2)

4. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015, means of implementation for sustainable forest management, and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels are recurring cross-cutting issues at each session. The Forum considered the issue of means of implementation for sustainable forest management as a specific agenda item at its eighth session. Furthermore, through resolution of the special session of its ninth session, held on 30 October 2009, the Forum established an Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing and a facilitative process. In this resolution, the Forum agreed on intense intersessional activities, and also agreed to make a decision on forest financing during its tenth session, taking into account the results of the intersessional work. Accordingly, the outcome of the work of the ad hoc expert group on forest financing and the Facilitative Process from 2009 to 2013, as well as other inputs, were submitted to the ninth and tenth sessions of the Forum. After review of these inputs, the Forum at its tenth session adopted resolution 10/2 wherein it agreed on a series of measures.

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of actions at the national, regional and international levels on forest financing. In operative paragraph 32 of this resolution, the Forum decided to “consider, as an integral element of the overall review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, as outlined in the resolution 10/2 and its annex, a full range of financing options and strategies, including the establishment of a voluntary global forest fund, in order to mobilize resources from all sources in support of sustainable forest management for all types of forests and trees outside forests.”

The report of the Secretary-General on this agenda item contains information about major developments in regard to means of implementation for sustainable forest management, including the performance of the Facilitative Process, as well as forest law enforcement and governance at all levels.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels (E/CN.18/2015/4)

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

The Forum, at its first session, in 2001, decided to develop and facilitate coordination and cooperation on various forest-related issues with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments. The report of the Secretary-General on this agenda item and the Information Document contain information about major activities related to enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forests, as well as the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in support of the work of the Forum since the last session of the Forum in Istanbul. This report also contains information about the Member States’ direct contribution to the work of the Forum through, *inter alia*, the organization of Country-Led Initiatives and the financing of relevant projects, together with the activities in celebration of the International Day of Forests.

**Documentation**

- Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination and regional and sub-regional inputs (E/CN.18/2015/5)
- Information Document: Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2013 and 2014 (E/CN.18/2015/7)

6. **Regional and subregional inputs**

Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, paragraph 2 (c) assigned the Forum several new principal functions, one of which was to strengthen interaction between the Forum and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum. In paragraph 11 of the same resolution, forest-related regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes were invited to strengthen their collaboration with and to provide input to the work of the Forum.

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One Secretary-General report deals jointly with items 5 and 6 of the agenda, on enhanced cooperation, policy and programme coordination, and regional and sub-regional inputs. This report contains inputs from regional and sub-regional organizations and processes and serves as the basis for discussions of the Forum on both agenda items 5 and 6.

**Documentation**

-Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination and regional and sub-regional inputs (E/CN.18/2015/5)

7. **Multi-stakeholder dialogue**

The Forum considers the participation of a wide range of forest stakeholders a key component of sustainable forest management and has incorporated multi-stakeholder dialogues, involving the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21, in its multi-year programme of work. At each session since its second session in 2002, the Forum has organized multi-stakeholder dialogues, which provided a platform for the exchange of ideas and information between Member States, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and major groups on the work of the Forum. The Secretariat maintains contact and holds frequent consultations with the focal points of major groups on the planning of the multi-stakeholder dialogues. The multi-stakeholder dialogue of the eleventh session will focus on seeking multi-stakeholder perspectives on the overall theme and themes of the eleventh session. The joint discussion paper submitted by various major groups will also contain the views of major groups on the future international arrangement on forests and, in particular, on the ways and means to enhance involvement of major groups in the work of the future international arrangement on forests.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2015/6) and its addenda, the joint discussion paper submitted by various major groups (E/CN.18/2015/6/Add1).

8. **High-level segment**

According to the multi-year programme of work for the Forum for the period 2007-2015, a high level ministerial segment should be convened during the eleventh session of the Forum. At this session, the Forum should decide on the future of the international arrangement on forests. This decision coincides with the efforts of the international community to devise the post-2015 development agenda with sustainable development goals at its core. This coincidence provides a unique opportunity for senior officials of Member States of the Forum to provide their vision on the integration of forests in the broader development agenda, as well as solid commitment to a strong international arrangement on forests beyond 2015. In this regard, the Bureau of the eleventh session recommended that the high level segment of the eleventh session be held on 13 and 14 May 2015 with the objective of adopting a ministerial declaration.

**Documentation**

-Report of the Secretary-General on: Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options (E/CN.18/2015/2)

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- Report of the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (E/CN.18/2015/10)

- Report of the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (E/CN.18/2015/9)

9. **Forum Trust Fund**

Pursuant to the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015, the Forum Secretariat is to report at each session on the operation of the Forum Trust Fund, including on the amount and source of contributions and a description of how funds have been expended.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the Trust Fund (E/CN.18/2015/8)

10. **Other matters**

The Forum may wish to consider any matters raised for discussion under this item.

11. **Adoption of the report of the Forum on its eleventh session**

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Forum shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session.