

Decision of the Forum brought to the attention of the Council

Decision 5/XX

(Note: needs a title)

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and the United Nations Forum on Forest's multi-year programme of work adopted in its resolution 1/1, in particular Section A, paragraph 4. (d) (i), (ii) & (iii);

1. *Decides* to **complete the consideration** at its sixth session of the above items outlined in its multi-year programme of work, based on the bracketed draft text developed in informal consultations during its fifth session, "Draft Chairman's Text – Thursday 26 May 2005 8:00 pm", as contained in the annex to the present decision.

ANNEX

Draft Chairman's Text – Thursday 26 May 2005 8:00 pm

[The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling and reaffirming its resolution 2000/35,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 57/270B,

Reaffirming its commitment to all the principles of the Rio Declaration, including *inter alia* those relating to the sovereign right of countries to use their own resources according to their policies on environment and development and to the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries; the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests and chapter 11 of Agenda 21 agreed at UNCED; relevant Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements; the IPF/IFF proposals for action; UNFF resolutions and decisions; the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, and the Monterrey Consensus,

Recognizing that forests are important to the social and economic well-being of present and future generations, as well as to the environment

Expressing concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation and the resulting adverse impact on the economy, on the livelihoods of at least a billion people,

and on the environment, and about the need for more effective implementation of sustainable forest management at all levels to address these critical challenges,

Recognizing the special needs and requirements of countries with fragile ecosystems, including those of low forest cover countries,

Emphasising concerns about the need for adequate financing, capacity building, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and good governance at all levels for effective implementation of SFM, particularly concerning the Least Developed Countries and countries emerging from conflict,

Recognising the need to strengthen the IAF to assure effective implementation of internationally agreed actions on SFM at all levels,

Re-emphasising the importance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) as the high level inter-governmental body on forests within the UN and the continued supporting role of the CPF, and the need for the UNFF to provide the CPF with clear guidance,

Further recognizing the need to strengthen the regional approach to establish linkages between the global high level policy forum and implementation at regional, sub-regional and national levels,

1. *Decides* to strengthen the IAF, within existing resources and through voluntary contributions, by the following:

2. *Agrees* that in addition to the main objective and the principal functions set out in the ECOSOC resolution 2000/35, the IAF should

- a. enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;
- b. maintain global forest resources and forest quality for the long term economic, social and environmental well being of all, and in particular those that depend directly on forests, including local and Indigenous communities;

[Global Goals] / [Global] Strategic Objectives

3. **[With a view to the achievement of [the overall Millennium Development Goals,] / [internationally agreed development goals, including those included in the Millennium Declaration]] [Further agrees [that all possible efforts should be made] [[no later than 2020]/[by 2015]] to achieve [no later than 2020]/[by 2015] the following shared global goals on forests/[.] [Demonstrable progress for the achievement of these goals should be made by 2015.] / [no later than 2020]/[by 2015] [upon]/[on] [which] [and make] demonstrable progress [to that end] [should be made] by [2011]/[2015]].**

Goal 1:

[Agreed-ad ref] Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation, and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.

Goal 2:

[Agreed-ad ref] Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits and the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, particularly with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.

Goal 3:

[Agreed-ad ref] Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and the area of sustainably managed forests and increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.

Goal 4:

[Agreed-ad ref] 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.

4. [Agreed-ad ref] Also agrees that countries, taking into account national sovereignty, practices and conditions, should make all efforts to contribute to the above global goals through the development or indication of voluntary national measures, policies, actions or specific goals;

4bis. [Agreed-ad ref] Encourages countries, on a voluntary basis, to submit periodically national reports to UNFF, beginning in 2007, on progress in their efforts made to contribute to the global goals in this Resolution, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of SFM;

Means of Implementation

5. *Urges* countries to make concerted efforts to secure high level political commitment and support to improve the means of implementation, especially in relation to finance, capacity building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies (in particular to support developing countries), in order to achieve sustainable forest management, taking in to account economic, social and environmental priorities and specificities at the country, sub-regional, and regional levels, by:

a) Reversing the decline in global ODA for forest-related activities and calling for the fulfilment of commitments to ODA;

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- b) Urging donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to increase voluntary contributions to the UNFF bis trust fund in order to achieve the objectives of the IAF;
- c) Mobilising and providing significant new and additional financial resources from all sources, for sustainable forest management to and in developing countries;
- d) Making SFM a higher priority through, inter alia, integrating NFPs or other national forest strategies into national planning strategies including Poverty Reduction Strategies where they exist;
- e) Supporting partnerships to mobilize financial resources for SFM;
- f) Fostering access where appropriate by households and communities to forest resources and markets;
- g) Creating a Global Forest Fund through new and additional financial resources on a voluntary basis;

OR

- g) alt Creating a Global Forest Fund as part of the UNFF Trust Fund

OR

- g) alt2 Inviting the governing body of the NFP facility hosted by FAO to establish a fund to support national actions to implement SFM;

- g) alt2 bis Also inviting the governing body of the programme of forests (PROFOR) hosted by the World Bank to establish a fund to facilitate collaborative work among CPF members at global and regional levels;

- g) alt2 ter Urging countries to contribute to the NFP facility and PROFOR for these specific purposes as mentioned in para 1 and 2;

- h) Inviting (the GEF Council at its 25th session to consider the establishment of a new operational programme on forests (with sufficient additional funds to be allocated by the current replenishment negotiations without prejudice to other operational programmes;

OR

- h) alt Inviting the GEF Council to explore ways to give greater consideration to SFM within the relevant GEF operational programmes, including by utilizing the full range of forest related international organizations, such as FAO and ITTO, as implementing and executing agencies where appropriate;

- i) Inviting the international and regional financial and development institutions to channel additional resources to developing countries to finance SFM;

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- j) Promoting international cooperation including South-South and triangular cooperation;
- k) Creating an effective enabling environment for private sector investment for sustainable forest management;
- l) Creating an enabling environment for the involvement of and investment by local communities and forest users in SFM;
- m) Further developing at the national, regional, inter-regional and international level innovative financial mechanisms for generating revenue
- n) Supporting the diversification of sources of income of people living in and around forest areas.

6. *Urges* countries to make concerted efforts to secure high-level political commitment and support to improve the means of implementation, especially in relation to finance, capacity building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, considering a holistic approach to local and traditional technologies, in order to achieve sustainable forest management, by:

- a. Providing greater support to scientific and technological innovations for SFM, including those relating to the improvement in SFM by local communities;
- b. Enhancing the capacity of countries to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed sources;
- c. Integrating national forest programmes into national strategies for sustainable development, national action plans under MEAs and, where appropriate, into poverty reduction strategies;
- d. Promoting international cooperation (including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation);
- e. Promoting a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries to better address the problems of forest degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade;
- f. Making effective use of existing resources including promotion of synergistic effects through mobilization and coordination of bi-lateral, multi-lateral and unilateral resources;

- g. Establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships and programs with all Major Groups to pursue SFM objectives as well as to enhance the contribution of forests to internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;
- h. Promoting the active participation of Indigenous Peoples, women and other forest-dependent groups in the development and implementation of policies and programmes that affect them;
- i. Promoting the effective protection and use of traditional knowledge and best practices in SFM;
- j. Promoting improved forest practices through strengthening sustainable forest management standards;
- k. Enforcing forest legislation and promoting law enforcement and governance;

Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral, policy and programme coordination

7. *Also decides to:*

- a. Facilitate improved implementation through clustering and simplifying the language of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action as well as by promoting greater understanding of the intent of these proposals by countries and all stakeholders;
- b. Promote research and development of forests by means of a network of established institutes of excellence in all regions of the world, especially in developing countries;
- c. Establish a clearing-house mechanism to facilitate a better exchange of experiences and good practices and to facilitate the access by developing countries to better technology for sustainable forest management and an increase of *in-situ* added value for forest products;
- d. Enhance UN system wide coordination and promote the forest agenda of the UN in an integrated and coordinated manner, setting it within the overall UN agenda;

8. *Invites* the relevant Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements, instruments, processes and UN bodies to improve collaboration through the IAF as the key inter-governmental mechanism to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels;

Working Modalities

9. *Decides* that [UNFF], [as a subsidiary body to ECOSOC], shall operate on the basis of a MYPOW **to be adopted at its first meeting at the global level in 2007**[to be

established during the first session] **[in the context of the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management and international cooperation and trade, ... global goals...]**, with two-year cycles for the period 200[6]8-[2015], with the Forum meeting [annually/every two years **at the global level**];

10. *Agrees* that the Forum shall hold regional sessions every alternate year to **address issues identified in the MYPOW, including through** assessing implementation and progress at the [[global/] regional level] and **providing** guidance for further action;

11. *Decides* that these sessions be organised in cooperation with the **UN Regional Commissions as well as** existing regional processes, **including those within the CPF and others** [such as the UN Regional Economic and Social Commissions and the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions,] to ensure complementarity and [non-] **avoid duplication and that the outcomes of the regional sessions be reported to the global meetings of the UNFF and, as appropriate, to the ECOSOC;**

11alt. Requests UNFF to organize, with the support of the five UN Regional Economic and Social Commissions, [to host] / [organize] within the policy framework and over-all coordination of the UNFF, in consultation with the UNFF Secretariat, regional meetings of the UNFF every two years and invites FAO, through its Regional Forestry Commissions, and relevant regional and sub-regional organizations and processes to actively participate in, support, and, where feasible, co-host these meetings. These regional meetings should:

- a. **Address issues identified in the MYPOW, particularly through the exchange of information and experiences;**
- b. **Report to UNFF meetings at the global level and to ECOSOC, as appropriate;**
- c. **Open to CPF members and Major Groups;**
- d. **Involve other relevant sub-regional, regional and international organizations and processes;**
- e. **Supported by the UNFF Secretariat;**
- f. **Financed through the UN regular budget by the reallocation of funds saved by reducing the frequency and duration of UNFF global meetings;**
- g. **Complimentary to and avoid duplication of existing processes;**

These regional meetings should take advantage of existing regional meetings and processes to avoid duplication and fragmentation;

11bis. Decides that until the regional sessions are designed and fully established, the Forum will continue meeting annually from 2006-2008. In its 2008 session, UNFF will decide whether to adopt the two-year cycle;

12. *Decides* that the Forum should continue to support the full and effective participation of developing countries;

13. *Decides* that the Forum, with the support of the CPF members, will further develop and harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting, framed by the thematic elements for SFM, through processes that are perceived as worthwhile and relevant to the needs of countries, and invites countries to provide input for these processes;

14. *Decides* that the effectiveness of the IAF should be reviewed again in 2015;

15. *Decides* to strengthen the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfil its function;

16. *(Trust funds)*

17. *Decides* that the UNFF will continue to provide clear guidance to the CPF;

18. *Urges* member States to send consistent messages to governing bodies of CPF members so that CPF:

- a. A mandate to develop joint action plans;
- b. Coordinates the work of its members in line with political recommendations of the Forum in order to more effectively promote sustainable forest management;
- c. Prepares a consistent work program including deliverables and a budget that supports the implementation of the UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work;

19. *Invites* CPF to engage in a more proactive process by:

- a. Increasing the transparency of its operations by involving Major Groups in planning and implementation of CPF activities, including through partnerships;
- b. Strengthening their contribution to activities at the regional level;
- c. Providing analysis of global trends, gaps and policy implications drawn from the reports given by countries to the CPF member organizations;

20. *Also invites* CPF members to continue to strengthen the Tehran process in developing and implementing strategies on conservation and rehabilitation of forests in low forest cover countries;

21. *(CPF funding/seed fund)*

Legal framework

22. *Recognizes* that the option of the legally binding instrument on all types of forests could be considered among other possibilities in the future review of the IAF in 2015;

Voluntary Code/Guidelines/International Understanding

23. *Decides* that, by 2007, the Forum will develop a voluntary code/guidelines/international understanding on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest according to the terms of reference set out in Annex X to this resolution;

Declaration and Message

29. *Decides* to submit Ministerial Declaration of the fifth session of the UNFF to the high level plenary meeting of the 60th session of the General Assembly on the crucial contributions that forests can make to the realization of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in accordance with ECOSOC decision 2004/44;

30. *Decides* that without prejudice to the status of and the principles established by ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35 the present Resolution will supplement it.]

[Annex X

Terms of reference for developing a voluntary code/guidelines/international understanding on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest

Purpose: The purpose is to articulate international forest related agreements on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest sustainable forest management and to help achieve the goals decided upon by UNFF5.

Process: The process of developing the voluntary code/guidelines/international understanding will be integrated into the future MYPOW of the Forum.

Possible Topics to be included: Title and purpose; reaffirmation of existing agreements; relationships with other international instruments; cooperation; implementation; monitoring and reporting; provision for review.]

Draft decision for adoption by the Council

The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fifth session and provisional agenda for its sixth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2000/35;

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fifth session;
2. *Acknowledges* in particular **the need to consider forest issues for** the preparation of the input of the Economic and Social Council to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly;
3. *Notes* that the United Nations Forum on Forests will continue its examination of its methods of work, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, through the implementation of decision 5/XX of the fifth session of UNFF;
4. *Decides* to hold the sixth session of UNFF **from 13 to 24 February 2006** in New York;
5. *Decides that* UNFF, at its 6th session, **should consider the venue and dates of the seventh session of UNFF;**
6. *Decides that* UNFF, at its 6th session, **should ensure the opportunity to receive and consider inputs from representatives of major groups as identified in Agenda 21; and in this regard, that the Bureau should provide the opportunity for the major groups as a priority to hold side events during UNFF6 to permit them to present their point of view on the issues to be addressed during the session;**
6. *Approves* the provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Forum as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. Election of officers.

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2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
 3. Implementation of decision 5/XX of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.
 4. Date and venue for the seventh session of the Forum.
 5. Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Forum.
 6. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its sixth session.
7. *Calls upon* interested donors to make voluntary financial contributions to the UNFF trust fund in order to facilitate, in particular, travel of representatives from developing countries, with priority to the least developed countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, **taking into account General Assembly decision 58/554.**