



United Nations

United Nations Forum on Forests

**Report of the sixth session
(27 May 2005 and 13 to 24 February 2006)**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2006
Supplement No. 22**

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

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

Outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling and reaffirming its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003,

Further recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Reaffirming its commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, *inter-alia* that states have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principle of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries as set out in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests; chapter 11 of Agenda 21; the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests Proposals for Action; resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests; the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for

Development, and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the existing international legally binding instruments relevant to forests,

Also recognizing the importance of the multiple economic, social and environmental benefits derived from goods and services provided by forests and trees outside forests,

Emphasizing that sustainable forest management can contribute significantly to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

Expressing concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the slow rate of afforestation and forest cover recovery and reforestation, and the resulting adverse impact on economies, the environment, including biological diversity, the livelihoods of at least a billion people and their cultural heritage, and emphasizing 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 forest ecosystems, including those of low forest cover countries,

Emphasizing that effective implementation of sustainable forest management is critically dependant upon adequate resources, including finance, capacity development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and recognizing in particular the need to mobilize increased financial resources, including from innovative sources, for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, as well as countries with economies in transition,

Also recognizing the important contribution of voluntary public-private partnerships¹ and private sector initiatives at all levels to achieve effective

¹ General Assembly Resolution A/Res/60/215 entitled “Toward Global Partnerships”

implementation of sustainable forest management and support national strategies, plans and priorities related to forests,

Further recognizing the need to strengthen political commitment and collective efforts at all levels, and to include forests on national and international development agendas, enhance national policy coordination and international cooperation, and promote inter-sectoral coordination at all levels, for the effective implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests,

Welcoming the accomplishments of the international arrangement on forests since its inception, including the joint initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests,

Re-emphasizing the importance of the United Nations Forum on Forests as an intergovernmental body on forests within the United Nations and the continued supporting role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and the need for the Forum to continue to provide the Partnership with clear guidance,

Recognizing the need to strengthen interaction between the global forest policy dialogue and regional and sub-regional level processes,

1. *Decides* to strengthen the international arrangement on forests, by the following;

2. *Agrees* that to achieve its main objective as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the international arrangement on forests will perform the following additional principal functions:

(a) Enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to the implementation of the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

(b) Encourage and assist countries, including those with low forest cover, to develop and implement forest conservation and rehabilitation strategies, increase the area of forests under sustainable management, and reduce forest

degradation and the loss of forest cover, in order to maintain and improve their forest resources with a view to enhancing the benefits of forests to meet present and future needs, particularly the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, whose livelihoods depend on forests;

(c) Strengthen interaction between the United Nations Forum on Forests and relevant regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes, with participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21 and relevant stakeholders to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum.

Global objectives on forests

3. *With a view to achieving* the main objective of the international arrangement on forests, and to enhancing the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, and in this regard, emphasizing the importance of political commitment and action at all levels for effective implementation of the sustainable management of all types of forests, sets the following shared global objectives on forests and agrees to work globally and nationally and to make progress toward their achievement by 2015;

Global Objective 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;

Global Objective 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;

Global Objective 3

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, and increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

Global Objective 4

Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

4. *Further agrees* that countries, taking into account national sovereignty, practices and conditions, should make all efforts to contribute to the above global objectives through the development or indication of voluntary national measures, policies, actions or specific goals;

Means of implementation

5. *Urges* countries to make concerted efforts to secure sustained high-level political commitment to strengthen the means of implementation, including financial resources, to provide support in particular for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states, as well as countries with economies in transition in order to achieve the global objectives and to promote sustainable forest management by:

(a) *Reversing* the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management;

(b) *Mobilizing and providing* significant new and additional resources for sustainable forest management from private, public, domestic and international sources to and in developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, as well as countries with economies in transition;

(c) *Strengthening*, through new and additional financial resources, provided on a voluntary basis, existing forest related funds hosted by Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, including the National Forest Programme Facility, Program on Forests, and the Bali Partnership Fund, to

support national forest programmes and national actions aimed at implementing sustainable forest management as well as integrating forest issues in national development programmes, and where appropriate, poverty reduction strategies;

(d) *Inviting* the governing bodies of the National Forest Programme Facility, Program on Forests and the Bali Partnership Fund, to enhance their contribution to sustainable forest management and the achievement of the global objectives by effectively managing and coordinating among themselves to facilitate access to the funds by developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, as appropriate;

(e) *Assessing and reviewing* the current funding mechanisms as well as, if appropriate, *inter alia*, the possibility of having a voluntary global funding mechanism as a contribution towards achieving the global objectives and implementing sustainable forest management;

(f) *Inviting* Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, in particular the World Bank, as host of PROFOR, to maintain and enhance support to analytical work and knowledge generation and to develop new tools and approaches to key issues within the forest sector, in particular those relevant to the global objectives, in order to support developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in accessing additional national and international funding;

(g) *Welcoming* the on-going Global Environment Facility work to clarify its focal area strategies and operational programs and, in this context, invites the Global Environment Facility Council to fully consider the potential for strengthened Global Environment Facility support for sustainable forest management, including the option to establish a separate operational programme on forests, without prejudicing other operational programmes;

(h) *Inviting* the governing bodies of international financial institutions, development agencies and regional banks to consider ways to generate and facilitate access to resources, and to respond to requests from developing countries to finance forest-related activities;

(i) *Creating* an effective enabling environment for investment in sustainable forest management, including to avoid the loss of forest cover and forest degradation and to support reforestation, afforestation and forest restoration;

(j) *Creating* an enabling environment for the involvement of and investment by local communities and other forest users in sustainable forest management;

(k) *Further developing* innovative financial mechanisms for generating revenue to support sustainable forest management;

(l) *Encouraging* the development of mechanisms which may include systems for attributing proper value, as appropriate, to the benefits derived from goods and services provided by forests and trees outside forests, consistent with relevant national legislation and policies;

(m) *Fostering* access, where appropriate, by households and communities to forest resources and markets;

(n) *Supporting* livelihoods and income diversification from forest products and services for small scale forest owners, indigenous peoples, including forest-dependent local communities and poor people living in and around forest areas, consistent with sustainable forest management objectives;

6. *Urges* countries to make concerted efforts to develop and implement national forest programmes, policies and strategies, as appropriate, in order to achieve the global objectives set out in this resolution and to promote sustainable forest management, through capacity building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including traditional technologies, and taking into account economic, social and environmental priorities specific to countries by:

(a) *Providing* greater support to scientific and technological innovations for sustainable forest management, including innovations that help local communities undertake sustainable forest management;

(b) *Enhancing* the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

(c) *Integrating* national forest programmes or other forest strategies into national strategies for sustainable development, relevant national action plans and, where appropriate, into poverty reduction strategies;

(d) *Promoting* international cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;

(e) *Promoting* the active participation and empowerment of all forest related stakeholders, especially local and forest-dependent communities, indigenous peoples, women and small scale private forest owners and forest workers, in the development and implementation of sustainable forest management policies and programmes;

(f) *Strengthening* of mechanisms that enhance sharing and use of best practices in sustainable forest management;

(g) *Strengthening* the capacity of countries to address illegal practices according to national legislation and illegal international trade in forest products in the forest sector, through the promotion of forest law enforcement and governance at the national level, sub-national level, regional and sub-regional levels, as appropriate;

(h) *Encouraging* the private sector, including timber processors, exporters, and importers, as well as civil society organizations, to develop, promote and implement voluntary instruments, in order to adopt good business practices and to improve market transparency;

Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination

7. *Encourages* countries to enhance cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination in order to achieve the global objectives set out in this resolution and to promote sustainable forest management by:

(a) *Facilitating* implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests Proposals for Action through clustering and further simplifying of the language, as needed, taking into account existing work, and through promoting greater stakeholder understanding of the intent of these proposals;

(b) *Strengthening* forest education and research and development through global, regional and sub-regional networks, as well as relevant organizations, institutions and centres of excellence in all regions of the world, particularly in developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition;

(c) *Strengthening* cooperation and partnerships at the regional level, as needed, to:

(i) increase political, financial and technical support and capacity;

(ii) develop regional strategies and plans for implementation;

(iii) collaborate on implementation activities; and

(iv) exchange experiences and lessons learned;

(d) *Establishing* or strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships and programmes;

8. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to enhance cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination by *promoting* the exchange of forest management-related experiences and good practices, and considering the feasibility of serving as a clearing-house to facilitate the access by developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to better technology for sustainable forest management;

9. *Invites* the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, instruments, processes and United Nations bodies to improve collaboration and cooperation with the international arrangement on forests;

Working modalities

10. *Decides* that, following its seventh session in 2007, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall meet biennially for a period of up to two weeks on the basis of a focused Multi-Year Programme of Work to be adopted by the Forum at its seventh session;

11. *Invites* forest-related regional and sub-regional bodies, mechanisms and processes, in coordination with the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, as appropriate, to strengthen collaboration and to provide input to the work of the Forum by:

(a) *Raising* awareness of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests at the regional and sub-regional levels;

(b) *Addressing* topics identified in the Multi-Year Programme of Work, with a view to sharing with the United Nations Forum on Forests regional and sub-regional perspectives on these topics;

(c) *Encouraging* participation of interested United Nations Forum on Forests members, especially from within the region, as well as Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, relevant regional organizations and major groups;

12. *Decides* also that the United Nations Forum on Forests will seek to strengthen interaction with major groups and other forest stakeholders in meetings of the Forum;

13. *Recommends* that country-led initiatives address issues identified in the Multi-Year Programme of Work for a given cycle;

14. *Emphasizes* that ad hoc expert groups, as referred to in paragraph 4(k) of Economic and Social Council Resolution 2000/35, could be convened to address issues identified in the multi-year programme of work;

15. *Stresses* that the United Nations Forum on Forests should consider inputs from forest-related regional and sub-regional bodies, mechanisms and processes and from country-led initiatives, as well as from major groups;

16. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations Forum on Forests should continue to support participants from developing countries, with priority to the least developed countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, in accordance with General Assembly decision 58/554;

17. *Decides* to consider ways of strengthening the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests within existing resources, as well as through increased voluntary extra-budgetary resources to enable it to fulfil its function more effectively, bearing in mind paragraph 163b of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document;

18. *Calls upon* interested donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations to make voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Forum on Forests Trust Fund; and urges other countries in the position to do so, and other interested parties to contribute to the Trust Fund;

Monitoring, assessment and reporting

19. *Agrees* that countries should, on a voluntary basis, submit national reports to the United Nations Forum on Forests, in accordance with a timetable established by the Forum, on progress in implementing national measures, policies, actions or specific objectives towards achieving the global objectives set out in this resolution, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management;

20. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations in collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests to further harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account, the seven thematic elements for sustainable forest management, with a view to reducing the reporting burden on countries;

21. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to report in a consolidated manner to the United Nations Forum on Forests on its initiatives and activities, including progress on the means of implementation, in support of the work of the Forum;

Collaborative Partnership on Forests

22. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations Forum on Forests will provide guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and *invites* Collaborative Partnership on Forests members:

(a) *to strengthen* their collaboration and coordination on forest issues in order to foster progress towards sustainable forest management at the global, regional and national levels;

(b) *to continue* and further *develop*, its ongoing initiatives on monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest resources, on streamlining national forest reporting, on the sourcebook on funding for sustainable forest management, on harmonizing forest-related definitions and on the Global Forest Information Service;

(c) *to translate* relevant policy recommendations of the United Nations Forum on Forests into their work programmes;

(d) *to explore* ways to involve major groups in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests activities and to strengthen the Partnership's contribution to activities at the regional level;

(e) *to provide* if requested by the United Nations Forum on Forests, an assessment of scientific knowledge-based actions needed to achieve sustainable forest management and the global objectives at all levels;

(f) *to continue* to strengthen the Tehran Process, consistent with their mandates and programmes of work, through developing and implementing strategies on conservation and rehabilitation of forests in low forest cover countries;

23. *Welcomes* the joint initiative by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the Center for International Forestry Research, and the International Center for Research in Agroforestry, in collaboration with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, on science and technology in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests by assessing available information and producing reports on forests related issues of high concern to the Forum;

24. *Urges* states members of the governing bodies of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations to help ensure that the forest-related priorities and programmes of Partnership members are integrated and mutually supportive, consistent with their mandates;

25. *Urges* countries and parties interested in the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support joint initiatives of the Partnership by making voluntary financial contributions to the respective lead organizations of the Partnership, as appropriate;

Non-legally binding instrument

26. *Emphasizes* the importance of strengthening political commitment and action at all levels to implement effectively the sustainable management of all types of forests and to achieve the global objectives set out in this resolution, by requesting the United Nations Forum on Forests to conclude and adopt at its seventh session a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. In order to facilitate the work of the Forum in this regard:

(a) *Requests* the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat to circulate to the Member States by 31 July 2006 a compilation of the draft indicative elements and other proposals submitted by members during the sixth session, which are contained in the annex to the present resolution, as well as any further proposals submitted by members by 30 June 2006;

(b) *Invites* the Member States to provide comments on the compilation circulated by the Forum Secretariat by 31 August 2006, and requests the Secretariat to circulate these comments to the Member States;

(c) *Decides* that the United Nations Forum on Forests should, within its existing resources, convene an open-ended ad-hoc working group for up to five days to consider the content of the non-legally binding instrument to assist the Forum in its deliberations, drawing on the compilation and comments referred to in (a) and (b) above. The group should be convened in due time to allow its outputs to be made available in all languages before the seventh session of the Forum. The group should be open to all Member States, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and representatives of major groups;

(d) *Invites* the Members States to consider sponsoring country-led initiatives to contribute to the United Nations Forum on Forest's work, emphasizing that such initiatives should be open to and facilitate participation by all members of the Forum, as well as members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and representatives of major groups;

(e) *Invites* Member States to contribute to the United Nations Forum on Forests Trust Fund in support of (c) and (d) above;

27. *Decides* that the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests will be reviewed in 2015 and on this basis a full range of options will be considered, including, *inter alia*, a legally binding instrument on all types of forests, strengthening the current arrangement, continuation of the current arrangement and other options;

Input to the Commission on Sustainable Development

28. *Decides* that the United Nations Forum on Forests should contribute relevant input, as appropriate, to the 2012 – 2013 cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Annex

Elements or proposals for a non-legally-binding instrument on forests

1. AFRICAN GROUP PROPOSAL

Elements of a voluntary code /guidelines /international understanding

1. Enhanced capacity building mechanisms
2. Recognition of the global importance of forests
3. Must facilitate or attract strong political support
4. Must build on strengthening sub-regional initiatives
5. Must provide for technological transfer as a means for achievement of SFM
6. Must address the three elements (social, environmental and economic) of SFM
7. Should include reference to the role of Major Groups
8. Should accommodate regional nuances and variations
9. Should have appropriate institutional arrangements for implementation, including strengthening the role of the CPF
10. Clear funding mechanisms to ensure that implementation is facilitated in developing countries
11. Effective institutional arrangements and working modalities
12. Enhanced international co-operation and assistance

2. AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL

Potential elements of a voluntary international instrument to support sustainable forest management

Summary

1. Purpose and preamble

Including explanation of context and relationship to other instruments

2. Adoption / endorsement

3. Principles and definitions

4. Strategic objectives / goals

Including reference to agreed international standards and objectives for SFM

5. National policies

Policies and strategies which are relevant to, and adopted by, the participant country

Including special requirements for developing countries / economies in transition; cross sectoral co-ordination; research

6. Means of implementation and modalities

Including financial arrangements; international and regional co-operation; capacity building; transfer of environmentally sound technologies; involvement of major groups and relevant stakeholders

Assumes institutional arrangements and governance are covered in the relevant ECOSOC resolution

7. Process for assessment / monitoring / reporting

8. Process for information exchange / cooperation / peer review

9. Mechanism to review future effectiveness / renewal of the instrument

3. BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL

International understanding on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Reaffirming the relevance of the forest-related commitments made in the Agenda 21, in the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, and in the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation;

Reaffirming the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals within their timeframe and concerned that some countries may not be in a position to do so in view of lack of adequate financial and technical resources;

Reaffirming the Principles of the Declaration of Rio on Environment and Development, in particular those relating to the sovereign right of Countries to take advantage of their own resources according to their policies on environment and development as well as to the common but differentiated responsibilities of the Countries, based on their historical contribution toward the degradation of the global environment;

Reaffirming also the decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the proposals for action identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), and welcoming ongoing efforts to implement such actions;

Reaffirming ECOSOC resolution 2000/35 that states that the main objective of the international arrangement on forests is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long term political commitment to this end. The purpose of such an international arrangement would be to promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests, at the national, regional and global levels, to provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development, and to carry out principal

functions, based on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles), Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the Proposals for Action adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, in a manner consistent with and complementary to existing international legally binding instruments relevant to forests;

Expressing concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation and its adverse impact on the livelihoods of over a billion people (including many of the poorest and most vulnerable), and about the need for more effective implementation of actions to facilitate the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;

Reaffirming that the UNFF with the assistance of the CPF as the key inter-governmental mechanisms to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of SFM at the national, regional and global levels, and stressing the importance of their appropriate strengthening;

Recognising that the implementation of policies and measures to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests requires significant technical and institutional capacities and substantive investments;

Noting that sufficient new and additional financial resources have yet to be channelled to support national policies and programmes aimed at the conservation, management and sustainable development of forests;

Convinced that policies and measures adopted at global, regional, sub-regional and national levels should enhance the capacity of countries to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed sources;

Aware that States should cooperate to promote 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 environmental degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes

should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade;

Reaffirming the special needs and requirements of low forest covered countries and other countries with fragile ecosystems.

1. *Decides* to adopt the following International Understanding on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (referred below as “Understanding”) as a voluntary instrument to enhance international cooperation and to support national, regional and sub regional policies and measures, within the International Arrangement of Forests and the mandate of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF);

2. *Decides* that the International Understanding on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests is based on the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests;

3. *Recognizes* in the implementation of the Understanding that:

(a) Each country is responsible for the conservation and sustainable management of its forests and for the enforcement of its forest laws which is essential to achieving sustainable forest management;

(b) International cooperation plays a crucial and catalytic role in reinforcing the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve the management of their forests;

(c) The private sector, forest owners, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders can contribute to achieving sustainable forest management and should be involved in a transparent and participatory way in forest decision-making that affects them.

Strategic Objectives

4. *Agrees* on the following strategic objectives to be achieved through the implementation of the Understanding:

- (i) Increase significantly the area of protected and sustainably managed forests and reverse the loss of forest cover around the world.
- (ii) Eradicate poverty in forest areas and improve the quality of life in forest dependent communities through social and economic policies and measures and sustainable forest management;
- (iii) Reversing the decline in ODA allocated to forest related activities and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources to the implementation of sustainable forest management.
- (iv) Consistently increase the economic value and market share, including for export, of forest products originated from sustainably managed forests and their associated environmental functions;

Policies & Measures

5. *Resolves* that the following actions should be developed at global, regional and sub-regional levels to achieve the above mentioned strategic objectives:

(a) Initiate or strengthen public-private partnerships with the private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to promote implementation of national forest programs, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, good business practices and improved market transparency;

(b) Promote research and development of forests, by means of a network of established centres of excellence, in all regions of the world, especially in developing countries;

(c) Promote international cooperation, including south-south cooperation, and the participation of local communities;

(d) Promote long-term political commitments, and strengthen existing commitments, which would allow countries to adopt concrete actions in institutional, economic and social fields, for the integration of conservation and sustainable forest management, within national development policies;

6. *Resolves* that the following actions should be developed at national level to achieve the above mentioned strategic objectives:

(a) Formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national programmes containing measures to support and increase sustainable forest management and to combat deforestation;

(b) Establish and make public national goals related to the objectives (i) to (iv) established on paragraph 4 of this Understanding.

(c) Develop, periodically update and make available to UNFF national reports on actions and instruments adopted to achieve the strategic objectives of this Understanding, using comparable methodologies to be agreed upon by the UNFF and taking into account reports required by other multilateral environmental agreements;

(d) Countries should seek, through the respective governing bodies of CPF members, to ensure that their forest-related programs are consistent with the priorities and are supportive of the actions adopted to implement the Understanding;

(e) Include forests in national poverty reduction strategies and, as appropriate, in strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to carry out the actions agreed upon in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with a view to mobilising new and additional financial resources for sustainable forest management.

(f) Integrate conservation and sustainable forest management within national development policies.

Means of Implementation

7. *Decides* to develop the following means of implementation:

(a) Secure high level political commitment and support to provide financial and technical resources to meet the strategic objectives of this resolution, including by the establishment a Global Forest Fund with the aim of

providing specific financial resources for achieving the objectives of this Understanding;

(b) 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 a sustainable forest management and an increase of in situ added value for forest products;

(c) Promote the transfer of technology to and capacity building in developing countries to enable them to implement national policies and measures aimed at reversing the loss of forest cover in their territories as well as significantly increase the area of protected and sustainably managed forests;

(d) Invite the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to strengthen its role in implementing SFM by establishing a new operational programme on forests with sufficient additional funds to be allocated by the current replenishment negotiations without prejudice to other operational programmes.

Institutional modalities

8. *Decides* that the Proposals for Action adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) should be fully taken into account in the development of the actions referred to in paragraph 4 above.

9. *Decides* that the UNFF should meet regularly every two years to assess the implementation of this Understanding, review national reports, the provision of financial resources the adequacy of the modalities for transfer of technology and to provide guidance for further action to achieve the objectives established above.

10. *Decides* that regional and sub-regional meetings should be held at least every two years to discuss practical steps at that level for the implementation of this Understanding. Such meetings should be conducted by regional or sub-regional organisations mandated by their member states and acknowledged by the

UNFF. Such meetings will be prepared jointly by the designated organizations and the UNFF Secretariat.

11. *Decides* that the Forum should continue to encourage and facilitate the participation of stakeholders from all major groups in its work, in an open and transparent way.

12. *Decides* that the Forum should agree on a multiyear programme of work 2006-2015 and the strengthening of the secretariat to fulfil its mandate.

13. *Decides* the Forum should review in 2015 the progress achieved in international cooperation for the conservation, management and sustainable development of all types of forests and consider ways for further strengthening the international arrangement on forests, taking into account the IPF/IFF proposals for action as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35.

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4. CANADIAN PROPOSAL

Possible elements of an international convention on forests

An IFC should build on the many recommendations produced by the international dialogue of the past 15 years and, at a minimum, should:

(1) Establish the overarching objectives, fundamental principles and definitions that would provide a common understanding of sustainable forest management;

(2) Specify the obligations that Parties would undertake to implement SFM , for example:

- maintain a national forest estate as a percentage of total area
- complete, review and update forest inventories
- develop national frameworks of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management
- develop and implement national forest programs
- integrate traditional forest-related knowledge into forest management
- safeguard forests as appropriate from fire, insects, diseases, pollution and alien species
- apply management plans
- complete networks of protected areas
- strengthen transparent forest concession allocation systems
- require environmental impact assessments for projects with likely adverse effects
- ensure the participation of stakeholders in forest policy decisions

- encourage industry to develop and use voluntary codes going beyond national legislation
- support the development of certification schemes that reflect "essential" principles
- promote research, capacity building, education and public awareness

(3) Promote cooperation among Parties and between Parties and international organizations (e.g., through agreements);

(4) Consider enhanced access to public and private financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition meet their obligations (likely a new Forest Fund);

(5) Establish a compliance regime and dispute settlement process;

(6) Create a permanent governance body with the power to monitor, periodically review and recommend approaches to strengthen the effectiveness of the convention, and advance implementation through establishment of subsidiary bodies and actions such as work programs;

(7) Establish a secretariat to provide coordination;

(8) Create a structure to enable periodic monitoring and reporting on global and regional progress in achieving SFM as well as peer reviews;

(9) Define its relationship to other international legally binding forest-related agreements.

5. EUROPEAN UNION PROPOSAL

PART A: Strengthening of the International Arrangement on Forests

- Preambular paragraphs, including reaffirmation of ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35, reference to CSD 2012/2013
- Global Goals and National Commitments
- Text on MYPOW, including prioritization of implementation and emerging issues
- Means of implementation
- Invitation to UNFF Secretariat, with support of CPF members, to develop Terms of Reference for country reports
- Text on UNFF Secretariat
- Text on Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including on joint CPF Initiatives (such as continued work on streamlining forest-related reporting) and on monitoring, assessment and reporting on sustainable forest management (reference to criteria and indicators for SFM)
- Text on working modalities (periodicity, location, regionalization of IAF meetings)
- Text on interim review (2011) and review (2015), including consideration of the establishment of a legally-binding instrument on all types of forests at the latest in the context of the review in 2015
- Discontinuation

PART B: Draft international instrument on all types of forests

Preamble

The [Subscribing] States²,

- Reconfirmation of Rio Declaration, Forest Principles and IPF/IFF proposals for action;
- Recognition of valuable contributions of IPF, IFF, UNFF and CPF towards building consensus on forest policy and sustainable forest management;
- Reconfirmation of UNCED, WSSD, MDGs; and the 2005 World Summit Outcome;
- Underscoring of multiple economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits provided by forests;
- Emphasis on contribution of SFM to sustainable development and to achieving MDGs;
- Expression of concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation;
- Affirmation that the sustainable management of forests is a common concern of humankind;
- Recognition of contribution of regional processes;
- Recognition that the shared global goals are mutually supportive and intersect with the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management;
- Desire to enhance and complement existing international arrangements for the sustainable management of forests;
- Determination to sustainable forest management for the benefit of present and future generations;

² For the European Union, the added value of subscription depends on the level of adherence to and the contents of the international instrument on all types of forests, and on negotiations within the UNFF-6.

Have agreed as follows:

I. Purpose

I.1 Purpose of the international instrument on all types of forests is to:

- strengthen the implementation function of the ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35
- strengthen the long-term commitment to sustainable forest management
- achieve the global goals

II. Use of terms

II.1 Definition of terms used for the purposes of this international instrument, including:

- States
- Regional economic integration organizations
- Collaborative Partnership on Forests
- Forests

III. Principles

III.1 Principles should include:

- National sovereignty over and responsibility for forests
- Common, but differentiated responsibilities
- Role of international cooperation in supporting national efforts
- Recognize importance of forest governance
- Recognize role and contribution of private sector and stakeholders

- Recognize importance of partnerships

IV. Global goals and national commitments

IV.1 With a view to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, [Subscribing] States agree to achieve by 2015 the following shared global goals on forests:

Goal 1

[agreed ad ref.] Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, 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, in particular 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 official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

IV.2 [Subscribing] States agree to develop national targets contributing to the achievement of the global goals.

V. National measures

V.1 In order to achieve SFM and the global goals and meet the related national commitments, [Subscribing] States shall:

(a) develop, further elaborate, where appropriate, and implement national forest programmes or other forest strategies;

(b) integrate national forest programmes or other forest strategies into national strategies for sustainable development, national action plans in relation to multilateral environmental agreements and, where appropriate, into poverty reduction strategies;

VI. Strengthening of coordination and international cooperation

VI.1 [Subscribing] States to cooperate, at the regional and global level, with other [Subscribing] States, directly or, where appropriate, through competent international organizations, on matters of mutual interest, for SFM and the achievement of the global goals

VI.2 [Subscribing] States to promote cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination

VI.3 [Subscribing] States to involve stakeholders in a transparent and participatory manner in forest decision-making

VII. Monitoring, assessment, reporting, and multilateral consultative process

VII.1 [Subscribing] States to monitor on contribution to global goals and achievement of national targets, and implementation of national forest programmes and other forest strategies, and report to UNFF

VII.2 Development of Terms of Reference for country reports

VII.3 Establishment of a process for facilitation, peer review and dialogue

VIII. Institutional modalities

United Nations Forum on Forests / [Subscribing] States

VIII.1 The UNFF to monitor the implementation of this international instrument, including through monitoring of:

- mobilization of resources
- CPF activities related to the international instrument
- cooperation with other forest-related international processes
- forest law enforcement, governance and trade

VIII.2 To identify forest-related priorities

VIII.3 To consider and adopt amendments to this international instrument;

VIII.4 To consider and undertake any additional action at the international level that may be required for the achievement of the global goals of this international instrument in the light of experience gained.

Regional Co-operation

VIII.5 Work with existing regional bodies related with forests or FAO as Chair of the CPF, through its Regional Forestry Commissions, to

- (a) facilitate and strengthen regional cooperation and close collaboration with relevant regional and sub-regional organizations and processes and through building regional partnerships
- (b) be complementary to and avoid duplication of existing processes
- (c) be open to UNFF members, members of the CPF, and major groups and interested parties
- (d) [should be held in alternating years to the Forum]
- (e) address issues identified in the MYPOW, including through assessing implementation and progress towards achieving the global goals

- (f) provide feed from the regions to UNFF
- (g) build awareness of the UNFF's work and the agreed IPF/IFF proposal for action
- (h) ensure participation by the Forum secretariat

Collaborative Partnership on Forests

VIII.6 Text explaining relationship between instrument and CPF [to be informed by the outcomes of the UNFF deliberations]

Secretariat

VIII.7 UNFF secretariat shall serve as secretariat of instrument

VIII.8 Functions of the secretariat

IX. Means of implementation [to be informed by the outcomes of the UNFF deliberations]

Financial Resources

IX.1 [Subscribing] States to:

- (a) strengthen existing forest related funds hosted by CPF members, including the NFP Facility, PROFOR and Bali Partnership Fund to support national actions to implement SFM and commit to contribute to them;
- (b) create effective enabling environment for private sector investment for SFM;
- (c) develop innovative financial mechanisms for generating revenue or public-private partnerships within context of SFM

Incentives Measures

IX.3 [Subscribing] State shall, as appropriate, adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable management of forests.

Research, capacity building and training and technology transfer

IX.4 [Subscribing] States to:

(a) develop, via IUFRO, CIFOR and ICRAF in collaboration with other members of CPF, a joint initiative on science and technology to support the implementation of the international instrument by assessing available information and producing reports on forest-related issues;

(b) promote, via the FAO in collaboration with other CPF members, exchange of experiences and good practices, and a clearing house mechanism to facilitate access by developing countries to better technology for SFM.

IX.5 [Subscribing] States to:

(a) promote effective protection, use and related benefit sharing of traditional knowledge in SFM;

[X. Subscription]

X.1 This international instrument shall be open for subscription by States and regional economic integration organizations through submission of a diplomatic note to the Secretariat.

X.2 The Secretariat shall serve as an immediate central contact for receiving and announcing the subscription of States or regional economic integration organizations to this international instrument.

X.3 This international instrument becomes operational [...].]

6. US PROPOSAL

Structure and elements for a Voluntary [?] for Sustainable Forest Management

(Codex Sylvanus)

The Subscribing States/Members of the United Nations General Assembly:

1. Preamble

- emphasize the multiple benefits provided by forests
- emphasize the contribution of SFM to sustainable development and MDGs
- Recall WSSD, Forest Principles, IPF/IFF PfAs, establishment of IAF
- Welcome work of UNFF and CPF
- recognize importance of forest governance and public-private partnerships
- recognize importance of international cooperation
- recognize importance of political commitment at all levels

2. Adoption / endorsement of a Codex Sylvanus

3. Principles

- National sovereignty over forests
- national responsibility for forests
- role of international cooperation in supporting national efforts
- international obligations
- contribution of private sector, communities, other stakeholders
- importance of cross-sectoral coordination at all levels

- 7 thematic elements of sustainable forest management

4. Global goals or strategic objectives

- Reversing forest cover loss
- promoting forest benefits through SFM and legally harvested forest products
- increasing effectively managed protected forest areas
- mobilizing financial resources – domestic, foreign, public, private

5. National policies / actions

- Identify policies and measures for country action
- strengthen public-private partnerships
- identify/implement measures to improve cross-sectoral coordination
- support regional cooperation efforts
- include forests in national poverty reduction and development strategies
- promote mutually supportive forest-related programs of CPF members

6. Cooperation and means of implementation

- Better coordinate existing programs and processes
- initiate or strengthen public-private partnerships
- promote research and development and technology transfer
- promote international cooperation
- strengthen regional processes
- catalyze financial resources

- facilitate international support, especially through CPF
- forest priorities of CPF members are mutually supportive

7. Report and review

- report progress on implementation to UNFF and CPF members
- assess progress/review of effectiveness in 2015

Annex – List of Subscribing States (Mechanism for informing UN SG)

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7. CO-CHAIRS' DRAFT INDICATIVE ELEMENTS FOR A NON-LEGALLY-BINDING INSTRUMENT

The following is a list of common elements for an indicative list of elements that could be considered in developing a [instrument / code / guidelines / international understanding]:

+Context / Preamble

- Recognition of global importance of forests (African Group 2, EU, US)
- economic, social, and environmental benefits (African Group 6, EU part B, US)
- Principles (Australia, Brazil PPs, EU part B, US)
- Need for political support (African Group, Brazil PPs, EU, US)
- Recognizing regional differences (African Group 4 and 8, EU)

Strategic objectives / goals

- same as in Resolution (Australia, Brazil, EU, US)

Policies and measures

- strengthening sub-regional initiatives (African Group 4, US)

Means of implementation

- technology transfer (African Group 5, Australia, Brazil 7c, Canada 4, US)
- funding mechanism (African Group 10, Australia, Brazil 7d, Canada 4, EU, US)
- capacity building (African Group 1, Australia, Brazil 7c, Canada 2, EU)
- enhanced international cooperation and assistance (African Group 12, Australia, Brazil OP1, Canada 3, EU, US)

- involvement of major groups (African Groups 7, Australia, Brazil 5a, Canada 2, EU)

Institutional modalities

- review in 2015 (Australia, Brazil 12, EU part A, US)
- UNFFS as Secretariat for instrument (African Group 11, Canada 7, EU)

ANNEX

A LIST OF ELEMENTS OF AN UNDERSTANDING/INSTRUMENT THAT HAVE BEEN PROPOSED

Context/Preamble

- importance of forests and multiple benefits
- concern over deforestation and forest degradation
- sustainable forest management for benefit of present & future generations
- Rio, Agenda 21, IPF/IFF processes
- role of forests in sustainable development (Johannesburg)
- contribution of forests to MDGs (2005 World Summit)
- ECOSOC 2000/35
- need to strengthen IAF
- need for adequate means of implementation
- special needs (developing countries, including LDC, SDC, LLDS, as well as countries with economies in transition)
- need for strong political commitment
- shared global goals/strategic objectives

- national sovereignty over forests
- national responsibility for forests
- international obligations
- need to reflect regional nuances and variations
- need for policies and strategies to be relevant to national circumstances
- role of international cooperation in supporting national efforts
- importance of dialogue and cooperation at regional and sub-regional levels
- importance of cross-sectoral coordination at all levels
- importance of forest governance
- contribution of major groups, eg private sector, communities, other stakeholders
- need to address social, environmental and economic aspects of SFM, using framework of 7 thematic elements

Strategic Objectives / Goals

- same as in Resolution

Policies and measures

- identify policy measures for country action through development and implementation of nfps (or equivalent)
- set national goals
- integration with other policies (eg national development plans, poverty reduction strategies)
- identify/implement measures to improve cross-sectoral coordination
- strengthen regional and sub-regional processes

- strengthen public/private partnerships
- secure participation by major groups
- promote mutually supportive forest-related programmes of CPF members

Means of implementation

- official development assistance for forest-related activities
- mobilizing finance from private, public and voluntary sources
- enabling environment for investment
- existing forest related funds
- global forest fund
- innovative financial mechanisms
- payment for environmental services
- transfer of environmentally sustainable technology
- research and development (including clearing house)
- support to scientific and technological innovations
- capacity building
- tackling illegal forest-related activities/forest law enforcement
- better coordinate existing programmes and processes
- international cooperation (including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation)
- peer review and monitoring, assessment and reporting

Institutional modalities

- UNFFS as secretariat for instrument

- Submit voluntary national reports to UNFF on progress in implementation
- Assess effectiveness of instrument in 2015
- Adoption / Subscription

B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

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

Draft decision I

Proclamation of an International Year of Forests

The Economic and Social Council, recognizing the need to raise awareness of forest-related issues, decides to recommend that the General Assembly, at its sixty-first session, proclaim 2010 as the International Year of Forests.

Draft decision II

Dates and venue for the seventh session of the Forum

The Economic and Social Council decides that the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests will be held from 16 to 27 April 2007 in New York.

Draft decision III

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

The Economic and Social Council,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its sixth session;³
2. *Approves* the provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Forum on Forests as set out below:

³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 22 (E/2006/42).*

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

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

3. Multi-year programme of work

Documentation

Note by the Secretary -General

4. Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Documentation

Note by the Secretary -General

5. Multi-stakeholder dialogue

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting discussion papers submitted by major groups

6. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination including further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Documentation

Note by the Secretary -General

Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2007

7. Other matters
8. Date and venue for the eighth session of the Forum

9. Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Forum

10. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its seventh session.

C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decision, adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests, is brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 6/1

Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations

The United Nations Forum on Forests decided to accredit the following three intergovernmental organizations: Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Central (COMIFAC), Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Asia Forest Partnership.

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Chapter II

Implementation of decision 5/2 of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. The Forum considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 13 and 24 February 2005. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of decision 5/2 of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/CN.18.2006/2 and Corr.1);

(b) Note verbale dated 29 November 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2006/3);

(c) Letter dated 21 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2006/5).

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 February, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chairperson in honour of the outgoing Chairman of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, after which the outgoing Chairman made a statement.

4. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the FAO Forestry Department made a statement on behalf of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

5. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Minister of Forests, Waters, Fisheries and Parks of Gabon.

6. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process

and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro; as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, which aligned themselves with this statement), Cambodia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)), Panama (on behalf of the Central American Integration System), Ghana (on behalf of the African Group), Japan, Croatia, China, the Russian Federation, Canada, Australia, Algeria, Chile, Fiji, Nigeria, Argentina and India.

7. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Secretariat of the Pacific Community, also on behalf of Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States, and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

8. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Children and Youth Major Group, on behalf of a number of major groups.

9. At the 3rd meeting, on 13 February, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the Amazonian countries Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Brazil, Pakistan and Kenya.

10. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Secretariat of the Montreal Process and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

Action taken by the Forum

Draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

11. At the 4th meeting, on 24 February, the Forum had before a draft resolution submitted by the Chairperson on the basis of informal consultations, which was contained in an informal paper in English only.

12. At the same meeting, the Secretary read out a statement prepared by the Programme Planning and Budget Division, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts.

13. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Russian Federation.

14. At the same meeting, the Forum then decided to recommend the draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see Chap I, sect. A).

15. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union), Chile, Cameroon (on behalf of the African Group), Mexico, Brazil (on behalf of the Amazon countries), Costa Rica (on behalf of the Central American Integration System (SICA)), Canada, Cambodia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)), Indonesia (on behalf of the Asian Group), India and Malaysia after the adoption of the draft resolution.

Proclamation of an international year of forests

16. At its 4th meeting, on 24 February, the Forum had before it a draft decision on proclaiming an international year of forests, which was contained in an informal paper in English only.

17. At the same meeting, the Forum decided to recommend the draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see Chap. I, sect. B., draft decision III).

Chapter III

Date and venue for the seventh session of the Forum

1. At the 4th meeting, on 24 February, the Forum decided that its seventh meeting would be held from 16 to 27 April 2007 (see Chap. I, sect. B, draft decision II).

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Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Forum

1. At its 4th meeting, on 24 February, the Forum had before it, in an informal paper in English only, the draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

2. At the same meeting, the representative of Brazil proposed an amendment to the text, after which the Forum adopted the draft provisional agenda, as orally amended (see Chap. I, sect. B. draft decision II).

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Chapter V

Adoption of the report of the Forum on its sixth session

1. At its 4th meeting, on 24 February, the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, Mr. Franz Xaver Perrez, introduced the draft report of the Forum on its sixth session, as contained in document E/CN.18/2006/L.1.

2. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft report and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it with the support of the Secretariat.

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Chapter VI

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests held its sixth session at United Nations Headquarters on 27 May 2005 and from 13 to 24 February 2006. The Forum held 4 plenary meetings (1st to 4th).
2. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

B. Attendance

3. The Forum was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and representatives of intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in document E/CN.6/2005/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 27 May 2005 and 13 February 2006, the Forum elected the following officers of its sixth session:

Chairperson:

Judith Mbula Bahemuka (Kenya)

Vice-Chairmen:

Tono Kruzic (Croatia)

Frank Xaver Perrez (Switzerland)

Majdi Ramadan (Lebanon)

José Antonio Doig (Peru)

5. At its 2nd meeting on 13 February, it was decided that Franz Xaver Perrez (Switzerland) would also serve as Rapporteur.

D. Adoption of the agenda

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 February, the Forum adopted the following provisional agenda for the session:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Implementation of decision 5/2 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.

E. Documentation

7. The list of documents before the Forum at its sixth session is contained in annex I.

F. Establishment of working groups and designation of their chairmen

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 February, the Forum established two working groups that were chaired by the Vice-Chairmen as follows:

- (a) *Working Group I*, Franz Xaver Perrez (Switzerland), José Antonio Doig (Peru);
- (b) *Working Group II*, Majdi Ramadan (Lebanon), Tono Kruzic (Croatia).

G. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations

9. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 February, the Forum decided to accredit the following three intergovernmental organizations: Commission des Forêts d'Afrique

Central (COMIFAC), Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Asia Forest Partnership (see Chap. I, sect C, decision 6/1).

H. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its sixth session

10. At the 4th meeting, on 24 February, the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Forum on its sixth session (E/CN.18/2006/L.1).

11. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft report and authorized the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur to finalize it with the support of the Secretariat.

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Annex V

List of documents

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
E/CN.18/2006/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.18/2006/2 and Corr.1	3	Note by the Secretariat on the Implementation of decision 5/2 of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2006/3	3	Note verbale dated 29 November 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.18/2006/4	2	Note by the Secretariat on accreditation of intergovernmental organizations to the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2006/5	3	Letter dated 21 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.18/2006/L.1	11	Draft report
