

Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2007-2015

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

PP1. *Recalling* its main objective as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and also reaffirming the strengthening of the international arrangement on forests as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49,

PP2. *Also recalling* the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

PP3. *Recognizing* the need to reflect in the multi-year programme of work the three new principal functions of the international arrangement on forests set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, in addition to those set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35,

PP4. *Emphasizing* the need for concerted efforts and 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 four global objectives on forests set out in ECOSOC resolution 2006/49, the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests, the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action as well as previous UNFF resolutions,

PP5. *Bearing in mind* ECOSOC decision 2006/274 adopted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council as well as General Assembly resolution 57/270/B urging the coordination of work among Functional Commissions of ECOSOC, as well as urging functional commissions to contribute relevant substantive input to the work of the ECOSOC,

PP6. *Recognizing* the special needs and requirements of countries with fragile forest ecosystems, including those of low forest cover countries;

PP7. *Noting* General Assembly resolution 61/193 on the International Year of Forests 2011,

PP8. *Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2007-2015 (E/CN.18/2007/2),

PP9. *Taking into consideration* the lessons learned from the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for 2001-2005, and current multi-year programmes of work of the functional commissions of the Council;

PP10. *Welcoming* the country-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests on “Multi-year Programme of Work of the United Nations Forum on Forests: Charting the Way Forward to 2015”, 13-16 February 2007, Bali, Indonesia, and taking note of the Co-Chairs’ Summary Report,

PP11. *Bearing in mind* the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests,

1. *Decides* to adopt the following multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2007-2015, as follows:

A. Forum sessions

2. The Forum sessions will be held in the following manner:

(a) Each session of the Forum will be focused on progress towards:

- (i.) the achievement of sustainable forest management,
 - (ii.) implementation of the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests,
 - (iii.) achievement of the four global objectives on forests,
 - (iv.) implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action, and
 - (v.) implementation of previous UNFF resolutions;
- (b) While addressing the elements in 2(a), the sessions of the Forum will consider the following overall themes:
- (i) Eighth session (2009): “Forests in a Changing Environment” and “Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management”
 - (ii) Ninth session (2011): “Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication”;
 - (iii) Tenth session (2013): “Forests and Economic Development”
 - (iv) Eleventh session (2015): “Forests: Progress, Challenges and the Way Forward for the International Arrangement on Forests”;

These overall themes are to be reflected in the Forum sessions by incorporating the themes as further detailed in Annex 1.

- (c) Each session will have as main task the discussion on the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests;
- (d) In each session, the cross-cutting issues: Means of implementation (Finance, Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies, capacity building, awareness raising, education and information sharing) and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels will be addressed in the context of the discussions of the themes of that session;
- (e) Each session will also address the common agenda items: achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests; regional and sub-regional inputs; multi-stakeholder dialogues and participation; enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, including activities and inputs of Collaborative Partnership on Forests;
- (f) Each session of the Forum will provide, including through interactive panels, a platform for dialogue with:
 - (i.) the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and, on invitation, the Chairs of the governing bodies of relevant environmental multi-lateral agreements, as appropriate;
 - (ii.) representatives of Major Groups, as identified in Agenda 21 and other relevant stakeholders; and
 - (iii.) regional and sub-regional forest-related and other relevant processes, mechanisms, instruments and organizations;

(g) The discussion in each session will focus on exchanging of national, and regional experiences and activities and sharing best practices and lessons learned, identifying constraints and challenges in the advancement of elements in 2(a);

(h) Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, high-level ministerial segments, including a dialogue with the heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as other forest related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, will be held in 2011 and 2015;

(i) The ninth session, to be held in 2011, will also celebrate the International Year of Forests 2011; and

(j) The Forum secretariat will report on activities and decisions of the ECOSOC and its functional commissions related to the multi-year programme of work and will prepare a summary of relevant decisions of the Forum to contribute to the work of the Council, as needed;

3. The outcomes of the deliberations could be, as appropriate, Chairman's Summary(ies) as well as negotiated resolutions and decisions containing policy guidance to the Member States and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

4. The Forum sessions will be held at UN Headquarters in the first half of 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015;

B. Inter-sessional activities of the Forum

5. Pursuant to ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49 the Forum may convene ad-hoc expert group meetings;

6. Convening of country, organization and region-led initiatives, in support of the work of the Forum, focused on topical issues of the multi-year programme of work are also welcomed;

7. During periods between biennial sessions of the Forum, the Bureau and the Forum secretariat will coordinate to effectively prepare for Forum sessions, drawing on the outcomes of the following:

(a.) consultations with Member States;

(b.) forest-related, and other relevant, regional and sub-regional bodies, mechanisms and processes;

(c.) member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(d.) major group activities;

(e.) country, organization and region-led initiatives on topics relevant to the upcoming Forum session;

(f.) ad-hoc expert group meetings;

(g.) The Forum may decide, to have UNFF expert meetings and/or preparatory working meetings for the preparation of future sessions of UNFF;

C. Regional and sub-regional inputs and dialogue on regional priorities

8. Relevant regional and sub-regional forest related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes are invited to address issues and agenda items planned for each Forum session and to provide a concise summary of their deliberations to be submitted well in advance to the secretariat prior to the upcoming Forum session and are encouraged to contribute to the discussions of the Forum sessions, according to their respective mandates;

9. The Secretary-General is requested to prepare a summary report based on the above submissions;

D. Emerging issues

10. Any of the United Nations Forum on Forest sessions may include in the agenda an emerging issue of global significance that is related to and/or impacting on forests and SFM which is urgent, unexpected and not already addressed in the agenda of the respective session;

11. The Bureau of the session, in consultation with Member States, will decide on the inclusion of an emerging issue, taking into account contributions from Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, major groups, the regions and sub-regions, and the Forum secretariat;

E. Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination

12. The Forum will continue to provide policy guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

13. Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are invited to continue to report in a consolidated manner to the Forum, on its initiatives and activities, including progress on the means of implementation, in support of the work of the Forum, at each session and are encouraged to participate actively in the discussions of the Forum;

14. The Forum will further encourage partnerships involving multi-stakeholders and the relevant forest-related international, regional, sub-regional bodies, mechanisms and processes, as well as the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to develop synergies and to explore possibilities for joint activities towards the achievement of sustainable forest management, the global objectives of forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests;

15. Major groups and other forest stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to and participate actively in the discussions of the Forum and, where appropriate, in relevant regional and sub-regional discussions with a view to providing their perspectives and inputs to the Forum's programme of work and engaging in an exchange of views and experiences with other Forum participants;

F. International Year of Forests 2011

16. Member States, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and sub-regional groups, major groups and other stakeholders are invited to share information on their activities in support of the International Year of the Forests;

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

17. The Forum will address, within the context of its multi-year programme of work, the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

H. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

18. Countries should, on a voluntary basis, submit national reports to the Forum, 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 Council resolution 2006/49, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forests management;

19. Members organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in collaboration with the Forum, are invited to further harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account the seven thematic elements for sustainable forests management, with a view to reducing the reporting burden on countries;

20. For the ninth session (2011) and the eleventh session (2015) of the Forum the Secretary-General is requested to prepare, in collaboration and coordination with FAO, in its capacity as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, analytical consolidated reports, based on voluntary country reports, contributions from members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations, relevant regional and sub-regional forest related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders, making best use of existing information systems and the inputs from other relevant processes, in order to serve the purpose as set out in paragraphs 21, 23 and 24. The report for the eleventh session, in 2015, will additionally include an assessment of the international arrangement on forests and the contribution of forests to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

I. Assessment of Progress and Review

21. The Forum at its ninth session in 2011 will assess overall progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests. The Forum will use the report mentioned in paragraph 20 as background information for this assessment;

22. The Forum will provide relevant input to the Commission on Sustainable Development;

23. The Forum will devote the eleventh session in 2015 primarily for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, and the consideration of all options for the future as stated in paragraph 32 of Council resolution 2006/49. The Forum will use the report mentioned in paragraph 20 as background information for this review;

24. The eleventh session will also review the contribution made by forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as mentioned in paragraph 2(a) of Council resolution 2006/49, and to provide input to the review by the General Assembly, as requested. The Forum will use the report mentioned in paragraph 20 as background information for this review;

J. Resources

25. The Forum stresses the need to provide from within the regular budget of the United Nations adequate resources to undertake the agreed work programme of the Forum and its secretariat;

26. Interested donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations are called upon to make voluntary financial contributions to the Forum trust fund, and other countries in a position to do so and other interested parties are urged to contribute to the trust fund;

27. The Forum 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 the General Assembly decision 58/554 of 23 December 2003;

28. In order to ensure transparency the Forum secretariat will report to the Forum at each session on the operation of the Forum trust fund including the amount and source of contributions and a description of how the funds were expended;

29. Member States and other interested parties are invited to contribute to the Forum trust fund to support activities to celebrate the International Year of Forests;

Advance Unedited Draft Text

Annex 1: UN Forum on Forests - Multi-year Programme of Work for 2007-2015

Session: Year	UNFF 8: 2009	UNFF 9: 2011	UNFF 10: 2013	UNFF 11: 2015
Main Task	Achieving the four global objectives on forests and Implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests			Achieving the four global objectives on forests and Implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the international arrangement on forests
Overall Themes	Forests in a Changing Environment Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)	Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication	Forests and Economic Development	Forests: Progress, Challenges and the Way Forward for the international arrangement on forests
Themes	<p>Forests in a Changing Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests and Climate Change • Reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing Forest Degradation in all types of forests and Combating Desertification, including in LFCCs • Forests and Biodiversity Conservation, including Protected Areas <p>Means of Implementation for SFM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision on a Voluntary Global Financial Mechanism, a Portfolio Approach and a Forest Financing Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Based Forest Management • Social Development and Indigenous and other local and forest dependant communities, including forest land tenure • Social and Cultural aspects <p>International Year of Forests 2011</p> <p>Assessment of Progress</p> <p>High Level Segment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Products and Services • National Forest Programmes and other Sectoral Policies and Strategies • Reducing Risks and Impacts of Disasters • Benefits of Forests and Trees to Urban Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options, as stated in para. 32 of Council resolution 2006/49 • Reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests • Reviewing the contribution of forests and the international arrangement on forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests to the internationally agreed development goals <p>High Level Segment</p>
Cross-cutting issues	Means of implementation (Finance, Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies, capacity building, awareness raising, education and information sharing); forest law enforcement and governance at all levels			
Common agenda items	Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests; regional and sub-regional inputs; multi-stakeholder dialogues and participation; enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, including activities and inputs of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests			

SFM= Sustainable Forest Management; An emerging issue may be considered as per Section D. Emerging issues.