

The Bureau of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Suggested draft text for negotiations on the Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2007-2015

Introduction

The Forum, at its seventh session, to be held from 16 to 27 April 2007 in New York, will be adopting a focused multi-year programme of work from 2007 through 2015. The Report of the Secretary-General on the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/CN.18/2007/2) and the discussion of the Bali Country-Led Initiative (CLI) have provided a sound basis for the development of a focused and practical MYPOW for the Forum.

As stated at the briefing by the Bureau, held on 5 March 2007 in New York, after consultations with members, the Bureau has prepared the following draft text to facilitate negotiations and the eventual decision by the Forum on its MYPOW. The draft text is based on the Secretary-General's Report and the Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Bali CLI.

The Bureau supports the Secretary-General's view that the multi-year programme of work of the Forum should reflect the overall purpose, principal functions and strategy of the international arrangement on forests, with regard to the new working modality (i.e., biennial sessions). The MYPOW should include tasks that would facilitate the implementation of the four Global Objectives on Forests and the non-legally binding instrument. Accordingly, the new MYPOW should include a description and scheduling of key tasks that it will undertake during the period 2007-2015, including policy issues for deliberation at each UNFF session, and activities in-between the sessions.

Structure of the draft text

The suggested draft text on the MYPOW is presented in the format of a decision, containing the following components:

- Preamble paragraphs
- A. Forum Sessions
- B. Intergovernmental preparatory meetings of the Forum
- C. Regional input and dialogue on regional priorities
- D. Emerging priority issues
- E. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination
- F. International Year of Forests 2011
- G Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- H. Monitoring, assessment and reporting
- I. Review
- J. Ad Hoc Expert Groups and supporting activities
- K. Detailed Multi-year programme of work
- L. Resources

Discussion points

1. Themes for sessions and intergovernmental preparatory meetings are proposed, based on the Secretary-General's report and the Bali CLI discussions. However, the Forum would need to identify a few timely and substantive themes and issues for discussion at each session without overburdening the work of the Forum.
2. It may be noted that Sections E, H, and I on enhanced cooperation and coordination, monitoring assessment and reporting and the review are closely related to the "instrument." Member States may wish to consider these issues concomitantly with the deliberations/negotiations on the "instrument" during the session.
3. The logistical and institutional arrangements for adequately addressing regional aspects need to be carefully considered, so that interactions between the Forum and the regional and sub-regional entities become a smooth and mutually beneficial exercise.
4. Taking into consideration the views expressed at the Bali CLI, the Bureau has proposed Forum's Intergovernmental Preparatory Meetings in-between the sessions of the Forum. The government-designated experts would participate in the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meetings in a non-negotiation context, with primary focus on the preparation of the forthcoming regular session. In this regard, the Forum would need to carefully consider how it may use the IPMs in providing targeted input to ECOSOC during the years when the Forum would not have its sessions.
5. Last but not least, the Forum must acknowledge the programme budget implications of the expanded work programme of the Forum's work, including region-related activities, the International Year of Forests 2011 and the activities associated with the implementation of the "instrument", which are new and additional. Accordingly, those activities would incur additional resources. The Forum must comprehensively address and make adequate provisions (or request the Secretary-General) for necessary human and financial resources in order to translate the commitment into real and concrete actions.

Detailed draft text on the multi-year programme of work of the Forum

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

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling 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, as stated in the Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35,

Also recalling the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration* (General Assembly Resolution 55/2) and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences held and international agreements made since 1992,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, particularly paragraph 4 (g), which states that the United Nations Forum on Forests will work on the basis of a multi-year programme of work, drawing on the elements reflected in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Forest Principles, Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, particularly the additional principal functions as stated in subparagraphs 2 (a), (b) and (c) of the resolution,

Noting also the significance of and the need for concerted efforts to make progress in achieving the four Global Objectives on Forests, as contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49,

Cognizant of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and the need of the subsidiary bodies of the Council to provide input to the council on its review of the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, through the Annual Ministerial Reviews and biennial Development Cooperation Forum,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 61/193, incorporating the implementation of the International Year of Forests 2011 into the work of the Forum,

Stressing that the multi-year programme of work should embody Economic and Social Council resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49 and resolutions and decisions of the Forum in past sessions, with specific activities to be undertaken by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) through 2015,

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,

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),

Taking note also of the Co-Chair's Summary Report from the country-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests on "Multi-year Programme of Work of United Nations Forum on Forests: Charting the Way Forward to 2015", 13-16 February 2007, Bali, Indonesia,

Decides to adopt the following multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2008-2015, as follows:

A. Forum sessions

1. The Forum will be organized in two-year cycles, holding its sessions biennially for up to two weeks, in the following manner:
 - a) Each session of the Forum will be based on a central theme with particular emphasis towards implementation of the four Global Objectives on Forests, as follows:
 - (i) Eighth session (2009): Forests for Development
 - (ii) Ninth session (2011): SFM for People and Livelihoods
 - (iii) Tenth session (2013): Forests for Growth and Sustainability
 - (iv) Eleventh session (2015): Enhanced Cooperation and Policy and Programme Coordination, Review and consideration of future actions,
 - b) Each session will address the state of implementation of the non-legally binding instrument,
 - c) Means of implementation, especially finance, capacity-building, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the fourth Global Objective on Forests, as well as other enabling means of implementation, will be addressed as cross-cutting issues at each session. Enhanced Cooperation and Policy and Programme Coordination, monitoring, assessment and reporting, and governance and rule of law participation, as well as multi-stakeholder dialogues, will also be addressed as common items at each session of the Forum,
 - d) 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 at the ninth session in 2011 and eleventh session in 2015,
 - e) The ninth session in 2011 will also commemorate the International Year of Forests 2011, and
 - f) Each session of the Forum will include an agenda item on ECOSOC-related matters and provide relevant inputs to the Annual Ministerial Review and biennial Development Cooperation Forum.

2. The output of the substantive session will be a report containing policy decisions and resolutions, including guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as Chairman's summaries, where needed.

3. The Forum sessions will be held at UN Headquarters or other venues, as appropriate, in March/April of the second year of the cycle in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015, taking into account the discussions of the Secretary General's reports, the intergovernmental preparatory meetings as described below, and other relevant inputs.

B. Intergovernmental preparatory meetings of the Forum

4. Within each cycle, the Forum will convene an intergovernmental preparatory meeting for one week to discuss lessons learned, future policy options and possible actions, to provide inputs to the sessions of the Forum with a focus, *inter alia*, on the following activities:

- a) Undertake preparatory discussions on thematic issues of the next Forum sessions, to enhance awareness of the issues for policy deliberations,
- b) Review status of implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests at all levels, and provide advice on ways and means to facilitate implementation and exchange views on further actions, and
- c) Provide a platform to exchange views on regional and sub-regional experiences and challenges on the implementation of SFM, and to present, review and further streamline regional inputs to the Forum.

5. The output of an intergovernmental preparatory meeting will be a Chairman's summary report, reflecting views expressed by participants.

6. The intergovernmental preparatory meetings will be held in one of the UN regional headquarters, at least four months before the substantive sessions of the Forum, as decided by the Forum, taking into account the schedule of ECOSOC sessions, in order to respond to relevant decisions of ECOSOC and other UN processes and to provide inputs from the Forum.

7. The intergovernmental preparatory meetings will be organized by the Forum secretariat, in collaboration with the UN Regional Economic Commissions (UNRECs) in their respective regional headquarters, in the following manner: 2008 in UNESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand; 2010 in UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; 2012 in UNECE, Geneva, Switzerland; and 2014 in UNECLAC, Santiago, Chile.

C. Regional inputs and dialogue on regional priorities

8. Relevant regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes, in cooperation with the Forum secretariat, are encouraged, to address topics of the MYPOW, and to coordinate and organize collaborative efforts in their respective regions for the implementation of the Global Objectives on Forests and the non-legally binding instrument.

9. The Secretary-General is requested to develop and transmit guidelines to regional and sub-regional bodies for their voluntary inputs to the Forum's intergovernmental preparatory meeting, focused on specific topics of the MYPOW and on the implementation of the Global Objectives on Forests.

10. Relevant regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes are encouraged to submit their coordinated inputs, preferably based on the results of regional preparatory work, to the Forum secretariat at least three months before the Forum's intergovernmental preparatory meeting, based on the guidelines mentioned above, so as to make them available in all UN languages, as appropriate.

11. The Secretary-General is requested to prepare an analytical background report based on the outcomes of the intergovernmental preparatory meetings, as well as synthesized information from the inputs to the intergovernmental preparatory meetings from relevant forest-related regional and sub-regional bodies, mechanisms, and processes, for the consideration of the Forum at each of its substantive sessions.

D. Emerging priority issues

12. In order to enhance the relevancy of the policy deliberations and development by the Forum at its substantive sessions, the Forum will address emerging priority issues related to and/or impacting on SFM, as decided by the Forum in its each previous substantive session.

E. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

13. The Forum will continue to provide policy guidance on forest policy issues to and receive consolidated reports from the Collaborative Partnership on Forests at each session, regarding progress made.

14. The Forum will invite the Chairpersons of governing bodies of the CPF members to address and inform the Forum on their respective decisions/activities relevant to the work of the Forum at each substantive session.

15. The Forum will further develop synergies with the UN bodies and other relevant forest-related international, regional, sub-regional bodies, mechanisms and criteria and indicator processes (C&I), including the Rio Conventions and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

F. International Year of Forests 2011

16. As an integral part of the multi-year programme of work of the Forum, the preparations of the International Year of Forests will be reviewed and discussed at the eighth session of the Forum (2009), to support the launching of the Year with special activities throughout 2011, and to assess the implementation and outputs at the tenth session (2013).

17. The Secretary-General is requested to prepare a detailed plan of activities for the eighth session (2009), for a successful implementation of the decision.

18. The member States and stakeholders are requested to contribute to the United Nations Forum on Forests Trust Fund specifically designated to this endeavour.

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

19. The United Nations Forum on Forests will act as the governing body of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests to oversee its implementation. The Forum will review the implementation of the instrument at its meetings.

20. The Forum secretariat will act as the secretariat of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including the management of any designated trust fund for it.

H. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

21. Recognizing the importance of monitoring, assessment and reporting in assessing progress towards sustainable forest management and the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests, and the contribution of forests to internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as for the overall review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests to be undertaken in 2015:

- a) The Secretary-General is requested to prepare analytical consolidated reports based on reports from countries, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other stakeholders for the ninth session (2011) and the eleventh session (2015) of the Forum, paying particular attention to minimizing the reporting burden on countries and taking advantage of existing information systems and the inputs from the C&I processes.
- b) The member States are urged to utilize the following commonly acknowledged seven thematic elements as a reference framework for monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress made towards sustainable forest management:
 - Extent of forest resources
 - Biological diversity
 - Forest health and vitality
 - Productive functions of forest resources
 - Protective functions of forest resources
 - Socio-economic functions
 - Legal, policy and institutional framework

I. Review

22. A mid-term review will be undertaken by the Forum at its ninth session (2011) on the progress made towards the achievement of the four Global Objectives on Forests and the contribution of forests to internationally agreed development goals.

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, and the consideration of all options for the future as stated in paragraph 32 of Council resolution 2006/49.

24. The eleventh session will also review the contribution made by forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and to provide input to the review by the General Assembly.

J. Ad hoc expert groups and supporting activities

25. The Forum may convene ad hoc expert groups, pursuant to Council resolution 2000/35, to assist and provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum, in an open and transparent manner, particularly on the following issues:

- a) Further development of the funding mechanism for the activities in support of the Forum decisions and of SFM,
- b) Approaches to strengthen the regional-global interface on forests,
- c) Indicators for the global objectives on forests, and
- d) Clustering and synthesis of the IPF and IFF proposals for action and resolutions of the Forum according to the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management.

26. The Forum may also constitute other expert advisory bodies, such as taskforces on specific issues, for limited duration, if needed.

27. Convening of country- and organization-led initiatives in support of the work of the Forum, focused on topical issues of the MYPOW, is also welcomed.

K. Detailed multi-year programme of work

28. Detailed multi-year programme of work of the Forum, including sessions and intersessional activities of the Forum, is provided in the attached Table. The multi-year programme of work is a dynamic tool for the Forum's functioning and will be adjusted by the Forum as needed.

L. Resources

29. The Secretary-General is requested to ensure appropriate additional resources to the work of the Forum and its secretariat, and to include the activities, staff requirements and sufficient resources in the United Nations biennial programme plans and programme budgets.

30. Interested donors, Governments, financial institutions and other organizations are urged to make voluntary financial contributions to the trust fund of the Forum secretariat, in order to facilitate the implementation of the multi-year programme of work of the Forum and the non-legally binding instrument.

31. The capacity of the Forum secretariat and the need for adequate resources will be reviewed at each session of the Forum, in order to take appropriate action.

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

| | Cycle 2008-09 | | Cycle 2010-11 | | Cycle 2012-13 | | Cycle 2014-2015 | |
|----------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| Themes | Forests for development | | SFM for people and livelihoods | | Forests for Growth and Sustainability | | Enhanced Cooperation, Policy and Programme Coordination, and Review | |
| Year and sessions | IPM1* 2008 | UNFF8 2009 | IPM2 2010 | UNFF9 ² 2011 | IPM3 2012 | UNFF10 2013 | IPM4 2014 | UNFF11 2015 |
| Key tasks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preliminary discussions on themes of upcoming regular sessions ▪ Inter-regional dialogue and global-regional interface ▪ Implementation of NLBI** | <p>Forests for development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Combating deforestation ▪ Trade & Investment ▪ SFM and climate change ▪ Benefit sharing and knowledge in TFRK <p>Emerging issues</p> <p>Preparations for the IYF** 2011</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preliminary discussions on themes of upcoming regular sessions ▪ Inter-regional dialogue and global-regional interface ▪ Implementation of NLBI ▪ Preparations for the IYF 2011 | <p>SFM for people and livelihoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty alleviation • Forest tenure and access • Urban and community forests • Cultural and spiritual aspects <p>Emerging Issues</p> <p>Launching of the IYF 2011***</p> <p>Mid-term Review</p> <p>High Level Segment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preliminary discussions on themes of upcoming regular sessions ▪ Inter-regional dialogue and global-regional interface ▪ Implementation of NLBI | <p>Forests for Growth and Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation & restoration • Forest products and services • Nature-based tourism • Forests and sustainable development <p>Emerging Issues</p> <p>Assessment of the IYF 2011</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preliminary discussions on themes of upcoming regular sessions ▪ Inter-regional dialogue and global-regional interface ▪ Implementation of NLBI | <p>Enhanced Cooperation and Policy and Programme Coordination</p> <p>Assessment and Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress made • Global Objectives • Development Goals • CPF <p>Future options</p> <p>High Level Segment</p> |
| Cross-cutting issues | Means of implementation (Finance, TEST****, capacity building), governance, and rule of law | | | | | | | |
| Common items | Review implementation of the NLBI****, Enhanced cooperation and policy/programme coordination, MAR, country reports, participation and multi-stakeholder dialogues | | | | | | | |

*IPM = Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting; **NLBI = Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests; *** IYF 2011 = International Year of Forests 2011; **** TEST = Transfer of Environmentally sound technologies; *****MAR = Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting; and SFM= Sustainable Forest Management.