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## **FAO and the Future of UNFF**

Statement  
*by*

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Mr Chair,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Friends,

I hope that UNFF7 will be an important mile marker in progress towards sustainable forest management. I would like to take this opportunity to express FAO's commitment to contribute to the implementation of the outcome of this session.

I expect the outcome will be as successful as the outcome of the Committee on Forestry, COFO, that was held last month in Rome. The member states really made it work.

Mr Chair, FAO has been a firm supporter of IPF, IFF and UNFF, and we are ready to continue this commitment.

In considering the role you wish FAO to play under future arrangements, let me highlight some elements of FAO's current support to member states in the implementation of sustainable forest management and internationally agreed objectives on forests:

- We provide a global picture of the evolution of the forest sector through the Global Forest Resources Assessment; the State of the World's Forests; and the regional Forestry Outlook Studies; these tools are constantly improved and enlarged as we receive feedback and requests from countries and organizations;
- In collaboration with partners such as the National Forest Programme Facility, we support countries in their national forest policy development;
- We also provide analyses, capacity building as well as venue for dialogue on strengthening linkages between forestry on the one hand and on the other hand energy, climate change, water, poverty, food security and wildlife.

Recently, COFO welcomed FAO's role in facilitating multi-stakeholder processes for example in the development of voluntary guidelines for fire management and planted forests. We are ready to proceed with other similar tools for implementing SFM.

We have also undertaken strategic planning with CPF members, like ITTO, CBD and IUFRO on mutually supportive joint work.

I would also like to mention that in addition to FAO's regular budget, the Organization has a number of significant trust fund arrangements in support of SFM. It is our firm belief that such existing structures and arrangements should be strengthened.

Information on FAO programmes and activities will be available to you during these two weeks at the back of the room. We hope this will make a useful contribution to the deliberations.

In conclusion, Mr Chair, FAO is ready to continue to support the work of the UN Forum on Forests -- through the CPF and as the UN agency responsible for forestry.

FAO looks forward to the adoption of a strong instrument and an innovative MYPOW that will raise the profile of forests and forestry at all levels, mobilizing simultaneously financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

Finally, Mr Chair, some of you may remember remarks by Mr David Harcharik, Deputy Director-General of FAO, in year 2000 when UNFF was about to be established. He said: "sustainable management of the world's forests will not be achieved only through organizing meetings. It requires investment."

This core message has not changed. The focus must be on implementation – action on the ground.

Thank You.