



**Introduction by
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OF THE**

**NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE NLBI
AND THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE
MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) 2007-2015**

New York, 16 April 2007

Introduction by Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Director, UN Forum on Forests

Note by the Secretariat on the NLBI and the Secretary-General's Report on
The Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2007-2015

New York

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to introduce two closely linked documents that will be the focus of this session - the Note by the Secretariat containing the revised composite draft text for developing a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/2007/3), and the Report by the Secretary-General on the multi-year programme of work 2007 to 2015 (E/CN.18/2007/2).

Distinguished Delegates,

The four Global Objectives on Forests seek to reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation; to enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits; to increase significantly the area of sustainably managed forests, including protected forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests; and 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 SFM.

Taking into account new realities and challenges, the sixth session of the UN Forum on Forests also added three more principal functions to the six already contained in ECOSOC resolution 2000/35. The new functions include: enhancement of the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs, encouragement and assistance to countries to implement forest conservation strategies and increase the area of forests under SFM, and to strengthen interaction between UNFF and regional and sub-regional organizations and major groups.

Means of implementation to facilitate action on the ground for sustainable forest management, particularly through mobilizing resources and capacity-building, stand out prominently as part of the agreement of the sixth session. The UNFF6 outcome contains a number of recommendations on financing for sustainable forest management, ranging from strengthening aid flows and GEF funding for sustainable forest management, as well as those generated from within the forest sector.

The agreement at the sixth session also calls for a stronger role for the UN Forum on Forests in providing guidance to the voluntary Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as to improve enhanced collaboration and policy and programme coordination, develop more coherent

policies, supporting the principles of system-wide coherence, and to further develop close partnerships with the multi-lateral environmental agreements and the private sector.

This new consensus on forests places great relevance on linking with country-level implementation, through a greater regional focus in the Forum's work. This global/regional interface will be one of the core elements that will need to be discussed at this session.

Mr. Chairman,

As we know, ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49 calls for the conclusion and adoption of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests at this session. The resolution also called upon member States to submit proposals on possible elements to be included in the instrument. Based on these proposals and comments, the Secretariat prepared the Note by the Secretariat entitled, "Developing a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests", to identify possible common elements to be included in the instrument.

The Secretariat, in close consultation with the Bureau, further prepared a composite draft text of a non-legally binding instrument as a background paper to support the deliberations of the open ended ad hoc expert group, which met in December 2006. Substantial progress was made, as experts efficiently succeeded in completing a first reading of the draft composite text.

Consequently, the ad hoc expert group requested the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to prepare a revised composite draft text, reflecting the views of the experts, for consideration by the seventh session of the Forum. This draft is contained as an Annex in the Note by the Secretariat prepared for this session. In revising the composite draft text, special consideration was given to views provided by experts on the structure of the proposed instrument.

Mr. Chairman,

The proposed multi-year programme of work 2007 to 2015 focuses on a number of critical issues contained in the instrument that require urgent attention, including, among others, reinforcing national policies and measures for implementing sustainable forest management; means of implementation; reinforcing the conceptual framework of the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management; monitoring, assessment and reporting; and enhancing international cooperation in support of SFM at the global and regional levels.

The basic premise of the SG's report is that the MYPOW should reflect the key elements of ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49 in scheduling of tasks and issues to be addressed by the Forum from now on to 2015. This included, *inter alia*,

- nine principal functions of the international arrangement on forests
- four Global Objectives on Forests

- a non-legally binding instrument
- means of implementation and a possible financial mechanism
- a high-level ministerial segment
- multi-stakeholder dialogue and public participation, and
- enhanced cooperation, including guidance to CPF.

The MYPOW should also incorporate preparatory work, awareness-building activities and events organized in celebration of the International Year of Forests 2011. The General Assembly specifically designated the UNFF Secretariat as the focal point for implementation of the International Year. The SG's report has presented a draft framework of the MYPOW 2007-2015 for consideration by the Forum. It is also most noteworthy to mention the highly successful country-led initiative in Bali, hosted by Indonesia, and supported by Germany and other countries, in February this year. The outcome will be presented shortly.

Distinguished Delegates,

Before concluding, I would like to stress one important concern that the Forum needs to take into account. The successful implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the multi-year programme of work will depend on enhancing collaboration and policy and programme coordination among all international and regional organizations addressing sustainable forest management issues. To this end, the non-legally binding instrument and MYPOW should provide a platform for enhanced international and regional cooperation and collaboration, and at the same time guide us towards system-wide coherence in the United Nations, in our efforts to achieve the shared Global Objectives on Forests and sustainable forest management.

I would also like to inform you that my colleagues Mr. Jorge Illueca and Mr. Mahendra Joshi will provide you with further details on the NLBI and MYPOW, this afternoon.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.