

Opening Statement to the Seventh United Nations Forum on Forests

New Zealand Delegation, 17 April 2007

Thank you Mr. Chairman and congratulations on your election, greetings fellow delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. Chairman the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is the only international forum where sustainable forest management is discussed in an integrated manner for all types of forests, which is why New Zealand is an active participant in this process. New Zealand is here at UNFF7 to work collectively in order to deliver the objectives of this meeting; namely to negotiate and finalize a non-legally binding instrument (NLBI) for sustainable forest management, and a multi-year program of work (MYPOW) for UNFF.

New Zealand intends to work collectively to ensure the delivery of an NLBI that balances social, economic, and environmental objectives to achieve SFM globally. We are also here to contribute to discussions to agree a MYPOW that will build on the good work from the Bali country led initiative meeting. In our discussion on the MYPOW, it is critical that we shape and focus the UNFF agenda, give prominence to the role of regional processes and create flexibility so that this forum can respond to emerging issues in the future.

As all have highlighted we have much to achieve in two weeks. Let me reiterate, however, the New Zealand delegation's intention to work constructively with all in this room to ensure that the outcomes of UNFF7 are a credible NLBI on sustainable forest management for all types of forests and an effective MYPOW for UNFF. New Zealand believes that the time has come for the UNFF to be decisive.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

