

**Farmers and Small Forest Landowners Major Group's views on NLBI and MYPOW**

Excellencies, honourable ministers, distinguished delegates, dear major group members;

The Major group Farmers and Small Forest Landowners is bringing the knowledge and know-how of family forest owners and community forest owners from around the globe to the international forest policy discussions. Family and community forestry plays a significant role in many parts of the world representing more than half of the forest area and production of forest products in many countries.

Family and community forest owners have multiple values and objectives in the management of their properties. By integrating wood production and biodiversity conservation in their day-to-day work with the forests, community and family forestry are implementing and fostering sustainable forest management in practice on regional and local level.

Sustainable forestry requires, however, a long-term commitment and stable operational framework in order to deliver its economic, social and ecological benefits. An essential part of this framework is that the requirements or criteria set for sustainable forest management are coherent and follow the principles set in international forest policy processes.

Another key factor is clear and secured land ownership and land tenure rights. Only clearly defined tenure and land use rights secure a real, long-term commitment to forests which is a precondition for sustainable management and protection of forests. Therefore the questions of forest ownership and sustainable forest management are closely linked to each other, which should also be taken into account when defining the means of implementation of the goals of the Non-legally Binding Instrument.

Community and family forest owners have a rich experience on the ground in implementing sustainable forest management. For this reason they should also be fully included in the formulation of the NLBI and its subsequent implementation. In this context it would be of crucial importance to have a mechanism developed that supports public-private partnerships in the implementation and promotion of sustainable forestry on international, national, regional and local levels. The NLBI framework should also include a mechanism that allows the recognition of those public-private partnerships, which foster the implementation of internationally agreed objectives on sustainable forest management.

The Farmers and Small Forest Landowners Major Group highly appreciates the increased participation of Major Groups in the development of the Non-legally Binding Instrument. At the same time we want to stress out, however, that the sound implementation of the objectives of NLBI will require closer partnerships between policy makers and major groups. The small forest landowners major group is committed to putting the knowledge and know-how of their regional and local networks in the field of sustainable forest management at the disposal of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the NLBI.

As a concrete example I would like to invite you all to our side-event next Monday during the lunch break to discuss more on private and community forest owners' role in the United Nations Forum on Forests process and the implementation of sustainable forest management. You are all warmly welcome! More information on our major group's position to the Non-legally Binding Instrument and the Multi-Year Programme of Work can be found on the position papers delivered to you. Thank you.