



The World Bank

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Collaborative Partnership on Forests Panel

Statement delivered by

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentleman,

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Forum on Forests on how the development community can improve support to developing countries' sustainable growth through improved coordination and collaboration. The World Bank places great value on partnership, acknowledging that we cannot go it alone if we are to meet the challenges faced by the forest sector and to deliver on sustainable development goals more broadly.

The Global Objectives agreed to by the UNFF are closely aligned with the pillars of the Bank's Forests Strategy: harnessing the potential of forests to reduce poverty, integrating forests into sustainable economic development, and protecting global environmental services and values. In implementing the Forests Strategy, the Bank has focused on building partnerships and is engaged with several forest partnerships supporting sustainable forest management, most notably the Global Environment Facility, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, World Bank/WWF Alliance, the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) initiative, the Program on Forests (PROFOR) and the CGIAR. Many CPF members have been part of these partnerships and contributed to their success.

Yesterday, you heard the presentation of the PROFOR background paper on means of implementation, commissioned to help inform the discussion on this topic of fundamental importance to the future work of the UNFF and implementation of the non-legally binding instrument under negotiation. The message is clear: traditional ODA is not adequate to meet the challenge faced by the forest sector and we need to find ways to leverage other forms of financial support.

Moreover, it has long been recognized that forests provide a range of environmental services and global benefits whose value remains undervalued in the market. This market failure contributes to unsustainable forest practice and large-scale land conversion for short-term profits. However, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to note that the recognition of the value of forests is growing. Indeed, the role for forests in mitigating climate change has taken on new importance with the release of the Stern Review and the fourth assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Deforestation and land-use change is the second leading cause of global warming: accounting for about 20% of global carbon emissions. In fact, in many developing countries, deforestation and forest degradation account for a majority of carbon emissions. For these reasons, the issue has recently re-emerged as an important component of climate policy discussions.

In this context, the Bank has a process underway to consolidate and strengthen our forest-related partnerships. With many interested partners, the Bank is developing a new Global Forest Alliance that will address today's challenges facing the forest sector. The GFA

will help to align the global objectives of the UNFF with the climate change agenda, while still tackling the issue of forest governance and matters of equity. The GFA will aim to achieve a range of stretch targets by 2015. These targets are related to, poverty reduction, sustainable management of production forestry, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

To leverage resources toward meeting its targets, the GFA will take a portfolio approach similar to that outlined in the PROFOR paper on means of implementation as well as the Bureau paper on the global forest partnership trust (GFPT). A combination of ODA and private sector funding will provide catalytic funding and technical assistance to support forest sector institutions and build capacity for sustainable forest management.

To complement the GFA, a Bank administered Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is being considered which would pilot instruments for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation with the aim of generating payment to developing countries related to sustainable forest management.

Mr. Chairman, the World Bank Group forest sector operations are substantial, between 300-500 million per year, and with a variety of instruments to support sustainable forest management in developing countries. We expect that through the GFA this program of support will be substantially scaled up. In this context, we look forward to continued and strengthened collaboration within the framework of the UNFF toward our common global objectives.