

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

12. Forum trust fund.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

13. Other matters.
14. Dates and venue for the tenth session of the Forum.
15. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Forum.
16. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its ninth session.

B. Resolution brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following resolution adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests is brought to the attention of the Council:

Forests in a changing environment, enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, regional and subregional inputs

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 62/98 of 17 December 2007, including its purposes,

Reaffirming the commitment of Member States to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and development policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries, as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Recalling the overall theme of the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, "Forests in a changing environment", and its related themes on forests and climate change; reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including in low forest cover countries; and forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas, as established in the Forum's multi-year programme of work,

Concerned about the interrelated impacts on forests in many regions of the world of climate change, loss of forest cover, forest degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss, and the associated impacts on over 1.6 billion people who depend on forests for subsistence, livelihood, income and employment, while also recognizing the contribution of forests in addressing climate change, biodiversity conservation and combating desertification,

Recognizing the special needs and requirements of countries with fragile forest ecosystems, including those of low forest cover countries,

Emphasizing that sustainable forest management, as a dynamic and evolving concept, aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental benefits of all types of forests and, as such, can significantly contribute to addressing climate change, desertification, forest and land degradation, forest biodiversity and soil and water conservation,

Also emphasizing that the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests offers an integrated framework to implement sustainable forest management and in turn contribute to addressing the interrelated challenges of climate change, forest loss and degradation, and desertification, as well as contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, in a coherent, coordinated and cross-sectoral manner at local, national, regional and global levels,

Taking note of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report and of the recent joint initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on forests and climate change, including the Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change and the report prepared under the Global Forest Expert Panels initiative by the Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change,

Recalling relevant decisions and objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recognizing the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and noting the opportunities for cooperation and coordination provided by the upcoming conferences of the parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (September 2009, Buenos Aires), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (December 2009, Copenhagen) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (October 2010, Nagoya, Japan) and the session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (April 2010, Vienna),

Welcoming regional and subregional initiatives to identify and address the interrelated challenges of forests in a changing environment, as well as the contribution of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in this regard,

1. *Decides:*

(a) To encourage Member States to strengthen the implementation of sustainable forest management in addressing the challenges of forests in a changing environment, including climate change, loss of forest cover, forest degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss, in the context of sustainable development;

(b) Also to encourage Member States to use national forest programmes or other strategies, as appropriate, for sustainable forest management to integrate measures to address climate change, conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, desertification, deforestation, degradation of forest ecosystems and water resources management, and to seek coherence with national development and poverty eradication strategies, as well as with strategies and action plans under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(c) Further to encourage Member States to strengthen coordination, in particular among their national focal points for the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as, where applicable, for other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to facilitate implementation of sustainable forest management at national and other applicable levels;

(d) To encourage Member States to share their experiences at the ninth session of the Forum in the context of the overall theme “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication” and the related themes on community-based forest management; social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure; and social and cultural aspects;

(e) To invite Member States, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and regional entities to enhance cooperation on the Forum’s cross-cutting issue of forest law enforcement and governance, including combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, as well as sharing of relevant information;

(f) To encourage Member States to promote within the framework of sustainable forest management the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity in all types of forests;

(g) To invite Member States to undertake national forest inventories, covering the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable forest management, for example, forest health, biodiversity, forest products and socio-economic and cultural aspects, with a view to enhancing the coherence and timeliness of information on forest resources, taking into account the need to further develop methodologies and the availability of resources, and encourage the international community to provide assistance to build national capacity in this regard;

(h) Also to invite Member States to consider the proposals contained in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change and invite the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, consistent with their mandates, to promote the Strategic Framework;

(i) Further to invite Member States to use market-based approaches to develop and promote production and consumption of forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested according to domestic legislation;

2. Also decides:

(a) To underscore the urgency to address the threats and sustainable development challenges posed by climate change, loss of biodiversity and desertification and their interrelation with forests, as well as underscore the role of sustainable forest management, which takes into account the full range of forest goods and services, in addressing these threats and challenges and contributing to poverty eradication;

(b) To invite the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular the conferences of the parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity, to continue to integrate, as appropriate, the sustainable management of all types of forests into their strategies by:

(i) Considering the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests which offers an integrated framework to implement sustainable forest management and the four global objectives on forests and to enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, as a means to help ensure coherence and avoid duplication;

(ii) Building on existing and well-established forest-related tools, processes, programmes and activities available at the national, regional and international levels to implement sustainable forest management, for example, national forest programmes; criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and other related monitoring methodologies and assessment tools; and measures for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

(c) To encourage the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as members of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, to collaborate with the secretariat of the Forum and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in promoting sustainable forest management;

(d) To invite member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support, within their capacities, consistent with their mandates and upon request, South-South cooperation initiatives concerning sustainable forest management, including through convening workshops and providing technical assistance, subject to available resources;

(e) To invite regional and subregional organizations and processes, as well as major groups and other forest stakeholders, to provide inputs to the Forum at its ninth session on the theme of "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", inter alia, through sharing regional perspectives, approaches and experiences;

(f) To encourage Member States and request the secretariat of the Forum to explore ways to increase the participation of stakeholders and civil society, including indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, and other holders of traditional forest-related knowledge in future sessions of the Forum;

3. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests:

(a) To provide information on recent developments in the areas of sustainable forest management, climate change, deforestation, land degradation, desertification and biodiversity, including impacts on indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, with a focus on the themes of the ninth session of the Forum;

(b) To continue to provide, consistent with its mandate, science-based information relevant to the themes of future sessions of the Forum, through adequate modalities, including the Global Forest Expert Panels, which should continue to include experts from developing countries;

4. *Requests* the secretariat of the Forum:

(a) To explore with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions a format and opportunities for collaboration and cooperation and develop targeted joint activities related to sustainable forest management, the four global objectives on forests and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including in the context of developments in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and the International Year of Forests in 2011, and report progress to the Forum at its ninth session;

(b) To explore with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests opportunities for collaboration with the secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, in particular, on issues relevant to sustainable forest management, and report on progress to the Forum at its ninth session;

(c) To collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and with the criteria and indicator processes on the application of indicators, taking into consideration the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management and national priorities and conditions, as applicable, and develop a format, with a view to assisting, upon request, Member States to report to the Forum on progress towards sustainable forest management and on national policies and measures and international cooperation and means of implementation as set forth in the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(d) To seek participation in the Joint Liaison Group for the Rio Conventions when forest-related matters are discussed, with a view to highlighting and exchanging information on the important potential contribution of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests to the achievement of the Group's respective goals and objectives and to enhancing cooperation and coordination in the area of forests;

(e) To further promote and facilitate regional and subregional dialogue and cooperation on forests, including through country-led and region-led initiatives, to enhance regional and subregional contributions to implementation of sustainable forest management and inputs to future sessions of the Forum within the framework of the multi-year programme of work;

(f) To arrange for an interactive panel on the food, energy and economic challenges and opportunities for the implementation of sustainable forest management and the achievement of the global objectives on forests at the ninth session of the Forum, in the context of the overall theme on "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication";

(g) To seek ways, in consultation with Member States and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to raise awareness of the linkages between sustainable forest

management and the situation of women and youth who depend on and use the forest to meet their basic daily needs, including for food, shelter and fuelwood, and to highlight this urgent issue at the ninth session of the Forum in the context of the overall theme on “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication”;

(h) To synthesize, in cooperation with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, current information on studies and implementation activities related to the recognition of the range of values derived from goods and services provided by all types of forests and trees outside forests, as well as ways to reflect such values in the marketplace taking into account relevant national legislation and policies, and present the result at the tenth session of the Forum in the context of the overall theme on “Forests and economic development”;

(i) To develop a strategy, in consultation with Member States, for consideration by the Forum at its ninth session, to promote North-South as well as South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, on sustainable forest management, which also identifies options of support by the international community, while noting that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

The following decisions adopted by the Forum are brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 8/1

Accreditation of an intergovernmental organization to the United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests decided to accredit the African Forest Forum, an intergovernmental organization, to participate as an observer in its session.

Decision 8/2

Review process of the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests decides to complete the consideration at its ninth session of agenda item 6, based on the bracketed draft text developed in informal consultations during its eighth session.²

² As presented on Friday, 1 May 2009. See E/CN.18/2009/WP.1; see also www.un.org/esa/forests.