



assessment report on adaptation of forests to climate change available to UNFF8 and has developed a policy brief for UNFF's consideration. As part of its 5 thematic programmes, ITTO this month launched what is called *Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests* (REDDES). The UN-REDD Programme, jointly managed by FAO, UNDP and UNEP, and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank are collaborating closely to support national REDD strategies; systems for measurement, assessment, reporting and verification; and the engagement of indigenous peoples and civil society. In this regard, they are drawing on the experience and expertise of the entire UN-system and other CPF members. Furthermore, along with other partners, including the UN-REDD Programme and FCPF, the Forest Investment Program of the World Bank is being designed to provide up-front bridge financing for REDD readiness reforms and investments.

Another good example of teamwork is the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the financial mechanism of the three Rio conventions related to forests – the CBD, the UNCCD, and the UNFCCC. It is supporting sustainable forest management, including activities related to land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) in the current fourth replenishment cycle and will expand its programmes in these areas in GEF-5. Within the UNCCD's 10-year strategic framework, efforts are underway to deliver global benefits and help to achieve the four global objectives on forests. Along similar lines, ICRAF is working on a policy to support decision making on trees in agricultural landscapes. You will no doubt hear more about these and other initiatives over the course of the next 2 weeks.

In closing, Mr Chair, allow me to state the obvious. There will be no sustainable forest management without the means of implementation and all that this implies – financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building. By the same token, there will be no progress in combating desertification and land degradation and there will be no climate change mitigation and adaptation without sustainable forest management. Let there be no mistake.

As I noted earlier, UNFF8 can be a turning point in the ongoing forest dialogue but only if member countries concentrate on finding solutions. The CPF is ready to support your work and to enhance collaboration and coordination on forest issues at global, regional, sub-regional and national levels. We are at your disposal over the next 2 weeks to share our knowledge as you deliberate issues of critical importance. Please do not hesitate to call on us.

Thank you.