

**Statement by the Japanese Delegation on Means of Implementation
at the 8th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF8)**

April 20, 2009

New York, United States

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the current session of the UNFF, it is expected that we discuss and make a decision on one of the most important issues for the implementation of NLBI – financing for sustainable forest management.

We share the view that international community is in need of additional financial resources for the implementation of SFM on a global scale, and we consider the outcome of the discussion in this session on the issue will be of great importance.

There are a variety of initiatives and frameworks for funding in the forest sector including those which aim at addressing the climate change issue. However, as pointed out in the Report of SG, geographical and thematic gaps exist, and there is a room to improve the utilization of existing financial resources.

Under the current situation of global economy, the financial resources available to promote SFM and implement NLBI are limited, and it is rather important to consider ways to utilize existing limited financial resources in a most effective manner.

That is why we need to consider effective ways to enhance synergetic effects of funding through enhancing coordination and cooperation among existing initiatives and frameworks, and to utilize the expertise and know-how obtained by these initiatives and frameworks to the maximum.

From this point of view, the Japanese Government is, in principle, in favor of the idea to establish a "facilitative mechanism" which can contribute to enhancing coordination and cooperation among initiatives and frameworks.

Mr. Chairman,

In this session, Japan would like to contribute to the discussion on financing for the SFM in close coordination with distinguished delegates and other participants in order to achieve concrete and constructive outcome on the issue.

Thank you very much