

## **Intervention of the Fiji Delegation;**

WG 2 (Agenda item 6)

## **Other Means of Implementation;**

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Thank you Mr Chairman

I would like to highlight the implementation of forest law in Fiji

Forest law enforcement is an important tool in our progress towards sustainable forest management, not only forest law enforcement but also revision of forest policies and legislations in order to more effectively achieve the objectives of sustainable forest management.

Illegal logging is not a problem in my country as it is tightly controlled by government, as in other countries in the Pacific, (again idifferent countries have different definitions of illegal logging) however forest law enforcement, policy planning, land tenure, and land use issues are areas that needs much attention and strengthening, if the global goals 1-3 is to be realized.

Mr Chairman, currently it is unlawful in Fiji to export any plant or plant product without going through proper authorization through the process of permits. Currently we are conducting awareness workshops and registering all traders that are involved in such process.

We are also in the process of establishing a forest management and certification process along with chain of custody under the FSC forest certification scheme.

Mr Chairman, Land tenure will still form a great challenge in the sustainable management of our forests as over 85% of the total land area in Fiji is communally owned, and another 9% is privately owned. So government do not have direct control of 94% of the land, we do not consider this as a barrier but rather a challenge. Fiji's new forest policy stipulates the establishment of permanent forest estates on completion of our latest National Forest Inventory, which covered forest areas with thousands of different owners, almost all of the forest areas in the proposed permanent forest estates are communally owned. We are also increasing significantly the areas of protected areas, for the protection of Forest biodiversity under the current challenge of land tenure.

Mr chairman, we very much have the will but we lack the means especially in the areas of other means of implementation and we request that equal importance be accorded to other means of implementation as in it lies the intricate and often the underlying challenges for sustainable forest management in Pacific Island States . In this regard Mr Chairman, we agree with the IPF report that there is a lot of available environmentally sound technologies that needs to be transferred to developing states, including capacity building, awareness raising, education and information sharing. These are equally important areas that needs equal attention if we are to progress in the achievement of Sustainable forest Management, and we further request that the means and process for accessing these technologies be made easier.

Thank you Mr chairman