This report on enhanced cooperation provides a brief overview of the activities undertaken since the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests related to enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

The report is intended to facilitate deliberations of Member States at the 9th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in relation to cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination. It highlights further possibilities for cooperation in the context of the overall theme of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication”, as well as the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests.
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. Introduction</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II. System-wide cooperation and policy and programme coordination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Cooperation with multi-lateral environmental agreements, UN programmes, multilateral financial mechanisms, and other international entities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Stakeholder involvement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Country- and organizations-led initiatives in support of the Forum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Cooperation with regional and subregional partnerships and processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. Issues for further consideration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests decided through resolution 1/1 to address enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination at each session. This report builds on the structure of past reports and provides a brief overview of the activities undertaken since the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests related to enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, in particular, the Rio Conventions and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The report highlights further possibilities for cooperation in the context of the overall theme of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication”, the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests and the four Global Objectives on Forests.

II. System-wide cooperation and policy programme coordination

A. The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly

2. Within the reform process of the United Nations aimed at improving system-wide coordination and coherence, resolution 61/6 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly decided that the Council should hold annual ministerial-level reviews as part of its high-level segment, and requested it to consider launching a development cooperation forum on the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The themes for the 2009 and 2010 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) were implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health, and “implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women”.

3. The Forum secretariat contributed substantively to the preparation of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) in 2009 and 2010, by providing relevant UNFF decisions and information for inclusion in the official documents of the AMR. In addition, the Chair of the Bureau of the ninth session of the Forum and the Forum secretariat participated in the annual joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council Bureau and the Chairpersons of the functional commissions held in January 2010 in New York and provided the Forum’s contributions to the theme of the 2010 AMR on gender equality and empowerment of women. Other issues discussed during this meeting included enhancing cooperation and coherence between the Council and its functional commissions. The Chair of the Bureau of the ninth Forum emphasized the importance of mutually beneficial cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions through which key issues of concerns for the functional commissions are also reflected in the Council outcomes.
B. Millennium Development Goals (MDG) High Level Plenary Meeting

4. The General Assembly High Level Plenary Meeting (HLPM) held in September 2010 reviewed the progress towards the achievement of the MDGs, and received high level political attention from governments. The Forum secretariat contributed to the preparation of the Report of the Secretary General and other relevant documents for the HLPM. The Forum secretariat also provided substantive contributions to the background papers for the various roundtables, in particular, to the sustainable development roundtable in an effort to highlight the role of forests in achieving the MDGs. In order to accelerate progress towards achieving MDG 7, governments committed themselves to strengthening political commitment and action at all levels to effectively implement the global objectives on forest and the sustainable forest management of all types of forests in order to reduce the loss of forest cover and improve the livelihoods of those that depend on forests through the development of a comprehensive and more effective approach to financing activities. The involvement of local and indigenous communities and other relevant stakeholders, promoting good governance at the national and international levels, and enhancing international cooperation to address the threats posed by illicit activities was also linked to progress towards achieving MDG 7.

C. Functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the regional commissions

(a) Activities of the Forum secretariat in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

5. The Forum Secretariat continued to actively participate in the intra-departmental activities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). The Forum secretariat had an active role in the departmental working groups and task forces, co-chairing DESA Working Group on Climate Change, the Task Force on Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Development, the Task Force on Indigenous Issues, and the task force on the Rio+20 Process. The secretariat contributes each year to the consolidated report of the Secretary General on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and provides information and policy recommendations relevant to the themes under consideration by the Council. The secretariat also prepared two policy briefs on Finance for Forests and Climate Change, and on Forests: the Green and REDD of Climate Change. ¹

D. United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

6. The Forum secretariat and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues continued to work together. The Forum secretariat participates in the Inter-Agency Support Group on indigenous peoples as well as the Task Force on Indigenous Issues. The Forum secretariat contributed to the ninth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (April 2010), and participated in a panel

A discussion on indigenous peoples and forests highlighting the contributions made by indigenous peoples in the sustainable forest management and opportunities offered by the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests for gaining high political attention to forests and indigenous peoples. The statement adopted by the panel is being transmitted to the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The Indigenous Peoples’ major group play an active part in the multi-stakeholder dialogues of the Forum.

III. Cooperation with multi-lateral environmental agreements, UN programmes, multilateral financial mechanisms, and other international entities

7. The eighth session of the Forum, invited the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular the Conference of Parties of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to continue to integrate, as appropriate, sustainable forest management in their strategies. The Forum invited member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support within their capacities, consistent with their mandates and upon request, South-South cooperation with initiatives concerning sustainable forest management including through convening workshops and providing technical assistance, subject to available resources. It encouraged Member States to strengthen coordination, in particular among their national focal points for the Forum, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to facilitate implementation of sustainable forest management at national and other applicable levels; and to share experiences at the ninth session of the Forum. Cooperation with relevant international organizations within and outside the United Nations system relevant to the forest sector has been active.

8. The Forum during its eighth session also requested the Forum secretariat to explore with secretariats of the Rio Conventions a format and opportunities for collaboration and cooperation and to develop targeted joint activities related to the International Year of Forests 2011 and to report progress to the ninth session of the Forum. The Forum secretariat is working in collaboration with United Nations programmes, secretariats of the Rio Conventions and other international entities on initiatives to celebrate the International Year of Forests 2011. An overview of these activities is contained in the Report of the Secretary General on Preparations for the International Year of Forests 2011 E/CN.18/2011/7.

9. The eighth session on the Forum particularly noted the opportunities for cooperation and coordination provided by upcoming conferences of 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
The Forum secretariat actively participated in these and continued to be actively engaged in collaborative work.

A. Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

10. The Forum secretariat and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) secretariat signed a memorandum of understanding that aimed to identifying gaps, obstacles and opportunities in financing sustainable land management and sustainable forest management, focusing on expand the implementation of sustainable forest management beyond tropical rainforests to include dry forests and trees outside forests.

11. The Forum secretariat participated in the ninth session of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which took place in Buenos Aires in September 2009 and actively participated in the high-level segment of the Conference of Parties including facilitating a panel discussion. The Forum secretariat also initiated collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat and other partners on land degradation activities, under the auspices of the Environment Management Group.

B. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

12. The Forum secretariat participated in the fifteenth session of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was held in December 2009 in Copenhagen. During the Conference of Parties, the Forum secretariat and the Centre for International Forest Research (CIFOR), a member organization of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests jointly organized Forest Day 3 with other members of the CPF. Close to 1,600 representatives from governments, scientific and academic community and major group organizations participated in Forest Day 3. Three sub-plenary sessions discussed mitigation, adaptation and degradation, and eight parallel learning events discussed other issues related to forests and climate change. A summary statement was developed based on responses from participants to a series of questions posed to the sub-plenary sessions, and was presented to the UNFCCC secretariat.

13. Collaboration with the UNFCCC continued during the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing held in September 2010, in Nairobi, with participation and presentation by the UNFCCC secretariat on forest financing within the climate change convention. The Forum secretariat continues to be actively involved with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and co-hosted Forest Day 4, in Cancun, Mexico during the sixteenth Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC.

C. Convention on Biological Diversity

14. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan. At COP 10, member States adopted three inter-linked goals: a new CBD Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020, a decision on activities and indicators for
the implementation of a resource mobilization strategy; and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. The CBD Strategic Plan or the “Aichi Target, includes 20 headline targets arranged under five strategic goals. Among the targets related to forests, member States agreed to at least halve and where feasible bring close to zero the rate of loss of natural habitats, including forests, and to restore at least 15 per cent of degraded areas through conservation and restoration efforts. The “Aichi Target” is meant to offer a framework on biodiversity for the entire United Nations system.

15. CBD’s COP 10 also adopted several forest-related agenda items, including on forest biodiversity, protected areas and the sustainable use of biodiversity. Cooperation between both secretariats was discussed under the item on forest biodiversity and focused on the framework of collaboration between the Forum and the CBD secretariats, and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) both signed in 2009. Collaboration between both secretariats will contribute to advancing the implementation of the CBD programme of work on forest biological diversity and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument). Member States agreed to support joint capacity building activities in forest biodiversity and climate change by the two secretariats biodiversity, to promote regional cooperation, including South-South cooperation on forests, and to streamline forest related reporting, in cooperation with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. COP 10 also underscored the unique opportunities for raising awareness on forest biodiversity during the International Year of Forests 2011 (Forests 2011) and encouraged donors to fund Forests 2011 related activities and a joint staff position to be based at the Forum Secretariat.

D. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

16. Close cooperation and coordination between the Forum secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), especially the Forestry Department continued. The Forum secretariat participated in the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) held at FAO headquarters in Rome, in October 2010, and presented the messages from the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on forest finance. The ad hoc expert group called for close collaboration with the FAO and National Forest Policy (NFP) Facility to develop and implement national forest policy and legislation on financing for forests. The Committee on Forestry invited the Forum to use the results of FRA 2010 and 2015 as a tool for measuring progress toward sustainable forest management. The Secretariat of UNFF invited FAO to collaborate with CPF members on forest financing in support of the work of the Forum’s Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (AHEG). In Preparation for Rio+20, COFO recommended that member States and FAO highlight forests’ contributions to the global developmental agenda at the ninth session of the Forum to increase their visibility at the global level, and to actively in the International Year of Forests 2011.
E. United Nations Environment Programme and Global Environment Facility

17. The eighth session of the Forum recognized the special needs and requirements of countries with fragile ecosystems, including those of small island developing states and low forest cover countries. During the special session of the ninth session of the Forum held in October 2009, as part of the means of implementation of sustainable forest management resolution, the Forum established the facilitative process as part of the resolution on forest financing. The Forum secretariat in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme developed a facilitative process initiative to identify gaps, obstacles and opportunities in financing sustainable forest management in targeting small island developing states and low forest cover countries. The project is the fruit of collaboration between the Forum secretariat, as the executing agency, and the United Nations Environment Programme, as the implementing agency. The two organizations signed a Letter of Agreement in Nairobi in September 2010 to design and implement the project together, with funding from the Global Environment Facility. Components II and III of the project are currently being designed in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme. Component II will consist of four international workshops (two in small island developing states and two in low forest cover countries) where stakeholders will be able to discuss the findings from the initial work and become more closely engaged with the project. Component III will consist of a revision of the analyses together with a communications strategy to reach out to all forest financing stakeholders.

18. The Global Environment Facility agreed to a USD$1 million grant for the implementation of the Components II and III of the project, giving life to the facilitative process on forest financing that aims to assist countries in mobilizing funds for forests. The Global Environment Facility and the Forum secretariat aim to continue collaborating closely in the near future, especially since the GEF has recently created a new window of funding specifically for sustainable forest management and REDD+.

F. International Tropical Timber Organization

19. The Forum Secretariat continues to work in close cooperation with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). A senior ITTO staff member was seconded to the Forum secretariat for a twelve month period to facilitate cooperation between the Forum and ITTO. In order to take cooperation to the next stage, the ITTO and the Forum secretariat are entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide a framework to enhance cooperation and collaboration between the two secretariats in order to facilitate the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the multi-year programme of work of the Forum as well as the ITTO Action plans, Biennial Work Programmes and Thematic Programmes. The MOU will cover the period 2010-2015 and focus on the following areas: Collaborating in raising awareness of the important links between forests and the environment, employment creation,
poverty reduction and the achievement of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; working cooperatively to gain a better understanding of the potential contribution of the forest sector to the green economy and develop appropriate tools to support governments, the private sector and communities, in particular; utilizing the International Year of Forests in 2011 to highlight the links between forests and sustainable development; continuing to second an ITTO staff/consultant to the UNFF Secretariat, to perform the functions of the Principal Trade Officer for a period of 2 years (2011-2013)

20. The eighth session of the Forum agreed to develop a strategy to promote North-South, South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, on sustainable forest management while noting that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. Accordingly, December 2009, the Forum secretariat in collaboration with ITTO organized a two-day brainstorming workshop aimed at identifying basic elements for a strategy on North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on sustainable forest management for consideration by the Forum at its ninth session. Twenty-three participants from fifteen countries and four international and national organisations participated in the workshop.

21. The workshop examined, amongst other issues; the basic building blocks for cooperation on sustainable forest management, the existing regional and sub-regional institutional arrangements between countries, such as, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) initiatives. These entities, in particular were highlighted for having thus far played a critical role in facilitating discussions and sharing experiences on sustainable forest management and therefore would improve the likelihood of success for cooperation. Other issues covered by the workshop included elements for cooperation and an outline on a strategy on cooperation; and the different types of cooperation in the context of sustainable forest management, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the global objectives on forests. It discussed the process towards finalizing the strategy for North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on sustainable forest management, emphasizing that the process had to be open and transparent and the need for further engagement of as many member States as possible after the first consultative/workshop meeting.

G. International Year of Forests 2011

22. The Forum secretariat has continued to actively engage Member States, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional arrangements and major groups in the preparations for the launch and observance of the International Year of Forests 2011. The Forum’s cooperation with these organizations and entities is contained in the report of the Secretary General on the International Year of Forests 2011 E/CN.18/2011/7.

IV. Stakeholder involvement
23. Stakeholder participation in the Forum on Forests process continues to be of importance. During its eighth session, the Forum encouraged member States and requested the Forum secretariat to explore ways to increase stakeholder and civil society participation, including indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, and other holders of traditional forest-related knowledge, in future sessions of the Forum.

24. The Forum secretariat organized regular consultations with focal points of major groups throughout 2009 and 2010 in preparation for the current session. Representatives of major groups presented their perspectives at a panel discussion entitled “forests, women and fuelwood” at the eighth session of the Forum. The representatives also contributed significantly to the work of the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on forest financing convened in September 2010, in Nairobi, Kenya. The major groups participated in the discussions in an open manner alongside the government experts and submitted their proposals and comments on issues under discussion at ad hoc expert group on forest financing.

25. As part of enhancing stakeholders’ role in the Forum and in advancing sustainable forest management, major groups convened a major group-led initiative in support of the Forum in Accra, Ghana from 26–30 July 2010 focused on applying sustainable forest management to poverty reduction and strengthening the multi-stakeholder approach within the Forum. The major group initiative provided an opportunity for representatives of major group to actively develop coordinated and focused contributions and policy recommendations for the ninth session of the Forum. In the spirit of collaboration, major groups decided to submit three joint discussion papers reflecting their views on the three sub-themes of the ninth session of the Forum, rather than submitting individual papers on each subject by each Major Group. This truly impressive feat of coordination can be found in the papers which are issued as addenda to the note by the Secretariat on multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2011/9).

V. Country- and organizations-led initiatives in support of the Forum

26. Country- and organization-led initiatives have served to further the work of the Forum. At its sixth session, the Forum recommended that country-led initiatives address issues identified in the multi-year programme of work. Further to this, the Forum at its seventh session recommended that the convening of country-, organization- and region-led initiatives in support of the work of the Forum, focus on topical issues of the 2007-2015 multi-year programme of work. The initiatives have played a significant role in highlighting the work of the Forum and in providing valuable expert contributions for consideration by the Forum. The Forum Secretariat has continued to actively provide input and advice to all initiatives organized in support of the Forum.

27. The eighth session of the Forum agreed further to promote and facilitate regional and sub-regional dialogue and cooperation on forests, including through country-led and region-led initiatives, to enhance regional and sub-regional 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. During the intersessional period between the eighth and ninth sessions of the Forum, four initiatives in support of the Forum were held.

28. In November 2009, an international expert meeting organized in support of the Forum, entitled “Forests for people: the role of national forest programmes and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests: a country-led initiative in support of the UN Forum on Forests” co-sponsored by the People’s Republic of China, Austria, Germany, Finland and the United States of America and supported by a number of international organizations was held in Guilin, China. The expert meeting shared experiences and lessons learned in the use of national forest programmes to achieve sustainable forest management and as a means to implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests to enhance the contribution of forests to people’s wellbeing. It made a number of recommendations to the Forum for its consideration including stressing the need to strengthen international support mechanisms to facilitate implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests and financing for sustainable forest management.

29. In July 2010, a multi-stakeholder workshop organized to support the United Nations Forum on Forests process entitled "Applying sustainable forest management to poverty reduction: strengthening the multi-stakeholder approach within the United Nations Forum on Forests” was held in Accra, Ghana. The multi-stakeholder workshop aimed to enhance meaningful participation of major groups at the policy-making level and to identify strengths and weaknesses of the multi-stakeholder dialogue process associated with the Forum, and create specific recommendations for increasing its effectiveness. It recognized efforts by Member States and stakeholders to advance sustainable forest management through the Forum and to develop key recommendations linked to tenure rights, access and benefit sharing, traditional forest related knowledge, community-based forest enterprises, and leadership for sustainable forest management among women, indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups.

30. In September 2010, an expert workshop on “Forest governance and REDD in Latin America: emerging issues; held in Oaxaca, Mexico, sought to identify trends, facilitate the sharing of experience and lessons learned on Sustainable Forest Management, forest governance and decentralisation in light of REDD+, to identify opportunities and threats to livelihoods and poor people; and to contribute directly to the ninth session of the Forum. Key recommendations to the Forum included supporting strengthening the inclusion of local people, including indigenous peoples and women, in decision-making, benefit sharing, and preservation of their cultural and social values through sustainable forest management and REDD+; and promoting synergies between climate change adaptation and mitigation in forests through sustainable forest management;

31. The Forum has benefited from these as well as previous initiatives hosted by countries and international organizations and major groups in support of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests. In light of the experiences and lessons learned from country-, organization-, and regional-led initiatives, and to help even more targeted input to the work of the Forum, the Bureau of the UNFF9
has developed draft guidelines for country, organization, and regional-led initiatives for the consideration by the Forum. These guidelines – annexed to this report – are drawn from previous decisions and resolutions of the IFF, ECOSOC and the Forum.

VI. Cooperation with regional and subregional partnerships and processes

32. The Forum secretariat has continued to support and actively engage with regional and international processes including the Asia Forest Partnership (AFP), the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management (AFPNet), The African Forest Forum, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, the Montreal Process, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Tehran Process on low forest cover countries, the International Model Forest Network, a number of forest law enforcement and governance processes, the Forest Europe and other regional criteria and indicator-related processes. The Forum’s cooperation with regional and subregional partnerships and processes is contained in the Report of the Secretary General on Regional and Subregional Inputs E/CN.18/2011/3

VII. Issues for further consideration

33. Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination plays a vital role in achieving sustainable forest management, implementing the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests and achieving the four Global Objectives on Forests, especially because of the existence of various instruments, institutions and programmes and processes relevant for forests. In addressing linkages at the cross-sectoral international, regional, subregional and national levels, countries may wish to request the Secretary General:

♦ To continue to address the relationship between forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, at relevant international and regional meetings, including regional implementation meetings, within the context of sustainable economic, social and environmental development.

♦ To continue to facilitate the incorporation of forest-related issues more effectively as part of the work of forest related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments to and enable closer collaboration and work with these organizations and processes

♦ Countries may wish to also consider incorporating and strengthening activities related to observance of the International Year of Forests 2011.

♦ In order to enhance stakeholder engagement in the Forum process, countries may wish to supporting major groups initiatives on the roles of civil society actors and the means of their engagement with the Forum and the
implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests (forest instrument);

♦ In addressing linkages at the regional and subregional levels, countries may wish to consider how the Forum can actively engage regional and subregional organizations in strengthening regional participation in forest-related activities.

♦ The Collaborative Partnership on Forests provides critical support to the work of the Forum by enhancing cooperation and coordination among its member organizations. Further cooperation opportunities could be explored in advancing a common message on sustainable forest management based on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Changes. The Partnership may wish to continue to strengthen collaborative activities with the Forum including in:

♦ Implementing the Forum resolution on forest financing, by supporting the facilitative process developed by the Forum secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme and exploring the possibility of cooperating in implementing Component II and III of the facilitative process project.

♦ Continuing to provide a framework to enhance cooperation and collaboration between the Forum secretariat and the CPF member organizations to facilitate the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the multi-year programme of work of the Forum.

♦ Continue to develop and implement targeted joint activities related to the observance of the International Year of Forests 2011.

I. Background

Country and other hosted international expert meetings in support of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests have made important and extremely significant contributions to the process. These initiatives are innovative and unique mechanisms of the intergovernmental forest policy process (IPF, IFF and UNFF) that have deepened the knowledge on important issues concerning sustainable forest management and international cooperation in that regard. The usefulness of such initiatives is evident from the recognition they have received for their contributions in achieving consensus, and from the increasing number of countries, organizations and major groups hosting such initiatives in recent years. In light of the experiences and lessons learned from country-, organization-, and regional-led initiatives, the Bureau of the UNFF9 has developed guidelines for country, organization, and regional-led initiatives of the Forum. These guidelines draw upon the previous guidelines from IFF, ECOSOC and UNFF resolutions and decisions.

II. Guidelines for CLI, OLI, RLI and MGI initiatives:

The overall purpose of any CLI, OLI and RLI (initiative) is to support the work of the UNFF. Thus such initiatives should be planned based on the following guidelines:

a) These initiatives should support the multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) for the agenda of the upcoming session in order to contribute substantively to the thematic focus of the upcoming session;

b) These initiatives should be informal in nature, open-ended, transparent and participatory, open to participation by all Member States of the Forum, as well as members of the CPF and representatives of Major Groups.

c) Initiatives should strive for balanced representation from countries, reflecting a range of interests and views of all interested stakeholders; and particular attention should be paid to the participation of women;

d) Interested governments and organizations should announce their intention to convene such initiatives at the UNFF session, showing a clear link to the next Forum session and the expected input to the thematic focus of the upcoming UNFF session;

e) In the event the Forum does not learn of the intention for an initiative at a regular session, in the intervening period between the sessions interested host governments and organizations should bring to the attention of the UNFF Bureau on their interest in convening an initiative;

f) The Secretariat will serve as a member of the Steering Committee of each initiative;
g) The cost of such initiatives will be borne by the hosts, donors or provided from other sources; neither the regular UN budget nor the UNFF Trust Fund will cover costs for such initiatives;

h) The respective Bureau Member, from the same region that the Initiative is being held, should be also invited and attend the Initiative,

i) The travel and expenses of a minimum of one UNFF Secretariat member will be covered by the initiative for the preparatory process and the meeting itself;

j) Such meetings of experts should submit a report to be presented to the Forum conforming to the guidelines of the Forum; and

k) Based on final and summary reports received by the Secretary-General, a summary of country, regional, organization and major group led initiatives, including financial expenditures, will be reported to the Forum at the time of its meeting.