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Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management
Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management
Report of the Secretary General

Summary

According to the Forum’s multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) means of implementation, including finance, is a recurring “crosscutting issue” for each session. At the special session of its ninth session, the United Nations Forum on Forests adopted a resolution on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management. Through this resolution, the Forum decided to establish the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (AHEG) and the Facilitative Process (FP). The present report contains a progress report on the work of the Facilitative Process, and the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing. This report also contains the Secretary General’s recommendations for intersessional activities between the first and second meeting of the expert group on forest financing, for consideration by the Forum at its ninth session.

*E/CN.18/2011/1
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I. Introduction

1. This report is prepared to facilitate deliberations on the provisional agenda item 11 for the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

2. It should also be noted that, according to the Forum’s multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) sub-item (a) means of implementation, including finance, will be a recurring “crosscutting issue” for each session.

3. At the special session of its ninth session, held on 30 October 2009, the United Nations Forum on Forests adopted a resolution on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (see E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS/2009/2, para. 3), through which the Forum established an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group (AHEG) and a Facilitative Process. In its decision 2009/268, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the special session.

4. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the resolution and in fulfilment of its mandate, the AHEG should hold two meetings, one before the ninth session and one before the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The AHEG should submit a preliminary report at the ninth session and final recommendations at the tenth session for the Forum’s consideration and decision.

5. This present report is submitted, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 5 of the above-mentioned resolution, to inform the Forum on the activities of the Facilitative Process and the outcome of the first meeting of the AHEG. It should be noted that the report of the first meeting of the ad hoc expert group on forest financing is contained in document […]. The Co-Chairs summary of the discussion of the AHEG1 including Co-Chairs proposals on the intersessional activities on forest financing is also attached to the above-mentioned report.

II. Progress Report on the work of the Facilitative Process

A. Functions of the Facilitative Process

6. Through the Resolution of the special session of its ninth session, the Forum further decided to establish a Facilitative Process, to be initiated immediately following the special session of the ninth session of the Forum1 and in the framework of the multi-year programme of work, working under the guidance of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The Forum invited the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and relevant stakeholders, including regional organizations to support the work of the Facilitative Process, and to actively engage to catalyse the implementation of sustainable forest management and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests, taking into account the special needs and circumstances of Africa, the least developed countries, low-forest-cover countries, high-forest-cover countries, medium-forest-cover countries, high-forest-cover, low-deforestation countries and small island developing States.

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1 See Economic and Social Council decision 2009/240.
7. The functions of the Facilitative Process, in accordance with the Resolution, include:

   (a) To assist in mobilizing and supporting new and additional financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management;

   (b) To assist countries in mobilizing, accessing and enhancing the effective use of existing financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management, taking into account national policies and strategies;

   (c) To identify, facilitate and simplify access to all sources of finance for sustainable forest management;

   (d) To identify obstacles to, gaps in and opportunities for financing sustainable forest management;

   (e) To assist countries in developing national financing strategies for sustainable forest management within the framework of national forest programmes or their equivalent, as called for in the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

   (f) To facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building to developing countries;

   (g) To provide advice, upon request, and to share examples of good practice in improving the enabling environment for sustainable forest management, in particular in achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, in order to attract public and private-sector investment and philanthropic funding;

   (h) To enhance coordination, cooperation and coherence among relevant funding sources and mechanisms to improve the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests at all levels and to improve the effective and efficient use of available financial resources for its implementation.

B. Current Activities by the Facilitative Process

8. The Facilitative Process is already under way, with the objective of addressing some priority areas in forest financing as a forensic analysis task. It is important to note that the Facilitative Process is an implementation advisory process, and not a funding mechanism. The Facilitative Process works in partnership with other financing and funding processes, in a mutually supportive and complementary manner. The United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat initiated the Facilitative Process immediately after the adoption of the resolution at the special session of the ninth session of the Forum.

9. The resolution requires that the Facilitative Process focus on developing countries with special needs and circumstances, and that it should increase cooperation and coordination among key stakeholders.

10. As information remains very limited on what untapped funds exist for forest financing, the Facilitative Process needed to begin with data-collection
to highlight existing gaps, obstacles and opportunities for forest financing, as mentioned in its function (d). Moreover, the report on forest financing commissioned by the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF/AGF)\(^2\) showed that the Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have suffered the most from the drop in donor forest financing in the past two decades.

11. In light of the above and immediately following its creation, the Facilitative Process was launched with a project on identifying gaps, obstacles and opportunities in financing SFM in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs).

12. This initiative is funded, as the first tranche of work under the Facilitative Process, by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and aims at providing a clear picture of the financing needs and constraints of LFCCs and SIDS. As a result of this project, and during the period 2010 to 2013, all sources of financing for sustainable forest management in these categories of countries that have suffered significantly from a decline in forest financing will be reviewed.

13. The LFC/SIDS initiative is composed of three successive components described below. The first component was funded by the DFID whilst components II and III will be implemented through a grant from the GEF. Component I, which was completed by September 2010, consists of an in-depth analysis and assessment of current and emerging funding, financial mechanisms and flows and gaps in financing for SFM in SIDS and LFCCs at all levels. The specific objectives of this component are to:

(a) Improve understanding of the current status, gaps and challenges for financing for SFM in SIDS and LFCCs, including utilization of studies by donors, multilateral organizations and academics, in particular for individual countries from the National Forest Program Facility (NFP).

(b) Identify innovative approaches and mechanisms which can access existing funding sources and mobilize new financing flows for SFM in SIDS and LFCCs.

(c) Provide the analytical basis for addressing SFM financing challenges in international policy and support programmes, and in future activities for stakeholder capacity development in SIDS and LFCCs.

14. With services from an international consultancy agency, the following 11 papers on forest financing in SIDS and LFCCs were prepared:

(a) Seven national case-studies on SIDS and LFCC countries (3 for SIDS and 4 for LFCCs) were commissioned to national consultants. These national

studies will be conducted (i) to provide real life examples of the broader macro-level and sectoral analyses and (ii) to provide realistic scenarios on future opportunities and constraints as well as experiences on lessons learned. The 7 countries selected according to technical criteria were Trinidad and Tobago, Fiji and Cape Verde for SIDS, and Mali, Jordan, Uruguay and Kyrgyzstan for LFCCs. In each of these countries, a workshop will be held with relevant national governments, donors, CPF, experts and representatives of major groups to assess the accuracy of the micro and macro papers, and to collect further the primary data.

(b) Four international/regional studies were commissioned to identify macro-level financial forensic analyses on the economic, geographic and institutional situations in SFM financing in SIDS and LFCCs and to identify challenges and opportunities for funding of SFM from a variety of sources.

15. In total there are 11 analytical reports, five focusing on SIDS and six on LFCCs. Within each of the two respective country groups, i.e. SIDS and LFCCs, challenges on forest financing vary significantly from country to country, because of the geographic and climatic conditions, forest coverage, economic activities, forest governance, and institutional capacities among other factors. Therefore, an in-depth analysis complemented by selected country studies was necessary to address thematically related challenges and share experiences. Similar consideration will also be reflected in Component II of this project in grouping countries for participation in inter-regional workshops tailored to meet specific needs, build capacity and promote south-south exchange.

16. Component II, to be carried out in 2011, will consist of organizing and holding four (4) inter-regional workshops (two in SIDS and another two for LFCCs) to review and take forward the findings contained in the reports under Component I. The workshops will be tailored to address specific topics related to forest funding gaps, including an exchange of views by country-level experts to review, validate and add input to the specific thematic analytical reports and national case studies, and to prepare respective action recommendations for governments, the private sector, the international community, financing institutions, the philanthropy and other stakeholders.

17. There are thus two objectives specific to this second component: (i) test the validity of the data obtained in Component I by encouraging discussions and exchange of experiences on forest financing in the countries concerned; and (ii) promote appropriation by key stakeholders of the project and its findings. An initial network of experts and policy makers on forest financing will thus be established.

18. Representatives, including national experts, recognized international experts in the field of forest financing, CPF, donors, international, regional and sub-regional organization representatives including the NFP Facility, civil society and other relevant stakeholders will participate in the workshops. These workshops will also focus on beginning to build capacity to enhance skills to securing financing for SFM.

19. Component III, to be carried out in 2012, will consist in reporting to forest financing stakeholders including SIDS and LFCC governments, donors, and CPF member organizations on workshop findings, through a communication
strategy with multiple communication products aimed at different audiences, and identifying key recommendations for further action.

20. This third component will feature communication activities to promote information exchange and raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities for SFM financing in SIDS and LFCCs. National level communication measures, particularly in case study countries, will also be recommended. These activities will help to increase awareness on current financing gaps for SFM and promote south-south cooperation for increasing financing of for forests and facilitating access to forest funding sources.

21. Care has been taken to emphasize a cross-sectoral, and cross institutional perspective throughout this project. It has now long been recognized that many of the causes of deforestation lie outside of the forest sector (e.g., agriculture, public infrastructure). Likewise, forests have an impact on connected sectors, notably climate change. In the same way, financial flows outside of the forest sector can have both positive and negative impacts on forests and in turn, forests can contribute significantly to the national economy and reducing poverty. At this time, however, these linkages have only been partially acknowledged by decision-makers and only rarely implemented. The “silos” of government ministries with responsibility for different areas affecting forests, including deforestation, need to work more collaboratively. It is therefore essential that this project look at financing for forests from a 360-degree perspective, rather than financing for the forest sector in the narrow sense of the term.

22. Related to this is the desired outcome of initiating a network of stakeholders on forest financing in SIDS and LFCCs that extends well beyond the forest sector. In each component, stakeholders of different sectors have been involved in contributing to data production (component I), discussing results (component II) and receiving tailor-made information (component III). This will encourage stakeholders to think beyond “silos” which have been a major impediment in the implementation of SFM to this day.

23. Given the cross-sectoral, crssoo-institutional need, a different strategy should be undertaken to link sectors and ministries and to address the issuesin a landscape and interconnected fashion.

III. First Meeting of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group

24. By adopting at the special session of its ninth session its resolution on means of implementation for sustainable forest management, the United Nations Forum on Forests set up a new vision in which financing sustainable forest management was recognized as a critical action for advancing the global development agenda. This Resolution specifically mandates the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group to make proposals on strategies to mobilize resources from all sources to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including, inter alia, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund, taking into account, inter alia, the results of the Forum’s review of the performance of the Facilitative Process,
views of Member States, and review of sustainable forest management-related financing instruments and processes.

25. The first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (AHEG1) was held from 13 to 17 September 2010 at United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya. About 200 experts from 64 countries, and 23 international and regional organizations as well as major groups participated in the meeting.

26. The programme of work of the AHEG1 comprised of two workshops as well as plenary sessions. During the AHEG1, experts listened to presentations by 28 panelists on topics such as the cross-sectoral importance of forest financing for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, national and regional experiences, policies and strategies on forest financing, the activities of the forest-related financing mechanisms, and the work of the UNFF Facilitative Process. The participants also heard keynote speeches on the work of the Amazon Fund, and on the pros and cons of various forest financing options including a global forest fund as well as strengthening the existing financing mechanisms.

27. Key and influential non forest sectors such as planning and finance ministries were engaged in the discussion on forest financing, and shared their views on how they can contribute to address the issue of forest financing. Participants succeeded in learning more about the opportunities and complexities of the issue, the scope of the work, and the level of activities that countries, organizations and major groups have carried out so far on forest financing.

28. During AHEG1, the experts also discussed various national/regional/ and international actions to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management. The participants in AHEG1 also discussed the actions that are necessary to be undertaken after UNFF9 and prior to AHEG2, and the areas that further work is needed.

29. Based on the discussions during the AHEG1, the Co-Chairs submitted their summary of the debate. Drawing from the discussion, the Co-Chairs also proposed a set of intersessional actions and activities which is included in the Co-Chairs summary. Experts attending AHEG1 adopted the report of the meeting, and took note of the Co-Chairs Summary which is annexed to the AHEG1 report.

30. In essence, discussions in AHEG1 highlighted the need for further collaboration and sharing of experiences among governments to develop innovative financing mechanisms, as well as deeper collaboration with the private sector, and the need for an enabling environment for private sector investments. The discussions also underscored the need to engage more substantively governments, CPF and its AGF in identification of forest financing options, modalities and their possible structures, prior to AHEG2. The AGF role is considered particularly important, as it can provide analyses on funding gaps among the forest-related funding mechanisms including among the Rio Conventions, and provide proposals on ways to strengthen existing forest-related financing mechanisms, enhance coordination, and improve access to their resources. Based on such contributions, participants in AHEG1 felt the need to

1 Document....

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have an assessment of different options for the forest financing architecture, including a global forest fund, to be prepared by the secretariat for consideration of the AHEG2.

IV. The Facilitative Process and the Ad Hoc Expert Group

31. It is of crucial importance to understand the relationship between the Ad Hoc Expert Group and the Facilitative Process, as they are complementary in terms of both the substance of their mandates and their processes. The work of these processes will be closely interrelated throughout the four-year period from 2010 to 2013. The cumulative results of the Ad Hoc Expert Group and the Facilitative Process should eventually provide a solid foundation for the crucial decision at the tenth session of the Forum on forest financing, and a critical input to the 2015 review of the international arrangement on forests.

32. The initial findings emanating from the studies undertaken in the Facilitative Process project were provided to AHEG1. The initial findings by these studies revealed the paucity of cross-sectoral data, illustrating the difficulty in going beyond a sectoral approach to tackle the issue of forest financing. The studies unequivocally show that SIDS’ and LFCCs’ share of global forestry ODA has dropped threefold between 2002 and 2008, confirming the need to address forest financing urgently in both these categories of countries.

33. The studies indicate that forests are not generally regarded as a development priority in SIDS; and as a result, only half of SIDS have explicit forest policies or legislation, and forest administrations, and even where they exist, they have limited financial and human resources. In many SIDS, the commercial forest sector is marginal or absent, which increases the dependence of forest financing on public funds and innovative mechanisms. Two innovative mechanisms could be further developed that might substantially increase forest financing. First, many SIDS have a high potential for tourism – including ecotourism – a sector which stands to contribute significantly to forest financing. Secondly, climate change-related (and especially REDD+) funding could be increased in SIDS, especially in light of the high vulnerability of these countries to climate change, as well as the important contribution of forests in SIDS to mitigating and adapting to climate change. In particular, forests in SIDS not only store carbon, but they also prevent erosion in mountainous areas and act as a crucial protection against sea-level rise when located in coastal regions.

34. According to these studies, forests do not generally appear on the political agenda in LFCCs, despite their importance. First, they provide a source of shelter, food, and in many cases livelihoods for impoverished rural populations, thus contributing to poverty reduction and food security at the national level. Secondly, forests are a key instrument in combating desertification and providing clean water – an element of vital social and economic importance given that many LFCCs are regularly threatened with droughts. There is therefore a need to recognize, from a political perspective, the importance of forests and their role in contributing to key national priorities such as poverty reduction and food security, in order to increase public forest financing. Moreover, it is important to acknowledge the linkages between forests and related sectors such as agriculture.
and energy so as to develop integrated financing strategies that bridge the gap between drylands and forests.

35. As anticipated, these findings which still have to be reviewed in different workshops, provided valuable substantive input to the deliberations of the AHEG1 and triggered many ideas and suggestions on the potential future work of the Facilitative Process.

V. Potential Future Activities for the Facilitative Process

36. The resolution adopted by the special session of the ninth session of the Forum includes several functions for the Facilitative Process, and gives special attention to the situations of specific groups of countries. All functions of the Facilitative Process are of equal importance, and there is no doubt that all these functions have to be implemented, in regard to categories of countries identified in the Resolution.

37. The Facilitative Process, based on possible guidance provided by the Forum and the provision of the necessary resources, can adjust its work plan, including by expanding its work to cover similar projects for the remaining categories of countries identified in the resolution adopted at the special session of the ninth session of the Forum, areas of importance for the work of the Ad Hoc Expert Group and other potential areas of interest.

38. It is worth mentioning that the work of the Facilitative Process entirely depends on voluntary contributions to the UNFF Trust Fund. Currently, the available staffing and financial resources have prevented the Facilitative Process from launching activities to fulfil all of the Facilitative Process’s functions immediately. The SIDS/LFCC project is only the first of many activities that can be carried out under the Facilitative Process. It is possible to have a long-term plan for implementation of all Facilitative Process functions through various activities, if sufficient resources are provided. For example, a similar project on Africa and LDCs as well as on other categories of countries as listed in the Resolution can be carried out by the Facilitative Process.

39. In addition, given the role of the Forum in giving thorough and comprehensive policy guidance on all aspects of forests including all aspects of financing of forests, the Facilitative Process is best suited to taking more action in bringing the pieces of information which are currently unavailable on the impacts of REDD+ financing on broader forest financing. Such a task for the Facilitative Process would also shed light on the gray areas that are crucial for the UNFF10 to make an informed decision on forest financing. Such an undertaking by the Facilitative Process will be also beneficial to other relevant processes in particular, those related to REDD+ financing. The interlinkages of the work of the Forum on forest financing and the climate change REDD+ financing have been discussed in detail in the secretariat note prepared for the AHEG1 (Document: E/CN.18/2010/2).

40. There is huge potential for the Facilitative Process to provide solid and useful work on this issue. To cite an example, additional data collection activities could be carried out by the Facilitative Process on the global financing level in order to study the overall impact of REDD+ on forest financing. With over $4
billion already pledged, REDD+ is likely to affect the forest financing landscape significantly. Whether it will be spread out evenly across themes and countries, however, is unlikely; this study could point out potential gaps in a bid to encourage donors to fill them.

41. The aim of such activity is not only to collect data but also to catalyze foment communication and exchange between Member States and donors, thereby kick-starting greater coordination among stakeholders. Such activity completely falls within the functions of the Facilitative Process, in particular, functions 7c (identifying sources of financing), 7d (identifying gaps, obstacles and opportunities) and 7h (enhancing coordination among funding sources), as stated above.

42. The second phase of such activity can focus on enhancing donor coherence and cooperation. The Source Book on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management already exists as an initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. A series of workshops aimed at donors primarily could build on this by identifying where lack of coordination remains, and how different donor sources could be harmonised. Similar initiatives have already been launched, for instance, in a bid to harmonise REDD+ initiatives between the World Bank’s FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme. This second phase will address functions 7a (assist in mobilizing and supporting new and additional financial resources), 7c (identifying sources of financing) and 7h (enhancing coordination, cooperation and coherence among relevant funding sources and mechanisms).

43. The third phase can also focus on the national level through preparation of a forest financing toolkit to assist countries in developing national forest financing strategies that take into account national policies and strategies. This toolkit could be shared with countries through a series of regional and thematic workshops and will be followed up on a case-by-case basis, providing advice and sharing examples of good practice where requested. This work at the national level will also be a useful opportunity to facilitate technology transfer and capacity building in the area of forest financing. This third phase will address functions 7e (assisting countries in developing national financing strategies), 7f (facilitating technology transfer and capacity building), and 7g (providing advice and examples of good practice).

VI. Conclusions and Recommendations to the United Nations Forum on Forests on intersessional activities on forest financing

44. In line with the comprehensive approach set by the resolution adopted at the special session of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its ninth session, the forest financing process within the United Nations Forum on Forests comprises the work under the Facilitative Process and two meetings of the Ad Hoc Expert Group and the intersessional periods, leading to the tenth session of the Forum, in 2013. The UNFF forest financing process needs to translate the guidance provided in the resolution on forest financing into action, and arrive at clear, feasible and practical
recommendations on issues introduced in the resolution, including the components and elements for a comprehensive strategy or strategies that prevent a piecemeal approach to forest financing, improve the enabling environment, catalyse use of resources from all sources, consider the cross-cutting nature of forest financing, promote resource realignment and efficiency, promote coordination on forest financing at all levels, make national, regional and international actions mutually supportive, strengthen and improve access to forest financing, and mobilize adequate resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests.

45. The UNFF forest financing process should provide opportunities for multidisciplinary discussions and input on forest financing, with the direct involvement of Member States, independent experts, member organizations of the CPF and its AGF, regional processes, donors, major groups, forest-related financial mechanisms and processes. It is critical to tap the potential of all these key players in order to support development of a successful financing decision at the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The intersessional period between the ninth session of the Forum and AHEG2 will provide sufficient time for ensuring submission of concrete input, in particular by Member States to the AHEG2 and to engage in substantive discussion on its final recommendations to the Forum at its tenth session.

46. Based on the discussions during the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group, and the proposals by the AHEG1 Co-Chairs on intersessional activities, the Forum may wish to consider and take decision on the following recommendations to be carried out during the period leading to the AHEG2 (fourth quarter of 2012).

47. The Forum may wish to:
   a) Emphasize the importance of forests and the need for political will, awareness and commitment to urgent action at the national, regional and international levels.
   b) Emphasize the need to mainstream the interests of forest-dependant people including indigenous peoples and local communities in financing mechanisms for SFM, due to the importance of forests in securing poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, and recognizing the value of contributions from major groups.
   c) Invite substantive submissions by Governments, CPF member organizations, regional organizations and processes and major groups on forest financing options, modalities and their possible structures, including a global forest fund and strengthening of existing and emerging mechanisms, and the advantages and disadvantages of these options, envisaged functions, requirements and deliverables of the different options by 1 March 2012, and request the UNFF Secretariat to separately compile these submissions to inform the work of AHEG2.
d) Invite members of the CPF to report to UNFF10 on their ongoing and future actions on forest financing and to consider holding an open-ended Organization-Led Initiative in support of the work of the Forum prior to AHEG2, and to focus, deepen and broaden their work in support of national-level action on financing SFM.

e) Invite the CPF Advisory Group on Finance, by 1 March 2012, to update and expand its:

i. analyses with a focus on forest-related financing mechanisms, including funding gaps among the Rio Conventions (time frames, deliverables and the working modalities of funding mechanisms), addressing *inter alia*, financing, forests and climate change, including REDD+, arrangements pertaining to forest biological diversity in the framework of the CBD, relevant financing strategies and investment frameworks on sustainable land management under the UNCCD, the new SFM/REDD+ Programme of the GEF, as well as financial resources associated with the forest law enforcement governance and trade processes (FLEG and FLEGT) at country and regional level and keeping in mind the role of markets.

ii. 2008 finance paper for AHEG2, and to provide proposals on ways to strengthen existing forest-related financing mechanisms, enhance coordination, improve access to their resources and identify how they fit into the broader forest-financing frameworks.

f) Invite the UNFF Secretariat to deepen its collaborative work to address gaps and explore new opportunities on forest financing.

g) Call upon Member States and international organizations to support implementation of all functions of the Facilitative Process, and strengthen collaboration with relevant partners on the initial outcomes of the Facilitative Process, in particular on SIDS, LFCCs, Africa and LDCs.

h) Request the UNFFS in its work on the Facilitative Process, and in collaboration with the CPF member organizations, to:

i. Work to remove barriers in access of countries to financing including through building their capacities, and to further examine the effects, impacts and synergies of cross-sectoral and cross-institutional activities on forest finance.

ii. Utilize the platform of the UNFF to convene relevant financial institutions such as regional and national banks, working in close concert with regional forest processes to further develop and understand ways to mobilize resources and to mainstream the global objectives on forests in their programmes.

i) Request the UNFF Secretariat, in close cooperation with CPF and other key actors, to undertake work on REDD-plus and forest financing including the implications of REDD-plus funding on broader forest financing be undertaken within the Facilitative Process.
j) Call, in preparation for AHEG2, for further collaboration and sharing of experiences with the private sector, building on lessons learned, given the importance of the private sector in providing sustainable finance for SFM, and the crucial role of a stable and predictable enabling environment for their investments.

k) Call for further collaboration and sharing of experiences among governments to develop innovative financing mechanisms.

l) Request the UNFF Secretariat, based on all of these submissions, to undertake an assessment, with a sense of urgency, of different options for the forest financing architecture, including a global forest fund and to prepare a note for AHEG2.

m) Urge Member States to develop and implement national forest policy and legislation on financing for forests, including all of the functions of forests, and in so doing consider the financing roles of key Ministries including, inter alia, agriculture, forestry, transportation, environment - with a focus on forests and biodiversity, climate change and water - and Finance Ministries, also keeping in mind the importance of integrating forests into poverty reduction strategies or equivalent cross-cutting donor and finance mechanisms and report to AHEG2 and UNFF10 on their progress and experience.

n) Request the AHEG1 Co-Chairs to hold an open-ended informal consultation during the intersessional period.

o) Recognize that only proposed actions which are part of the agreed biennial programme of work of the UNFF Secretariat are covered by the regular budget, that actions by CPF and Member States will be undertaken by them, and that the remaining proposed intersessional actions require voluntary contributions to the UNFF Trust Fund.