UNFF9 Resolution
on
Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication

(Friday, 4 February 2011)

PP1. **Recalling** the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests; chapter 11 of Agenda 21; and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

PP2. **Reaffirming** their commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign rights to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and development policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, and to the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries, as set out in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

PP3. **Recalling** General Assembly Resolution 62/98 of 17 December 2007 in which the General Assembly adopted the non legally binding instrument on all types of forests;


PP5. **Recalling** the adoption of the resolution on means of implementation for sustainable forest management by the UNFF at the special session of its ninth session;

PP6 **Recalling also the decisions** contained in the resolution of the special session of the ninth session of the Forum to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group with a view to making 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;
PP7. Recalling further the outcomes of COP 16 of the UNFCCC in Cancun, Mexico and COP 10 of the CBD in Nagoya, Japan.

PP8. Recalling the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Forum (2007-2015) and the overall theme of the 9th session on “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication”, including the provisions for the assessment of progress in the implementation of the non-Conventionally binding instrument on all types of forests and its four global objectives on forests;

PP9. Recalling further the request made to the Secretariat by the Forum at its 8th session in the resolution on “Forests in a changing environment” to synthesize, in cooperation with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) members, current information on studies and implementation activities related to the recognition of the range of values derived from goods and services provided by all types of forests and trees outside forests, as well as ways to reflect such values in the marketplace taking into account relevant national legislation and policies, and present the result at the tenth session of the Forum in the context of the overall theme on “Forests and economic development”;

PP10. Emphasizing that sustainable management of all types of forests, as a critical means to eradicate poverty, significantly reduce deforestation, halt the loss of forest biodiversity and land and resource degradation, improve food security, and access to safe drinking water and affordable energy, including development of sustainable alternative energy sources and improved energy efficiency and productive agricultural land, is essential to achieving sustainable development, with particular consideration for local livelihoods;

PP11. Noting the need to strengthen public understanding of the multiple economic, environmental and social benefits provided by forests and sustainable forest management, including in the sustainable production of forest goods and services, as well as the achievement of poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing the interests of forest-dependent people, indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable forest management efforts;

PP12. Recognizing the special needs and requirements of Africa, the least developed countries, low forest cover countries, high forest cover countries, medium forest cover countries, high forest low deforestation countries and small island developing states, as well as countries with fragile forest ecosystems;

PP13. Recognizing that desertification and land degradation, particularly in dry forests and arid and semi-arid areas, constitute one of the key push factors leading to deforestation and that addressing these challenges is imperative for sustainable forest management as well as for achieving the internationally agreed development goals;
PP14. Recognizing the need for new and emerging forest funding mechanisms and initiatives, to address the needs of all types of forests in their programmes and activities;

PP15 Recognizing the continued and valuable role of the CPF in providing a framework to enhance cooperation and collaboration among its members 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;

PP16. Recognizing the value of regional and sub-regional dialogue and cooperation on forests, including through country-led, region-led and organization-led initiatives;

Item 5. Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication

I. The Forum invites Member States, CPF members and other relevant stakeholders to:

1. Take actions to foster the role of forests that contribute to poverty eradication in developing countries based on sustainable forest management, as the basis for the economic development for those countries;

2. Explore, develop and improve an enabling policy environment to strengthen forest law enforcement and governance, attract long term investment and finance in sustainable forest management, clarify and strengthen the security of tenure rights and enhance the fair and equitable sharing of benefits and responsibilities with indigenous peoples and local communities whose livelihoods depend directly on forests;

3. Clarify and strengthen, if necessary, the access to forest use, inter alia by taking measures to enable indigenous peoples, forest-dependent and local communities to sustainably manage and benefit from forests, with due regard to the special needs of women and youth;

4. Facilitate capacity building in developing countries among, inter alia, indigenous peoples and local communities, through training, education networks and associations, to practice sustainable forest management, in order to maintain the multiple values of forests and reap their benefits;

5. Building on the work of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration to further develop and implement forest landscape restoration and other approaches that support sustainable forest management with the full participation of forest-dependent communities;
6. Strengthen the development of participatory mechanisms of decision-making processes related to forests, including trees outside forests, in particular with respect to the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples and their knowledge, with a specific focus on empowering women and youth;

7. Promote efforts to sustain the supply and quality of water from forests for rural and urban populations and for agricultural production;

8. Incorporate forest education in the curricula of primary and secondary schools, making use of all media, and taking advantage of the opportunity of the International Year of Forests, 2011;

9. Strengthen enabling environments to promote local entrepreneurship, community-company partnerships and small and medium-sized forest-based enterprises and related organizations in sustainable forest management as well as addressing the health and safety of forest workers;

10. Strengthen capacity for data collection and updates to make databases user-friendly and easily accessible;

11. Integrate the non legally binding instrument on all types of forests, national forest programmes and forest financing strategies into national development strategies, and other inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms to address poverty eradication;

12. Mobilize increased financing from all sources for a people-focused approach, specifically in integrated rural development programmes and community-oriented sustainable forest management activities;

13. Consider activities and mechanisms to share information and experiences on forest valuation methodologies to better reflect the full value of forest ecosystems and trees outside forests in order to enrich the discussion of the overall theme of the 10th session of the Forum in 2013;

II. The Forum invites:

14. The CPF members to:

   a. Assist national governments, upon their request, and as appropriate, local governments, and community groups in improving communication and facilitation management skills in order to strengthen collaboration with other sectors;

   b. analyze relevant information on the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to economic, social and environmental benefits,
protection of vulnerable and fragile ecosystems, as well as facilitating the development of forest valuation methodologies, and a harmonized reporting format that can be easily used by Member States; and also with the view to synthesize this information for submission to the Forum at its 10th session within the context of the overall theme of that session on, “forests and economic development”;

**Item 3: Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests**

The Forum:

1. Decides that a simple voluntary national reporting for the 10th session of the Forum will focus on the implementation of the non legally binding instrument on all types of forests and a balanced reporting on its four global objectives on forests and request the secretariat to this end to develop a streamlined reporting format, in consultation with other members of the CPF;

2. Invites Member States and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to initiate and support additional pilot projects, and to continue to support the existing pilot projects in Ghana, Nicaragua, Liberia and the Philippines, on the implementation of the non legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

3. Encourages donor countries and other countries in a position to do so, and members of the CPF to make voluntary financial contributions to the Forum’s Trust Fund to enable the Forum secretariat with assistance of NFP Facility to effectively assist, on request, in preparing voluntary national reports;

4. Invites FAO to consider how it can further incorporate into its reporting on the state of the world’s forests and through the global forest resources assessment programme, the elements of the non legally binding instrument on all types of forests and its global objectives on forests;

**Item 4: Regional cooperation**

The Forum:

1. Invites regional and subregional organizations to strengthen contributions to the implementation of the non legally binding instrument on all types of forests and its four global objectives on forests;

2. Also invites regional and subregional organizations, with the assistance of the members of the CPF, as requested, as well as major groups and other forest
stakeholders, to provide information to the Forum at its 10th session, in the context of its overall theme, on their efforts towards the implementation of the non legally binding instrument on all types of forests and its four global objectives on forests through sharing regional perspectives, approaches and experiences;

3. Invites the Secretariat and other members of the CPF, in conjunction with regional and subregional processes, such as the NEPAD Initiative on Sustainable Forest Management and Tehran Process on low forest cover countries, among others, to further develop strategies to promote North-South as well as South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation on sustainable forest management;

**Item 6: International Year of Forests**

The Forum:

1. Strongly urges Member States and regional and international organizations to take advantage of the International Year of Forests, 2011 as an extraordinary occasion to raise awareness of the multiple values of forests and the challenges facing many of the world’s forests and the people who depend on them, and to strengthen political will to address the gaps in the implementation of the non legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of its four global objectives, including through promoting international cooperation on means of implementation, inter alia, financing and resource mobilization strategies, and on technology transfer to developing countries;

2. Renews its invitation to Member States to establish national coordinating committees or designate focal points to promote and coordinate activities and initiatives related to the International Year of Forests (Forests 2011) at the local and national levels and encourages voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups to link their relevant activities to the Year;

3. Encourages Member States to promote awareness of success stories and challenges related to implementing sustainable forest management at the national, regional and international level, including as a means of promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

4. Encourages all relevant organs of the United Nations, including the functional commissions and the regional commissions, as well as United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes, to fully support, contribute to and participate in the activities envisaged for the observance of 2011 as the International Year of Forests;

5. Recommends ECOSOC, and through it the General Assembly, to consider the establishment of an International Day of the Forest with the aim to recognize the significant contribution of forests to sustainable development, the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and the corresponding need to strengthen the
sustainable management of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future
generations;

6. Invites the CPF to promote a sound understanding by individuals, communities,
Member States and international organizations of the multiple values of forests, including
their ecosystem functions, and the need to manage them sustainably;

**Item10: Enhanced cooperation**

The Forum:

1. Invites Member States to support major group initiatives to maintain their
   engagement in the Forum and their commitments to the implementation of the non
   legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to address the relationship
   between forests and trees outside forests and the internationally agreed development
   goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, at relevant international and
   regional meetings addressing sustainable development;

3. Invites the CPF to continue to provide scientific information relevant to the themes of
   future sessions of the Forum, through adequate modalities, including the global forest
   expert panels, which should continue to include experts from developing countries;

4. Requests the UNFF secretariat to continue to further cooperate with the Rio
   Conventions’ secretariats to promote cooperation towards a comprehensive approach
   on the multiple values of forests with sustainable forest management;

5. Encourages member States to send consistent messages to the governing bodies that
   form the CPF to continue to support the work of the UNFF, in order to ensure
   coherence and synergies related to forests and welcomes the MOUs concluded by the
   UNFF secretariat with the CBD, UNCCD, GEF and ITTO;

6. Invites ICRAF, in collaboration with other CPF members to develop analyses of
   agroforestry opportunities for the economic development of forest communities and to
   report to UNFF10 on this work;

**Item11: Means of Implementation**

The Forum:

1. Calls for implementation of all provisions of the resolution on means of
   implementation, adopted at its special session in October 2009, and in this
   regard, notes with appreciation the work of the first meeting of the open ended
   intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on forest financing;
2. Emphasizes the importance of intersessional activities in preparation for AHEG2, its successful outcome and the need for adequate financial support to enable the full participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in those activities;

3. Invites substantive submissions, to be received by 1 March 2012, from Governments, relevant regional organizations and processes and major groups 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, and the advantages and disadvantages of different options, envisaged functions, structures, requirements and deliverables of these options;

4. Recognizes the voluntary nature of the work of the CPF, and the fact that activities by the members of the CPF in support of the work of the Forum is contingent upon prior review and approval by their respective governing bodies and availability of extra-budgetary resources for such activities;

5. Invites members of the CPF to report to UNFF10 on their ongoing and future actions on forest financing and to focus, deepen and broaden their work in support of action on financing SFM;

6. Reiterates its invitation to the members of the CPF, as reflected in the resolution of the special session of UNFF9, to consider holding an Organization-Led Initiative in support of the work of the Forum on forest financing by 1 June 2012;

7. Invites also members of the CPF to provide to the Organization-Led Initiative referred to above, its analyses of gaps in and opportunities for forest-related financing, addressing inter alia, climate change, biological diversity, sustainable land and forest management, land degradation and desertification and financial resources associated with forest law enforcement and governance processes as well as transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building;

8. Further invites the members of the CPF to expand and update the 2008 finance paper\(^1\) for the second meeting of the ad hoc expert group on forest financing, and to provide proposals to the Organization-Led Initiative referred to above, including on strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund;

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9. Requests the UNFF Secretariat to compile all above-mentioned submissions, proposals, input and outcome for consideration of the second meeting of the ad hoc expert group on forest financing;

10. Invites Member States and members of the CPF and other relevant stakeholders to support implementation of all functions of the Facilitative Process and to this end, invite donor countries to provide voluntary contribution to ensure that all functions of the Facilitative Process are performed;

11. Agrees that there is an urgent need, among the Facilitative Process functions to:
   a. Work to identify the barriers for access, in particular by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to financing and suggest ways to simplify relevant procedures and build the capacities of countries to remove them and to examine the effects, impacts and synergies of cross-sectoral and cross-institutional activities on forest financing, and integrate the lessons learned in their submissions to the second meeting of the ad hoc expert group on forest financing;
   b. Encourage relevant institutions, such as international financial institutions, as appropriate, working in close concert with regional forest processes to further develop ways to mobilize resources from all sources and to mainstream the global objectives on forests in their programmes;

12. Requests the UNFF Secretariat, in accordance with the resolution of the special session of UNFF9, to report to the Forum on the progress made on the Facilitative Process;

13. Further requests the UNFF Secretariat, and invites other members of the CPF and other key actors, to examine the implications of new and emerging forest-related financing initiatives relating to the three Rio Conventions, on broader forest financing, in order to further promote an integrated approach to sustainable forest management, and invites voluntary contributions to support this work;

14. Calls upon Member States, in preparation for the second meeting of the ad hoc expert group on forest financing, to further collaborate and share 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, and invites members of the CPF to strengthen this area of cooperation;
15. Calls also for further collaboration and sharing of experiences among 
governments to develop innovative financing mechanisms;

16. Urges Member States, as appropriate, to develop and implement national forest 
policy and policy instruments on all types of forests and trees outside forests, 
including all of the functions of forests, and trees and in so doing take a cross-
sectoral approach to the issue of forest finance, also keeping in mind the 
importance of integrating forest and related issues into poverty reduction 
strategies or equivalent cross-cutting mechanisms; and report progress, 
experiences and lessons to AHEG2 and UNFF10;

17. Requests the AHEG1 Co-Chairs to hold an open-ended informal briefing 
between UNFF9 and AHEG2;

18. Emphasizes 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 undertaken by CPF and Member States will be financed by them, 
and that the remaining proposed intersessional actions require voluntary 
contributions to the UNFF Trust Fund.

**Item 12: Forum Trust Fund**

1. Calls on international and bilateral donors, and other countries in a position to 
do so to implement the General Assembly decision 58/554 and increase 
designated travel support contributions to the UNFF Trust Fund to provide 
travel and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) to representatives from 
developing countries, with priority to least developed countries, as well as 
countries with economies in transition, and invites voluntary contributions to 
allow for effective participation of developing countries and countries with 
economies in transition in AHEG2 and UNFF10, and whenever necessary to 
prioritize the coverage of economy class air tickets, daily subsistence allowance 
and terminal expenses.

**ANNEX**

The Forum takes note of the following guidelines for country-led, organization-led, 
region-led and major group-led initiatives in support of the United Nations Forum on 
Forests:

**Guidelines for country-led, organization-led, region-led and major group-led 
initiatives in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

**I. Background**
International expert meetings in support of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests hosted by countries or others have made important and extremely significant contributions to the process. These initiatives are innovative and unique mechanisms of the intergovernmental forest policy process (the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the United Nations Forum on Forests) 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 that have hosted such initiatives in recent years. In light of the experiences and lessons learned from initiatives led by countries, organizations, regions and major groups, these guidelines draw upon the previous guidelines contained in resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.

II. Guidelines for country-led, organization-led, region-led and major group-led initiatives

The overall purpose of any country-led, organization-led, region-led or major group-led initiative is to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Thus, countries may wish to consider the following guidelines when planning such initiatives:

(a) These initiatives should be related to the multi-year programme of work and cross-cutting issues of the United Nations Forum on Forests, as well as emerging issues. They can also be held to advance the implementation of previous outcomes of the Forum;

(b) These initiatives should be informal in nature, transparent, participatory, strive for balanced representation, including gender, and open to participation by all member States of the Forum, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, representatives of major groups, as well as other interested stakeholders;

(c) Proponents of an initiative should bring their interest in convening an initiative to the attention of the Bureau and the Secretariat of the Forum as soon as possible, in writing, informing of the objectives of the initiative, its relevance to the work of the Forum, the proposed venue and date, as well as the estimated participation;

(d) The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests will participate in the Committee established to guide the initiative;

(e) The cost of such initiatives will be borne by the hosts, donors or provided from other sources. Neither the regular United Nations budget nor the United Nations Forum on Forests Trust Fund will cover costs for such initiatives;
(f) The Bureau member from the region in which the initiative is being held should be invited to attend;

(g) The travel and expenses of one United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat member will be covered by the initiative;

(h) Following an initiative, the organizers should submit a report for presentation to the Secretary-General which will be placed on the website of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(i) In the interest of registering and acknowledging the contribution of all those involved in the initiative, including in terms of their financial support, the proponents of the initiative may wish to include this information in its report to be presented to the Secretary-General;

(j) Countries organizations, regions and major groups are invited to consider these guidelines that will apply to the initiatives announced after the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.