Ministerial Declaration of the (G77+China) High-level Segment of the 9th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests [(G77+China) International Year of Forests 2011]

1. [(Norway-all subsequent paragraphs) We,] the Ministers (G77+China) gathered at the High-level Segment of the 9th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests/ [(G77+China) meeting at] (JP) the 9th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) held on the memorable occasion of [(G77+China) and for the launch of the International Year of Forests [(EU) (Forests 2011)] underscore that forests are (G77+China) an integral part of ecosystems, [(G77+China) (EU) at the intersection of] (USA) the global environment and human [(USA)life and] well-being, providing multiple goods and services essential for people and crucial for sustainable development and (G77+China) the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

1 bis. (G77+China) We reaffirm the Rio Principles, Agenda 21 and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

1bis (EU) We consider that 2010 was a decisive year for forests and welcome in particular agreements reached at the Nagoya conference on biodiversity and the Cancun conference on climate change.

1 ter (G77+China) (replaces paragraph 5) We welcome the adoption of the United Nations Non Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests in 2007 as an integrated framework for promoting the implementation of sustainable forest management and achieving the four shared Global Objectives on Forests contained therein. The implementation of the forest instrument is essential. In order to do that, national efforts taken by developing countries need to be adequately supported by the international community through financing and environmentally-sound technology transfers to those countries based on nationally or regionally identified priorities for forest management.

1 ter (EU) (see paragraph 10)

1 quat (G77+China) We recall the report of the ECOSOC Resolution E/CN.18/SS/2009/2 of 16 November 2009 in which the Council adopted the resolution on means of implementation for sustainable forest management.

2. We stress that all types of forests[, (G77+China)when managed sustainably,] contribute significantly to addressing the complex and interconnected global challenges related to economic (G77+China, EU, JP) and social development, poverty (G77+China, EU, JP) eradication, [(EU) energy], food (JP) and clean water (G77+China, EU) security and agriculture, (EU) provision of(JP) and clean water (EU) and energy, climate change (JP) mitigation and adaptation, (JP) combating desertification [(G77+China) and] land degradation, and [(JP) loss of] biodiversity conservation.

2 alt (Switzerland) We stress the role of forests and trees and their vital role in promoting climatic stability, conserving biological diversity, and protecting coastlines, watersheds and soil as well as contributing to the green economy agenda/ approach.
3. (CH) While we all depend on forests we underline that [(G77+China) at least 1.6 billion people] (G77+China) one fifth of the world population depend on forests for their livelihoods [(G77+China), including 60 million people, mainly local and indigenous communities, who live within them. (CH) One quarter of all forests are managed by communities.] The Forest industries[(CH), both formal and informal,] employ more than 50 million people, while informal forest activities employ many more people. [and t] The annual value of international trade in forest products is more than $270 billion, with 20 per cent in developing countries] (CH), without taking into account the greater share of domestic trade. (G77+China) We reemphasize that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives and essential requirements for sustainable forest management. We underline that communities depending on forests need to be provided with alternatives that ensure access to energy, shelter, food, skills, education and economic activities to sustain their livelihoods.

[CH suggests splitting the previous paragraph into two.] [USA, CH, EU note that need to know where these facts are being drawn from and they need to be balanced between economic, social and environmental functions of forests. JP says to make sure these are the latest facts.]

3 bis. (G77+China) We stress that the role of forests in productive and non productive sectors is important including in employment generation and international trade as well as disaster risk reduction including flood control, inter alia;

3 bis (JP) (see para. 2)

4. We acknowledge the efforts undertaken (JP) and the progress made by (JP) the international community [(JP) countries] in advancing sustainable forest management at all levels (JP) since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. [(JP) but we are deeply concerned [(G77+China) that 13 million hectares] (G77+China) that all types of forest continue to be lost each year and underscore the need to reverse this trend, including by addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation][(G77+China).] as well as protection, restoration, afforestation, reforestation, conservation and increased efforts to prevent forest degradation,

4 bis JP We are deeply concerned, however, that 13 million hectares of forest continue to be lost each year and underscore the need to reverse this trend, including by addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation.

4 bis (CH) We note that values of forests for food security through the protection of water, soil, biodiversity as well as climate change mitigation are not properly addressed.

4 ter (CH) We note with concern the impact of climate change on forest ecosystems and forest-dependent communities

5 pre (CH) We underline the role of the UNFF as the UN global policy platform for forests in providing a clear, overarching and comprehensive policy view towards a coherent and effective implementation of sustainable forest management;

5. [(CH) We stress the importance of the implementation of sustainable forest management through the four shared global objectives on forests through the [(CH) [(EU) welcome the adoption] (EU) We reaffirm the importance of the] [(JP) United Nations] Non-Legally Binding
Instrument on All Types of Forests [(CH) [(JP) (U.N.)] Forest Instrument] [(EU) in 2007] (USA) appended herein, as a [(USA) voluntary] framework for action and international cooperation to conserve, sustainably manage, and restore all types of forests [(USA) implementing sustainable forest management and achieving the four shared Global Objectives on Forests contained therein], and recognize [(EU) initial] efforts [(EU) and pilot approaches by countries] to put it into practice [(USA) to implement it]; ]

6. We stress the [(EU) urgent] need to develop a comprehensive and effective approach for forest financing from all sources, [(JP, EU) including [(G77+China) consideration] (G77+China) the establishment of a voluntary global forest fund,] as well as (JP) to strengthen capacity building and the transfer of environmentally sound technology, (JP) in order to support the efforts of developing countries [(G77+China, JP), in particular developing countries, (GD) including small island developing states, with special needs and circumstances,] to sustainably manage their forests (JP) taking into account their special needs and circumstances.

6. alt (CH) We stress the importance of enabling conditions for sustainable forest management, including appropriate financing from all sources, trade, environmentally sound technology transfer, capacity building and cooperation.

6 bis (EU) from para. 8 We welcome new and emerging forest-related financing initiatives, which could provide significant new forest funding, including through climate change initiatives as agreed in the UNFCCC negotiations in Cancun in 2010.

[(G77+China) 7. We also stress the urgent need to promote good (JP, GD) forest governance at all levels, including (USA) through strengthened law enforcement and [(USA),] by empowering local and indigenous communities and women through such means as secure land tenure, meaningful participation in decision-making and benefit sharing,] (JP) and, thereby, to create an enabling environment for both public and private, and domestic and international investments.

[Note: CH suggests to move to 11]

7 alt (G77+China) We reaffirm the importance of strengthening political commitment and action at all levels to effectively implement the global objectives on forests and sustainable forest management of all types of forests in order to reduce the loss of forest cover and improve the livelihoods of those who depend on forests through the development of a comprehensive and more effective approach to financing activities, involvement of local and indigenous communities and other relevant stakeholders, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements, promoting good governance at the national and international levels, and enhancing international cooperation to address the threats posed by illicit activities;

7 alt bis We acknowledge the significant actions taken by developing countries to implement comprehensive national policies and action plans on forests, including the adoption of national law to strengthen the capacity of national mechanisms and national institutions to ensure the full and effective forest management.

7 alt ter We also acknowledge that developing projects related to sustainable forest management should further support the protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, and promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international agreements.
We acknowledge the programme activities being undertaken by Major Groups in support of UNFF and underscore the need for governments and the CPF members to provide them with the needed support for effective engagement.

8. We welcome new and emerging forest-related financing initiatives, as well as the potential for significant new forest funding through climate change initiatives, while recognizing that these programs should address the broader needs of countries and forest values, not carbon alone, and promote synergies between REDD+ and sustainable forest management activities;

9. We underscore that the United Nations Forum on Forests, with its universal membership and unique mandate, and with the support of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, plays a vital and value-added role in, and makes a significant contribution to, promoting international policy coordination and cooperation to achieve sustainable forest management.

10. We welcome Forests 2011 as a landmark opportunity to highlight the importance of forests to people and build momentum and political will for a continuing process of advocacy, action and partnership to achieve sustainable forest management.

11. We commit to create a new paradigm in addressing forests based on the interaction and crucial linkages between people and forests by:

a. Engaging actively throughout 2011 to raise awareness and strengthen political commitment and action worldwide on the importance of forests to people and build momentum for the years beyond for a people-centred approach to reducing forest loss and degradation and improving the livelihoods of people, including forest dependent communities, through sustainable forest management;

b. Developing and implementing cross-sectoral and multi-institutional policies and actions at all levels which advance sustainable forest management;

c. Leading in the implementation of the U.N. forest instrument through national, regional and international actions and cooperation in order to promote sustainable forest management, achieve the Global Objectives on Forests and enhance the contribution of forests to the internationally agreed development goals;

d. Strengthening the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in particular as related to implementing and reporting on the U.N. forest instrument;

e. Finding a meaningful and lasting solution on forest financing at the 10th session of the Forum in 2013 as envisaged in the resolution of the special session of the Forum’s 9th session;

f. Undertaking immediate steps towards implementing the forest-related outcomes of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals agreed in September 2010;

g. Working through the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular the Rio Conventions, to integrate, as appropriate, the sustainable management of all types of forests into their strategies and programmes, and help ensure coherence, synergies and mutual support, including by building on well-established forest-related tools, processes, programmes and activities at the national, regional and international levels;
h. Contributing substantively to the Rio+20 Earth Summit and its preparatory process through initiatives on the contributions of forests to the themes and objectives of the conference.

12. We invite the Rio+20 Earth Summit, in recalling the Rio Forest Principles, the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, to:

a. Highlight the multiple economic, social and environmental benefits provided by forests to people and the contribution of sustainable forest management to sustainable development;

b. Underline the need to strengthen the means of implementation in developing countries for sustainable forest management through international financial, technical and scientific cooperation, south-south cooperation and triangular cooperation, as well as to strengthen governance and law enforcement at all levels, including by creating enabling environments for local and indigenous communities through secure land tenure, meaningful participation in decision-making and benefit sharing and by combating illicit international trafficking in forest products;

c. Also recognize the crucial need for cross-sectoral and multi-institutional policies and actions at all levels to realize the contribution of forests to sustainable development; and

d. Reaffirm that the U.N. forest instrument, as the first comprehensive agreement of forests, provides an integrated framework for national action and international cooperation on forests to implement sustainable forest management, achieve the Global Objectives on Forests, and enhance the contribution of forests to achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

13. We agree to meet again at the 11th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in 2015 to review our progress in meeting these commitments, as well as the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests.