Item 10. Enhanced Cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forest

DRAFT (31 January 2011)

ANNEX

Draft 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 foster the implementation of previous commitments of the Forum;

(b) These initiatives should be informal in nature, transparent, participatory, strive for balanced representation, including regarding 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 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 respective Bureau members should be invited to attend the initiative;

(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) These guidelines will apply to the initiatives announced after the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.