

**Expert Meeting on Strengthening Major Groups and Other Stakeholders’
Engagement in the International Arrangement on Forests
October 5-6, 2016, Ottawa, Canada**

Summary of Discussions

Summary:

Representatives of the UNFF’s Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS), along with several representatives of Member States, met in Ottawa, Canada on October 5 and 6, 2016 to discuss ways to strengthen MGoS work in UNFF, with the broader International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), and in their work within regions and countries. The meeting was structured to elicit key points around expectations by the MGoS, both of the meeting and of the broader roles and responsibilities of MGoS as envisioned by the experts participating in the workshop. On Day 1, the group focused on strengthening MGoS understanding of where and how they can have increased impact and relevance within the IAF. A gap analysis looked at what should be maintained or improved by the MGoS, as well as practices that could be introduced or discontinued. Day 2 focused on recommendations for inclusion in the IAF Strategic Plan 2017-2030 and the Quadrennial Program of Work (4POW) for 2017-2020.

The outcome of the discussions was a clear vision of priority elements to be included in a roadmap of the future work of the MGoS at all levels, including a view of the contributions needed by MGoS from UNFF, and the broader IAF, including Member States. Elements to be included in the Strategic Plan were identified, including elements of a value proposition. See Annex A for a complete list of actions to be prioritized by MGoS. A significant outcome included the draft MGoS roles and responsibilities developed as contribution to the forthcoming Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting on the Strategic Plan and 4POW in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2016, marking the first time consensus text had been offered by MGoS to the IAF. The text may be further refined leading up to UNFF12.

Note: Government representatives and other experts participated in formulating the priorities – the outcome does not represent a voted consensus on each item, but does represent results of a wide-ranging discussion of the major points and priorities relevant to MGoS.

Roles and Responsibilities for MGoS for Submission to AHEG2 and UNFF Working Group on the IAF Strategic Plan

(Consensus text by MGoS)

Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) are recognized by the United Nations Forum as key partners in the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). Decisions of the Forum should be informed by the perspectives of Major Groups, collectively holding a deep multi-dimensional understanding of forestry issues. The forum shall recognize that Indigenous Peoples and local communities including women, as holders of Traditional Knowledge, have a long history of practicing sustainable forest management (SFM). Implementation of the Strategic Plan, including its “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/ targets” cannot be achieved without the help of the Major Groups and a wide range of forestry stakeholders.

In carrying out their functions, the MGoS will:

- Engage in developing and prioritizing the 4POWs, including by identifying issues to the Forum which are not traditionally recognized; upon adoption of the 4POWs, MGoS will identify priority actions to implement and report out on
- Co-host stakeholder consultation on the subjects of the 4POW
- MG Focal Points hold the responsibility to disseminate knowledge, promote and raise awareness on forest issues (including SFM) to their constituents in civil society. MG Focal Points should voice the representative views (gathered as part of consultation) of their MG to better inform the decisions of the Forum
- Contribute to cross sectoral outreach
 - With the UNFF Secretariat, develop and maintain a roster/database of MGoS constituent experts by specialty for use in accessing such expertise by the IAF
 - Hold a seat as an observer on the Bureau
- Facilitating the creation of networks on cross-cutting issues, such as poverty reduction, trade and illegal logging, land and forest tenure and land use policies, incentive measures, and the rights of Major Group members including: women, workers, small land holders, indigenous peoples, and youth and children
- Establishment of a multi-stakeholder advisory group
- The Forum and Secretariat will encourage MGs and other stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned and provide technical advice and inputs during odd-year Forum sessions on their activities in support of the Strategic Plan and current 4POW

Background

As per the ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33, para VI(ii)(vi), the UNFF Secretariat organized a meeting of Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) in Ottawa, Canada on October 5 and 6, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to strengthen MGoS work in UNFF, with the broader International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), and in their work within regions and countries. The meeting was hosted by Canada and co-moderated by Joseph Cobbinah, Ghana and Marian Chiu, Canada. Government experts from Canada, Brazil, Ghana and Nepal, the Chair of UNFF 12 Bureau and representatives of the UNFF Secretariat also participated.

Welcoming remarks

The co-moderators welcomed participants on Day 1 and outlined the meeting agenda. They noted that the ‘Learning Organization’ approach practiced by the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) to elicit maximum participation and stakeholder ownership of outcomes would be used. Three facilitators from CFS were on hand to guide discussions. The moderators also recapped some of the challenges facing MGoS and reminded experts of the important opportunity before them in helping to shape the IAF Strategic Plan and 4POW, as well as their own way forward. The UNFF Secretariat also brought greetings from the UNFF Secretariat Director, who was unable to attend.

Ground Rules

Before initiating in discussion, experts were asked to identify ground rules for engagement. They agreed to the following ground rules:

- Arrive at consensus (agreeing to the best ideas)
- Speak your mind
- Ask for clarification when needed/be curious
- Use the parking lot
- Disagreement can happen
- Record divergent perspectives
- Not all MGoS are present/the group in the room does not represent the entire breadth of stakeholders

Expectations

Key expectations for the workshop as identified by participants included:

- 1 *With respect to the Strategic Plan...*
 - a. Clear picture of MGoS involvement is captured in the Strategic Plan
 - b. Integration of MGoS into the work of the UNFF process through identifying strategic goals, objectives and actions for full effective participation of MGoS in UNFF, local, regional and national fora and in the associated policies
 - c. Strategy on how to get MGoS involved in the process of UNFF

- d. Identification of prioritized options and mechanisms, building blocks, to add to the Strategic Plan – the “what and how”
- e. Understanding of the catalytic role MGoS have to contribute and an articulation of the value proposition of MGoS into the IAF
- f. Identify mechanisms to address and develop strategies, with timeframe and level of effort (note ECOSOC resolution 2015/33)
- g. Crystalize major ideas from past Major Group Initiatives in Strategic Plan
- h. MGoS to introduce new themes and be part of agenda setting for the new Strategic Plan and 4POW in, *inter alia*, illegal logging, and land and forest tenure and benefit sharing

2 *With respect to work during UNFF sessions...*

- a. Find time for the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) during the one week session
- b. Identify what can be done, working with the constraints and taking advantage of creative opportunities
- c. Improve MGoS performance in interventions, preparations and convening power

3 *With respect to capitalizing on diversity*

- a. Underscore the importance of diversity as a strength
- b. Learn about how MGoS issues are addressed in other international organizations
- c. Identify and implement best practices from other fora
- d. Identify and develop strategy for more MGoS participation in the Forum, noting that many are absent, e.g., business and industry

4 *With respect to actions to take...*

- a. Inject a sense of urgency into the Strategic Plan and the 4POW and their implementation, this point in time is a watershed moment
- b. Identify how to link global actions, subject for further action
- c. Develop and implement actions to link concrete local and national actions to the global level
- d. Identify what governments think MGoS can bring and develop actions to convince governments to support MGoS initiatives and to give MGoS a role in decision-making at the national level
- e. Support Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and UNFF implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI) and the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFFN)

MGoS Roles and Responsibilities

Participants identified the following roles and responsibilities:

1 Represent MGoS Views

- a. MGoS representative role is to make constituency views clear to UNFF
- b. Contribute to concrete implementation of the goals and decisions of the IAF according to MGoS constituent priorities
- c. Identify MGoS priorities and support member states in Monitoring, Assessing and Reporting (MAR)
- d. Work with Member States (governments) in implementing Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

2 MGoS Raise Awareness

- a. Raise awareness in civil society
- b. Develop and implement cross-sectoral communication strategy, focusing on particular strategies MGoS can implement, e.g., Identify and develop outreach strategy to silos in government agencies: i.e., natural resource areas such as water, agriculture, mining, energy, transportation; Environment: climate change, biodiversity; international organizations; private sector, general civil society
- c. Integrate specific audiences into communication strategy, including, *inter alia*, Member States, CPF, regional organizations/bodies, civil society
- d. Identify key messages in communication strategy: relevance and impact, develop improved dialogue and consultation processes, with a more diverse “on the ground” perspective
- e. Identify and promote what MGoS do on the ground in forests with concrete examples of programs and actions, e.g., community and family forestry
- f. Develop and implement national-level communication strategies for targeted groups, e.g., UNFF active participants, communities, policy makers, private sector, philanthropic organizations and individuals; and identify and target communication strategy on critical issues

Criteria for Assessing Priority Areas for Action

Given that a key intended outcome was to identify areas for action, and then to prioritize those actions, participants were asked to determine criteria for ranking them. The following guidelines were developed:

Priority would be determined based on....

- a. Frequency
- b. Likely to be funded
- c. Impact on goals
- d. Prioritize actions of MGoS where they will be influential and successful
- e. Relevance to interests

- f. Urgency
- g. Values and equity
- h. Feasibility and “low hanging fruit.”

Gap Analysis on MGoS

Participants were divided into small groups. Four flipcharts were placed around the room with the following headings: maintain, improve, introduce and discontinue. The idea was to identify what was working well or not well, where MGoS could do better, and identify new ideas. Each group moved from one flip chart to the other, building on the previous groups’ points. Clarification of any point was offered during plenary. The results were:

| Maintain | Improve |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Dialogue (MSD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain MSD as a platform for MGoS to contribute to discussions of the Forum sessions and as part of the official record ○ Development of joint papers by MGoS ○ Recommend MSD presentations constitute 1/3 of the time; brainstorming in subgroups 2/3 • MGoS Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MGoS hosted side events ○ MGoS participants in High Level Segment of UNFF ○ Planning session with Bureau ○ MGoS intersessional activities ○ Outreach for and to non-participation MGoS ○ Awareness creation and advocacy • Support for MGoS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF) as coordinator, including for support in involving all MGoS ○ For Focal Points at UNFF Sessions and Country-led Initiatives (CLI) ○ For High-Level Representatives ○ Define commitment to MGoS ○ For individual, as well as combined, MGoS papers ○ For interventions in UNFF Sessions ○ Increased funding for MGoS initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MGoS Roles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand MGoS constituency to include, e.g., elderly, philanthropy, disabled and increase numbers participating ○ Developed improved communication strategy ○ Communicate relevance and impact of MGoS more effectively ○ Engage with MGoS from the grassroots to policy level ○ Improve equality and equity between MGoS, including at local level ○ Strengthen intersessional activities and profile ○ Identify Member States “change agents” – who have knowledge and influence • MGoS Linkage to Others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop deeper, more strategic, linkage to other entities, e.g., regional, CPF, Member States ○ Improve targeting of audiences ○ Strengthen link between global and local ○ Improve dialogue/consultations with other processes, including through engaging in CPF stakeholder processes (cross-fertilization), e.g., UNFCCC ○ Note importance of an effective communication strategy ○ Connect MGoS silos in other forest-relevant processes |

| Introduce | Discontinue |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Major Group Advisory Committee to the UNFF • MGoS pre-meeting with UNFF Session Chairs and Bureau • Daily meetings during negotiations with Co-Chairs of Working Groups • A maintained roster/database of MGoS experts for use in, inter alia, accessing expertise for UNFF SG papers, expert meetings, CLI • An MGoS meeting with donors, to include, inter alia, philanthropists, foundations, pension plans • Observer status for one rep in Bureau, based on a transparent selection process and a rotation of representation • MGoS elements to the restructuring of UNFF meetings • Implementation plan for MGoS for UNFF Decisions • Documentation on the nature and make-up of MGoS constituency and response to questions of legitimacy • Utilize skype and video meetings • Develop on-line mechanism for government response to MGoS papers/input • Encourage stronger national consultations • Ensure MGoS involvement in GFFFN • Invest time and effort on implementation of IAF policy decisions at national and grassroots levels • Seek institutional funds for MGoS coordinating body (MGPoF) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business as usual! • Working in silos vis-a-vs other MGoS in other UN processes • MGoS lack of time and investment in actions and implementation • Undoable strategic plans • Asking for things that will not happen, e.g., change in ECOSOC rules, however, continue asking for a revision to the complicated accreditation process • Only asking what UNFF can do for MGoS, instead of focusing on a two-way relationship and two-way benefits • Weak representation of MGoS views in documents • Lack of government interest in MGoS activities • Low response rate to requests for critical and urgent information |

Key Outcomes

Participants were then asked to vote for their top 4 priority areas by placing a checkmark next to an area they felt was imperative. The areas with the most checkmarks were:

1. Stop working in silos
2. Strengthen MGoS engagement in IAF (including support to the MG Partnership on Forests)
3. Increase visibility of MGoS in the IAF
4. Strengthen intersessional activities

They then identified objectives and developed measurable actions for each priority area. See Annex A for a complete list of actions.

Context Setting

With its focus on developing recommendations for inclusion in the IAF Strategic Plan and 4POW, Day 2 began with a presentation by Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild of the UNFFS who reminded participants of the objectives of the IAF and the Bangkok meeting as background context for the day ahead. Co-moderator Cobbinah presented MGoS contributions to the first post UNFF11 Ad Hoc Experts Group meeting in New York in May of 2016.

Lotta Tahtinen of the Sustainable Development Goals High Level Policy Forum (HLPF) shared best practices from MGoS involvement in that forum, including yearly reports from MGoS (currently not a UNFF MG practice), dedicated funding to support MGoS travel and their coordination mechanism. She encouraged the UNFFS to use online tools to gather input and offered to work with the UNFF Secretariat to summarize their best practices for further distribution to the IAF.

Jan McAlpine gave a brief overview of the background paper on 10 Intergovernmental bodies and their relationship to MGoS. She highlighted UNFF's innovations in working with the MGoS and underlined key recommendations that would further integrate MGoS into active implementers of UNFF work. Furthermore, she urged the MGoS representatives to recruit new representatives to participate in the coordinating roles of those representing the MGoS constituencies.

Visioning Dialogue: Where from Here?

The remainder of the workshop focused on content development for input into the Strategic Plan. By working in small groups and then returning to plenary, participants developed key elements of a statement describing their roles and responsibilities. Those elements were further refined in the days following the workshop. The statement below was subsequently submitted to the UNFF Secretariat with the understanding that there would be time for further refinement ahead of UNFF12:

Roles and Responsibilities for MGoS

Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) are recognized by the United Nations Forum as key partners in the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). Decisions of the Forum should be informed by the perspectives of Major Groups, collectively holding a deep multi-dimensional understanding of forestry issues. The forum shall recognize that Indigenous Peoples and local communities including women, as holders of Traditional Knowledge, have a long history of practicing SFM. Implementation of the Strategic Plan, including its “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/ targets” cannot be achieved without the help of the Major Groups and a wide range of forestry stakeholders.

In carrying out their functions, the MGoS will:

- Engage in developing and prioritizing the 4POWs, including by identifying issues to the Forum which are not traditionally recognized; upon adoption of the 4POWs, MGoS will identify priority actions to implement and report out on.
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- The Forum and Secretariat will encourage MGs and other stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned and provide technical advice and inputs during odd-year Forum sessions on their activities in support of the Strategic Plan and current 4POW.

Finally, additional preparatory work in advance of the Bangkok meeting was discussed.

Closing

UNFF Bureau Chair, Peter Besseau (Canada), thanked participants for their contributions over the 2 days, which he described as highly productive. He reminded MGoS experts that the Strategic Plan offers a “watershed opportunity” for all members of the IAF and urged them to take advantage of it. The co-moderators also thanked participants, the UNFF Secretariat for organizing the meeting, and the excellent facilitation of this meeting by the Canadian Forest Service which allowed for the entire group to actively participate in the meeting’s dialogue, and suggested that a similar professional facilitation team should organize the next Major Group intersessional meeting.

Annex A

I. Further elaboration in 4 Key areas: Connecting Silos, Strengthening MGoS Effective Engagement in IAF, Increasing Visibility of MGoS in IAF, Intersessional Activities

V.a Connecting Silos

V.a.1 Goals:

- a. Share best practices
- b. Dialogue with other MGoS on treatment of forests and SFM in other processes

V.a.1.a Short-term

- a. Prioritize which processes
- b. Identify MGoS Focal Points
- c. Contact and discuss methods for Dialogue

V.a.1.b Medium-term

- a. Build permanent communication system
- b. Institute regular interaction through, e.g., Skype, physical meetings and email

V.a.2 Indicators

- a. Identify practices that could be adopted from other Processes
- b. Improvement of MGoS positions/papers
- c. Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs)

V.a.3 Players

- a. Major Group Partnership on Forests (MGPoF)
- b. MGoS and equivalents in other processes
- c. UNFFS
- d. Secretariats of other processes

V.a.4 Resources

- a. Materials: Reports of UNFF Sessions and other processes
- b. Human: staff time
- c. Financial: Support for MGoS to attend and organize meetings

V.b Strengthen MGoS Effective Engagement in IAF

V.b.1 Goals

Strengthen MGoS for Effective engagement in IAF

V.b.1.a Short-term Goals

1. Organize MGoS side event at 2017 UNFF Session
2. Contribute to AHEG2 and UNFF12
3. Establish and reach out to UNFCCC MGoS at COP 22 in 2016
4. Establish and reach out to CBD MGoS at COP 13 in Mexico in December 2016

V.b.1.b Medium-term Goals

1. Capacity building and awareness creation project in collaboration with UNFF Secretariat

V.b.2 Success Indicators

- a. MGoS position themselves for implementation of the Strategic Plan the Quadrennial Programme of work
- b. Number of MGoS events and participation

V.b.3 Action Plan

- a. Organize an Major Group Initiative in Cameroon
- b. Engage in AHEG 2, the UNFF Working Group and UNFF12
- c. Advocacy

V.b.4 Key Players

- a. MGPoF Secretariat
- b. UNFF Secretariat

V.b.5 Resources

- a. Material: Documentation on potential Donors
- b. Financial: Seed money for fundraising
- c. Human resources: Staff of MGPoF and UNFF Secretariat

V.c **Increasing Visibility of MGoS in the IAF**

V.c.1 Goals

- a. Increase visibility of MGoS in the IAF
- b. IAF recognizes expertise of MGoS and uses it
- c. Attract missing MGoS members

V.c.2 Indicators

- a. Number of MGoS actions included in the IAF Strategic Plan
- b. Increased number of MGoS represented in IAF work
- c. Formal Observer on the UNFF Bureau

V.c.3 Actions

- a. Develop communications strategy

NOTE: Need to explore further why some stakeholders are not attending, need to look at the structural reasons why industry is not active in UNFF.

Communications has to be nested in value proposition, need to identify the valued-added of MGoS. Need to establish relevance of MGoS to governments.

V.d **Intersessional Activities**

V.d.1 Goals

V.d.1.a Short-term

- a. Convene at least once (virtual or face-to-face)
- b. Determine and explore modalities, tools, technology, best practices, regional, sub-regional for intersessional activities
- c. Consider broader consultative group (CPF, other MGoS)
- d. Explore links between modalities and desired outcomes

V.d.1.b Medium-term

- a. Plan announced, roll out
- b. Deliver, assess, adjust
- c. Strengthen outreach and dialogue
- d. Focus on bringing value and ideas forward

V.d.2 Success Indicators

- a. Number and quality of, inter alia, reports, policy briefs
- b. Increase support overtime

- c. Clear, consistent output, analysis, guidance, deliverables, recognized by target audiences
- d. MGoS listened to and supported: views incorporated in work of Member States and UNFF Secretariat
- e. UNFF better able to meet and publicize progress
- f. MGoS invited as default (all scales)

V.d.3 Action Plan

- a. Brainstorming options and opportunities for intersessional activities
 - 1. Priorities theme
 - 2. Specific plans to deliver
 - 3. Criteria: Most interesting, easy, low-cost, high-outcome
- b. Convene at major events: create shoulder-to-shoulder side events, e.g., COP, COFO meetings
- c. Keep ambitions scaled to abilities and opportunities, build on small successes

V.d.4 Key Players

- a. MGoS and open solicitation, especially with known supporters, like-minded, beneficiaries of outputs (institutional, country,, donors, etc.)

V.d.5 Resources

- a. Financial
- b. Leaders, leadership
- c. Ideas, creativity
- d. Technology
- e. Team approaches (small, flexible, outcome oriented)

Annex B: List of experts:

1. Mr. Peter Besseau
Chair of UNFF12 Bureau & Special Advisor to the Director General, Canadian Forest Service,
Natural Resources Canada
2. Mr. Thiago Medeiros Da Cunha Cavalcanti
Third Secretary, Division of Environment, Ministry of External Relations of Brazil
3. Mr. Joseph Cobbinah
Coordinator, Forestry Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA), Ghana
4. Ms. Marian Chiu
Manager, International Affairs, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada
5. Mr. Resham Bahadur Dangi
Joint Secretary, Chief, Foreign Aid Coordination Division (FACD)
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), Nepal
6. Mr. Peter De Marsh
Chair of the International Family Forestry Alliance, Canada
7. Ms. Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild
Senior Programme Officer, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, Department of
Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Headquarters – New York, USA
8. Ms. Njeri Kariuki
Programme Officer, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, Department of Economic and
Social Affairs, United Nations Headquarters – New York, USA
9. Mr. Andrey Laletin
Chairman, Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia
10. Ms. Christa Mooney
Policy Advisor, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada
11. Ms. Ngo Ntamag Cecile Ndjebet
President, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF),
Cameroon

12. Mr. Lambert Okrah
President and Chief Executive Officer, Major Groups Partnership on Forests, Ottawa, Canada
13. Mr. Joseph Osiakwan
Principal Planning Officer, Forestry Directorate, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources of Ghana
14. Mr. Ghanshyam Pandey
Coordinator, Global Alliance of Community Forestry (GACF) c/o Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal, (FECOFUN), Nepal
15. Mr. Hubertus Samangun
Regional coordinator (Bahasa region), International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, Indonesia
16. Mr. Gan Kee Seng
Executive Secretary, Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI Secretariat) c/o Forest Research Institute of Malaysia
17. Ms. Sonia Smallacombe
Social Affairs Officer, Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Headquarters – New York, USA
18. Ms. Anna Stemberger
International Forestry Students' Association, The University of British Columbia, Canada
19. Mr. William Street
Building and Wood Workers' International, BWI, Switzerland
20. Ms. Lotta Tähtinen
Stakeholder Engagement Programme Coordinator, Division for Sustainable Development Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Headquarters – New York, USA