



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
FOREST MANAGEMENT BUREAU
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, 1100 Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 927-4788 Fax No. (632) 928-9313
E-mail Address: fmbdenr@mozcom.com/Website: <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph>

MR. MANOEL SOBRAL FILHO

Director

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-2301

New York, NY 10017

United States of America

Dear **Mr. Filho**:

This refers to your letter dated July 28, 2016 inviting all Member States to share views/comments on the options and building blocks for the 2017-2030 Strategic Plan on International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) and the Quadrennial Program of Work for 2017-2020. In this regard, the following are our inputs/comments:

A. On the proposals for Building Blocks/Options for the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030:

II.A. A Vision for 2030 – we prefer the vision statement **Option 2: A world where forests are protected and sustainably managed, providing economic, social and environmental benefits for all.**

This option summarizes the principles of Sustainable Forest Management as described by the Food and Agriculture Organization wherein it “addresses forest degradation and deforestation while increasing direct benefits to people and the environment. At the social level, sustainable forest management contributes to livelihoods, income generation and employment. At the environmental level, it contributes to important services such as carbon sequestration and water, soil and biodiversity conservation.”

II.B. Mission Statement

We prefer **Option 6: Provide a coherent, effective, transparent and participatory global framework for enhanced policy development, policy implementation, policy coordination and political commitment to halt deforestation**

and forest degradation, achieve SFM and enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including SDGs, for the benefit of present and future generations.

III.B. Options for global targets/deliverables

We choose Option 2. Identify quantifiable time-bound global targets/deliverables for the Global Objectives Forests (GOFs), forest-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other commitments.

The Strategic Plan on International Arrangement on Forests and Quadrennial Programs of Work (4POW) need to consider the situation of each Member State and the programs should complement the existing activities of each State. Also, priorities should be identified to come up with specific targets in which the objectives will be anchored.

IV. Implementation Framework


We agree to the thematic areas identified, however, we would like to add *standards* to the last action area/thematic area:

“Market and trade including certification, tracking, tracing and *standards* of forest products.”

In addition, we would like to be clarified on *Voluntary Planned Contributions (VPCs)*, specifically on its mechanisms, management and other relevant information.

Thank you and warm regards.

Very truly yours,


MR. RICARDO L. CALDERON
Director
Forest Management Bureau
UNFF Focal Person - Technical