



4 | International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015

In May 2015, Member States at the 11th session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) adopted a historic resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) beyond 2015, which strengthened the IAF and defined its strategic direction until 2030.

In particular, UNFF11 stressed the need to strengthen the capacity of the IAF to foster coherence on forest-related policies, catalyze implementation and financing for sustainable forest management (SFM), and promote coordination and collaboration on forest issues at all levels, as well as coherence between the international arrangement on forests and the post-2015 development agenda.

The five main components of the IAF are the UNFF and its Member States, the UNFF Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), and the UNFF Trust Fund.

Some of the key objectives of the IAF are:

- promoting implementation of SFM, in particular the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument;
- enhancing the contribution of forests to the post-2015 development agenda;
- enhancing cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues;
- fostering international cooperation, public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation;
- strengthening forest governance frameworks and means of implementation;
- strengthening long-term political commitment towards achievement of SFM; and
- enhancing coherence, cooperation and synergies with other forest-related agreements, processes and initiatives.





IAF

“Strengthens forest policy coordination & political commitment for SFM.”

IAF STRATEGIC PLAN

UNFF11 decided that the UNFF should develop a concise Strategic Plan for 2017-2030 to enhance the coherence and guide the work of the IAF and its components. The UNFF is expected to operationalize the Strategic Plan through quadrennial programmes of work that set out priority actions and resource needs, beginning with the period 2017-2020. The IAF Strategic Plan will:

- incorporate a mission and a vision, the Global Objectives on Forests and the forest-related aspects of the post-2015 development agenda;
- take into account significant forest-related developments in other forums;
- identify the roles of different actors;
- provide a framework for reviewing implementation; and
- outline a communication strategy to raise awareness of the work of the IAF.

STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES

UNFF11 encouraged strengthening the IAF through further collaboration between the UNFF and relevant forest-related international, regional and sub-regional entities, Major Groups and the CPF. UNFF11 also welcomed forest-related developments in other forums, including the Rio conventions, and noted the importance of cooperation and synergies between these fora and the IAF.

PERIODIC REVIEWS

The UNFF11 resolution contains provisions for a mid-term review of the effectiveness of the IAF to take place in 2024, and for a final review in 2030. In particular, UNFF11 decided that the mid-term review might consider a full range of options for the IAF, including a legally binding instrument on all types of forests; and a full range of financing options, including establishment of a voluntary global forest fund.

UNFF 11 MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

At the high-level segment of the 11th session of the UN Forum on Forests in May 2015, Ministers responsible for forests adopted a declaration which:

- ✓ Affirmed that the IAF beyond 2015 should play a key role in promoting the achievement of forest-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets.
- ✓ Underscored the need to accelerate efforts to achieve the objectives of the IAF beyond 2015 and the need to establish a stronger, more effective and solid arrangement for the period 2015 to 2030.
- ✓ Affirmed their commitment to a stronger and more effective post-2015 IAF with a view to providing leadership for:
 - promoting the vital significance of forests in the global sustainable development agenda;
 - enhancing the implementation of SFM;
 - advancing forest policy dialogue, including with Major Groups; and
 - fostering collaboration, cooperation and synergies across all forest-related organizations, conventions and other processes.