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United Nations Forum on Forests

Open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group established
pursuant to paragraph 48 of Economic and Social Council
resolution 2015/33

First meeting

New York, 25-27 April 2016

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Tasks of the Expert Group

Compilation of views and proposals from Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the matters referred to in paragraph 44 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015

Summary

In accordance with paragraph 48 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33, the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group was established to develop proposals on matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the same resolution. According to this resolution, Member States and relevant stakeholders were invited to provide their views and proposals on these matters as inputs to intersessional deliberations. This present document is the compilation of these views and proposals which were submitted to the Secretariat as of 11 April 2016. It contains 34 submissions from Canada, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Japan, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Switzerland, United States of America, Venezuela, the European Union, Economic Commission for Europe, UNECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry and FAO European Forestry Commission, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, FAO and Regional Forestry Commission Secretariats, International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, Réseau des Parlementaires pour la Gestion Durable des Écosystèmes Forestiers d'Afrique Centrale, Tehran Processes Secretariat for Low Forest Cover Countries, and one joint and two individual submissions from Major Groups.

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Submission from Canada

On paragraph 44 of the UNFF11 Resolution (UNFF Strategic Plan 2017-203)

Para 44 text from UNFF11 Resolution (E/CN.18/2015/L.2/Rev.1):

XIII. Follow-up to the eleventh session of the Forum

44. *Decides* that the Forum should consider proposals on the following matters:

(a) Replacement of the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the sustainable development goals and targets which will be considered by the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held in September 2015;

(b) The strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020, consistent with **section XI** of the present resolution;

XI. Strategic plan

38. *Decides* that the Forum should develop a concise strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 to serve as a strategic framework to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components;

39. *Also decides* that the plan should be aligned with the objectives of the international arrangement on forests and should incorporate a mission and vision, the global objectives on forests and the forest-related aspects of the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account significant forest-related developments in other forums, as well as identify the roles of different actors and the framework for reviewing implementation, and outline a communication strategy to raise awareness of the work of the arrangement;

40. *Requests* the Forum to operationalize the strategic plan through quadrennial programmes of work which set out priority actions and resource needs, beginning with the period 2017-2020;

Canada's submission is centred on the catalytic convening role that the UNFF and its associated Secretariat play in bringing members of the global forest policy community together for discussions on sustainable forest management and its implementation, and we recommend that any future actions be formulated with this catalytic convening role in mind.

This submission also includes examples and suggestions of how actions identified in the Resolution could be implemented and/or best practices from which the Secretariat can draw in further developing implementation plans.

Within that context, at this time, Canada remains firm that any future actions should not invoke new funds and instead be funded from re-prioritizing existing budget.

Definition of "Strategy"

Canada recommends clearly defining what is meant by "strategy" at the outset of the UNFF Strategic Plan.

Possible definitions of "strategy" include:

- A commitment to a set of coherent, mutually reinforcing policies or behaviors aimed at achieving a specific goal. Good strategies promote alignment among diverse groups within an organization; clarify objectives and priorities, and help focus efforts

around them (excerpted from the *Harvard Business Review*, June 2015).

- An approach for solving a problem; a plan for ordering methods so that a goal is reached.

“Mission and Vision”

Canada recommends adhering to the several basic principles while developing a “mission and vision” (Section XI-Para 39) and strategy as a whole:

- That the mission and vision are relevant: they speak to, support and deliver on UNFF priorities (as outlined in UNFF Resolution), and that they are useful as a framework to “enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the IAF and its components” (Section XI- Para 38).
- That they have impact: they enable decision making to be strategic and for those decisions to have demonstrable benefits and showcase UNFF leadership via what we do, rather than by what we say.
- That they are of high quality: they are fundamentally rooted in the work that the UNFF and member states enable and do themselves. Short and long term key deliverables are concrete, evidence-based and resources are aligned with objectives.

The new UNFF Strategic Plan should:

- Be aligned to ongoing global processes that are already underway, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the overall Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, (thus agreeing with the replacement of the MDG reference in the non-legally binding instrument to one referring to the SDGs, as proposed in Para 44a), as well as initiatives such as the streamlining of reporting processes (such as those related to criteria and indicators), or, in terms of examining forest governance practices, the ongoing work of organizations already involved in combatting governance-related issues such as illegal logging;
- Promote greater transparency at the UNFF Secretariat with respect to decision making, priorities, staff, staff functions, and finances.
- Relatedly, any Secretariat or Strategic Plan communications strategy should have stated objectives, measures of success, targeted audiences, and encourage plain language reporting;
- (vis-à-vis Section II-Para 3d) In terms of promoting coherent and collaborative international policy development in issues related to all types of forests, and given the existence of other instruments such as the CBD, CITES and UNFCCC (as examples) but which focus on only certain specific elements related to forests (such as biodiversity, trade or climate), there could be a convening role for the UNFF to bring together these differing perspectives and examine using a holistic SFM lens, how the most forest-relevant parts of each can better align. This also includes working to ensure that policy development in each individual area is coherent and contributes to the sustainable management of forests;

- (vis-à-vis Section X) The SDGs are the leading policy instrument with which many forest organizations and agencies are seeking to align – the UNFF Secretariat and/or CPF could coordinate a forum (virtual or otherwise) to facilitate dialogue between these many organizations to help ensure an aligned approach to the SDGs.
 - Internally, UNFF should examine the SDGs and report on the specific linkages between them and the priorities that the UNFF has established for itself at UNFF11.
 - The UNFF should also keep abreast of development relating to the follow-up and review to the SDGs and, once these processes are more thoroughly elaborated, examine ways it can usefully contribute to the inputs to the High Level Political Forum, such as the through the Global Sustainable Development Report.
 - A number of forest-related initiatives were also announced or launched on the margins of the recent 2015 Paris Climate Conference as part of the Lima Paris Action Agenda. It will be important for the Forum to take these initiatives into account and identify avenues for cooperation and synergies with them.
- (vis-à-vis Para 20-b) Not only should the CPF provide S&T advice to the UNFF, but also, UNFF could be convening forest-related expertise to provide to CPF members i.e. in support of UNEP's role as a leading global environment authority and its efforts to coordinate environmental input into the SDGs;
- In terms of increasing depth of engagement and arrangements to facilitate collaboration with such bodies as the CPF and the GEF (vis-à-vis Section IV-Para 14e), the UNFF Secretariat could consider approaches such as designating a specific liaison for each organization from within the Secretariat to better enable this engagement.
- Regarding the quadrennial programmes of work, we recommend that these have clear objectives articulated, with concrete deliverables, but also include a degree of flexibility to adapt to future global contexts and changing needs as they arise and thereby ensure that the meetings are topical, relevant, and valuable.
- We also recommend that these multi-year programmes of work include the option to explore not only different structures and modalities of working together, such as a "Friends of the Bureau" group who would be designated to examine in closer detail a topic of particular or urgent interest, but also, different options towards working together, such as virtual web or video conferences, that are flexible, inclusive and facilitate greater sharing of ideas and information.

January 6, 2016
 NRCan-CFS-PEIB-IAD/mc
 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



**Soumission du Canada
concernant le paragraphe 44 de la résolution du FNUF11
(Plan stratégique du FNUF 2017-2030)**

XIII. Suivi à la onzième session du Forum

44. Conclut que le Forum devrait considérer les propositions sur les sujets suivants :

(a) Remplacement de la référence aux Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD) au paragraphe 1 (b) de l'instrument juridiquement non contraignant relativement à tous les types de forêts par une référence appropriée aux objectifs et cibles de développement durable qui seront considérés par le Sommet des Nations Unies pour l'adoption du programme de développement post-2015, qui se tiendra en septembre 2015;

(b) Le plan stratégique pour la période 2017-2030 et le programme de travail quadriennal pour la période 2017-2020, conformément à la **section XI** de la présente résolution;

XI. Plan stratégique

38. *Conclut* que le Forum devrait élaborer un plan stratégique concis pour la période 2017-2030 qui servirait de cadre pour améliorer la cohérence du travail, tout en orientant et en centrant ce dernier sur l'entente internationale sur les forêts et ses composantes;

39. *Conclut aussi* que le plan devrait être aligné sur les objectifs de l'entente internationale sur les forêts et incorporer une mission et une vision, ainsi que les objectifs globaux sur les forêts et les aspects forestiers du programme de développement post-2015, en prenant en considération les développements forestiers importants dans d'autres forums; le plan devrait par ailleurs définir les différents acteurs et le cadre pour examiner la mise en œuvre, en plus de décrire une stratégie de communication pour mieux faire connaître le travail de l'entente;

40. *Demande* que le Forum mette le plan stratégique en œuvre au moyen de programmes de travail quadriennaux qui établissent les mesures prioritaires et les besoins en ressources, à compter de la période 2017-2020;

Texte du paragr. 44 de la résolution du FNUF11 (E/CN.18/2015/L.2/Rev.1) :

La soumission du Canada est centrée sur le rôle de rassembleur et de catalyseur que jouent le FNUF et son Secrétariat associé en rassemblant les membres de la communauté mondiale des politiques forestières pour discuter de la gestion durable des forêts (GDF) et de sa mise en œuvre, et nous recommandons que toutes actions futures soient formulées en gardant à l'esprit ce rôle de rassembleur et de catalyseur.

Cette soumission inclut aussi des exemples et des suggestions concernant la manière dont les actions définies dans la Résolution pourraient être mises en œuvre, et concernant les pratiques exemplaires desquelles le Secrétariat peut tirer profit pour l'aider à élaborer les plans de mise en œuvre.

Dans ce contexte, et à l'heure actuelle, le Canada croit fermement que toutes actions futures ne devraient faire appel à aucuns nouveaux fonds et qu'elles devraient plutôt être financées en redéfinissant les priorités du budget existant.

Définition de « stratégie »

Le Canada recommande de définir clairement ce qu'on entend par « stratégie » dès le début du Plan stratégique du FNUF.

Voici des exemples de la définition de « stratégie » :

- Engagement envers un ensemble de politiques ou de comportements cohérents et mutuellement consolidants visant à atteindre un but précis. Les bonnes stratégies font valoir l'alignement entre les divers groupes d'une organisation; elles aident à clarifier les objectifs et les priorités et à concentrer les efforts sur ces derniers (extrait de *Harvard Business Review*, juin 2015).
- Approche pour résoudre un problème; plan pour classer les méthodes afin d'atteindre un objectif.

« Mission et vision »

Le Canada recommande d'adhérer à plusieurs principes de base au moment d'élaborer une mission et une vision (section XI, paragr. 39) ainsi qu'une stratégie générale :

- La mission et la vision doivent être pertinentes : elles doivent parler au nom des priorités du FNUF, les soutenir et les respecter (comme décrit dans la Résolution du FNUF) et doivent servir de cadre pour « améliorer la cohérence tout en orientant et en centrant le travail de l'International Arrangement on Forests (Entente internationale sur les forêts) et ses composantes » (section XI, paragr. 38).
- Elles doivent avoir une incidence : elles doivent permettre au processus décisionnel d'être stratégique et faire en sorte que les décisions prises comportent des avantages démontrables et montrent le leadership du FNUF grâce à ce que nous faisons plutôt que ce que nous disons.
- Elles doivent être de grande qualité : elles doivent être fondamentalement enracinées dans le travail que le FNUF et les États membres invitent à faire et font eux-mêmes. Les livrables clés à court et à long termes doivent être concrets et fondés sur des preuves et les ressources doivent être alignées sur les objectifs.

Le nouveau Plan stratégique du FNUF devrait :

- Être aligné sur les processus mondiaux continus qui sont déjà en cours, tels que les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) et le Programme d'action global 2030 concernant le développement durable (donc, accepter de remplacer la référence aux OMD dans l'instrument juridiquement non contraignant par une référence aux ODD, comme proposé au paragr. 44a), ainsi que sur des initiatives telles que la rationalisation des processus de rapports (p. ex. ceux liés aux critères et indicateurs), ou, sur le plan de l'examen des pratiques de gouvernance des forêts, le travail continu des organisations qui livrent déjà bataille à propos d'enjeux gouvernementaux, par exemple l'exploitation forestière illicite.

- Faire valoir une transparence accrue au Secrétariat du FNUF en ce qui a trait au processus décisionnel, aux priorités, au personnel et à ses fonctions ainsi qu'aux finances.
- Sur ce plan, toute stratégie de communication du Secrétariat ou du Plan stratégique devrait énoncer des objectifs, des mesures du succès et des publics cibles et encourager la production de rapports en langage clair.
- (par rapport à la section II, paragr. 3d) En ce qui a trait à la promotion de l'élaboration de politiques internationales cohérentes et concertées concernant les enjeux liés à tous les types de forêts, et étant donné l'existence d'autres instruments tels que la CDB, la CITES et la CCNUCC (à titre d'exemples), mais qui focalisent uniquement sur certains éléments précis liés aux forêts (p. ex. la biodiversité, les échanges ou le climat), le FNUF pourrait jouer un rôle rassembleur en regroupant ces différentes perspectives et en examinant l'idée d'avoir une vision globale de la GDF, afin de comprendre comment il serait possible de mieux aligner chacune des parties les plus pertinentes aux forêts. Il faudrait également s'assurer que les politiques élaborées dans chaque créneau individuel sont cohérentes et contribuent à la GDF.
- (par rapport à la section X) Les ODD sont le principal instrument politique sur lequel de nombreuses organisations et agences forestières cherchent à s'aligner – le Secrétariat et le Partenariat de collaboration sur les forêts (PCF) pourraient coordonner un forum (virtuel ou autres) pour faciliter le dialogue entre ces organisations et agences afin d'assurer une approche alignée sur les ODD.
 - À l'interne, le FNUF devrait examiner les ODD et rendre compte des liens particuliers entre ces derniers et les priorités qu'il a établies pour lui-même au FNUF11.
 - Le FNUF devrait également s'accorder aux progrès du développement quant au suivi et à l'examen des ODD et, une fois que ces processus sont élaborés minutieusement, examiner des moyens de fournir des suggestions utiles dans le cadre du Forum politique de haut niveau, notamment par l'entremise du Rapport mondial sur le développement durable.
 - De nombreuses initiatives axées sur les forêts ont été annoncées ou lancées en marge de la récente Conférence de Paris sur le climat de 2015, dans le cadre du Programme d'action Lima-Paris. Il sera important que le Forum tienne compte de ces initiatives et qu'il précise des voies de coopération et définisse des synergies avec ces dernières.
- (par rapport au paragr. 20-b) Non seulement le PCF devrait fournir des conseils en matière de S et T au FNUF, mais le FNUF pourrait rassembler des experts en gestion des forêts pour aider les membres du PCF, c'est-à-dire pour soutenir le rôle du PNUE en tant qu'une des premières autorités environnementales mondiales sur le plan de ses efforts visant à coordonner la rétroaction environnementale pour ensuite l'intégrer dans les ODD.
- Pour ce qui est d'accroître l'engagement et les arrangements pour faciliter la collaboration avec des entités telles que le PCF et le Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (par rapport à la section IV, paragr. 14e), le Secrétariat du FNUF pourrait considérer des approches

telles que la désignation d'une liaison précise pour chaque organisation au sein du Secrétariat afin de faciliter cet engagement.

- Concernant les programmes de travail quadriennaux, nous recommandons que ceux-ci aient des objectifs clairs et articulés, qu'ils comportent des livrables concrets, tout en incluant un certain degré de flexibilité pour permettre de s'adapter aux futurs contextes mondiaux et aux besoins changeants au fur et à mesure qu'ils se présentent, ce qui permettra de s'assurer que les rencontres seront thématiques, pertinentes et dignes d'intérêt.
- Nous recommandons aussi que ces programmes de travail pluriannuels incluent l'option d'explorer non seulement les différentes structures et modalités de travail concerté, telles qu'un groupe du type « les amis du bureau » qui serait désigné pour examiner en détail un sujet d'intérêt particulier ou urgent, mais aussi différentes options de travail concerté, par exemple les conférences virtuelles (Web ou vidéo), qui sont flexibles et inclusives et facilitent le partage d'idées et d'information.

6 janvier 2016
NRCan-CFS-PEIB-IAD/mc
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
Dirección de Medio Ambiente y Asuntos Marítimos

CHILE views and proposals on paragraph 44 of Resol 11/1

44. *Decides* that the Forum should consider proposals on the following matters:

(a) Replacement of the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the sustainable development goals and targets that will be considered by the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held in September 2015;

(b) The strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020, consistent with section XI of the present resolution;

Regarding para 44 (a)

To replace the reference to the MDG in paragraph 1 (b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests by SDG and targets **is a need**, regarding the approval of SDG by the UN General Assembly, in Sept. 2015.

The UNGA Member States, in adopting the Resolution of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, emphasized poverty eradication is a major challenge to implement the sustainable development, in which Forests play a key role for rural, local and other communities, taking into account the countries different priorities, capabilities and levels of national development.

The 17 targets and 169 goals aims at strengthening alliance among people, governments, civil society, private sector, etc., to establish a strong international cooperation for its implementation, including of course the environmental protection, in which forest is included.

Para 44 (b)

1. The Strategic Plan 2017-2030 should be concise, should tend towards simplicity, focused on those activities that will be able to really put in practice the objectives of the international arrangements on forests. And of course, as it is said, it should incorporate a mission and a vision. And also a scope, strategic goals, synergies and visibility, indicators.
 - The long-term vision should reflect sense of direction, a sense of intention and should relate to a 15 – 20 – 30 year horizon.
 - A communication strategy is key in connecting the work of the St. Plan 2017-2030 with people in general (raising public awareness), specially with private sector and communities. It is necessary to inform people about the importance of forests in contributing to the mitigation of the climate change effects.



MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
Dirección de Medio Ambiente y Asuntos Marítimos

- To meet the economic and social needs of the population is part of the forest management tasks, in a sustainable manner. So, communication is a must in the Strategic Plan.
- The Sustainable Development Goals are evolving into the main global framework for sustainable development. The new Strategic Plan should take the emergence of this new framework into account.
- The new Strategic Plan needs to consider and integrate the relation between forests and climate change and key sectors such as agriculture, hydro-energy, biomass energy and others.
- Climate change, accelerating land degradation need to be considered and integrated.
- Ecosystem Services and valuations need to take account of benefits to local populations and of benefits to other people, if any.
- The new Strategic Plan might be divided into two parts or papers: one part visionary, a shorter, more political paper with a clear message for the world-at-large, expressing aspirations and targets (with indicators), and a separate, more practical plan for the Parties' focal points, flexible and adaptable to regional and national contexts.

October 15, 2015

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(2015)CME No.077

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and has the honor to submit China's Views and Inputs on Paragraph 44 of the UNFF11 Resolution as attached.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests the assurances of its highest consideration.

December 4, 2015

New York



Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests
New York

附件 2

China's Views and Inputs on Paragraph 44 of the UNFF11 Resolution

The ministerial declaration "International arrangement on the forests we want: beyond 2015" and the resolution "International arrangement on forests beyond 2015" adopted in UNFF11 are milestone documents, developing the framework of the international arrangement on forests for the future 15 years and increasing significantly the strategic status of forests in global sustainable development.

In line with the resolution "International arrangement on forests beyond 2015", China proposes our views and inputs on the modification of the UN Forest Instrument and the development of the IAF Strategic Plan (2017-2030) and the quadrennial program of work for the period of 2017-2020 as follows:

1. Modification of the UN Forest Instrument

We support the replacement of the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the UN Forest Instrument with the sustainable development goals and targets. We propose that with no substantive modification of the contents, the order of paragraph 6 on national policies and measures and paragraph 7 on international cooperation and means of implementation could be shifted in order to enhance logic and coherence. We suggest that the contents on means of implementation could be further added to improve the integrity of the Instrument.

2. Development of the IAF Strategic Plan (2017-2030)

The consistency between the Strategic Plan and the Development Agenda beyond 2015 should be strengthened. We propose that the Strategic Plan should highlight forest-based environmental, economic and social benefits and acknowledge that sustainable forest management is an important means to achieve global sustainable development goals, including terrestrial ecosystems protection, sustainable management of water, combating climate change, eradicating poverty and achieving food security. The international arrangement on forests should be the means of implementation to achieve forest-related goals and targets in the Development Agenda beyond 2015. The UNFF's status and role in implementing the Development Agenda beyond 2015 need to be further clarified.

The Strategic Plan should identify goals of UNFF as the platform for policy development and dialogue and negotiation. A road map should be drawn. UNFF's functions in promoting, monitoring and assessing the implementation of sustainable forest management, in particular the UN Forest Instrument, should also be designed, including improvement of monitoring, assessment and reporting mechanism, sharing best practices,

carrying out pilot site programs and rewarding outstanding contribution.

Clear priorities for the “Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network” (the “Network”) should be set out in the Strategic Plan. China proposes that the “Network” priorities shall include assisting member states in designing and applying forest programs from existing and emerging financial sources, developing national forest investment and financing strategies and enhancing member states’ capacities in raising and using finance. The “Network” functions could also include collecting, organizing and publicizing forest finance information and managing the operation of the “Network” website. The Strategic Plan could also further acknowledge the institutional arrangement of the “Network”.

The Strategic Plan should be committed to dealing with the fragmentation of the global forest governance. It should encourage members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, through innovative means, strengthen cross-sectoral coordination among forest-related conventions, organizations and financial institutions, and enhance the effectiveness of the Partnership.

The Strategic Plan should give consideration to roles of regional/sub-regional forest-related organizations or processes and major groups in participating in the international arrangement on forests and the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The publicity strategy should also be developed in order to raise the awareness of the public and decision-makers in the significance of forests.

3. Development of the quadrennial program of work (2017-2020)

The program of work should be consistent with the Strategic Plan and identify the specific work and finance required to implement the Strategic Plan during these four years. China proposes that the quadrennial program of work (2017-2020) should, based on the framework acknowledged in the resolution “International arrangement on forests beyond 2015”, build the global forest governance system, further improve the institutional design and transfer the UNFF’s functions to implementing sustainable forest management and the UN Forest Instrument.

MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE
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N° 058 /MNU/FM/ab

La Mission Permanente de la République de Côte d'Ivoire auprès des Nations Unies présente ses compliments au Secrétariat des Nations Unies (**Secrétariat du FNUF**) et, a l'honneur de lui faire parvenir ci-joint, la proposition de la Côte d'Ivoire pour la formulation du Plan Stratégique du Forum des Nations Unies sur les Forêts, onzième édition (UNFF11).

La Mission permanente de la République de Côte d'Ivoire auprès des Nations Unies remercie le Secrétariat des Nations Unies (**Secrétariat du FNUF**) de son aimable coopération et saisit cette occasion pour lui renouveler les assurances de sa haute considération.



New York, le 15 janvier 2016

Secrétariat des Nations Unies
(Secrétariat du FNUF)

New York

PROJET

V/Ref : UNFF-15-HMM-L-409

Objet : Propositions de la Côte d'Ivoire pour le
Plan Stratégique 2017-2030

Monsieur le Directeur du Secrétariat,

Comme suite à votre note citée en référence, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre les propositions de la Côte d'Ivoire pour l'élaboration du Plan Stratégique du FNUF pour la période 2017-2030.

Je voudrais vous assurer de la disponibilité de la Côte d'Ivoire à contribuer de façon positive à la réalisation de toutes les activités devant conduire à la douzième session du Forum.

Veuillez agréer, **Monsieur le Directeur du Secrétariat**, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

**Monsieur le Directeur du Secrétariat Forum
des Nations Unies pour les Forêts
2 UN Plaza, DC2-2300, New York
N.Y 10017, USA**

MINISTRE DES EAUX ET FORETS



REPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Union – Discipline – Travail

LE CABINET

PROPOSITIONS POUR LE PLAN STRATEGIQUE DE L'ARRANGEMENT INTERNATIONAL SUR LES FORETS (AIF)

Dans son paragraphe 45 de la Résolution de la onzième session du Forum des Nations Unies pour les Forêts (FNUF11), les Etats Membres sont invités à communiquer leurs positions et propositions sur les questions visées au paragraphe 44.

Le paragraphe 44 de ladite résolution aborde essentiellement deux questions :

- a- Le remplacement des références aux objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD) par une référence appropriée aux objectifs et cibles de Développement Durable du programme de développement de l'après-2015 ;
- b- Les propositions pour le Plan Stratégique pour la période 2017-2030 et le programme de travail quadriennal pour la période 2017-2020.

Concernant le point (a), le remplacement des références aux OMD par les objectifs appropriés de Développement Durable est souhaitable. Cependant, cela doit être fait de façon succincte sans entrer dans des détails qui pourraient constituer des motifs de longs débats lors de la session des Experts. Il reste entendu que les cibles développées dans le cadre de ces objectifs pertinents de Développement Durable devront servir de base à l'évaluation de la mise en œuvre du Plan Stratégique.

En ce qui concerne le point (b) relatif au Plan Stratégique 2017-2030, il devrait définir un meilleur cadre de mise en œuvre de l'Instrument sur les Forêts, sur la base d'un programme minimum, comportant les lignes directrices pour la réalisation des activités, la coopération entre les Etats membres et les institutions pertinentes, la définition de la responsabilité des acteurs, nationaux, régionaux et internationaux.

La présentation du contexte devrait faire ressortir le rôle important de l'aménagement durable des forêts dans la fourniture de biens et services tels que la conservation de la biodiversité, l'atténuation et l'adaptation aux effets des changements climatiques, la fourniture d'autres services écosystémiques et, la transition vers l'économie verte.

La définition d'une vision concise doit constituer un message suffisamment clair pour l'ensemble des parties prenantes quant aux résultats attendus par la mise en œuvre de ce plan.

Le Plan Stratégique devra intégrer les éléments suivants parmi les points abordés :

- La détermination du rôle du Secrétariat du FNUF dans la mise en œuvre du Plan, en particulier l'appui que le SFNUF pourrait apporter en liaison avec le PCF aux Etats membres ;
- Le renforcement des liens et des synergies pour la mise en œuvre et les rapports de l'Instrument sur les Forêts avec d'autres Conventions, Accords, Programmes et Plans ayant trait aux forêts ;
- La prise en compte de la dimension régionale en relation avec les Processus Régionaux et sous-Régionaux pour identifier les challenges et les points clés à aborder pour permettre à ces zones d'atteindre les objectifs fixés ;
- Le développement d'un plan de communication intégrant la formation des acteurs des Etats Membres sur l'AIF ;
- La définition d'un cadre d'évaluation avec la détermination des cibles à atteindre au niveau national pour chaque objectif.

MINISTRE DE LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET
DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES DE LA FORET DE LA MER

CABINET DU MINISTRE



Proposition sur le " Plan Stratégique " **de l'Arrangement International** **sur les Forêts (AIF)**

Prenant en compte l'article 44 de la résolution du Forum des Nations Unies sur les Forêts (FNUF) adoptée en juillet 2015 par le Conseil Economique et Social (ECOSOC), nous proposons que le Plan Stratégique pour la période 2017 – 2030 s'articule comme suit, en se référant au document de Stéphanie J.CASWEL d'octobre 2010 :

- Introduction
- Les objectifs
- Les missions
- La mise en œuvre.

1- Introduction

L'ECOSOC a adopté en juillet 2015 la résolution sur l'Arrangement International sur les Forêts (AIF). Elle prévoit en son article 44 l'élaboration d'un plan stratégique pour la période 2017 – 2030.

Le plan stratégique doit définir les activités à réaliser au cours de la période considérée et déterminer la feuille de route qui tient compte du programme de développement post 2015 des Nations Unies.

Le Plan Stratégique déterminera :

- les missions
- les messages clé comme défini dans les paragraphes 1,2,4 de la Déclaration Ministérielle de 2011, sur la biodiversité, le SOFO...

2- Les missions :

Les missions du Plan Stratégique devront présenter un engagement élevé et définir clairement la gestion durable des forêts dans le contexte de l'Agenda post 2015, du changement climatique, l'économie verte, la lutte contre la pauvreté et des objectifs du Développement Durable récemment adoptés, notamment 15 et 6.

3- Objectifs du Plan Stratégique :

La résolution de l'ECOSOC a reconduit des quatre objectifs globaux. Ces objectifs devront être mis en cohérence avec les Objectifs du Développement Durable.

4- Mise en œuvre :

La mise en œuvre du plan stratégique doit se faire dans le cadre institutionnel et financier de l'Arrangement International des Forêts (AIF) tel que défini dans la résolution.

5- Rapport et suivi évaluation :

Tel que défini dans la résolution du FNUF 11, le Forum établira un modèle de rapport renforcé par des indicateurs, pour parvenir à une meilleure gouvernance forestière.

Fait à Libreville, le 14 Octobre 2015

Le Point Focal FNUF Gabon

André Jules MADINGOU



**საქართველოს მუდმივი წარმომადგენლობა გაერთიანებული ერების
ორგანიზაციასთან**

PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

№ 19/41314

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations presents its complements to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat and with reference to the Note of the Secretariat of the United Nations № DESA-15/00819, dated 5 August 2015, has the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter of Mr. Besarion Abashidze, Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia that was previously transmitted to the UNFF Secretariat by the respective Ministry.

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 2 November 2015



**United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
New York**



საქართველოს გარემოსა და ბუნებრივი რესურსების დაცვის
სამინისტრო
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION OF
GEORGIA**



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საქართველო, 0114 თბილისი, გ. გულუას ქ. №6, ტელ 2727200, 2727220, ფაქსი 2727237, www.moe.gov.ge
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6968

01 / October / 2015

To: United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, I would like to express my gratitude for your excellent collaboration and cooperation in supporting forestry sector development and strengthening the global policy dialogue in the forest sector.

Likewise, we highly compliment and appreciate the Ad-Hoc Expert Groups, UNFF Secretariat and all the stakeholders involved in the UNFF process for their contributions towards the development of IAF beyond 2015 and efforts for its implementation, also for the progress made towards building the framework for strengthening cooperation globally between the parties in the field of forestry.

Georgian side fully supports the proceeding towards the implementation of the commitments derived from previous UNFF sessions and to further make progress in the implementation of the provisions of the UNFF11 Resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests Beyond 2015. We are prepared to implement them in our national strategies, programmes and initiatives.

Currently, one of the biggest challenges the Georgian forestry sector faces is how to advance forest management practices in order to improve condition of forests devastated during the periods of political instability in the past so that ecological, social and economic functions of forests are balanced and sustainability ensured. In 2013, Georgia started the forestry sector reform, aiming at improving quantitative and qualitative characteristics of Georgian forests. Elaboration of National Forest Programme and improvement of institutional and legal frameworks for the sustainable management of our forests are also taking place. Georgia greatly appreciates the assistance we are already receiving from other countries to achieve best practices in forest sector development and we look forward to more substantial intergovernmental cooperation in terms of stronger networking of forestry experts.

With regard to nominate designated expert to the UNFF/AHEG1, we are giving you a notice that Mr. Gigia Aleksidze, the Chief Specialist at Forest Policy Service of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, will be the contact person for UNFF Secretariat and the designated expert to the AHEG1 to join the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad-Hoc Expert Group (AHEG1) on the Development of Proposals on Matters Referred to in Paragraph 44 of the UNFF Resolution 11/1.

In case of availability of designated extra-budgetary resources as mentioned in your letter (DESA-15/00819), we would highly appreciate if you could consider the possibility to provide full financial support for Mr. Gigia Aleksidze to ensure his participation due to the importance of the meeting and steps to be taken further for the implementation of the provisions developed under the UNFF framework.

Thanks for your time and cooperation.

Best Regards,

Deputy Minister

Besarion Abashidze

Cables and Telegrams: MINLANDS
Telephone: 233-302-687314
Tel/Fax: 233-302-666801

In case of reply,
the number and date of this
letter should be quoted.

Our Ref. No. FA.48/78/01

Your Ref. No.



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

P. O. Box M 212 Accra.

December 28, 2015.....

**PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS
19 EAST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017**

FAX: 001212 751 6743

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFF11)**

We refer to letter No. UNGA/70, dated 8th October, 2015 and UNFF Note Verbale No. DESA -15/00819, dated 5th August 2015 and a follow-up Note verbale No. UNFF -15 – HMM-L-409, dated 30th November, 2015 on the above subject matter.

I am pleased to forward to you the attached paper as Ghana's views and proposals on matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the UNFF11 resolution.

We hope you will forward these inputs to the United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariat for consideration.

Counting on your cooperation in such matters.

Yours faithfully,

**GIFTY BIYIRA MAHAMA (MRS)
DIRECTOR, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
FOR: MINISTER**

**CC:
UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS SECRETARIAT
1 UN PLAZA, DC1-1245D
NEW YORK, NY 10017**

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Inputs from Ghana in response to Paragraph 44 of the UNFF11 Resolution 2015/33

Para. 44a. Replacement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Non-Legally Binding Instruments on all Types of Forests.

1. In the context of the International Arrangements on Forests beyond 2015, Ghana fully supports the replacement of the MDGs with the SDGs in paragraph 1 (b) of the Non-legally Binding Instruments on all types of forests. This will provide a long-term perspective and commitment for the implementation of the NLBI as the SDGs now become the blue-print on the global development agenda.

Para. 44b. Strategic Plan for post 2015 International Arrangements on Forests (2017 – 2030)

2. The Government of Ghana wishes to propose that the Strategic Plan should be called **"Strategic Master-Plan for Sustainable Forest Management (2017 – 2030)"**
3. The Strategic Master-Plan (SMP) should clearly provide a SWOT Analysis of the global forest environment and clearly identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) taking into consideration all past initiatives/interventions undertaken by various stakeholders under the framework of the UNFF.
4. The SMP should have a clear Vision, Mission, Goal and Objectives, taking into consideration the existing Global Objectives of Forests and the SDGs.
5. The SMP should deal with the various functions of the forest – economic, social and environmental/ecological functions (that is watershed protection, soil erosion control and food security, shelter, energy, employment, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, temperature regulation etc). The relationship between climate change and forests should also be explained. This will require an effective Communication Plan to be able to raise public awareness of relevant issues and also on global forest governance systems and processes.
6. The plan should define specific actions to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (that is actions that will halt deforestation and forest

degradation). Various approaches to landscape restoration should also be highlighted and promoted.

7. The Plan should clearly define the sources of funding for SFM activities (global funds, international funds, local /national funds, private sector contributions) and also indicate means of accessing such funds. "Business as usual" should be avoided so that funds can really be made available, especially to developing countries to support SFM work at all levels of governance.
8. The Plan should have a set of indicators/targets to track progress at regular intervals of implementation. In this case a Global Results Framework will be desirable. AHEG meetings should focus on measuring progress on such indicators.
9. In developing the Strategic Plan, the Non-legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forest should be a major input for consideration. The NLBI is a useful framework for developing any strategic plan for SFM either at global level or at national level.

Quadrennial Plans (2017 – 2020)

10. The quadrennial plans (2017 - 2020) should focus more on country-level programmes and regional/sub-regional level initiatives that promote collaboration and cooperation among various stakeholders in addressing cross-sectoral issues relating to sustainable forest management and attainment of the SDGs. Efforts should be made to identify potential financing sources for the Strategic Master-plan.

Submission by Japan
On paragraph 45 of the UNFF11 resolution

The strategic plan for the period 2017-2030

The Strategic Plan (hereinafter referred to as ‘SP’) must involve setting goals, determining of actions to achieve said goals, and mobilizing resources to execute those actions. In this context, the following elements should be included in the SP:

1. Goal-setting

First and foremost, in order to formulate the SP, all Member States need to recognize the “strategy” of the UNFF; i.e. paragraph 3 of the UNFF11 Resolution. The UNFF must function as an effective platform for policy development, dialogue, cooperation and coordination on issues related to all types of forests.

The main goal of the SP should be to coordinate the formulation and implementation of various policy measures at the national level. If too much time is spent on the negotiations of draft resolution texts, then those sessions will fail to produce an environment that leads to a constructive policy dialogue, and devolve into a ‘talk shop’.

For example, concerning the establishment of the Global Fund, it is necessary that Member States share the common understanding that the lack of financing is the primary bottleneck to achieving our global objectives on forests. Against this backdrop, the SP must make it clear that our goal is to transform the UNFF into a viable system which can produce tangible results towards the achievement of our global objectives on forests. This was the reason why the Member States decided in the UNFF11 Resolution to restructure UNFF sessions and to enhance intersessional work to maximize their respective outputs.

2. Determination of actions

The targets to be achieved by 2030 are already defined as the ‘Global Objectives on Forests’ in Section IV of the UN Forest Instrument. Likewise, actions to be taken at the national level are already identified as ‘National Policies and Measures’ in Section V of the UN Forest Instrument.

In order to achieve these targets, it is necessary for all Member States to submit their national progress reports as the basic information for UNFF sessions. Furthermore, those national progress reports need to assess how policy objectives on forests are being achieved, and analyze hindrances to sustainable forest management in the implementation of national policies and measures.

The sessions and intersessional activities of the UNFF should both focus on interactive policy dialogues based on national progress reports, aiming to exchange feedback, advice, ideas and inspiration among the Member States so that they can further develop and improve their national policies. Capacity building in member states is also necessary for monitoring, assessment and reporting on social, economic and environmental aspects related to their forest policies.

Composing Criteria and Indicators (C&I) process synthesis reports will provide useful material for the deliberations at the UNFF. In particular, a Global Forest Indicators Partnership needs to be established as a coordinating body to make better linkages between C&I processes and UNFF activities. This will help maintain consistency between the country progress reports and the forest related indicators set on a global scale under the SDGs.

3. Mobilization of resources to execute the actions

Key stakeholders should play an active role in the sustainable management of forests, and therefore should participate in UNFF meetings. It is important, therefore, that not only the Member States, but also the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), other major groups, and other implementing agencies, such as international aid agencies, which have a lot of experiences, knowledge and expertise, all be involved. It is also necessary to mobilize resources in support of the sustainable management of forests.

The quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020

In accordance with paragraph 6(f) of the UNFF11 resolution, odd-year sessions are to focus on discussions on implementation and technical advice, followed by sessions in the following year to come up with recommendations. Based on this framework, Japan proposes that the Member States should concentrate on two of the four goals set out in the Global Objectives on Forests agreed at UNFF6 in the following manner; "Reverse the loss of forest cover through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)" at 2017-2018 sessions, and "Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits" at the 2019-2020 sessions.

In addition, the scope of the Global Forest Indicators Partnership needs to be discussed in order to better align it with the C&I processes and the review on progress towards the achievement of SDGs indicators. Guidance on reporting on SDGs indicators should be elaborated in line with the review process of the SDGs, including the High-level Political Forum.

Country: Liberia

Dear Colleagues:

Please see the below responses to the Secretariat of the United Nation on the request for Inputs by Member States and Stakeholders View and Proposal on the matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the UNFF11 resolution.

44 (a) Replacement of the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the sustainable development goals and targets.

View on the Replacement of reference to the Millennium Development Goals

Liberian Government view is that the Millennium Development Goals is about to expire by the end of 2015 and another international commitment to end poverty and hunger as well as ensuring that sustainable development becomes the model for all countries, societies for an inclusive economic growth. Sustainable Development Goals is expected to pick up from where the MDGs stopped, fill in its gaps and take the world to the next level.

Proposal:

Liberia Government agreed with experts that have suggested the design of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should use the principles of landscape approaches if much of the goals and target are to be achieved on date.

Liberia being a country where agriculture, mining, and other productive land uses compete with environmental and biodiversity goals (sustainable Forest Management), the adaption of landscape approaches as a basic tools for managing the country's landscape (natural resources) will lead to the achievement of social, economic, and environmental objectives. The approach is crucial and must be recognized. This is where the IAF and the Forest Instrument discussions should now focus.

44(b) The IAF Strategic Plan for the period 2017 – 2030 and the quadrennial program of work for the period 2017 – 2020 consistent with section XI of the present resolution.

Proposed Vision on the IAF Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial program of work for the period 2017 -2020

To urge the Forum and the member states to consider the incorporation of the Post 2015 development agenda in the IAF and the Non-legally Binding Instruments.

In order to implement this vision, the following policy measure needs to be considered.

- Enhance the involvement of major groups and other stakeholders;
- Provide support to member states to enhance the implementation of IAF Strategic Plan at national level.
- Ensure coherence and consistency between the IAF and the Post-2015 development agenda and other forest –related agreement

Mission Statement on the IAF Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial program of work for the period 2017 -2020

The Forum aims to provide decisive strategic direction to the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), so that all elements are aligned with the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda and other forest-related instruments.

The IAF Strategic Framework should take into consideration all actions that are related to Sustainable Forests Management to ensure comprehensive achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other related instruments.

- It should also include issues that will be carried out by member countries to reduce deforestation and embark on forest restoration programs of degraded landscapes;
- The Strategic Framework should emphasize on inter-sectorial coordination among the forests and the landscape use management and sectors especially issues related to policies and strategies of each sector;
- The Strategic Plan should emphasize that developing countries with landscape use competition must be capacitated to enhance their Inter-sectorial coordination;
- The quadrennial Programme of work (2017-2020) should emphasize the participation of more developing countries especially countries with more forest cover to get involved in decision-making on forests;

- The 2017-2020 quadrennial programme of work should emphasize the Strengthening of the Regional Committee to be proactive in ensuring that member countries are highly involved.

Country input: Madagascar

Vues et propositions sur les matières se référant au paragraphe 44 de la résolution de la 11^{ème} session du Forum des Nations Unies sur les Forêts

Si l'on observe les objectifs de l'arrangement international des forêts après 2015, ce qui les différencie de tout ce qui précède réside dans le fait qu'il faut « Accroître la contribution de tout le type de forêts et des arbres en dehors des forêts au programme de développement de l'après 2015 ».

Il est à remarquer que beaucoup de résultats d'études, d'expériences, des pratiques sur terrain ont montré le rôle que jouent les forêts dans le programme de développement que nous qualifierons de « durable ». En effet, sans cette considération primordiale de durabilité, le monde ne parviendra à aucune définition d'un réel développement aussi bien dans le domaine économique, écologique que social.

Dans ce cas, le forum aura pour principales fonctions entre autres que de contribuer à l'élaboration d'une « politique internationale cohérente de collaboration accrue sur des questions relatives à tous les types de forêts » mais surtout de veiller à travers les organisations régionales et sous-régionales à ce que cette politique soit répercutée au niveau régional et sous-régional pour une meilleure synergie d'actions en faveur de la gestion durable des forêts.

Comment garantir alors que l'arrangement international des forêts après 2015 apporterait un changement positif au niveau de la planète ne serait-ce que pour le problème qui nous préoccupe le plus en matière d'adaptation et d'atténuation aux changements climatiques ?

La politique internationale dont on a souligné devrait dériver des résultats d'analyse technique et scientifique de la situation des forêts au niveau mondial.

Le partenariat de collaboration sur les forêts a sa part de responsabilité à travers les travaux d'études de la FAO par exemple permettant ainsi d'élaborer cette politique internationale dont il est question afin de définir sa base à partir des résultats des données de recherche.

La question qui se pose actuellement réside dans le fait que les moyens de mise en œuvre sont-ils suffisants et adéquats ou non. Une structure de suivi-évaluation de ces moyens de mise en œuvre devrait être instituée surtout pour celui relatif au financement tels la création de « réseau de facilitation du financement forestier à l'échelle mondiale et du fond d'affectation spéciale à l'appui du forum des nations unies sur les forêts » que l'on a décidé d'instaurer d'une façon effective.

L'on a souligné également que ces objectifs de l'arrangement international des forêts après 2015 ne seraient atteints sans « l'action individuelle et collective de toutes les parties prenantes ».

La prise de responsabilité toujours accrue des grands groupes demeure cruciale dans la mesure où cela allègerait le rôle régalien de l'Etat dans la mise en œuvre de la gestion durable des forêts.

Il s'agit alors d'inciter le secteur privé à collaborer avec ces grands groupes afin de mettre en synergie leurs actions communes.

Enfin, l'on évoque de plus en plus le renforcement de capacité des pays vulnérables aux changements climatiques, tels les pays d'Afrique et d'Asie qui doivent bénéficier du transfert d'innovations et de technologies pour protéger leurs forêts contre ces aléas climatiques.

A notre avis, le plan stratégique (2017-2030) devrait prendre en compte toutes ces considérations.

UNFF Secretariat
UN Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Two UN Plaza, DC2-2300
New York, NY 10017

15TH Oct 2015

Sir/Madam

Following your request for inputs vide through the Note Verbale, please note the following inputs that have already been sent by Mr V Tezoo, the Focal Point for Mauritius to the Ministry for onward transmission.

The inputs are as follows:

Paragraph 45 of Section XIII of the follow up to the eleventh session of the Forum invites Member States and relevant Stakeholders to provide their views and proposals on the matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the present resolution as inputs to deliberations.

Paragraph 44 of the same Section decides that the Forum should consider proposals on the following matters:

(a) Replacement of the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the Sustainable development goals and targets that will be considered by the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post 2015 development agenda, to be held in September 2015;

(b) The strategic plan for the period 2017 – 2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017 –

2020, consistent with **Section XI** of the present resolution.

The Millennium Development Goal (MDG7) (2000–2015) focuses on ensuring environmental sustainability, to reduce biodiversity loss, achieving by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss. The Goal included a set of indicators, among them, on the proportion of land area covered by forest; total water resources used, terrestrial and marine areas protected; and species threatened with extinction. The significance of forests under this goal and related targets, however, is restricted to their environmental contributions, and their crucial social and economic contributions are neglected. It is, however, important to note that while forests are only mentioned in MDG7, they contribute substantively to reaching all MDGs directly or indirectly.

The Forestry Service is agreeable to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs') with that of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs') as it reaffirmed the commitment to fully implement the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, the Programme for the further Implementation of Agenda 21 and inter alia the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

The proposed Sustainable Development Goals 15 which consists of Protect, restore and promote Sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

This goal captures the importance of forest for soil and water conservation as well as habitat for terrestrial biodiversity.

Goal 15.1 by 2020 ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland fresh water ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

Goal 15.2 by 2020, promotes the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation by x% globally.

Goal 15.5 take urgent and significant action to reduce degradation of natural habitat, halt the loss of biodiversity, and by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

Goal 15.8 by 2020 introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems, and control or eradicate the priority species.

Goal 15 b mobilize significantly resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management, and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance sustainable forest management, including for conservation and reforestation.

Section XI indicates that the Forum should develop a concise Strategic Plan for the future international arrangement on forests (IAF) for the period 2017 – 2030 to serve a Strategic framework to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and should incorporate a mission and vision, the global objectives on forests.

The Forum has to operationalise the strategic plan through quadrennial programme of work that set out priority actions and resource needs, beginning with period 2017 – 2020.

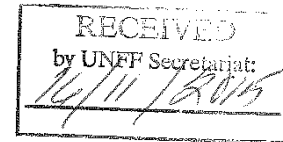
The Strategic Plan 2017 – 2030 must address some of the Convention's new challenges particularly with regards to climate change. More

financial resources mobilization to mitigate the effects of drought, biodiversity conservation. The strategic plan should contain quantitative targets on reafforestation, afforestation, deforestation and restoration of degraded forests.

(V. Tezoo)

Conservator of Forests

Pj FD No.972.138 16.09.15



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO

ONU05811

La Misión Permanente de México ante las Naciones Unidas saluda atentamente al Secretariado del Foro de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Bosques y tiene el honor de hacer referencia a la nota DESA-15/00819, 11º período de sesiones del Foro de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Bosques (UNFF11).

La Misión Permanente de México tiene el honor de remitir adjunto las opiniones y propuestas sobre las cuestiones mencionadas en el párrafo 44 de la resolución 11/1 del UNFF11, relativa al acuerdo internacional sobre los bosques después de 2015.

La Misión Permanente de México ante las Naciones Unidas aprovecha la oportunidad para reiterar al Secretariado del Foro de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Bosques las seguridades de su más atenta y distinguida consideración.

Nueva York, a 11 de noviembre de 2015

**Secretariado del Foro de las Naciones Unidas
Sobre los Bosques
Nueva York**



Mexico

This submission responds to the invitation made in paragraph 45 of the UNFF11 resolution, to Member States of the Forum and relevant stakeholders to submit their views and proposals on matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the same resolution.

Sobre el Plan Estratégico (2017-2030), éste podría ser planteado considerando acciones que permitan cumplir con las funciones establecidas para el Foro en el párrafo 3 de la resolución del UNFF11, por lo cual, sería importante que las acciones que sean establecidas en el plan estratégico identifiquen de manera clara cómo abonan al cumplimiento de los objetivos y funciones del Foro.

Asimismo, un parte relevante del ejercicio de conformación del Plan Estratégico, será buscar la alineación de los Objetivos Mundiales sobre los Bosques (GFO) con la agenda de desarrollo post 2015, particularmente en el caso del ODS15 y sus metas correspondientes. El trabajo además, debería ser enfocado también al desarrollo de indicadores y medios para verificar los progresos en el cumplimiento de tales metas.

En relación al programa de trabajo 2017-2020, consideramos que es importante que el programa de trabajo pueda presentar entregables cuantificables para medir su eficacia, asegurándose de no duplicar las acciones realizadas por otros socios de la Asociación de Colaboración en Materia de Bosques (ACMB) y por otros foros o plataformas internacionales.

Algunos de los temas propuestos para el programa de trabajo se mencionan a continuación:

- Reducción de tala ilegal, manejo adaptativo, manejo integrado de plagas y enfermedades, sistema integral de control de incendios, cambios de uso del suelo
- Inspección y Vigilancia Forestal en la Protección de Bosques
- Normatividad Forestal en la protección de Bosques
- Gobernanza
- Silvicultura comunitaria
- Servicios ecosistémicos (pago por servicios ambientales –hidrológicos por ejemplo, manejo sustentable de los bosques –aprovechamiento no maderables, proyectos productivos que conlleven la conservación de la biodiversidad).

Se recomienda, además, hacer énfasis en que una forma de aumentar la conciencia y fortalecer el compromiso político para elevar el rol que juegan los bosques en la agenda global de desarrollo es a través de las áreas naturales protegidas (ANP), dado su papel fundamental en la conservación de los bosques y los servicios ecosistémicos que proveen. Es importante fomentar modelos de conservación mediante el aprovechamiento sostenible de los recursos, como son

las ANP. Asimismo, el mantener bosques, y los servicios ecosistémicos que proveen, dentro de zonas de protección es tanto un contrapeso para la degradación del suelo y la pérdida de biodiversidad y recursos hídricos, como un mitigante para las causas y efectos del cambio climático.

Asimismo, se considera que es necesario que el plan de trabajo considere actividades para continuar avanzando en aspectos de aplicación de la legislación forestal y la gobernanza en las políticas nacionales, aspectos cruciales para garantizar la gestión forestal sostenible (manejo sustentable de los bosques).

Es primordial fortalecer la concientización de la sociedad, la educación, las capacidades institucionales, la transferencia tecnológica y la colaboración técnica y las redes de información. Ello permitirá que haya un marco propicio para la inversión en bosques, y así reducir las prácticas ilegales, así como promover la tenencia segura de la tierra.

1. Mongolia: Views and proposals to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph (1b) of the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the sustainable development goals and targets

In order to create sound policy frameworks at the national level, based on environmental safety and pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions, Mongolia has made ambitious environmental commitments through the Green Development Policy of Mongolia (2014) and has placed the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism at the center of policy making with high consideration of sustainable development of the country.

It is requested to develop and implement a national strategy or sub-sectoral action plan including sustainable forestry program in Mongolia which should address: drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations, safeguards and the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, and local communities in Mongolia.

Participatory approaches in public policy in Mongolia are emerging together with the democratic process wherein the emphasis is placed on participation of people in public affairs and on the need to involve as many groups in policy making as possible. Public involvement in sustainable forestry is difficult to apply because of traditional pastoral experiences of local herding communities with the engagement of different environmental NGOs in nature protection activities in Mongolia.

Social acceptance of forest management also enhances public commitment to Sustainable Forest Management of Mongolia. Therefore, it is essential that the public is involved in forestry planning at the forest management unit level. Most forests in Mongolia have a forest management plan or some equivalent as the non-legally binding instrument for Sustainable Forest Management, but there are substantial differences in form and content, and public participation is addressed differently.

Nevertheless, a lot has been done for public participation in Sustainable Forest Management in Mongolia since 2007 and 2012, when the completely new Forest Law with public participatory approach was passed. Participation in sustainable forestry is supported by legislation, but there are still many problems to be solved (integration, negotiation and performances in the practice). It seems that the majority of practical problems originate from the conflict between the economic interests of forest users and the environmental interests of society, and some of them still even originate from rather strict forest legislation.

Public participation in sustainable forestry in Mongolia with high recognition of livelihood improvement of forest dependent communities could be considered a means to develop better

informed and more widely accepted forest management outcomes according to New Forest Policy of Mongolia which was approved recently by Mongolian Parliament in 2015.

The participation in Forest Management Planning elaboration and adoption is open to the general public of the country and all process details are described by forest law, but the involvement of actors other than public authorities is relatively low.

In the future, some techniques and procedures aimed at opening the forest planning process to include all stakeholders, general public and representatives of civil society organizations should be developed at national and sub-regional level. The first step would be to greater engage forest user groups in decision making on the forest unit level of Forest Management Planning which also requires relevant changes in forest legislation.

2. Mongolia: Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests Strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial program of work for the period of 2017-2020

In order to enhance inter-sessional work of the Forum and referring paragraph 38 and 40 of the UNFF 11 resolution, it is recommendable to be taken into consideration in the future:

- a) Organize forest research and policy dialogues in annual basis in geographical basis with regular rotation to share and deliver experiences and lessons among the countries;
- b) Create some new mechanisms of Collaborative Partnerships on Forests at country level in order to facilitate the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests;
- c) Seek opportunities to demonstrate implementation cases of result based financing of REDD+ and elaborate new mechanism of land degradation offset in forest areas;
- d) Call all member countries to initiate country level work focused on nexus of Forest biodiversity conservation and traditional use of non-timber forest products under changing environment;
- e) Engage holistic approach of public participation in Sustainable Forest Management planning by involving with forest user groups and civil society organizations
- f) Accelerate coordinating activities of Regional Forest Monitoring and Data Centers to provide decision support in forest planning process in low forest cover countries with emerging situation of deforestation and forest degradation;

Strategic frame of implementation of above proposed activities could be defined according to their importance and needs in certain conditions.



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Nay Pyi Taw

Email: nnkforest@gmail.com, trdd.fd@gmail.com



Date: 22 September, 2015

UN Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
New York, U.S.

Subject: Input in relation to the 1st Meeting of UNFF AHEG 1

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and further to your note verbale on UNFF 11 resolution, I appreciate for your kind invitation to provide our views and proposals on the decision of Paragraph 44 as input.

Regarding this, I am very pleased to inform you that there is no objection for Paragraph 44 (a) by Myanmar on the matter of replacement of Millennium Development Goals with Sustainable Development Goals and Targets in paragraph 1 (b) of non-legal binding instrument on all types of forests and so do I for Paragraph 44 (b).

Thank you very much for your kind cooperation.

With best regards,

Dr. Nya Nya Kyaw
Director General





ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Your ref


Our ref
14/1024-

Date
27.10.2015

Submission from Norway

Reference is made to the invitation from the UNFF secretariat to submit views and proposals on the matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the UNFF11 resolution. Please find enclosed the input from Norway.

Yours sincerely,


Frode Lyssandtræ
Deputy Director General


Silje Trollstøl
Senior Adviser

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Department of Forest- and
Natural Resource Policy

Our officer
Silje Trollstøl
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Norway

References to SDGs, proposal according to paragraph 44 a)

The Forest Instrument is a long-term strategy for sustainable forest management. Changes to the Forest Instrument should be kept to a minimum, in order to avoid lengthy negotiations, and be of a purely technical nature. In all cases where the MDGs are referred to without any qualifications, it can easily be replaced by a reference to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Agreeing on more detailed referencing of the SDGs in the Forest Instrument will not be as simple. The relation to the 2030 agenda will be covered by the strategic plan, and our preference is to focus discussions on aligning the Strategic Plan 2017-2030 with the SDGs, rather than having these discussions related to the Forest Instrument.

The strategic plan 2017-2030, proposal according to paragraph 44 b)

The strategic plan will be the tool to provide guidance on the future work of the IAF, to ensure cooperation between forest-related organizations, and to make sure the Forum is contributing to the work of other forest-related actors.

The strategic plan could be named Strategic Plan for Sustainable Forest Management 2017-2030.

The purpose of the plan could be to enable the promotion of sustainable forest management by coordinating forest-related work in the best possible way.

The Strategic Plan should give guidance on how the IAF can contribute to the 2030 agenda, and operationalize the contribution of the IAF to the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

The Strategic Plan must take into account forest related developments in other fora and give guidance on how the work of the UNFF could contribute to these fora.

The strategic plan should outline in what way the Forum could contribute to the implementation, follow-up and review of the forest-related aspects of the 2030 agenda, and how the Forum could offer to contribute to the work of the HLPF.

The strategic plan should clarify the relation between the sessions by defining modalities for the odd and even years session.

The strategic plan should give general guidance on how the CPF can contribute in the best possible way to the work of the UNFF.

The quadrennial programme of work 2017-2020

Norway

The work program will cover the work within the United Nations Forum on Forests only.

The work plan should outline the topics for the three UNFF sessions to be held in this period.

We would like to propose that the following topics are included in the work plan:

- Forest landscape restoration
- Climate change and forests
- Forests and the SDGs

For each of these topics, possibilities for cooperation with other forest-related organizations and processes should be identified.

Pakistan

Subject: **Inputs on UNFF 11 Para - 44 of the Resolution.**

Reference to the UNFF Director's request for inputs on matters referred in paragraph 44 of the UNFF11 resolution contained in the Note, dated 5th August 2015.

Views of Pakistan as member states on matters referred under para44 of the resolution are as under:

S#	Para 44:	Views and Comments on Matter Referred under para-44
	Decides that the Forum should consider proposals on the following matters:	
(a)	Replacement of the reference to the MDG's in paragraph 1(b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the SDG's and targets that will be considered by the UN's Summit for the adoption of the Post 2015 development agenda, to be held in September 2015;	<p>In the context of International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) beyond 2015, Pakistan supports replacement of recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) at the place of MDG's with the views that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would enhance effective coordination • It would improve sustainable management of forest resources • It would ensure collaboration among R&D institutions • It would empower forest dependent communities • It would raise the profile of non-legally binding instrument <p>Further we have a considered opinion that the new global development agenda will help members to translate their commitments into reality and will boost both conservation and sustainable management of all types of forest resources.</p>
(b)	The Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020, consistent with section XI of the resent resolution;	<p>The section XI of resolution contained at para 38 to 40 of the Note referred about strategic plan for the period 2017-2030, its alignment with the objectives of the other forest related developments in other forums and its operationalization through quadrennial Programme of Work (2017-2020).</p> <p>Pakistan being a member country fully agree with the development of concise Strategic Plan to encompass post 2015 development agenda to achieve the objectives of the IAF and its components. Further we expect not only its alignment with forestry components of all three Rio conventions such as REDD+, POW on Forest Biodiversity and Agro forestry but also other forestry promotional work carried out under the guidance of FAO and other regional and</p>

		sub regional groups, NGO's and private entities.
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Above views and proposals submitted for the consideration of UNFF.

(Syed Mahmood Nasir)

Inspector General of Forests /NFP UNFF

MISYON NG PILIPINAS SA MGA
NAGKAKAISANG BANSA



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PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

No. 000784-2015

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretary General (Attention: United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariat) and has the honor to refer to the latter's Note No. DESA-15/00819 dated 05 August 2015, on resolution 11/1 of the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11):

1. Inputs by Member States and Stakeholders

On replacement on the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1(b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the sustainable development goals and targets and the development of strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial program of work for the period 2017-2020, the Philippines supports the recommendation of the working group to develop the proposals on these matters and will actively participate in its deliberations.

2. First Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG1)

The Philippines nominates MR. RICARDO L. CALDERON as its Expert and requests travel support for him. His details are as follows:

Director, Forest Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Male, Born on 19 February 1962 in Calamba, Laguna, Philippines
Tel: (632) 9274788 Fax: (632) 928 9313
Email: rlc_0219@yahoo.com

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Secretary General (Attention: United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariat) the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 27 October 2015



26 October 2015

**Submission of National Input on the UNFF11 Resolution Paragraph 44
by the Republic of Korea**

In accordance with paragraph 45 of the UNFF11 resolution inviting Member States of the Forum and relevant stakeholders to submit their views and proposals on the matters referred to in paragraph 44, the Korea Forest Service, on behalf of the Republic of Korea,

Agrees on replacing the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the sustainable development goals and targets adopted by the United Nations in September 2015;

Stresses the need to develop a concise strategic plan aligned with the objectives of the international arrangement on forests and its components and prioritize following agenda items under four issues below in the strategic plan:

Sustainable Forest Management

Seeking measures to achieve food security and forest conservation through SFM

Establishing coherent SFM indicator and criteria

Relevant goals are **SDG2, SDGs 15, and GOFs 1.**

Forest Protection

Better controlling causes of forest degradation

Enhancing binding power and governance

Increasing trade of legally harvested woods and forest products

Relevant goals are **REDD+, Aichi Target 15, SDGs 15, SGD 6, GOFs 1, and GOFs 3.**

Raising Awareness on Forest

Drawing consensus on a range of forest benefits and measurement methodology

Establishing guidelines on gathering, analyzing, reporting, publishing and disseminating information on forest benefits

Relevant goals are **GOFs 2 and Aichi Targets – Strategy Goal D.**

Means of Implementation (MOI)

Identifying ways to enhance the Facilitative Process

Utilizing international funds for allocating additional funds

Enhancing cooperation with forest related financing mechanism and initiatives

Developing, transferring, and disseminating environmentally sound technology

Relevant goals are **GOFs 4, SDGs 15 a and b.**



MISSION PERMANENTE DU SENEGAL

auprès des Nations Unies

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01938/REPSSEN/NY/MMB/mdfd

New York, le 17 décembre 2015

La Mission Permanente du Sénégal auprès des Nations Unies présente ses compliments au Secrétariat du Forum politique de haut Niveau (UNFP) et, faisant suite à Sa note verbale N° UNFP-15-MS-L-386 du 05 octobre 2015, a l'honneur de Lui faire parvenir, ci-joint, la contribution du Gouvernement du Sénégal sur les questions évoquées au paragraphe 44 de la résolution 11/1 de la 11^{ème} session du Forum des Nations Unies sur les Forêts.

La Mission Permanente du Sénégal auprès des Nations Unies saisit cette occasion pour renouveler au Secrétariat du Forum politique de haut Niveau (UNFP) les assurances de sa haute considération.



**Secrétariat du Forum Politique de Haut Niveau
Nations Unies**

NEW YORK**Fax : (917) 367-31 86**

REPUBLIQUE DU SENEGAL

Un Peuple – Un But – Une Foi

MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

Avis du Sénégal sur le paragraphe 44 de la résolution 11/1 des Nations Unies

Le Sénégal se félicite de l'important consensus obtenu lors de la 11^e session de l'UNFF tenue en mai 2015 à New York et qui permet de poursuivre le dialogue international sur les forêts au niveau du FNUF à l'horizon 2030.

Notre pays reste toujours persuadé que cette période se verra très utilement mise à profit pour résoudre les importantes questions qui s'adressent à la gestion durable de tous les types de forêts, en particulier :

- i) le renforcement des capacités ;
- ii) le transfert de technologies ;
- iii) la coordination au niveau international et ;
- iv) la résolution de l'importante question des moyens de mise en œuvre.

a) Sur le remplacement des références aux objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD) par les objectifs de développement durable (ODD)

Le Sénégal se félicite de la pertinence des 17 Objectifs de Développement durable (ODD) adoptés par l'ONU au mois de septembre 2015 et qui devraient permettre de construire ou améliorer substantiellement le futur de toute la planète d'ici à quinze ans.

Il s'agit d'un plan d'action ambitieux devant être soutenu par des milliards de dollars supplémentaires. Dans ce cadre, la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le financement du développement de juillet 2015, à Addis-Abeba a mis en exergue le partenariat et l'importance du recours au secteur privé, mais cela ne devrait pas exonérer les Etats d'augmenter leur participation au travers de l'aide publique au développement (APD), en stagnation ou en recul dans de nombreux pays.

Il faut se féliciter, dans ce programme de développement durable vers l'horizon 2030 destiné « à transformer les vies tout en préservant la planète », de l'élargissement de l'intérêt porté directement aux forêts.

Certes, l'ODD 15 "Préserver et restaurer les écosystèmes terrestres, en veillant à les exploiter de façon durable, gérer durablement les forêts, lutter contre la désertification, enrayer et inverser le processus de dégradation des terres et mettre fin à l'appauvrissement de la biodiversité" est le plus précis, mais on peut noter que la réalisation de plusieurs autres ODD va impacter sur la gestion durable des forêts (GDF). C'est le cas, en particulier, des objectifs 7 (Énergie propre et d'un coût abordable) et 13 (Mesures relatives à la lutte contre les changements climatiques), mais aussi des objectifs 1, 2, 6, 12 et 14 (Pas de pauvreté, Faim Zéro, Bonne santé

et bien-être) pourraient avoir des incidences directes sur la gestion durable des forêts (GDF).

- Objectif 7 (Énergie propre et d'un coût abordable)

Au Sénégal, le bois couvre 87 % des besoins énergétiques des ménages et représente 52% du bilan énergétique. Les espaces boisés (forêts, plantations, parcs agroforestiers, haies, jachères) sont les principales sources d'approvisionnement pour satisfaire la demande des ménages et des artisans. Bien que menacé par différentes pressions anthropiques telles que les changements d'affectation des terres, selon l'avis unanime des experts, le bois-énergie restera encore pendant des décennies la principale source d'énergie domestique au Sénégal, particulièrement pour les couches défavorisées.

- Objectif 13 (Mesures relatives à la lutte contre les changements climatiques)

Les forêts contribuent à la lutte contre les changements climatiques par l'atténuation des émissions de gaz carbonique.

Au Sénégal, selon les données de la deuxième communication nationale, le secteur forestier contribue pour moins de 1% aux émissions à gaz à effet de serre. Les feux de brousse constituent la principale source d'émissions.

- Objectifs 1, 2 et 3 (Pas de pauvreté, Faim Zéro, Bonne santé et bien-être)

La forêt peut contribuer à la lutte contre la pauvreté, la sécurité alimentaire et à la croissance économique.

Une gamme de produits forestiers ligneux (bois d'œuvre, bois de service, bois de chauffe, bois artisanal) et de produits forestiers non ligneux (produits de la pharmacopée, fruits forestiers, huile et vin de palme, gommes et noix, etc.) sont exploités par les populations ou par les opérateurs économiques qui les exportent (gommes et noix) ou les valorisent dans le cadre des industries du bois, de la construction, de l'artisanat, de la consommation et de la médecine traditionnelle.

La cueillette, le ramassage et la récolte des produits forestiers font de la forêt le socle de la vie en milieu rural. Cela permet aux populations de satisfaire leurs besoins alimentaires et de tirer quelques revenus.

- Objectif 6 (gestion durable des ressources en eau) 14 (protection des océans et de ses ressources)

Nul ne peut occulter le rôle des forêts dans la protection des bassins versants et des zones côtières ainsi que dans la reproduction d'espèces marines à haute valeur ajoutée. C'est le cas de la mangrove qui est un écosystème forestier du bord des mers et des lagunes, longeant les rebords des fleuves tant que l'eau est saumâtre.

Au Sénégal, les mangroves sont rencontrées sur le fleuve Casamance, dans l'estuaire du Saloum et aux abords de l'embouchure du fleuve Sénégal.

Ces habitats qui servent de refuge à de nombreuses espèces menacées, constituent un maillon essentiel du parcours des oiseaux migrateurs et remplissent d'énormes fonctions écologiques telles que : la maîtrise des crues, la recharge des eaux

AK

Le Plan stratégique pour la période 2017-2030 doit permettre de réfléchir sur un certain nombre de questions dont notamment l'instrument après 2015,

- L'instrument non juridiquement contraignant pour tous les types de forêts
 - Cela doit permettre de réfléchir, de façon constructive, sur comment poursuivre le dialogue sur les forêts y compris la réflexion sur le cadre juridique (convention ou pas) ;
 - Comment faire en sorte que les principes de gestion durable des forêts puissent être effectivement appliqués au niveau des Etats membres et des régions ? Avec quel accompagnement (assistance technique, financement, transfert de technologie) ;
 - Comment faire pour disposer de suffisamment des moyens pour la gestion durable des forêts ? Quel sera le rôle de G3FN (facilitation) dans le cadre des mécanismes de financement de la GDF ? Elaborer un document consensuel ? Quels sont ses moyens ? Comment G3FN sera-t-il piloté ? En tout état de cause, nous ne souhaiterions pas que le mécanisme de financement qui sera mis en place soit une boîte d'enregistrement comme le Mécanisme mondial de la Convention de la Lutte contre la Désertification.

De son côté, le Sénégal fera des efforts nécessaires au niveau national pour dégager des moyens pour la GDF comme c'est le cas, actuellement pour la réalisation de la Grande Muraille Verte (1,5 USD/an) sans compter les autres activités forestières et la participation des populations et des acteurs privés.

- Le renforcement du partenariat dans la GDF

Il est certain que les pays en développement comme le nôtre, ont besoin de l'appui multiforme de nos partenaires dans la GDF. Sans disposer de toutes les ressources financières, plusieurs de ces pays disposent aussi déjà d'une bonne masse critique de compétences en GDF pouvant être mise à la disposition des pays du Sud qui le souhaiteraient, dans le cadre du partenariat Sud-Sud.

4

- Partenariat de Collaboration sur les Forêts (CPF)

Le Sénégal félicite le CPF pour les importantes réflexions présentées et mises à la disposition des pays lors du FNUF11 mais nous avons l'impression que cela s'est traduit par un affaiblissement de moyens de mise en œuvre dans les pays en développement.

- Le plan de travail quadriennal 2017-2020

- Favoriser les initiatives des pays (CLI)

De notre point de vue, les initiatives des pays (CLI) sont des moyens d'échanges, de renforcement des capacités et permettent d'alimenter la réflexion lors des sessions du FNUF.

- La mise en œuvre de la GDF et l'importance du rapportage (MRV)

Revisiter les critères et indicateurs de gestion durable des forêts qui avaient fait l'objet du processus ISCI (*International Seminar for Criteria and Indicators Sustainable Forest Management*), ce qui permettra d'une part, d'avoir une compréhension commune de ce qu'il faut faire dans la gestion durable des forêts en fixant des objectifs à atteindre et d'autre part, d'aller vers la certification.

- Périodicité des rencontres

Nous suggérons en plus de la réunion d'une semaine du Groupe des Experts d'une année sans forum, de prévoir, lors de l'année du Forum, une session d'une semaine permettant de discuter des autres questions non épuisées lors du forum. Cela permettra de mieux préparer la session suivante.





Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of the Environment,
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
International Affairs Division

CH-3003 Bern, FOEN, GRU

Reference: P033-0030
Your reference:
Our reference: PFR
Contact person: GRU
Bern, 20 January 2016

16.01.20 Submission of Switzerland on paragraph 44 of the UNFF11 Resolution (UNFF Strategic Plan 2017-2030)

Swiss participation in the expert group Expert Panel Meeting on the Strategic Plan of the International Arrangement on Forests (7-11 March 2016, Tokyo, Japan)
Swiss participation in AHEG 1 (25-27 April, New York)

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to send you the Swiss submission on paragraph 44 of the UNFF 11 Resolution pertaining to the UNFF Strategic Plan 2017-2030.

Borrowed from the format of the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, adopted at COP12 in 2015, this document primarily demonstrates a possible structure of the UNFF Strategic Plan. Once there is agreement on the structure, the content would need to be further elaborated, amended, etc. Nevertheless, most of the present wording comes from existing texts of the UNFF 11 Resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests, the Ministerial Declaration "The forests we want: beyond 2015", as well as the UN Forest Instrument.

We believe it could be an interesting format for the UNFF Strategic Plan 2017-2030. For your information, Switzerland (Ms S. Vernont) was directly involved in the drafting expert group of the Strategic Plan for Ramsar Convention 2016-2021.

I thank you for the invitation letters to Swiss experts in view of the Expert Panel Meeting on the Strategic Plan of the International Arrangement on Forests (7-11 March 2016, Tokyo, Japan).

Franz Perrez
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Franz.Perrez@bafu.admin.ch
<http://www.bafu.admin.ch>

Reference: P033-0030

Ms Sibylle Vermont and M. Christoph Dürr will be attend the expert panel in Tokyo given their complementary experience in UNFF matters and strategic plans.

In addition, Ms Sibylle Vermont and M. Keith Anderson will attend the UNFF AHEG1 (25-27 April 2016, New York, USA).

Sincerely yours,

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
The Head of the International Affairs Division



Franz Perrez
Ambassador

Copy to:

- FOEN intern: PFR, MRB, GRU, MAR, KCH, DUC, AK
- SDC: J. Blaser, P. Sieber
- Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN: Ambassador Jürg Lauber, Ms Maja Messmer Mokhtar, Ms Lyne Calder

(16.01.20)

Swiss proposal for the possible format, outline and content of

The 1st UNFF Strategic Plan 2017-2030:

Nota bene:

Borrowed from the format of the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, adopted at COP12 in 2015, this document primarily demonstrates a possible structure of the UNFF Strategic Plan. Once there is agreement on the structure, the content would need to be further elaborated, amended, etc. Nevertheless, most of the present wording comes from existing texts such as the UNFF 11 Resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests, the Ministerial Declaration "The forests we want: beyond 2015", as well as the UN forest instrument.

The Mission of the UNFF (as an example)

Sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside of forests and promotion of national and international policy coordination and cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.

To achieve this Mission, it is essential that the vital ecosystem functions of forests and services they provide are fully recognized, maintained, restored and sustainably used.

Rationale

A Vision for the 1st UNFF Strategic Plan (as an example)

“Forests are protected, sustainably used and restored and their services are recognized and valued by all”

Background

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), a policy forum for the promotion of sustainable forest management, with its universal membership and comprehensive mandate, plays a vital role in addressing challenges and issues relating to forests in a holistic and integrated manner and in promoting policy coordination and cooperation to achieve the sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside of forests. Its cooperation and synergies with regional and subregional organizations, as well other forest-related forums, in particular the Rio conventions initiatives and processes contribute to achieve sustainable forest management. This is also complemented by cooperation with major groups and other stakeholders.
2. The United Nations Forum on Forests, is part of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), which in addition to UNFF is composed by its Member States (MS), the secretariat of the Forum, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests
3. At the 11th session of the UNFF, it was decided that the Forum should develop a concise strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 to serve as a strategic framework to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components.
4. The plan should be aligned with the objectives of the international arrangement on forests and should incorporate a mission and vision, the global objectives on forests and the forest-related aspects of the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account significant forest-related developments in other forums, as well as identify the roles of different actors and the framework for reviewing implementation, and outline a communication strategy to raise awareness of the work of the arrangement;
5. The strategic plan will be operationalized through quadrennial programmes of work that set out priority actions and resource needs, beginning with the period 2017-2020;
6. The concept of sustainable forest management is the key concept orienting the work of UNFF. It is a dynamic and evolving concept that aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations.
7. The sustainable management of all types of forests is vital to facilitate transformative change and address major challenges, such as poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable livelihoods, food security and nutrition, gender equality, cultural and spiritual values, health, water, energy production, climate change mitigation and adaptation, combating desertification, the reduction of dust and sand storms, biodiversity conservation, sustainable soil and land management, watershed protection and disaster risk reduction.

Importance of forests

8. Approximately 4 billion hectares, or nearly a third of the Earth's land area, is covered by forests. Over 1.6 billion people depend on forests for subsistence, livelihoods, employment and income generation. Forests are well known for their age-old role of providing economic goods which enter trade and consumption networks and so are of social importance in generating wealth and meeting more basic needs and creating opportunities to address many of the most pressing sustainable development challenges. They are also known for their functions in protecting natural resources essential to human survival, including in particular by conserving land and water and by offering habitat for wildlife and other biological resources. In many locations, forests also carry spiritual and cultural values that are beyond valuation in monetary terms.
9. Forests comprise land with a minimum area of tree cover, where the trees will reach a minimum height and have a minimum canopy cover when mature. The UNFF/FAO definition is : Land

spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than five metres and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach those thresholds *in situ*; it does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban use (FAO 2012a). UNFCCC (2001) and CBD (2002) as well as UNFF/FAO have provided generic definitions of forests.

10. Forests deliver a wide range of goods and ecosystem services and are vital for economic, social and cultural development. Forests play an important role in preserving biological diversity, regulating freshwater flows, supporting food security and addressing future potential energy crises through the use of wood as a renewable resource, as well as mitigating of and adapting to climate change.

Trends in Forests

11. . Despite a more prominent international policy level attention to forests since the 1980s, and since the UNCED Rio Summit in 1992 and multiple processes attempting to formulate a global policy on forests, the global rate of deforestation over the last three decades continued to rise for some time; it has decreased since 2000, but only minimally. Gross forest cover was lost at a rate of about 11-13 million hectares per year between 1980 and 2010 – a rate that has remained essentially unchanged over the past 40 years. Deforestation is mainly occurring in tropical and subtropical countries, while in some temperate and boreal countries expansion of secondary forests (through natural regrowth, reforestation, assisted natural regeneration and afforestation) is leading to net increases of forested land.
12. Continued rapid population growth, especially in developing countries, as well as rising per capita incomes, is accelerating the global consumption of resources, including forests. The net loss of forest area since the early 1700s is estimated to be about 1 billion hectares. Based on FAO FRA figures (2010) there are currently some 77 countries where the area of forests is stable or increasing, due to reduced deforestation or expansion of planted or re-growth forests. The figures do not however show the change in forest quality; many existing natural forests (including, for example, many temperate forests) were heavily altered at the peak of their utilization or are still subject to unsustainable use, with the result that these forests are degraded and can no longer fulfil the variety of functions associated with a healthy forest. Based on a careful estimation, about 700 million hectares of forests are degraded today
13. Forested areas have decreased but rate of net forest loss has been cut by 50%. The biggest loss has been in the tropics, particularly in Africa and South America. Net forest area has increased in over 60 countries and territories, most of which are in the temperate and boreal zones.(FRA 2015)
14. Challenges remain: The extent of the world's forest continues to decline. The drivers are population growth, increased demand for food and land. .(FRA 2015)

Global Context

15. **Forests have received much attention in the work of conventions and further UN processes.**
16. UNFF, with the implementation of its United Nations Forest Instrument and its 4 global objectives is a key and complementary contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular to its SDGs;

UN Forest Instrument

Global Objective 1

Reverse Forest Loss: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.

Global Objective 2

Enhance Forest-Based Benefits: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people.

Global Objective 3

Increase Sustainability Managed Forests: Increase significantly the area of sustainably managed forests, including protected forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests.

Global Objective 4

Mobilize Financial Resources: Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly-increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

17. The forest related SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are related to water quality, adaptation to climate change, food security, energy supply, healthy living, biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystems, sustainable human settlements, poverty eradication, innovation, etc.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all 6.6.

By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

SDG15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

15.1

By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2

By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

15.3

By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

15.4

By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

15.5

Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

15.6

Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

15.7

Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

15.8

By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

15.9

By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

15.a

Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

15.b

Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

15.c

Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

18. In global climate change policy, at the COP 21 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015), forests have received highest attention through the inclusion of the article 5 in the Paris Agreement. This article recognizes the crucial role that the conservation and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs, specifically through REDD+ and SFM play for climate change mitigation and adaptation. This gives a much broader role to the conservation, sustainable management, restoration and reforestation of forests, particularly in the tropics.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – Paris Agreement**Article 5**

1. Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1(d), of the Convention, including forests.

2. Parties are encouraged to take action to implement and support, including through results-based payments, the existing framework as set out in related guidance and decisions already agreed under the Convention for: policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries; and alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests, while reaffirming the importance of incentivizing, as appropriate, Non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches.

19. Forests are also an important focus of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets, developed by the Convention on biological diversity (CBD).

Aichi Targets**Target 5**

By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Target 7

By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

Target 11

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Target 15

By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification

20. UNFF, including with the United Nations Forest Instrument, is an essential contribution to the work of not only the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change but also other Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (Aichi targets), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, etc.

Priority Areas of Focus for UNFF 2017-2030

21. **Addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation**, including by strengthening forest governance through, inter alia, promoting secure land tenure rights and stakeholder participation. The largest changes in loss of forests continue to be from land conversion to agriculture and extractive industries, especially oil, gas and mining, the impacts of population growth (including migration and urbanization).
22. Securing financial flows that reflect the full economic value of forests, including goods, services and the market value of products must be put in practice.
23. **Supporting efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks** and means of implementation at all levels to achieve SFM. Achieving positive livelihood, conservation and broader development outcomes from decentralization of forest management is linked to security of tenure and equitable access to forest resources; clear and appropriately balanced distribution of fiscal, revenue and taxation powers, as well as control over decision-making, commercial rights and market access; sensitivity to cultural traditions and local knowledge; and appropriate recognition of the ancestral rights of local communities..
24. **Advancing the sustainable management of all types of forests** through the crucial role of the private sector (certified FM), public-private partnerships, community-private partnerships of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia through collective action by indigenous and local communities and community-based sustainable forest management. Promoting, monitoring and assessing SFM through all the agreed internationally agreed forest-relate goals (see para. 15-20).
25. **Adopt cross-sectoral approaches** and foster collaboration to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in a coherent and coordinated way and to increase the valuation and recognition of the full value of forest goods and services.
26. **Tackle deforestation and forest degradation** and to promote the trade in forest products from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests;
27. **Synergies:** Enhancing efforts to streamline procedures and processes including reporting and to facilitate data sharing in the implementation of UN Forest Instrument and the forest-related MEAs. Through cooperation, aim to increase the identification of synergies with collaborating MEAs and other international processes at national, regional and global levels.
28. **Financing:** Financing is needed for sustainable forest management. With the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), it should be supported through the building capacity for the design of national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management, including existing national initiatives, within the framework of national forest programmes or their equivalent. The facilitation of access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund. Through the GFFFN a clearinghouse of information on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities will be developed. In addition, a combination of actions is required at all levels, by all stakeholders and from all sources, public and private, domestic and international, bilateral and multilateral. Promoting private sector investment and business activity focused on SFM is of highest priority.
29. **Enhancing cooperation:** Strengthen UNFF collaboration with relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes in order to facilitate the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument, including the achievement of its global objectives on forests, as well as to facilitate their inputs to sessions of the Forum;
30. **Science-based advice and guidance:** Enhancing the generation and delivery of science based advice and guidance to practitioners and policy makers through the CPF.

31. **Communicating ecosystem functions and the ecosystem services forest provide to people and nature:** Mainstreaming forest values and enhancing the visibility of the UNFF through reaching out with effective communications to decision makers and the wider public. This should contribute to an enhanced understanding of the contribution of forest values to people's livelihoods and health, economic development and biodiversity, soil and water.
32. **Strengthening and supporting the full and effective participation** and the collective actions of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities for the sustainable management of forests, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels.

Implementing the 1st Strategic Plan

33. The 1st UNFF Strategic Plan 2017 – 2030 calls for actions to be undertaken by the Member States, supported by the UNFF Secretariat, the CPF members and additional MEAs, the regional and subregional organisations, and other international and intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders..
34. Member States should implement the Strategic Plan at national and regional levels by developing national forest policies, strategies, action plans, projects and programmes or other appropriate ways to mobilize action and support for forests. This can be part of or supplement to the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan/National Climate action Plan.
35. It is understood that the Member States differ substantially in their situations and in their ability to implement Sustainable Forest Management. Each Member State is encouraged to establish its own priorities within the Strategic Plan, develop its own work plan for implementing them, and consider its own use of its own resources. This strategic plan should be implemented as a contribution to the other internationally agreed environmental goals and targets.

Enabling Conditions for Implementation

36. The successful achievement of the 1st UNFF Strategic Plan depends on the commitment and engagement of Member States, partners to the IAF, such as the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other stakeholders.

Resource Mobilization

37. It is important to continue on mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for the sustainable management of all types of forests, with, among others, the support of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network through taking steps to enhance the ability of countries to access and effectively employ the forest-related funds, ensuring better coordination across the variety of existing and emerging forest financing instruments and mechanisms and the use of such financing in line with the principles of aid effectiveness;
38. The Member States, financing institutions and the private sector should ensure that investments and development finance take appropriate account of the role of forests in poverty eradication and sustainable development and to give financing for sustainable forest management greater priority and increased relevance, including through the recognition of the public goods and services that forests deliver;

Outreach and Promotion of the 1st Strategic Plan

39. Communication strategy to raise awareness on the work of the International Arrangement on Forests.
40. Communication strategy to raise awareness on the protection, sustainable use and management of forests.....

International Cooperation and partnerships, including regional and transboundary cooperation

41. Support the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests as a strategy for improving coherence and synergy on forest issues at all levels and to promote the integration of sustainable forest management into the strategies and programmes of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership, as appropriate;
42. Foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at global, regional and national levels

Capacity Building

43. Continuing to enhance capacity-building, including the development, transfer and dissemination of environmentally sound technology on mutually agreed terms;

Goals and Targets 2017 – 2030

These Goals constitute the priority areas for UNFF for the period of 2017 – 2030. They include X Strategic Goals and X Operational Goals which supports them.

The Table in Annex 1 presents more details about the goals, including the tools, lead actors, indicators, and baselines for the Goals and Targets outlined below.

Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Target 1: | The role of forests and the goods and services they provide are featured and described in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, health , as well as cross cutting strategies, including poverty reduction, food security and climate change at the national level |
| Target 2: | The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to adapt and apply guidelines and good practices for sustainable forest management. |
| Target 3: | Forest and rural development strategies are aligned to REDD+ and approaches are harmonized to deal with drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. |

Goal 2: Sustainable management of forests

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Target 4: | National forest inventories have been initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all forests. |
| Target 5: | Criteria and Indicators are applied to measure progress towards SFM |
| Target 6: | Permanent forest area is determined |
| Target 7: | The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the sustainable management of forests and their customary use of forest resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and |

relevant international obligations, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.

- Target 8: The roles of forests goods and services and their benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.
- Target 9: Restoration is in progress in degraded forests, with priority to forests that are relevant for protecting soils, and water, conserving biodiversity, directly contributing to disaster risk reduction, livelihoods improvement and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Operational Goal

Goal 3: Enhancing Implementation

Various approaches will help strengthen the implementation of the x Strategic Goals. They involve critical actions to be undertaken by all stakeholders either by their owner in partnership amongst a variety of stakeholders. Partnerships are essential with regard to scientific and technical advice and guidance, resource mobilization, public awareness, visibility and capacity building. The UNFF Secretariat will play a vital role in raising awareness and visibility of the IAF, as well as mobilizing resources to support enhanced implementation.

- Target 10: Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.
- Target 11: SFM is mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.
- Target 12: Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 1st UNFF Strategic Plan 2017 – 2030 from all sources are made available.
- Target 13: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To strengthen national monitoring, assessment and reporting in countries and the ability of the international arrangement on forests to assist countries in this endeavour with regard to achieving the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, including implementing the UN Forest Instrument, the global objectives on forests and the achievement of forest-related sustainable development goals and targets.

1. The Table showing Goals, targets, tools, indicators and baseline in Annex 1 can be used as a basis for organizing the implementation of the Strategic Plan at national and other levels. Specific indicators need to be identified for each of the targets identified.
2. UNFF will keep the implementation of the Strategic Plan under review, based on regular reports from the Secretariat, and based on UNFF national reports prepared for each reporting cycle.

Quadrennial Programmes of Work

In order to operationalize the strategic plan 2017-2030, the Forum will develop quadrennial Programmes of Work beginning with 2017-2020.

Annex 1: Forest Goals and Targets with Relevant Tools, Actors, Baselines and Indicator [Example to be further developed]

Strategic Goals					
Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of deforestation and degradation					
No	Targets		Tools, actions and resources (non-exhaustive)	Key Actors (non-exhaustive)	Indicator(s) and Baselines
1	Forests services are featured in national policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, at the national and local level		Engage with natural resource users at national level to integrate the forest contributions to water, biodiversity and SDGs...	Member States, with support of UNFF Secretariat, CPF, key sectors (water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure)	Baseline x% of MS have made assessment of ecosystem services of forests. (National Reports on UN Forest Instrument). y% of MS have included forest issues within national strategies and planning processes such as xxx plans z% of MS have included forest issues within National Policies or measures on agriculture. Indicators % of MS that have made assessment of forest ecosystem services. (Data source: National Reports). % of MS that have included forest issues within national strategies and planning processes. (Data source: National Reports). % of MS that have included forest issues within National Policies or measures on agriculture. (Data source: National Reports).



UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
ON THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017-3505

February 3, 2016

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DC2-2301, Two United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Ref: U.S. Input on the Draft Strategic Plan and QPW for the Period 2017 – 2030

To Whom It May Concern:

The United States appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the draft Strategic Plan on the IAF and Quadrennial Program of Work for the period 2017 – 2030 as outlined in the UNFF11 Resolution, and thanks the UNFF Secretariat for compiling the submissions from UNFF members and other stakeholders.

In our attached submission we have drawn on some of the points in the posted contributions of other members as well as the materials provided for the 2014 Country Led Initiative hosted by China related to drafting a Strategic Plan for the IAF.

We look forward to working further together on the development of an optimal Strategic Plan and Quadrennial Program of Work at the upcoming Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting in April.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefanie Amadeo'.

Stefanie Amadeo
Deputy U.S. Representative to ECOSOC

Attachment: United States Input on the Draft Strategic Plan and QPW for the Period 2017 – 2030

U.S. Input for IAF Strategic Plan and Quadrennial Program of Work for period 2017-2030

Scope and Overview:

This section should address questions on the target audience for the strategic plan, definitions of the IAF and UNFF as well as concise explanations of what they do, and do not, encompass/do.

Development of the draft UNFF Strategic Plan on the International Arrangement on Forests (SP) presents an opportunity to clarify the various roles, expertise, and comparative advantages of the IAF—including the CPF, UNFF Secretariat, UNFF members, and other stakeholders.

The SP should be used as a clear guidance and easy reference document for the objectives of the IAF, and as a communication tool for raising awareness and understanding of the IAF by outside stakeholders.

The SP should delineate the UNFF's niche in sustainable forest management policy and promoting SFM implementation, which in turn should allow for a clear process of prioritization of objectives and ensuing actions and activities (through UNFF sessions as well as the quadrennial programs of work).

The SP should include elements of the IAF mission or vision, incorporating trends and emerging issues relevant to international forest policy and sustainable forest management.

As outlined in the China CLI October 2014 discussion paper on possible elements for a strategic plan, summary of Box 5 on the general purpose and principles of a strategic plan.

A Strategic Plan should:

- Provide guidance on the overall direction of an organization to fulfill its mission
- Articulate goals, objectives, and resources needed to achieve mission
- Cover a time horizon long enough to develop a long term vision but still encompass a tangible time line
- Be comprehensive in covering all aspects and components of an organization and its work
- Serve as a communication tool for a range of audiences, both within and beyond the organization
- Provide the framework for the shorter-term operational plans (see section below on quadrennial program of work)
- Serve as a living document with regular reviews and updates as necessary

International Forest Policy Framework:

The framework section should address where the IAF fits in relation to other forest-related policies and frameworks.

The Strategic Plan should take a holistic approach to incorporate key elements and references to existing international forest policy documents and frameworks in other fora in addition to the UN 70

Forest Instrument and its Global Objectives on Forests, and UNFF 11 resolution and ministerial declaration, namely The Bonn Challenge, Aichi Targets, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, New York Declaration on Forests, Global Environmental Facility program on sustainable forest management, UNFCCC Paris Declaration links, and others as appropriate.

The SP should clarify the roles of the IAF and UNFF, and differentiate the entities responsible for facilitating the implementation of SFM, international forest policy, and appropriately outline work streams, ideas and actions through the IAF framework.

The SP should consider the roles of relevant regional and sub-regional organizations and processes and provide some guidance and/or context for how these groups fit with the IAF.

Monitoring, Assessment, Reporting (MAR): The SP framework should allow for a clear understanding of how and where MAR issues are managed as overarching guidance, including references to existing mechanisms such as FAO's Forest Resources Assessment and ITTO's Sustainable Forest Management Tropics reports. More specific MAR questions would fall to the Quadrennial Program of Work (QPW) level.

Operational Aspects:

The operational section should answer questions regarding how SFM is addressed and implementation is facilitated through the IAF and UNFF (keeping in mind the purview of UNFF members and inability to direct actions to all of the IAF). This section should clearly help guide the work of the UNFF and member states, and assist with prioritization.

Operational aspects of the IAF SP include cross-cutting and overlapping issues such as financing, prioritizing objectives, incorporating legal frameworks, and promoting transparency.

Financial and Budgetary Elements:

The SP should clearly define how funding and budgetary needs are addressed for the mission/vision and associated resource needs.

The SP should elaborate the role of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (G3FNet) especially.

Quadrennial Program of Work 2017-2020:

Elements to be included in QPW:

- Clear objectives, timelines and themes
- Identify possible resources to cover activities
- Help identify specific contributions or roles of IAF actors
- Define role of other forest program/forest policy entities in relation to QPW (ITTO, CITES, CBD, etc.)
- Focus on a limited subset of actions in defined timeframe, and some detail about how it will be executed



Ministerio del Poder
Popular Relaciones Exteriores



No. 0745

La Misión Permanente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ante las Naciones Unidas saluda muy atentamente a la Secretaría del Foro de Bosques de las Naciones Unidas en la oportunidad de hacer referencia a la Nota UNFF-15-MS-L-386 del 05 de octubre de 2015, mediante la cual solicita información en relación al párrafo 44 de la Resolución sobre Bosques adoptada en el 11º Período de Sesiones del Foro de Naciones Unidas sobre Bosques.

Sobre el particular, Venezuela apoyó la propuesta contenida en el párrafo 44 de dicha resolución referida a la necesidad de sustituir la referencia a los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio que figura en el párrafo 1 b) del instrumento jurídicamente no vinculante sobre todos los tipos de bosques, por una referencia a los objetivos y metas de desarrollo sostenible, así como en el plan estratégico para el período 2017-2030 y el programa de trabajo cuadrienal para el período 2017-2020, a los fines de adecuarlo a los objetivos y metas acordados sobre los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, en particular se debe especificar el objetivo 15 Proteger, restaurar y promover la utilización sostenible de los ecosistemas terrestres, gestionar de manera sostenible los bosques, combatir la desertificación y detener y revertir la degradación de la tierra, y frenar la pérdida de diversidad biológica.

Cabe destacar, que en el marco de dichas negociaciones la República Bolivariana de Venezuela destacó la importancia de aplicar una gestión forestal sostenible, teniendo en cuenta diferentes visiones, enfoques, modelos e instrumentos, en particular mediante el fortalecimiento de la aplicación del instrumento jurídicamente no vinculante sobre todos los tipos de bosques, también se reafirmó el compromiso con el acuerdo internacional jurídicamente no vinculante sobre los bosques y trabajar por consolidarlo y hacerlo más sólido y eficaz en la agenda mundial de desarrollo sostenible y la necesidad de que su aplicación se realice de manera sinérgica con otras iniciativas, programas y convenciones relacionadas con los bosques.

La Misión Permanente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ante las Naciones Unidas hace propicia la ocasión para renovar a la Secretaría del Foro de Bosques de las Naciones Unidas las seguridades de su más alta y distinguida consideración.



Nueva York, OCT 29 2015

Señor Manoel Sobral Filho
Secretaría del Foro de las Naciones Unidas sobre Bosques
FAX: 1 917.367.3186
Correo electrónico: unff@un.org
C.C.: Sra. Edith Niamke. Correo electrónico: niamke@un.org



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
Head of Delegation

New York, 26 October 2015

Dear Mr. Sobral Filho,

Please find enclosed the submission on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States in response to the invitation by the UNFF Secretariat (ref. DESA - 15/00819) to submit views and proposals on the strategic plan for the period 2017-2030.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our concern about the current timing of the first AHEG, as it will not allow the participants to take into full account latest developments in relation to important issues such as the outcome of the climate change negotiations or the work of the UN Statistical Commission on Indicators for monitoring of the SDGs.

We look forward to participating constructively in all upcoming activities leading up to the 12th session of the UN Forum on Forests.

Yours sincerely,

Ioannis Vrailas
 Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Annex:

Submission by the European Union and its Member States on initial views and proposals on the strategic plan for the period 2017-2030

Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho
Director
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-2301,
Fax: 917-367-3186

23rd October 2015

**SUBMISSION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES
ON
INITIAL VIEWS AND PROPOSALS ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PERIOD
2017-2030**

1 Introduction

This submission by the European Union (EU) and its Member States is a response to the invitation by the UNFF to submit views and proposals on the development of an International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) Strategic Plan (SP) for the period 2017-2030.

The EU and its Member States believe that the many important decisions taken during UNFF11 represent an important step forward towards a more effective International Arrangement on Forests.

In particular, the EU and its Member States believe that the development of a SP will greatly benefit the IAF by providing a sufficiently long-term horizon to frame its future work and by enhancing its effectiveness, efficiency and accountability through better planning and implementation of its activities. The SP needs to be a concise common strategic framework for all the components of the IAF and the actors involved in it. Roles and responsibilities should be well defined. It should provide clear priorities and guidance for its future work. It should outline where Members aim to get in the future and how they intend to get there. For that reason, the SP should define an adequately robust implementation and monitoring framework including a set of relevant targets and a clear division of labor, in order to ensure appropriate accountability. Regular review of the SP should take place to efficiently monitor progress and to make possible any adjustment required to adapt to new developments during the course of its duration. Finally, the EU and its Member States further believes that the SP should also be effectively used to increase the visibility and communication of forest-related matters at a global level.

As agreed at UNFF11, the development of the SP should take into full account recent developments at the international level, including in particular the adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Addis Ababa Action Agenda as well as its related follow-up and review mechanism to which UNFF should contribute and from which it could benefit. Important forest-related developments in forest-related conventions and processes, particularly the Rio Conventions should also be taken into account. There is a need for the future SP to foster coherence and promote synergies across relevant international forest-related legally and non-legally binding commitments, particularly the 4 Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs), the SDGs, the Aichi Targets and forest-related commitments that may be taken later this year at the climate change COP21.

2 Elements of a strategic plan for the IAF

The EU and its Member States propose the following indicative outline for the SP, as well as, matters that could be included in its various sections.

2.1 Introduction/context

The EU and its Member States support having an introductory section that should:

- Highlight the purpose of the SP, as defined in paragraph 38 of the UNFF11 resolution, which states that the SP should enhance “coherence of and guide and focus the work of the IAF and its components”;
- Clearly indicate in a concise manner key messages regarding the importance of forests, like its multi-functionality and benefits they provide; the main trends, challenges and opportunities faced by the world forests, including continued alarmingly high deforestation and forest degradation rates, loss of forest biodiversity, climate change and associated risks, potential contribution of forests to food security and to a green economy, etc.;
- Outline the added value of the IAF and its aspiration to serve as a global platform to address forest matters from a holistic perspective and enhance coherence, coordination and synergies.

2.2 Mission and vision of the IAF

Following the introduction, the EU and its Member States supports having a section focusing on the mission and vision of the IAF (building on its update mandate as set-out in the UNFF11 resolution) which should:

- Reflect the following components for the mission and vision of the IAF:
 - o Halt deforestation and forest degradation;
 - o Achieve sustainable management of all forests in order to ensure the contribution of forests to the well-being of present and future generations.
 - o Encourage inter-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration

The mission and the vision should be presented in a concise and appealing/attractive way so that the message gets easily grasped by everybody and effectively used for communication purposes.

2.3 GOFs, SDGs and associated Targets

The EU and its Member States consider that a clear identification of a coherent set of forests targets and indicators, taking into full account existing global forest-related commitments, objectives/goals, targets and indicators, is one of the most important elements of added value that can be delivered by the SP. In preparation for the AHEG deliberations, we invite the Secretariat to make available an analysis of how these existing commitments are inter-linked with a view to identify possible gaps and/or overlaps.

Different approaches are possible, but for instance, similar to approaches used in other relevant UN bodies or structures, the SP could include both "substantive" strategic targets and indicators, as well as operational targets.

Substantive targets could be identified on the basis of a clear framework which links the Global Forest Objectives with relevant SDGs, particularly SDG Goal 15 (but without overlooking other forest-related SDGs). The SP could furthermore identify global targets for the GOFs in a format that takes into account other relevant commitments such as the Aichi targets.

Operational targets could also be identified to guide the activities of the IAF and the actions of all stakeholders and partners with a view to supporting the attainment of the above-mentioned mission, vision and substantive objectives/goals. Operational targets could cover issues identified in the UNFF11 resolution, such as, inter alia:

- Enhancing cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including by strengthening the CPF
- Promoting the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;
- Enhancing the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development;
- Supporting efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation for SFM;
- Improving cooperation between global and regional level, as well as the participation of major groups and other stakeholders

2.4 Description of the implementation framework of the strategic plan

A dedicated section would describe the implementation framework of the SP, including institutional aspects, planning processes and monitoring and review mechanisms. It should describe the role of the various actors and their contribution to the implementation of the SP and prioritize their actions.

2.4.1 Institutional matters

The SP should provide a clear description of the institutional set-up of the IAF and clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of UNFF, CPF, Member countries for implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The **Forum**, assisted by the UNFF secretariat, adopts the SP and will remain the entity with the overall responsibility to monitor its implementation and review as appropriate. The SP should describe how the annual sessions of the Forum with their alternate focus on "science and review" and "policy development" will be used to deliver on the SP. The SP should also describe how the UNFF secretariat will prioritise its activities in order to deliver its work within existing resources.

Member Countries retain the primary responsibility to implement SFM in their territory. They will continue to report on a voluntary basis on implementation of the Forest Instrument and of the SP.

CPF continues to provide technical and scientific advice and prepares, submits and supports coherent approaches to forest-related issues. Through its 14 members the support function of CPF within the IAF is rooted in a broad and balanced array of forest-related institutions, organizations and secretariats. With a strengthened role and modus operandi of the CPF within the IAF, it will develop multi-year joint workplans in line with the Strategic Plan and the guidance provided by the Forum. Linked specifically to the technical and scientific UNFF sessions, the regular CPF report will enable the Forum to deliberate on the findings and proposals submitted and take them into account when shaping future recommendations and decisions. The SP may also describe the way in which individual CPF Members, as decided by the relevant governing body, may want to take the lead on implementation of specific areas of the SP.

Major Groups and other stakeholders should continue their relevant and important stakeholder involvement within the work of the IAF has supported by ECOSOC resolution E/2015/42-E/CN.18/2015/14 in order to strengthen IAF's visibility, credibility and impact on the ground. Reliable procedures and clear incentives are developed how to further engage Major Groups and other stakeholders both in advisory work and in implementation, and in the end in funded activities.

The **Global Forest Financing Framework Network (GFFFN)** has a paramount role to play to facilitate the mobilization of resources for sustainable forest management. In order to ensure concrete outcomes of the GFFFN and to avoid duplication of efforts with existing financial frameworks and instruments, the EU and its Member States believe that the SP should define for the GFFFN clear priorities on the basis of the functions of the Facilitative Process (see E/2009/118-E/CN.18/55/2009/2, para. 3 and E/2011/42-E/CN.18/2011/20, para. 2) by focusing on capacity-building for strategic forest finance planning and for effective resource mobilization at the national level in countries with special needs and circumstances. This should include close collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and enhance coordination among the various means of implementation aspects of the post-2015 development agenda, the Rio Conventions and other relevant processes to offer synergy, coherence and mutual support among all these processes.

The Strategic Plan should also set these priorities of the GFFFN within the quadrennial periods.

2.4.2 Regional dimension

The SP should identify clearly the role of existing regional organizations and processes in the implementation of the strategic plan, as well as the manner in which the regional organizations and processes will feed into the global discussion.

Furthermore, the SP should *inter alia* also encourage to:

- involve the other relevant forest policy setting CPF members when it concerns forests , as CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, ITTA, to have a joint approach and implementation for forests in the region;
- make use as much as possible of existing regional organizations and processes with the involvement of the relevant stakeholders/major groups of that region.

2.4.3 Cross-sectoral dimension

As forests directly contribute to the implementation of the SDGs, but also indirectly to many others and related targets, cross sectoral approaches are needed. The SP should identify tangible target-related cross sectoral approaches and its related stakeholders/major groups at all levels. It should provide for participation of other sectors in the Forum and CPF, by identifying priority sectors such as natural resources, food security, water (quantity–risk reduction and quality) and energy.

2.4.4 Quadrennial programme of work

The EU and its Member States underline the importance of the quadrennial programmes of work for operationalization of the SP. This should contain a clear list of priority actions, related resource needs and a clear identification of actors responsible for the accomplishment of those actions.

2.4.5 Monitoring, assessment and reporting

The EU and its MS consider the following as basic preconditions concerning MAR in relation to the Strategic Plan of the IAF:

- Make better use of existing MAR systems on forests
- To limit member states' reporting burden, existing reporting processes and formats (e.g. UNFF, FAO FRA, CBD, ITTO, UNFCCC-REDD+, Forest Europe, Montreal process, UNECE, etc.) should be used as far as possible;
- Streamlining and harmonization of reporting vis-a-vis other reporting processes;
- The reporting cycle could be synchronized with other relevant forest related reporting processes.

The EU and its MS would like to see the following elements regarding MAR in the Strategic plan:

- Concerning monitoring of the implementation of the IAF strategic plan and its different components the question of division of labor/responsibilities (e.g. UNFFS, another CPF member?) should be addressed;
- Describing how the process for future mid-term review of the strategic plan shall be conducted;
- Building on the previous efforts by the Forum, existing processes and initiatives and consistent with the follow-up and review mechanism for the overall Agenda 2030, decide on the indicators to be used for MAR or clarify the process to develop the necessary indicators for MAR.

2.4.6 Communication

The EU and its Member States support the idea of stressing communication in the SP. Strategic communication should be an effective means for enhancing recognition of the concept of SFM and for improving efficiency in the work of the IAF. It is therefore important to build as much as possible upon available resources and capacities, such as the existing forest communicators' networks. The EU and its Member States recommend:

- After finalization of the SP consider the added value of a Communication strategy.
- The UNFF Secretariat should, working with countries, the CPF and other actors, consider building upon and working with the existing networks to enhance communication of the IAF.



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UNECE

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Marco Keiner
Acting Director, Forests, Land and Housing Division

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E-mail: marco.keiner@unece.org

Palais des Nations, Room S-436
CH-1211 GENEVA 10

18 January 2016

In reference to your request on submission of inputs related to the ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33, we would like to express support for this important initiative and thank you for the opportunity given to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to contribute to this process.

We understand that the goals of the UNFF Strategic Plan and the quadrennial programmes of work that are designed to operationalise it will be aligned with the objectives of the International Arrangement on Forests (art.1 of the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015). We also understand that the latest forest-related policy developments (art. 39 of the Arrangement) will be taken into account in the Strategic Plan.

The UNECE and FAO through the joint Forestry and Timber Section have already been contributing to the achievement of the relevant objectives of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), through the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW). Should member States decide to do so, particular IPoW provisions could be included/referred to in the UNFF Strategic Plan and the quadrennial programmes of work, in particular as it pertains to the expected components of the Plan listed in the art 39:

- Roles of actors;
- Framework for reviewing implementation; and
- Communication on the work of the IAF.

The UNECE and FAO governing bodies, the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the European Forestry Commission (EFC), during their joint session Silva2015¹ recognised the importance of the regional contribution by COFFI and EFC, including through the joint section, to the ongoing UNFF work as well as to the development of the UNFF Strategic Plan and its next programme of work. The recent example of this contribution is the regional study on trends and challenges in achieving the Global Objectives on Forests prepared for the 11th session of the Forum². In line with this statement, we would like to hereby provide information about the Integrated Programme of Work.

The Integrated Programme of Work for the Committee on Forests and Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission) provides the substantial framework for UNECE activities related to sustainable forest management and forest sector. The current programme covers the period

¹ <http://www.unece.org/forests/silva2015-engelberg.html>

² <http://www.unece.org/forests/forests-in-the-ece-region-2015.html>

2014-2017. The overall goal of the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-17³, is to “Support member countries and relevant stakeholders in their efforts to sustainably manage and use ECE-region forests so that they provide products and ecosystem services to benefit society”. The Integrated Programme of Work aims to assist member countries to achieve this overall goal by: providing the best available information; facilitating policy dialogues and communication; and building capacity.

The current UNECE/FAO IPoW 2014-2017 and its activities are structured around four work areas (WA):

- WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment;
- WA2: Policy dialogue and advice;
- WA3: Communication and outreach;
- WA4: Capacity-building.

The implementation of IPoW is done through specific activities that are planned and carried out on yearly basis. More information about structure and governance of IPoW are available at:

www.unece.org/forests/about-us/governance.

It is planned that the next IPoW will be prepared for the period 2018-2021. We believe that this will facilitate efforts of the member States in planning their future work related to IAF, UNECE and FAO in a coordinated manner.

For more information please contact Chief of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Mr. Roman Michalak roman.michalak@unece.org or Deputy Chief, Mr Ekrem Yazici ekrem.yazici@fao.org.

I look forward to our further cooperation on this important matter.

Best regards.



Marco Keiner
Acting Director
Forests, Land and Housing Division
UNECE

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-2301
New York, NY 10017, USA

³ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/Content/website/Integrated_PoW_2014-2017_En.pdf

UNECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry FAO European Forestry Commission

UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and FAO European Forestry Commission contribution to the UNFF Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020

18 January 2016

In reference to your request on submission of inputs related to the ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33, we would like to express support for this important initiative and thank you for the opportunity given to the UNECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry (COFFI) and FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) to contribute to this process.

We understand that the goals of the UNFF Strategic Plan and the quadrennial programmes of work that are designed to operationalise it will be aligned with the objectives of the International Arrangement on Forests (*art.1 of the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015*). We also understand that the latest forest-related policy developments (*art. 39 of the Arrangement*) will be taken into account in the Strategic Plan.

The UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and FAO European Forestry Commission have already been implementing the relevant objectives of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) through the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW). Should member States decide to do so, particular IPoW provisions could be included/referred to in the UNFF Strategic Plan and the quadrennial programmes of work, in particular as it pertains to the expected components of the Plan listed in the *art 39*:

- Roles of different actors;
- Framework for reviewing implementation; and
- Communication on the work of the IAF.

The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission, have regularly discussed global forest related policy matters, including the UNFF process, in their joint sessions (the most recent was “Silva 2015”, which took place in Engelberg, Switzerland in November 2015)¹. During Silva2015, the Committee and the Commission recognised the importance of the regional contribution by COFFI and EFC, including through the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, to the on-going UNFF work, as well as to the development of the UNFF Strategic Plan and its next programme of work. In line with this statement, we would like to hereby provide information about the Integrated Programme of Work.

The Integrated Programme of Work for the Committee on Forests and Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission provides a substantial framework for UNECE and FAO joint activities related to sustainable forest management and the forest sector in the region. The current programme covers the period 2014-2017. The main components and governance of the program are explained in the Annex I. The overall goal of the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-17², is to “Support member countries and relevant stakeholders in their efforts to sustainably manage and use

¹ <http://www.unece.org/forests/silva2015-engelberg.html>

² [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/Content/website/Integrated PoW 2014-2017 En.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/Content/website/Integrated_PoW_2014-2017_En.pdf)

ECE-region forests so that they provide products and ecosystem services to benefit society”. The Integrated Programme of Work aims to assist member countries to achieve this overall goal by: providing the best available information; facilitating policy dialogues and communication; and building capacity.

The current UNECE/FAO IPoW 2014-2017 and its activities are structured around four work areas (WA):

- WA1: Data, monitoring and assessment;
- WA2: Policy dialogue and advice;
- WA3: Communication and outreach;
- WA4: Capacity-building.

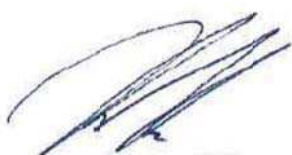
The implementation of IPoW is done through specific activities that are planned and carried out on yearly basis and includes activities that are relevant to the implementation of the IAF objectives, as well as direct contribution to UNFF. A recent example of this contribution is the regional study on trends and challenges in achieving the Global Objectives on Forests, which was prepared for the 11th session of the Forum³. The joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section also actively contributed to the Country-Led Initiatives in support of UNFF, organised in Lviv, Ukraine (September 2012) and Interlaken, Switzerland (February 2015).

The Committee and the Commission supported the Sustainable Development Goals process. As a follow up to the Metsä2013 decisions, a workshop on “Forests and Sustainable Development Goals: a regional view”, organised in Geneva on 22-23 January 2014⁴ and on 16 June 2014⁵, delivered concrete proposals to the SDGs process⁵.

We plan to prepare the next IPoW for the period 2018-2021. This will facilitate efforts of the member States in planning their future work related to IAF, UNECE and FAO in a coordinated manner.

We are ready to provide more information and share experiences from the region, and we are looking forward to collaboration on this important matter.

Best regards,



Kenan Kilic
Chair
FAO European Forestry Commission



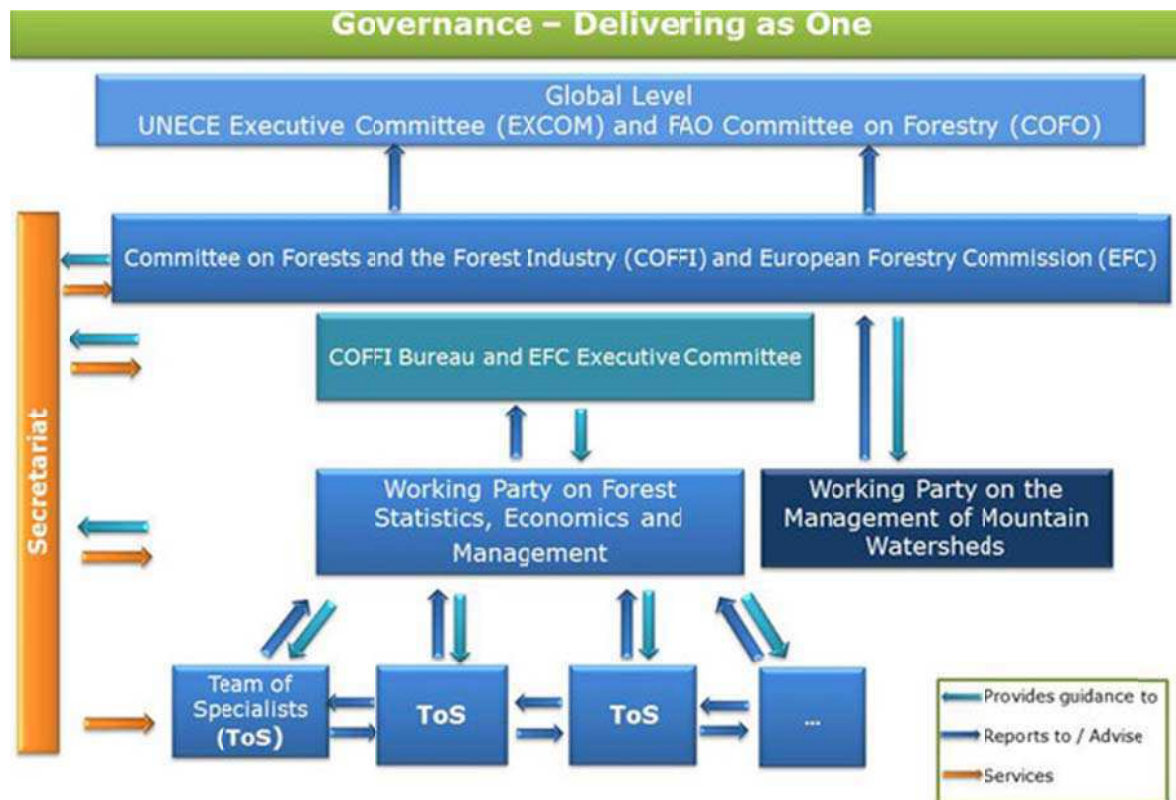
Christoph Dürr
Chair
UNECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry

³ <http://www.unece.org/forests/forests-in-the-ece-region-2015.html>

⁴ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=34501#/>

⁵ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35313#/>

Annex 1: Governance of the joint UNECE and FAO work on forests and forest sector



The **UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI)** and the **FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC)** work together to strengthen the forest sector and its contribution to sustainable development in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus and North America through their integrated programme of work. UNECE and FAO jointly provide the **secretariat** team to support the implementation of the programme, through the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, located in Geneva.

The **Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (JWPFSEM)** is a subsidiary body of COFFI and EFC and contributes to the implementation of the integrated programme of work of those two bodies. The JWPFSEM meets annually and provides guidance on the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work and identifies priorities for action. It also supervises the work of the **Teams of Specialists**. To see the mandate of the WPFSEM, please click on the relevant language ([English/French/Russian](#)). To know more about the Teams of Specialists, please click [here](#).

The **joint bureaux** (Joint meeting of the bureau of COFFI and the Executive Committee of EFC) are supporting the implementation of the UNECE/FAO programme of work. They meet jointly once or twice annually to give strategic consideration and guidance to the Secretariat on particular issues of the work programme, often in conjunction with the sessions of COFFI and EFC. For a list of members and reports of the meetings, please click [here](#).

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Thank you very much for forwarding us the report of the 11th Session of the United States of the United Nations Forum on Forests. It is an important initiative that is contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of the world forests.

Regarding your request, ECLAC supports the proposals 44 (a) and (b). Proposal 44 (a) is coherent with the new United Nations agenda of development recently approved.

Best regards,

Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva/Office of the Executive Secretary
Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) / Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Santiago, CHILE
Tel: (56-2) 2210-2429 - (56-2) 2210-2572

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

In reference to your request below, please note that ESCWA supports the proposals made in Paragraph 44 of the Resolution.

With regards to Paragraph 44(b), although the Arab region is not known as a region with extensive forests or forests programmes, there are nevertheless a few interesting initiatives at country level, which we believe could further be developed if properly acknowledged as most of these forest-related initiatives are linked to agricultural development or land degradation programmes and could be expanded to cover, as well, income generation and water and climate change related issues.

In support of the above, it should be assessed if the Strategic Plan for 2017-2030 and/or the Quadrennial Programme of work 2017-2020 could not also emphasize on the following:

- Linking forest and land degradation actions with sustainable land and water management by advocating: (a) using reforestation to combat and reverse land degradation, particularly in watersheds, hilltops, and mountain slopes; and/or (b) establishing protected areas in areas most at risk associated with the development of ecotourism for example;
- Linking forest programmes to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts and programs aimed at enhancing climate resilience.

Seeking how to take advantage of REDD+ programmes, particularly as a way to diversify income for the poor and in poor communities including for example by adding fruit and other tree-based plantations (e.g., olive and citrus groves, date palms, etc.) as eligible for REDD+ programmes.

Fidele Byiringiro

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Response to the UNFFS questionnaire on behalf of FAO and its Regional Forestry Commission Secretariats

Introduction

The six Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs) and the Committee on Forestry (COFO) are regularly discussing the outcome of UNFF sessions in order to give guidance for their member countries and FAO on how best facilitate and support the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Forum. In addition, in accord with UNFF's Multi-year Programme of Work, COFO made regular contributions to the UNFF sessions. Among these are proposals inviting the Forum's attention to issues identified by the Committee and to major contributions, such as the analyses contained in the State of the World's Forests reports or the finding of the Forest Resources Assessments, for facilitating the Forum's considerations on key developments.

COFO and the RFCs are having biennial sessions in alternating years with COFO sessions held in even years. RFCs are having their biennial meetings in the period of November 2015 – February 2016. Each Commission has on its agenda one common item, "Global Policy Processes" which deals with major global developments including the outcome of UNFF11. In addition to discussing the last session of UNFF and its outcome, the secretariat note for this agenda item also presents the outcomes of the UN Sustainable Development Summit in particular the 2030 Agenda, as well as the outcome of the UNFCCC COP21. The detailed account of the RFCs considerations is available in the report of each session at the Commissions' website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/46199/en/>.

Replacement of the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the sustainable development goals and targets

The Commissions that have met so far noted the relevance of the SDGs and an overarching framework for sustainable development. They also noted importance of extending the time horizon of the International Arrangement on Forests until 2030 and the strengthening of its various components. They underlined the importance of future work supporting the implementation of the SDGs and of the four Global Objective on Forests contained in the UN Forest Instrument. It was further noted that the contribution of forests to the achievement of the SDGs should be fully explored, understood and communicated within and beyond the forest sector.

Strengthening the linkages to the SDGs and establishing the conceptual linkage between the SDGs and the UN Forest Instrument is an important step, therefore the recommendation for replacing the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the UN Forest Instrument with an appropriate reference to the sustainable development goals and targets, as contained in paragraph 44. (a) of the UNFF Resolution, is much needed and fully supported.

Although it is not stipulated specifically in the UNFF11 Resolution, in the future, considerations could be given to whether the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in the 2nd preambular paragraph of the UN Forest Instrument would require appropriate rephrasing in order for it to remain fully in accord with paragraph 1. (b), would the latter be changed as recommended.

The strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020

The RFCs did not consider the strategic plan (SP) and the quadrennial programme of work in particular, but the need for developing both was duly noted. Since RFCs are composed of the same member states as UNFF itself it appears more appropriate if these Commissions, as intergovernmental bodies, would remain responsive to the global dialogue rather than providing concrete recommendations for the SP, this role could best be left for member States.

We would like to recall however that RFCs have biennial work plans and so does FAO, together with a medium term plan of four years (the current Medium Term Plan being established for 2014-2017). This architecture offers opportunities for stronger future harmonization both in setting the agendas for intergovernmental deliberations on forests and in implementing the outcome of those deliberations. In this context we would like to recall the submission made by the RFCs during the IAF review where it was noted that:

“Depending on the desire of the member States and on the future focuses of the international arrangement on forests (IAF) the RFCs can provide a platform for both stronger coordination of regional actions aiming at the implementation of the NLBI or any regional dialogue within the IAF. ... FAO, as secretariat of the RFCs, is very open to discuss possible arrangements that ensure streamlining of international meetings that are attended by the same or similar constituencies and help avoid dispersion of related meetings and increased travels as this would be fully consistent with the main recommendation of the 2012 Strategic Evaluation of FAO’s program and work in forestry.”

A Strategic Plan of such a long timeframe is definitely a considerable challenge. Preferably, such a plan should give a broad direction for key actions while maintain the flexibility for addressing key issues that may emerge during the plan’s timeframe. The Plan should provide a broad guidance on how IAF’s key functions, listed in paragraph 1. (d) of the Resolution, will be performed.

The Plan could usefully build on the different nature of the sessions in odd and even years, basing the odd-year sessions on performing tasks stipulated in 6. (f) and 6 (g) of the Resolution. The thematic focus of the odd-year sessions could be determined according to the policy focus of the even-year sessions, and coordinated with other major global processes with implications for forests, so that it remains responsive to various developments. The even-year sessions should be able to provide continued policy guidance for achieving the objectives of the IAF. The Plan should also specify the role of the different components of

the IAF, and ideally should allow for UNFF to strengthen interaction and collaboration with other global processes and in particular the governing bodies of CPF member organizations.

In order for the Strategic Plan to maintain flexibility and responsiveness the introduction of a rolling mechanism could be recommended by which an opportunity would be given to review the Strategic Plan at the end of each quadrennial period allowing for the four-year work plans to provide a feedback to the Plan which could then be adjusted accordingly. In addition, such a mechanism would allow the SP to remain responsive to developments in other fora with impact on forests, forestry and/or the IAF itself.

Regarding the first quadrennial programme of work, priority should be given to exploring the full gamut of forests' contribution to achieving the SDGs and implementing the 2030 Agenda in general. Similarly, thorough consideration of the Paris Agreement and its implications for forestry would be needed for any future programming. In this context we would like to recall the outcomes of the recently held World Forestry Congress, in particular the Durban Declaration – 2050 vision for forests and forestry as a major contribution to the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development in general. The three key areas of this vision, i.e. the contribution to food security and improving livelihoods, the integrated approaches to land use and the contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation seem to be perfect input to the first quadrennial programme of work.

By addressing these items the first session of UNFF could establish a solid basis for the thematic focus or future sessions and quadrennial programmes of work. It could also consider discussing specifically the various land use challenges and consider basing these discussions on, among others, the key findings of FRA2015 and SOFO2016. Addressing forest and landscape restoration within the same cluster could also be beneficial.

Noting that the Commission on World Food Security will address “Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition” in 2017 the work programme could also build on the potential synergies and pay specific attention to this aspect in discussing forest's contribution to the SDGs.

With these focus areas the first quadrennial programme of work could be instrumental in laying the foundation for future work programmes and also in making contributions to enhancing work on Global Objective 1 and Global Objective 2 of the UN Forest Instrument.



POSITION PAPER

August 24, 2015

Preparation for the *UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda* (25-27 September).

Bamboo, Rattan and the SDGs

How countries can harness these resources to add value to action plans for sustainable development

Six of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be debated and adopted at the UN General Assembly in September are directly relevant for bamboo and rattan producing countries and their green economy plans. They target: poverty reduction; energy; housing and urban development; sustainable production and consumption; climate change and land degradation. They all contribute to a seventh Goal – stronger implementation and partnerships. INBAR Member States and other producer countries can use bamboo and rattan to improve their national plans and add value to the global sustainable development agenda. Bamboo and rattan can also make a positive contribution to other SDGs addressing food security, women's empowerment, economic growth and technology.

Background

The final draft text of *'Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'* was released in early August for discussion at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly¹ in September, in the *Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda* (25-27 September).

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, which comprises 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets. The Goals are described as 'integrated and indivisible' and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

This briefing highlights benefits and opportunities for bamboo and rattan development for the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will guide the global sustainable development agenda for the coming 15 years. INBAR's Strategy 2015-2030 is driven by the SDGs. It supports Member States to better understand how they can develop bamboo and rattan as strategic resources in their green economy plans.

While the SDGs are inter-related, there are different entry points for bamboo and rattan depending on the specific topic of each Goal. INBAR – the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan – has identified seven SDGs where these resources can make a significant difference.

¹ 70th Regular Session of the UN General Assembly opens in New York on September 15.

Sustainable Development Goals of relevance to bamboo and rattan producing countries

Comments annotated by the INBAR Secretariat highlight issues of particular relevance to countries.

SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere) includes targets to ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of natural resources. It also aims to build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

INBAR COMMENT

INBAR believes that by promoting the planting and cultivation of bamboo and rattan, we can help to achieve these targets and SDG1. Bamboos can be grown on marginal land, which may not be under cultivation, and may not have existing land tenure. Promoting the cultivation of bamboo therefore helps to provide the poor with natural resources that they have access to and ownership over.

Bamboos in particular, and rattans to a lesser extent, are particularly resilient to climate changes and natural calamities. INBAR has documented cases where heavy snowfall has damaged woody plantations and natural forests beyond use for several years, while damaged bamboo forests are restored during the following annual growing season. INBAR also has documented cases where bamboo shoots have reappeared after bamboo forests were burned to the ground, and where bamboo rhizomes have survived long periods of drought or flooding. Bamboo supplies income and job opportunities. In China alone, for example, the bamboo sector employs some 7.55 million people (2013).

RECOMMENDATION

INBAR recommends that bamboos be considered as one of the alternative crops in situations of marginal land restoration, disaster response or building resilience

SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all) aims to increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix and promotes international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy.

INBAR COMMENT

Bamboo provides energy when it is burned as firewood, processed into chips or pellets, or carbonized as charcoal. Recent studies in China, Ethiopia and Ghana reveal that the calorific value of bamboo charcoal is similar to that of the most suitable woods used for charcoal. At an industrial scale, bamboo can be used to fire generators and power stations, and research is progressing in Indonesia, Japan and Spain to study how to establish large-scale power generation based on bamboo plantations. Bamboo and rattan can also be the raw material for biogas systems, and research is now starting to define the properties for bioethanol and biodiesel. The starting point for this value chain is that managed bamboo stands give a long-term, sustainable source of raw material for bio-energy that helps to avoid deforestation.

RECOMMENDATION

INBAR recommends that countries evaluate the potential to establish bamboo plantations for energy related activities on land that is not productive, especially degraded or marginal lands that cannot be used for food-crops.

SDG 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) includes a target to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing, and aims to significantly reduce the number of people affected by disasters. SDG 11 also calls for support for least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local material.

INBAR COMMENT

For affordable housing and dwellings that can be rapidly erected to respond to earthquakes, floods or other natural disasters, bamboo is emerging as a flexible construction material of choice for many uses. A number of documented cases testify how bamboo structures better withstand natural disasters, like earthquakes, than concrete housing, which is largely destroyed. Bamboo's unique properties of being sustainable and with high tensile strength, point to a revolution that is waiting to happen. In the world of high design, more top architects and designers are specifying bamboo for their creations in urban development.

RECOMMENDATION

INBAR strongly recommends that bamboo be considered as an alternative construction material in the Global South, and urges its Members to consider modifying their national building codes to enable the use of bamboo by architects, designers and construction engineers.

INBAR calls upon donors and international organisations to help countries in the global south to make use of the opportunities bamboo provides in the field of sustainable, climate-smart construction.

SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) aims to achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and promote public procurement practices that are sustainable.

INBAR COMMENT

Sustainable production and regulated trade require standards to be set and adhered to, and calls for certification, monitoring and enforcement of regulations.

Bamboo poles, fibre and engineered bamboo can be used for most purposes where timber is used. Bamboo is a "woody grass", not a tree and is selectively harvested without harming the ecosystem, or contributing to deforestation. Bamboo poles, fibre and engineered bamboo can be used for most purposes where timber is used today, and in some cases offers better performance than some timber products. In its cultivation and production life cycle, no part of the bamboo plant is wasted. Shoots are harvested for food; branches for poles used for many applications; the main bamboo pole for fibres for pulp or charcoal production and the lower trunk for construction uses or flooring and engineered bamboo products.

Managing rattan resources requires sustainable forest management practices, as 90% of the world's rattan originates from natural tropical forests. Without healthy natural tropical forests, there will be no future rattan supply.

INBAR monitors the international trade in bamboo and rattan, as it is the International Commodity Body for both products. INBAR works closely with the International Standards Organisation to promote the development of international standards for bamboo and rattan production; and is in contact with the relevant certification bodies about the need to ensure sustainable production and management of bamboo and rattan resources.

RECOMMENDATION

INBAR encourages countries in the Global south to consider using bamboo instead of tropical hard-wood or imported soft-wood where possible

INBAR encourages sustainable management of rattan resources, as a component of proper forest management
INBAR encourages bamboo and rattan producing countries and countries that import bamboo and rattan products to join its network, to ensure a stronger voice in international standard, trade and market negotiations. INBAR suggests that governments list bamboo and rattan products in governmental procurement specifications.

SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) aims to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries, while promoting mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries.

INBAR COMMENT

Like other plants, bamboo and rattan also absorb CO₂, and research in China has shown that a managed bamboo Moso bamboo forest absorbs more CO₂ than an equivalent woodlot of Chinese fir. Unlike trees, bamboo is harvested selectively (in the case of Moso, only >3-4 years old culms are cut) and continues to store carbon for a longer term. Once products are made from bamboo, the carbon is locked up and is prevented from escaping into the atmosphere for the product lifetime. Bamboo therefore provides a secure carbon sink.

Bamboo and rattan species grow in mixed tropical and subtropical forests, and bamboo can help rural communities become less vulnerable as the plant's rapid growth allows frequent harvesting. Bamboo's excellent adaptability and resilience to natural disasters, allows farmers to adapt their landscape management practices, using bamboo, to respond to the changing weather patterns. At the same time, rattan harvesting and primary production are activities that can be done by unskilled people, bringing benefits to marginal groups. Bamboo and rattan can help to build resilience against changes in climate and related loss of livelihood options.

As an official Observer to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, INBAR will continue to raise awareness about the opportunities bamboo and rattan provide for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

RECOMMENDATION

INBAR encourages its Member States and other countries which have bamboo and rattan resources to include both species in national climate change mitigation and adaptation plans.

SDG 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss) is particularly relevant for bamboo and rattan. It includes targets related to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and their services; the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, restoring degraded forests and substantially increasing afforestation and reforestation globally; restoration of degraded land and soil; reducing the degradation of natural habitats; and integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

SDG 15 also introduces measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species. In some cases – often inadvertently – bamboo has been labelled an ‘invasive species’. It is important to clarify the invasiveness character of bamboo and identify which species carry a risk and which species are harmless in this respect.

INBAR COMMENT

In the world’s developing regions, bamboo is used to rapidly restore severely degraded landscapes. With its 1250 species, bamboo offers a range of characteristics for different uses – from ‘temperate’ to ‘tropical’ (clumping to running) – suitable for a range of restoration and land use planning needs. Bamboo grows rapidly, regenerates annually through an extensive root system and very good adoption to poor soil or climate conditions, and helps bind soil. These properties make it a unique and effective tool to control erosion and slope stability. Several countries use bamboos along river banks to maintain slope stability and restrain erosion. As official Observer to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, INBAR continues to promote bamboo as a means to restore degraded lands and as an effective pioneer species for forest regeneration.

In addition to the soil conservation and climate change mitigation opportunities, ecosystem services provided by bamboo and rattan include biodiversity conservation, recreation and green spaces for wellbeing, especially in situations where the two species form part of a mixed canopy. However, the values of these various natural services is not well understood, and in most cases not reported. As official Observer to the United Nations Convention on Biological diversity, INBAR continues to promote sustainable ecosystem management.

RECOMMENDATION

INBAR encourages countries to recognise the services and goods provided by bamboo and rattan ecosystems, and to assess the economic values and potential for restoring degraded forests, combating desertification and increasing healthy forests. Bamboo forest is also a natural habitat of threatened species including giant panda, African gorilla etc.

INBAR encourages Member States and other countries where bamboo is a natural species to include bamboo in their overall mix of landscape management tools, especially for restoration of marginal soils and slopes and for sustainable land and watershed management.

SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development) aims to enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation.

INBAR COMMENT

INBAR is a global network of 41 States, working with many more partner organisations and individuals. Most of our work has included South-South collaboration, and is starting to engage more actively in triangular collaboration – especially between Europe, Asia and Africa.

RECOMMENDATION

INBAR continues to promote South-South and triangular collaboration, and encourages donors to support its Member States in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Annex

United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015

The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be held from 25 to 27 September 2015, in New York and convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

Background and reference documents can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit>

Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive & equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive & sustainable economic growth, full & productive employment & decent work for all

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive & sustainable industrialization & foster innovation

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change



Contribution des Parlementaires au Rapport sur les travaux de la onzième session du Forum des Nations Unies sur les Forêts du 19 avril 2013 et du 15 mai 2015

Numéro	Références, Dispositions	Observations	Argumentaires	Propositions
Chap I Art14 h)ii p8	Projet de décision présenté au Conseil pour adoption <i>Engagement des Ministres</i>	La formulation actuelle reste imprécise sur les modalités de ce renforcement des capacités dans le transfert et la diffusion de technologie propres.	En effet les technologies, sont parfois confisquées par les détenteurs de brevets ; ce qui pourrait limiter l'accès des pays, notamment les PMA.	Nous suggérons de préciser les modalités pratiques de transfert de technologie propre en soulignant la nécessité de lever toute barrière relative à la propriété intellectuelle.
Chap I B II A6-d P12	Projet de résolution présenté au conseil pour adoption <i>Le Forum des Nations Unies sur les forêts après 2015</i>	Des acteurs déterminants à la gestion durable des forêts manquent à la convocation du débat de haut niveau lors des sessions.	En effet les acteurs clés à l'instar des Peuples Autochtones Parlementaires, les Collectivités Décentralisées, Chefs traditionnels et les représentants des autorités traditionnelles.	Nous suggérons de compléter l'énoncé indiquant l'intégration de ces acteurs clés dans les sessions.
Art13 d) p14	IV. Faciliter la mise en œuvre et le financement	La question de l'incitation du financement n'a pas été clairement soulevée.	L'incitation au financement donnerait plus de robustesse à la facilitation du financement ; étant donné que généralement des partenaires/donateurs sont disposés à financer ; mais en l'absence d'incitation, ils ne manifestent pas cette volonté.	Consacrer un point sur l'incitation au financement de la gestion durable des forêts.
A 14 Section 14-d P15	IV. Faciliter la mise en œuvre et le financement	Les conditionnalités ne sont pas précisées aux pays éligibles aux Fonds du FEM	Les pays éligibles aux financements FEM doivent être signifiés des conditions à remplir	Les conditions d'éligibilité doivent être clairement définies
Section XI Art38 P19	Plan stratégique 2017-2030	La formulation actuelle ne laisse pas envisager la prise en compte effective des spécificités propre à chaque type de forêts ou de la dynamique du	Pour être plus pertinent et équilibré, ce plan stratégique devrait également puiser dans les contextes spécifiques ou la situation des	Compléter cette section en indiquant que pour être plus pertinent et équilibré, ce plan stratégique devrait également

Réseau des Parlementaires pour la Gestion Durable des Ecosystèmes Forestiers d'Afrique Centrale
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		regroupement.	grands groupes.	puiser dans les contextes spécifiques. A ce titre, il devrait découler d'une prise en compte des dynamiques et contextes spécifiques. Le plan pourrait notamment être assorti de feuilles de route régionales ou sous-régionales ou pour chaque grand groupe.
Section XII A42-b P20	Examen de l'arrangement international sur les forêts	La création d'un fonds de contribution volontaire en faveur des forêts.	L'élaboration d'un instrument juridique contraignant aux forêts devrait s'accompagner d'un instrument ayant la même force juridique s'agissant des contributions aux fonds en faveur des forêts.	Nous suggérons deux options : -La contrainte dans la contribution des pays développés suivant l'exemple de l'Annexe I de la Convention Cadre sur les changements climatiques ; -Le volontariat pour ceux qui ont une responsabilité historique faible.
Section XIV A55 P21	Ressources affectées à l'application de la présente résolution	La non prise en compte des Firms Multinationales (la catégorie Donateurs majeurs reste floue)	En effet le rôle des Firms est actuellement établi dans le cadre de la responsabilité sociétale des entreprises ; et il serait opportun de le capitaliser dans la présente dynamique.	Nous suggérons l'intégration des Firms Multinationales dans la contribution au financement du Fond d'affectation spécial du Forum.
Annexe II A7P42	Le souhait d'une participation de toutes les parties prenantes était nécessaire.	La non évocation du groupe de Femme et des Parlementaires	Les femmes doivent être au cœur même de ces débats du fait de leurs rôles déterminant dans le domaine forestier, agricole...Quant aux Parlementaires, ils assurent le contrôle de l'action des gouvernements et le vote des lois.	Ajouter les femmes et les Parlementaires dans la liste des parties prenantes.
Annexe III A2 p44	Résumés du Débat Ministériel de haut niveau par le Président et des tables	La problématique de l'accaparement des terres dans les pays en développement qui découle des	Les acquisitions de terres à grandes échelles principalement en Afrique et en Amérique latine, observées	Mettre clairement en perspective la problématique des acquisitions foncières à grandes échelles et son

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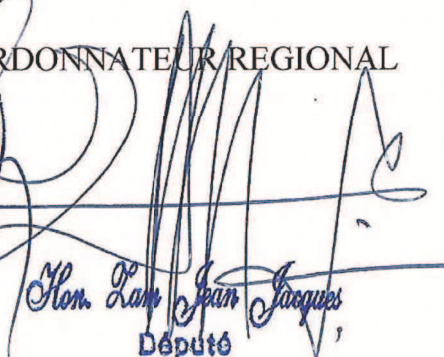
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	rondes de haut niveau par les coprésidents.	acquisitions massives des terres à des fins agro-industrielles, n'a pas été suffisamment relevée. Pourtant elle constitue l'une des plus grandes menaces conjoncturelles à la gestion durable des forêts.	depuis le début des années 2000, ont constitué une menace sérieuse pour la gestion durable des forêts ; et pourrait s'accroître avec le temps.	impact néfaste sur la réalisation des objectifs de gestion durable ; ceci devrait permettre une meilleure articulation des actions.
Annexe III A3p45	Résumés du Débat Ministériel de haut niveau par le Président et des tables rondes de haut niveau par les coprésidents.	La problématique de la restauration des paysages forestiers, soulevée parmi les nouvelles questions, se heurte véritablement au réalisme quant à son implémentation sur le terrain	L'un des objectifs du NEPAD était d'établir un corridor forestier en Afrique. Cette vision n'a pas été rendue possible, à cause du manque de financement ; conséquence il n'y a pas eu jusqu'ici d'avancée significative. Les initiatives similaires à l'échelle nationale font face à la même contrainte	Pour anticiper sur la contrainte du financement à ce sujet, le Fond spécial devrait consacrer une dotation spécifique en vue de financer de manière durable les initiatives de reboisement dans les différents pays ou groupes de pays
Annexe III A3 p45	Résumés du Débat Ministériel de haut niveau par le Président et des tables rondes de haut niveau par les coprésidents.	La formulation relative au souci de certains participants de voir le Forum s'intéresser aux nouvelles questions ne nous semble pas complète ; car c'est uniquement la question de la restauration des paysages qui a été relevée.	Cette formulation limite le champ thématique des perspectives formulées par les participants au sujet de la prise en compte des nouvelles problématiques	Compléter la formulation en énumération toutes les nouvelles questions soulevées par certains participants, afin d'édifier sur le champ des perspectives

Fait à Yaoundé le 17 février 2016


LE COORDONNATEUR REGIONAL

Hon. Lam Jean Jacques
Député

Réseau des Parlementaires pour la Gestion Durable des Ecosystèmes Forestiers d'Afrique Centrale

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Tehran Processes Secretariat for Low Forest Cover Countries

3 October 2015

With strong support of the statement made by the representatives mentioned in Para 58 (High-level general debate) of the report, and also important challenges highlighted in Para 3 (Annex II, A. Ministerial high-level segment).

Regard to the paragraphs 44 and 45 of the Resolution; please find our input after 44(b) for your kind consideration:

"44. Decides that the Forum should consider proposals on the following matters:

- (a) Replacement of the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the sustainable development goals and targets that will be considered by the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held in September 2015;
- (b) The strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020, consistent with section XI of the present resolution;

Tehran Process Secretariat for Low Forest Cover Countries (TPS for LFCCs) in cooperation with CPF members specifically with UNFF, FAO, CBD and IUFRO will organized several workshops on C&I for SFM and preparation of NFPs in member states to enhance expert potential an capacity building.

45. Invites Member States and relevant stakeholders to provide their views and proposals on the matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the present resolution as inputs to deliberations; "

Mostafa Jafari (Ph.D)

Head of TPS for LFCCs, UN-IGO and

Web site: <http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com>

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Tehran Processes Secretariat for Low Forest Cover Countries

(TPS for LFCCs, UN-IGO)



Major Groups Partnership on Forests

5th January, 2016

Dr. 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, USA

Dear Sir,

MAJOR GROUPS INPUT INTO UNFF QUADRENNIAL (2017-2020) STRATEGIC PLAN

On behalf of the following Major Groups:

- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Scientific and Technological Communities
- Business and Industry
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Farmers and Small Forest Land Owners
- Indigenous People
- Women

I wish to submit to you as attached, the proposed elements for consideration for the quadrennial strategic plan for UNFF as requested. In developing the proposals, we took into account the fact that both policy and implementation receive the required attention in the work of UNFF.

In addition, we believe that real results will only be achieved if concerted efforts are made at regional and national levels backed by the needed resources.

Above all we strongly believe that meaningful progress can be made only by engaging Major Groups and other stakeholders by adopting practical actions backed by political will and resources.

We hope that our proposals will receive the full support necessary towards the attainment of sustainable forest management for all types of forests.

We are counting on your usual cooperation.

Yours Sincerely,

Lambert Okrah
 (President and CEO)

Advancing Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management in Partnerships

INPUT OF MAJOR GROUPS TO QUADRENNIAL (2017-2020) UNFF STRATEGIC PLAN

Introduction

We wish to acknowledge that the adoption of UNFF11 resolution has created a unique opportunity to build on the gains made over the years. We are particularly grateful for the emphasis put on implementation and further committing to providing the necessary resources for the implementation of the policies adopted towards the attainment of sfm. We further appreciate the recognition by UNFF11 of the importance of the Forum's direct involvement in the realization of the targets adopted in the SDGs particularly those that are directly linked to forests.

In particular, we are encouraged by agreeing to developing a strategic plan that will guide the work of the Forum as it seeks to enhance policies for the attainment of sfm and their implementation.

In this regard, the Major Groups listed above wishes to submit the following proposals for consideration in the development of the new strategic plan.

Involvement of Major Groups and other Stakeholders

The strategic plan must include actions that will be taken to enhance the participation of Major Groups and other stakeholders in UNFF at all levels including policy discussions and implementation. It must establish clear guidelines for enhanced UNFF Secretariat engagement with MGs.

Implementation

The strategic plan should include steps on how to monitor implementation and to include measures that will encourage Major Groups and other stakeholders to independently undertake Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) of performance of governments.

Funding for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders

The strategic plan should include mechanism for providing funding to Major Groups, other stakeholders and Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF) to enhance their effectiveness at all levels.

CPF

It should incorporate ways in which CPF as a group will work collectively to advance the goals of UNFF and also to include specific actions to be taken by individual CPF members in achieving those goals.

UNFF and SDGs

It must demonstrate the mechanism/s by which UNFF will ensure that international cross-sectorial coordination on forests issues take place among UN Forest related institutions. It should also show clearly how UNFF will play a leadership role and work with other UN Bodies in the implementation of actions relating to forest related SDGs particularly those of SDGs 6, 12 and 15. The strategic plan should show a direct link between UNFF activities and those relating to the SDGs.

Linking Activities with Resources

It should show the level of activities that will be undertaken, backed by both material and financial resources required to achieve those goals, including the listing of possible sources both internationally and nationally.

The plan should require countries to indicate those sectors and departments that will be responsible for playing the respective roles in implementing the activities above.

Funding Allocation

It must include the allocation of funds dedicated to the funding of sfm as called for by UNFF. The funding stream must require countries to set up national funds from internally generated sources and an international fund managed by UNFF Secretariat with contributions from donor countries: possibly percentage of ODA to support sfm activities of developing countries and countries in economy of transition. Such funds, both the national and international should create windows to support the activities of Major Groups and other stakeholders, their engagement in processes, collaborations with governments and their independent activities at all levels.

Governance

The plan should give guidelines and indicators on improving governance for the purposes of tackling illegal logging and corruption and enhanced participation of all stakeholders in the forestry sector at all levels.

UNFF Secretariat and Regional Bodies

It should also spell out the mechanism by which the UNFF Secretariat will engage with regional bodies and processes to participate in the implementation of UNFF decisions in the regions and sub-regions. In addition, it should include those actions needed to be undertaken by UNFF Secretariat to involve the UN Regional Economic Commissions to enhance its work with other regional bodies through the various Economic Commissions. In addition, it should include steps to be taken by both FAO and UNFF Secretariat to establish the linkages needed with FAO Regional Forest and Wildlife Commissions. This is to ensure cross-sectoral engagement of the various regional processes of countries, the UN Regional Economic Commissions, FAO Forest and Wildlife Commissions and Regional Banks to enhance follow-ups of UNFF resolutions at the regional level. The plan must therefore call for the establishment of a regional liaison desk officer at the UNFF Secretariat.

National Level Assessments

The plan should call on countries to undertake a situation analyses of the state of forests, forest industry and green/bioeconomy in their respective countries with the intentions of identifying countries' critical areas for intervention based on the GOFs and other targets as stated in SDGs, including Aichi targets of CBD, FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, and FAO's Forest and Farm Facility "Roadmap" with capacity building measures in areas that countries are lacking.

UNFF Secretariat and Implementation

The Strategic Plan must show clearly what role is expected of the UNFF Secretariat in facilitating implementation by countries.

Conclusion

It is hoped that the adoption of these proposals in the quadrennial strategic plan will go a long way in achieving the goals of sfm.

January 24th, 2016
Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-2301
New York, NY 10017, USA

Dear Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho,

Enclosed is the submission on behalf of the Major Group Children & Youth in response to the call for views and proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) Strategic Plan for 2017-2030. The Major Group Children and Youth looks forward to participating in the next AHEG meeting and hopes the UNFF secretariat will consider youth values and proposals in the agenda for the IAF Strategic Plan for 2017-2030. Since UNFF 11 held in May of 2015, several large international events such as the UNFCCC COP 21, FAO XIV World Forestry Congress, and the finalization of the Sustainable Development Goals have influenced the international forest policy landscape. The Major Group Children & Youth hope the discussions at the upcoming AHEG meeting will take into account these international forestry initiatives and find opportunities to allow for enhanced participation and involvement of all Major Groups representing the interest of civil society.

Sincerely,

Anna Stemberger

International Forestry Students' Association
Major Group Children and Youth Focal Point

2015 Interlaken CLI Youth Values Statement

As youth of today, we value respect and resilience; we believe in equitable partnerships and transparency, and we assume unity in diversity. We envision holistic governance of our forests as part of multifunctional landscapes. We envision a world where people are given equitable access and rights, and there is respect for knowledge in all its forms. And finally, we envision a world in which youth are valued and can actively participate in the decision-making processes that affect our forests and landscapes.

Policy Proposal Ideas

The Major Group Children & Youth supports the policy proposals and agenda items outlined in the Major Groups Partnership on Forests submission. In addition, the Major Group Children & Youth recommends that

1. The UNFF establish a permanent subsidiary body tasked with staying current on emerging challenges, opportunities, and priorities within the forest sector, and to facilitate their timely inclusion in UNFF's agenda.
2. The UNFF Secretariat, Major Groups, CPF, and member states work on a communications strategy and actions to broaden UNFF participation.

Statement on the Global Objectives on Forests

The Major Group Children & Youth strongly supports the goals of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs). In the future IAF, we would like to see further actions and efforts to increase monitoring and evaluation on progress on the GOFs. This strengthened analysis would better inform priority actions towards achieving the GOFs. We would also like to explore opportunities for broader linkages with the landscape approach with considerations for agriculture in GOF #1 *“Reverse Forest Loss: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.”*

Statement on SDGs

The Major Group Children and Youth would like to see strengthened collaboration between UNFF and other UN bodies, nation states, stakeholders, and CPF in the implementation of the forestry related Sustainable Development Goals. UNFF should focus in the areas of:

- Monitoring and evaluating progress on forestry related SDGs
- Promote awareness and implementation of the forestry related SDGs through publications and communication tools
- Support youth-led initiatives and youth inclusion in forestry related SDGs implementation

XIV WFC Durban Declaration 2050 vision for forests and forestry

The Major Group Children and Youth supports the XIV WFC Durban Declaration 2050 vision for forests and forestry whereas *“Forests are more than trees and are fundamental for food security and improved livelihoods. Forests are an essential solution to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Integrated*

approaches to land use provide a way forward for improving policies and practices to: address the drivers of deforestation; address conflicts over land use; capitalize on the full range of economic, social and environmental benefits from integrating forests with agriculture; and maintain multiple forest services in the landscape context. New partnerships among the forest, agriculture, finance, energy, water, and other sectors, and engagement with indigenous people and local communities are required."

Furthermore, MG Children and Youth asks for the inclusion of the following recommendation and actions as elements of the International Arrangement on Forests:

- 1. Better integrate forestry and related land-use policies.*
- 2. Seek cohesive solutions across sectors, regions and generations.*
- 3. Apply the landscapes approach and adaptive management on the ground within and across forestry and agriculture.*
- 4. Direct research and practices to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and societies.*
- 5. Initiate and support processes, and create enabling conditions, to prevent land-use conflicts and safeguard natural resources.*
- 6. Leverage existing information and guidance on integrated approaches and related frameworks and tools.*
- 7. Invest in participatory processes and create and maintain effective multi-stakeholder engagement platforms across sectors, with broad participation of indigenous people, local communities, youth and women.*
- 8. Establish new partnerships across the forest, agriculture, finance, energy and other sectors.*
- 9. Promote broad societal values and objectives and build the business case to guarantee engagement of the private sector and sustainable investments.*
- 10. Coordinate policies and develop adequate governance arrangements across sectors and at all levels.*

The focal points for the Major Group Children & Youth would like to thank the 56 youth who volunteered to participate in a survey for youth input on the IAF strategic plan for 2017-2030.

INPUTS FOR THE FIRST QUADRENNIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

S & T MAJOR GROUP

The eleventh session of UNFF provided a platform for all stakeholders to assess the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). The exercise was one of the most inclusive activities ever undertaken by the forum. Resolution 10/2 of UNFF 10 invited member states and all stakeholders to submit views and proposals on six key issues set out in paragraph 5 of the same resolution. Further analysis of the effectiveness of the IAF was carried out by Independent consultants, and through Country Led Initiatives and Major Groups Led Initiative and culminated in the release of UNFF 11 Resolution and Ministerial Declaration. The evolving context of forests vis-a-vis the SDGs presents challenges as well as opportunities for UNFF

The review enabled stakeholders to assess the viability of the current activities and structure and how to adjust and position UNFF for the future to increase its relevance .

The Strategic Plan is to serve as a framework for execution of UNFF objectives to achieve the best operational practices in critical areas such as policy dialogue, policy implementation, forest financing, communication and science-policy interface. I present below some specific areas for consideration in the developing the first quadrennial plan..

POLICY DIALOGUE

There are concerns amongst a segment of forest stakeholders (eg Indigenous and local communities, business and industry, forest workers, women) that the policy dialogue in UNFF does not address their needs. Greater efforts need to be made to solicit the views of these large segment of forest stakeholders on continuous basis in fashioning policies for SFM.

Voluntary efforts at SFM in many developing countries have not met our collective expectation. The discussion/policy dialogue on a Legally Binding Agreement needs to be revisited.

Most challenge to SFM come from activities outside the forest – agriculture , mining, infrastructure development, energy etc. There is an urgent need for interinstitutional, intersectoral and cross sectoral policy processes to reduce the adverse effect on forest from agriculture , mining and infrastructure development.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Currently there appears to be no clear mechanism to guide the implementation of decisions of the forum. A case in point is the implementation of the FI and the associated Global Objectives on Forests which remain the centrepiece of UNFF operations. The lack of targets

and indicators to track progress, missing competences and absence of compliance mechanism have made it difficult to track progress and achieve the desired results. *Targets 15.2 of the SDGs relates to implementation of SFM and are in consonance with the FI and the associated GoFs and the strategic plan needs to clearly integrate and synchronise this target as well as the forest-water related targets (6.6 and 15.1) in the FI to help track progress in the implementation of the FI and GoFs.*

Furthermore there is the need to develop an appropriate framework for Monitoring, Assessing and reporting of progress towards the achievement of the UNFI and the GoFs. The voluntary national reports sometimes do not present the true picture of what is on the ground. External commissioned review in collaboration with regional processes and major groups can help gain more objective view of problems. Establishment of regional liaison desk at the UNFF secretariat might be useful in this regard.

FOREST FINANCING

Financing SFM is by far the greatest challenge to the work of UNFF. A multisectoral approach to forest financing is required. Forest ODA is unevenly distributed. In 2009 member states adopted a decision on Means of Implementation at the special session in UNFF9. As yet not much progress has been made. The GFFFN set up at UNFF11 should be adequately resourced to effectively play the role given it. Indeed all avenues for mobilising financial resources for SFM should be considered. These should include National Forest fund from taxation on forest goods and services, national private sector, regional level funding,, PPP, CSR,, Bilateral, multilateral etc. This is in accord to SDG target 15.b which admonishes the global community to mobilise significantly resources from all sources and at all levels to finance SFM, and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance SFM, including for conservation and reforestation.

The proposal to set up a clearinghouse to assist developing countries to identify available sources of funding and improve linkages amongst forest related funds and processes (REDD+, Green Climate Fund, FLEG, GEF, PROFOR, Forest and Farm Facility etc needs to be clearly defined and implemented

Furthermore there is the need to build capacity of developing countries in grantsmanship and fund application processes and ensure that procedures for accessing funds are simplified by donor/grant agencies.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The low level of awareness of the importance of forests in many developing countries is a contributing factor for the high rates of deforestation and forest degradation. There is the need to heighten public and political awareness of the importance of forests and its

contribution to food security, human health, provision of clean air and water, and protection from climate change impacts. In this regard there is the need to develop appropriate valuation systems to properly account for forest contribution to economic development in order to avert adverse impact from competing land uses including agriculture, urbanization, and mineral exploration. The Major Groups can be facilitated to play active role in the awareness campaign through activities organised in conjunction with the celebration of the International Day of forests.

Also there is the need to strengthen Communication/information sharing mechanisms, support regional databases, information clearing houses and directories; facilitate efficient and effective cross-sectoral information flow between researchers, sectoral institutions, policy-makers, forestry practitioners and entrepreneurs. The Global Forest Information Services and its regional hubs eg Fornis for Africa ought to be supported.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Science & Technology is crucial for understanding the dynamics of forests and determining the full range of goods and services and their contribution to livelihoods and sustainable development. In order to make progress on SFM the Strategic Plan should bridge the gap between science and policy, science and economics. There should be a clear mechanism to promote science, technology, innovation and traditional knowledge in order to face forests main challenge: how to turn them productive without destroying them. In this regard the S&T Major groups make the following proposal

- Increase the visibility of relevant scientific research findings underpinning SFM on UNFF website
- Facilitate global scientific cooperation using international, regional and subregional networks as vehicles
- Commission scientific analysis of policy implementation with the aim of sharing good practices ;
- Strengthen scientists and research organizations in developing and economically disadvantaged countries to address issues relevant to global sustainability including land use, livelihoods and environmental issues.
- Invest in science-society communication, including the training on effective communication of research findings, to improve the impact of research to all beneficiaries and improve the link between research, policy and practice.
- Support local R & D institutions to develop appropriate valuation systems to properly account for forest contribution to economic development in order to avert adverse impact from competing land uses including agriculture, urbanization, and mineral exploration.
- Support local R & D institutions to develop a result-based M & E framework with indicators, targets for monitoring and reporting the implementation of the UNFI and progress towards the achievement of the GOFs

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The analyses above present some of the strategic priority areas and key challenges that have the potential of blocking UNFF from achieving its core objectives. The challenges can be addressed and are achievable under the following set of assumptions- political commitment to SFM, adequate financial streams from multi sources for SFM and genuine efforts of working together and effective partnerships of relevant stakeholders at all levels.

A detail implementation plan presenting the strategic actions, lead partner and collaborators, resources required, indicators suitable for monitoring progress towards targets and milestones will be needed. .

Enabling Conditions

Inclusive ownership of plan
Realistic strategic actions
Regular monitoring and evaluation
Operational financial support
Capacity building for effective national action.

Concluding Remark

Ultimately the vision will be defined by how we want UNFF to look like in terms of performance in core functions (policy dialogue, policy implementation, means of implementation) four years from now.