Intervention by Expert from Republic of Korea

Thank you Mr. co-chair. I understand that we are considering the strategic plan as the UN's strategic plan on forest 2017~2030, Then, for 4POW, especially for the first 4 years working plan, we need to develop the tools to implement the strategic plan. For the implementation, we need to get support from publics as I mentioned, I mean, not from forestry sectors, but from other sectors such as the personnel in the department of finance and politicians.

To get the support from general people, we need to provide them the logic to illustrate the role, the contribution of forest not for forestry sector, but for general sectors. So, I think that we need to put our energy to develop the logic, I mean the tools, to explain the importance of forest for general people such as the livelihood improvement and human well-being. Although we, foresters say that the SDGs indicate the importance of forest in No 15 and No 6, general people may not agree with us. FAO forestry department, and we say that forest is the source of life. But, general people does not understand what we are talking about. The evidence of my talk would be the shrinking, downsizing of the forestry sector in government organization at most countries. If the importance of forest is fully acknowledged, the forestry instrument should be enlarged.

UNDP is conducting a project to quantify the contribution of forest rehabilitation in Korea to the improvement of public benefit. Although Korean forestry experts say that the public contribution of forest is more 2 thousand dollars per person per year, still the public does not understand the importance of forest rehabilitation activity that we conducted in the past. The ridiculous thing is that the miraculous story of forest rehabilitation activity in Korea is very famous in the world for the forestry sector, but general public in Korea does not know well. I mean the successful story is not acquainted well by Korean public.

So, I strongly suggest that the implementation plan for the first 4 years need to contain, I mean emphasize, the communication action plan not for internal but for publics. As a suggestion, the plan may contain the case studies of the role of sustainable forest management to improve socio-economic conditions of nation or region, or whole world. The project may be supported by, or conducted by NGOs such as IUFRO. In case of our region, we, Korean government may be possible to support to conduct that kind of project.

Another plan I would like to propose is the project for the future. As I mentioned, the role of forest for the past and present are being acknowledged. But we need to lead the concept "Forest, for the future". We need to emphasize forest as an essential component for the future; to combat desertification, ultimately for clean air and clean water, to mitigate the climate change by providing carbon storage tank, and as a healing place for exhausted citizens and a

good place to educate children. As a think tank, UNFF may provide a guideline for UNCCD, UNFCCC, CBD and other organizations such as WHO and UNICEF. To do so, the action plan may contain the project of Public Relations for "Forest for the future". The project might be supported or conducted by FAO or other good organizations.

Thank you.