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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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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



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.