

## **UNFF AHEG1 – Statement by IUFRO**

**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair,

We would like to thank the Bureau and Secretariat for the excellent preparations of this meeting.

We are particularly grateful for excellent background paper prepared by consultants Stephanie Caswell and Ivan Tomasselli.

We note with appreciation the proposal to organize the strategic plan along three hierarchical tiers, and in particular the suggestion to include into tier 1 the provision of scientific knowledge and technical advice. This is in line with the input provided by the Science and Technology Major Group, which stressed the important roles that scientific and technical knowledge can and must play in support of the IAF.

In this context, I would like to recall the Resolution adopted at UNFF-11 which specifies an additional specific function of the CPF as a component of the IAF, namely to provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum, including on emerging issues.

At this time IUFRO would like to reiterate its commitment to support the International Arrangement on Forests through the provision of relevant and timely scientific information. As a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, IUFRO leads and coordinates the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP). To date, four global scientific assessments on key policy issues have been completed by GFEP, all of which have succeeded in informing a number of international deliberations on forests. In brief: GFEP has demonstrated its effectiveness as a scientific delivery mechanism. Against this background, we would like to invite governments to consider specifically including GFEP as a component of the Strategic Plan.