



**SUBMISSION OF INPUTS TO UNFFS TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF THE
MINISTERIAL DECLARATION TO BE MADE
DURING THE 11TH SESSION OF UNFF**

1. CONTEXT

1.1 REFERENCE

This input has been solicited by the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) operating under the UN/Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) through Note No: DESA – 14/0089 dated 11th July 2014 regarding preparations for UNFF11 which has been communicated to all member states. The extract from this note is as follows;

1. UNFF11 High-Level Segment

In accordance with the decision of the UNFF11 Bureau at its fourth meeting on 1 July 2014, the UNFF11 High-Level Segment will take place on 13 and 14 May 2015. **“The High-Level Segment is a unique opportunity for high-level officials of Member States to provide guidance on major forest policy issues, including the future of the IAF, as well as its positioning in the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals”.**

In light of the above, Member States are invited to plan for the participation of Ministers or Heads of State in the High-Level Segment of UNFF11. Additional information on the programme of the High-Level Segment will be forwarded in due course.

1.1. UNFF11 Ministerial Declaration

In order to facilitate an open and transparent preparatory process for the UNFF11 Ministerial Declaration, the UNFF11 Bureau has decided to **“solicit voluntary inputs from Member States of the Forum on elements of the building blocks for the Declaration. On the basis of these inputs, the UNFF11 Bureau will propose “building blocks” for the Declaration”.** The deadline for submission of these views will be **30 January 2015**. All inputs should be sent to unff@un.org, with cc to moeini-meybodi@un.org and sen@un.org

**1.2 INPUTS BY THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE MINISTERIAL
DECLARATION TO BE DELIVERED DURING UNFF11**

1. Kenya takes note, as a member state of the Forum the long journey that the United Nations Forum for Forests (UNFF) and its predecessor platforms, the

Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) has walked in order to reach the current status of a stable body operating under the UN and providing global leadership on sustainable forest management (SFM).

Kenya takes pride in congratulating the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) and the Bureau of the Forum under the able leadership of His Excellency, Noel Nelson Meseone for the good work that the two bodies have undertaken since 2013 when the 10th Session of the Forum was held. There has been excellent coordination, information sharing and communication in the course of implementing the intersessional activities which are designed to provide inputs for the UNFF11.

As agreed during UNFF10, Kenya has undertaken all the intersessional activities including:

- i. National reporting on the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Forest Instrument on all types of Forests (NLBI). Kenya takes this opportunity to thank FAO, a key member of the CPF, for providing financial and technical support which facilitated conducting the awareness creation and capacity development on the Forest Instrument (FI) in Kenya in 2013. This has subsequently enabled Kenya to prepare and submit a national report to the UNFFS ;
- ii. Conducting the International Day of Forests (IDF) celebrations for the years 2013 and 2014; and
- iii. Participation in both AHEG1 and AHEG2. Kenya hosted AHEG1 in Nairobi

These actions underline commitment by Kenya in supporting and implementing decisions of the Forum and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).

2. Kenya remains committed and focused on the improvement of forest policies at the global, regional and national levels. To this end, Kenya proposes that;
 - (i) Member states steps up the efforts of entrenching SFM agenda in major national blueprints which include Constitutions / supreme laws; long-term development frameworks; forest policies and legislations; while at the same time improving and providing support to forest governance institutions as well as deliberately setting aside adequate resources in national budgets to support forestry development;
 - (ii) Member states continue to implement the policies and measures as outlined in the Forest Instruments (FI) and make every effort to exchange experiences on successes and difficulties of rolling out the FI; and the articulation of the four global objectives on forests at national level; and

- (iii) Member states be encouraged to implement decisions of the forum, the intersessional activities, including reporting on the implementation of the FI as a fundamental mechanism of improving the status of SFM.
3. With regard to the ongoing discussions on the future of the International Arrangements of Forests (IAF), Kenya takes notes of the excellent work of AHEG1 and AHEG2 under the able leadership of the two co-chairs (M/s Raymond Rayland and Charles Barber) and the team of independent experts who have provided valuable inputs into the AHEG meetings. The level of openness witnessed during the adhoc meetings is a good indicator of the desire by Member States in moving the forest agenda to the next level. In this regard therefore, Kenya;
- (i) Supports the further processing and sharpening of the items where substantial convergence of views has so far been achieved during AHEG1 and AHEG2 on matters concerning the future outlook of UNFF, UNFFS, NLBI, engagement of CPF, Major Groups as well as implementation and financing of SFM beyond 2015; and
 - (ii) Supports a progressive discussion of items where so far there exist differences of views as reported by the AHEG co-chairs.
4. With regard to the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Forum, UNFFS and the Bureau requires to remain focused on participation in key forums of UN processes where discussions on forests and Sustainable Forest Management are likely lead to support the mandate of the Forum globally.

End of Statement
