

**Liberia's Input to the Building Blocks for the UNFF11 Ministerial Declaration**  
**Proposed by**  
**UNFF National Focal Point**

**Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests:**

**1. Effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options:**

**2.**

- ✓ The Liberia Government wished to express support for the outcome of the second Ad-Hoc Expert Group meeting on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) held in New York. The Government further emphasized the support for the outcome of the work of the AHEG2 views and proposals on the IAF.

**3. Progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests:**

- ✓ Forest Instrument /GOFs should continuous to remain relevant and must be reaffirmed .The implementation of this instrument and the achievement of the GOFs is an important priority to Liberia's drives to sustainable forest management. Countries that are willing to implement FI/GOFs should be supported. The AHEG2 report for the proposed actions and options for the Forest Instrument after 2015 are affirmed by Liberia including :
  - Need to better promote and strengthen the visibility of Forest Instrument and GOFs;
  - Need to update the Forest Instruments by replacing references to MDG with SDG and extending the timeframe of GOFs to 2030 and etc.;
  - Need a practical mechanism to catalyze implementation of the Forest Instrument, SFM and other decisions of the Forum, including by building/influencing political will, building capacity within countries, and involving local and indigenous communities.

**4. Contribution of forests and the international arrangement on forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, to the internationally agreed development goals:**

- ✓ NLBI being the first comprehensive international agreement on forests, it addresses all aspects and functions of forests, and provides a framework for national action and international cooperation on forests.
- ✓ The NLBI and the GOFs are the important contributors to the UNFF and have played important roles in defining the contribution of forests to the internationally agreed development goals. It is recommended that countries funded to pilot the NLBI should be provide progress reports on the piloting Forest Instrument. This should include the level of political commitment and action at all levels to effectively implement the global objectives on forests and the sustainable forest management of all types of forests.

**5. Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management after 2015 and FLEG at all level**

- ✓ The implementation of SFM in Liberia is marked by challenges especially in evidence based forest management. There exists a gap in collection of information on forest. However, Liberia has improved on the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance by entering into Voluntary Partnership Agreement.
- ✓ We welcome and affirm the Results of the AHEG2 on the “Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting through data sharing arrangement and synchronizing the reporting processes with Forest Resource Assessment (FRA);
- ✓ Liberia has taken actions to Strengthen the inclusion of local people, including communities, women, and youth in decision-making, benefit sharing, and preservation of their cultural and social values through SFM and enhancing the economic, social and environmental values of forests for the benefit of present and future generations.
- ✓ Countries implementing Voluntary Partnership Agreement should be supported to ensure the sustainable forest management by introducing Legality Assurance System in the productive forest.

## **6. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests after 2015**

- ✓ The suggestions from the AHEG2 on CFP after 2015 including the Strengthening CPF, making it a more formal arrangement and providing concrete guidance on its strategic work plan consistent with the IAF strategic work plan, priorities and working modality, and devote associated resources funding for its joint activities in support of the future must be considered by all CFP members

## **7. Involvement of Major Groups after 2015:**

- ✓ Successful implementation of sustainable forest management requires a participation, collaboration and coordination with multi-stakeholders.
- ✓ Participation of stakeholders is an essential part of planning, decision- making and implementation for sustainable forest management;
- ✓ Inter-sectorial Dialogue is important in solving and ensuring integrated resource management policies. Member state should be supported to undertake intensive sectorial coordination. Support greater involvement of Major Group and their coordination networks by offering more scope for active participation as recommended by AHEG2 meeting.

## **8. Regional and sub-regional inputs after 2015**

- ✓ The efforts by regional and sub-regional processes to provide input to the Forum and to strengthen collaboration with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to advance sustainable forest management is fundamental to the Forum. It is the method of improving the two-way communication between CPF and the Regional Entities with the future UNFF. Framework must be provided to encourage closer linkages.