

**RECOMMENDATIONS ON ELEMENTS OF THE UNFF 11 RESOLUTION
ON FUTURE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON FORESTS**

By Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Forest Management Bureau

The proposed resolution to be presented to UNFF 11 in May are based on the results of AHEG2 held last January 12-16 in UN NYC Hq, the outcome of the first AHEG held at UN Kenya, the outputs of the independent assessment of the IAF by consultants, second round of the stakeholders' views and proposals on the IAF and all relevant documents, references and resolutions provided by the UNFF secretariat. The DENR-FMB as the focal point for UNFF makes the following general and specific comments and suggestions on the proposed contents of such resolution:

GENERAL

- We support the key messages and points of convergence among member states as presented in the co-chairs summary of AHEG2 and that varying viewpoints need further discussions.
- There is great opportunity and positive basis to formulate a solid post-2015 IAF during UNFF 11
- We are encouraged by commonalities among countries in the way forward for a post-2015 IAF
- The UNFF resolution should be the framework for concrete agreements on the design, function, and future directions of all components of the IAF
- We believe in the crucial importance of integrating forests in the Sustainable Development Goals
- We agree that the UNFF 11 resolution should be presented in two parts – the preambular and the operative elements

SPECIFIC PREAMBULAR

- A clear statement of the forest and SFM problems including the causes of deforestation and degradation
- Appreciation on the contributions of current IAF, sound positive
- Levels of details of the Resolution can be further discussed; basic minimum can suffice
- Highlight the needs for a strengthened IAF beyond 2015 and take measures to address its weaknesses related to implementation and financing of forest instruments
- Strengthened roles of various IAF components and institutions
- Coordination and collaboration on forests at international, regional and national levels; unity and getting acts together
- Integrate forests into broader sustainable development goals
- A reference to the IAF independent assessment report
- Policy coherence and avoid duplications of efforts for cost-effective IAF

SPECIFIC OPERATIVE

- Present the overall rationale of the IAF including objectives, purposes and functions highlighting the stewardship function and the implementation of SFM in all types of forests

- Agreement on the future of the Forest Instrument including changes on the title, references from MDGs to SDGs, extending timeframe to 2030, and reflect other forest developments since 2007
- Agreement on strengthening the governmental machinery of the future IAF (UNFF) through:
 - establishing a standing body of future UNFF like subsidiary bodies or committees on implementation and financing to advance the work of UNFF in these areas
 - Strengthen the financing of SFM by establishing a Strategic Trust Fund to assist countries in implementing SFM
 - Strengthening the monitoring, assessment and reporting through data sharing arrangements and synchronizing the reporting process with the FRA, Status of SFM reports, UNFF report, and ITTO C&I reports
 - Establishing a Strategic Trust Fund under UNFF to be guided by a steering committee/executive body to advance SFM implementation at all levels and contributions are voluntary
 - Strengthening the human and financial resources of the UNFF secretariat at sustainable manner consistent with its future functions which should cover policy formulation and SFM implementation
 - Strengthening the CPF making it a more formal arrangement with guidance, work program and funding for joint activities; currently it is a loose institution with voluntary membership
 - Encouraging the involvement of major groups particularly the private sector especially for forest plantations and protection of natural forests; the communities, IPs, NGOs are already well represented
 - Improving two way communications between CPF and regional entities/organizations
- Clear reference to the importance of capacity building, technology development and transfer and other means of implementation
- Agreement on developing a strategic plan for the future IAF which should include time bound program of work with achievable and measurable actions, roles and responsibilities of components and the required financing
- Agreement on post UNFF 11 intersessional work by establishing a working group that should meet twice to develop the proposed updated forest instrument and Strategic Plan for future IAF
- We support the 4 options (out of original 10) presented by the IAF independent assessment report and can be finalized during the UNFF 11
- We fully support the newly launched Interactive Facilitative Process Website as a very useful online platform for access and advertising information on all sources of forest financing; basic criteria and format for project formulation and evaluation should be developed and published in this web