

Elements of the building blocks for the Ministerial Declaration

1. Emphasizing the importance of forests in their social, cultural, economic and environmental values, and more specifically their supply of the bulk energy needs to the majority; safeguarding and regulating water supplies & climate, safeguarding of animals and plants; providing habitats for wildlife populations; supply of timber for construction in both rural and urban areas.
2. Sustainable supply of goods and services, both in the short and long term.
3. Involvement of stakeholders in all activities in the forestry sector – promoting governance. Actors like the local communities, the private sector, civil society, research and academia, and other forest operators. Also encouraging investments in forestry (investors from both inside and outside the country) including promotion of Public–Private- Partnership arrangements in SFM.
4. Insitu conservation of existing natural forests - through various mechanisms including protection and consolidation of forest boundaries in all forest reserves. Encourage participatory forest management arrangements.
5. Forest surveillance, regular patrols and forest law enforcement have been - for regulating illegal exploitation and trade in forest products.
6. Addressing biomass energy demand and associated challenges due to rapid urbanization.
7. Forest and woodland resources continue to disappear due to unsustainable practices in their use - deforestation and forest degradation – therefore emphasize sustainable forest management continue to be the logical approach.
8. Emphasizing professionalism and work ethics to strengthen forest governance.
9. Capacity building and skills development in various areas of forestry, and for all actors in the sector need to be addressed.
10. Addressing collaboration with international community to safeguard international public goods and services; and addressing the climate change challenges.