

# **Independent Assessment of the International Arrangements on Forest (IAF): October 2013 – September 2014**



## **Independent Assessment of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)**

### **Report of the Team of Independent Consultants Team' Presentation to AHEG 2**

**12 January 2015, New York**



# Origin, mandate and working modalities

- ⇒ Originated in Resolution 10/2 of the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFF (8-19 April 2013, Istanbul, Turkey).
- ⇒ Independent assessment of the IAF works to complement other relevant intersessional activities
- ⇒ Focus on lessons learned for a possible post-2015 international arrangement on forests
- ⇒ 5 experts, one from each UN region, 2 co-facilitators (WEOS, G 77) to assure link with UNFF11 bureau
- ⇒ Interviews with IAF stakeholders, analysis of documents and processes, exchange meetings among consultants

# Purpose of the Independent Assessment

- ⇒ Provides an independent expert input to AHEG  
AHEG is tasked to provide its views and recommendations to UNFF11 to arrive at decisions on the future of the IAF.
- ⇒ Analyses whether the IAF (in all of its 5 components):
  - Remained relevant and appropriate to its mandate,
  - Secured tangible achievements,
  - Was efficient and effective in its mandate since 2000,
  - Had any impacts on development and sustainability of actions.
- ⇒ Make recommendations for a future arrangement (including some “thinking out of the box”).



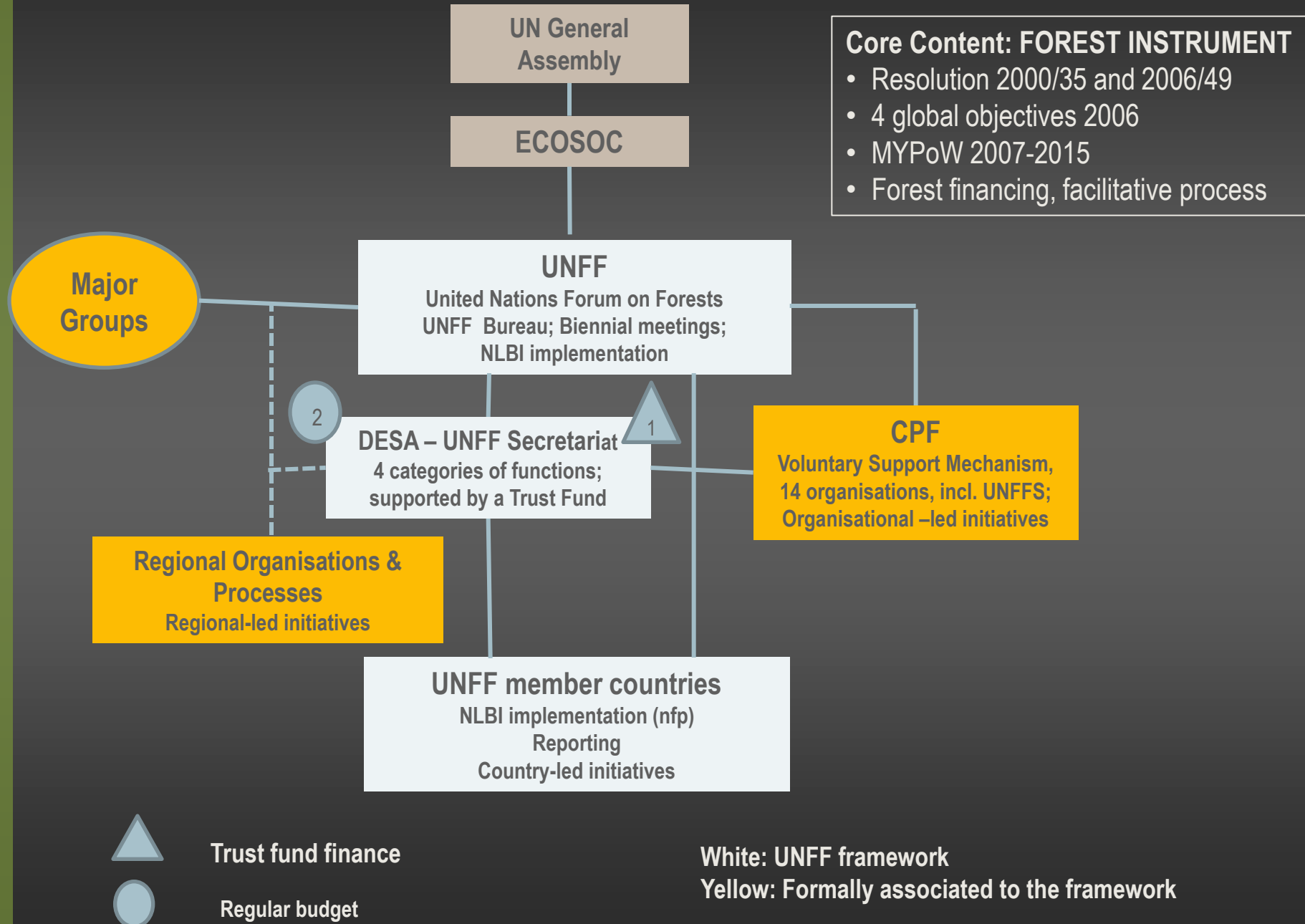
# Scope of the IAF

- ⇒ Promote management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests...
- ⇒ Strengthen long-term political commitment (“to this end”)

## Purpose of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)

- ⇒ Promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests, at the national, regional and global levels
- ⇒ Provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development
- ⇒ Facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements

# The current institutional arrangement of the IAF





# IAF: Achievements 2000–2015 (I)



- Promoted a universal approach to SFM (“all types of forests”) and its implementation (FI) →
- Upheld interest in a comprehensive view on forests in international development agendas, as well as the Rio Conventions ↘
- Consensus building, dialog platforms (CLIs...), communication →
- Supported by a “development-policy” platform with leverage: Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) →
- Supported streamlining of forest reporting requirements →
- Analytical work & outputs on critical forest issues, reporting →
- Facilitative process, Sourcebook on forest financing →
- Increased interactions with regional level →
- Promoted the engagement of major groups ↘



# IAF: Achievements 2000–2015 (II)

**Milestones (success depends on the perspective of a party):**

- Agreement on the **NLBI and the Global Objectives** on Forests 2007
- Formulation and implementation of a **MYPoW 2007-2015**
- Integration of forests in the **sustainable development summits** (Rio+10, Rio+20, *“The Future We Want”*, SDG process)
- **Forest finance**, facilitative process – AHEG, GEF5 SFM/REDD+ Incentive, GEF6 on SFM, LFCC/SIDS
- **Communication**: International Year on Forests, International Day on Forests; SDGs and other UN processes; (however absence of mention of IAF in the NY Declaration on Forests)



# Achievements with strenghts and weaknesses

(based on the perception of a party)

## Strengths:

- Universal membership
- CLIs, OLIs, RLIs; AHEGs
- Existence of FI, GOFs
- CPF engagement *per se*
- NFPs (selectively)
- UNFFS in DESA/ECOSOC
- Positioning within SDGs
- Facilitative process



## Weaknesses:

- Utility of forum sessions
- SFM in CBD, UNFCCC, CCD
- Major Groups involvement
- CPF functioning
- Implementing FI and GOFs
- Links to regional priorities
- Implementing SFM (NFPs...)
- Means of implementation



# **Areas for improvement in the main IAF policy fields**

**(as defined in ECOSOC resolution 2000/35)**

## **(i) Promote management, conservation and sustainable development...**

- Comprehensive understanding on SFM; implementing globally agreed resolutions/guidelines on forests at country level

## **(ii) Strengthen long-term political commitment...**

- Engagement for a comprehensive SFM approach (countries, institutions, major groups) and quality of reporting on SFM progress

## **(iii) Promote implementation of internationally agreed actions...**

- Stewardship of forests in national policies (economic policies, environmental policies, other sectoral policies)

## **(iv) Global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development...**

- Better coordination on forest-related issues (“umbrella” function)
- Strengthen the institutional framework of a future IAF (“convening”)
- Integrating SFM in the broader post-2015 development agenda/SDG

# Main policy challenges to tackle for a future IAF (I)

## (1) Implement a global forest policy agenda in support of broader development processes:

### *Streamline and focus functions of IAF, clarify roles of IAF elements:*

- High level policy platform (increased visibility strategic plan as basis for implementation)  
→ improved convening power (“Assembly”, “Special Envoy”)
- Member countries’ engagement in Policy dialogue + SFM implementation
- Effective supporting mechanism («strengthened CPF»)
- Major groups’ involvement and engagement
- An efficient and effective UNFF Secretariat in DESA/ECOSOC
- Financing SFM: upfront; policy and measures; sustained funding: new potentials)

## (2) Reaffirm a FI+ and extend it with clear goals to 2030 (SDG as core)

- FI+ and SDGs (Addendum to the FI and strategic plan)
- GOFs (amend, add, define concrete targets?)
- From NLBI to FI+ with improved positioning and understanding;
- Elevate the «IAF» for an effective global policy making

# Main policy challenges to tackle (II)

## (3) Strategic (rolling, adaptive) planning (based on SDGs, FI+ and GOFs)

- Strategic plan for the IAF over several years linked with broader development agenda and the SDGs
- See supportive document to the China CLI: Discussion Paper on Possible Elements of a «Strategic Plan» for a Future IAF.

## (4) Strengthen Science/Policy/Implementation Interface

- An enhanced CPF or an other arrangement?  
Remind the ECOSOC resolution: “Call the heads of agencies to form....”  
TORs for an effective interface/platform («UN-Forest») and secure funding

## (5) Strengthen Regional Interface

- Regional Liaison for policy and SFM implementation, Facilitative process
- Biennially regional coordination meetings in the 5 UN regions, harmonized/hosted by regional/subregional/thematic entities (e.g. elevate existing regional structures to a «IAF structure»

# Main policy challenges to tackle (III)

## (6) Strengthen Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) on FI implementation and engagement

- Streamlined standardized reporting and data sharing
- Efficient MAR triggers engagement, commitment, funding and achievement (see beneath)

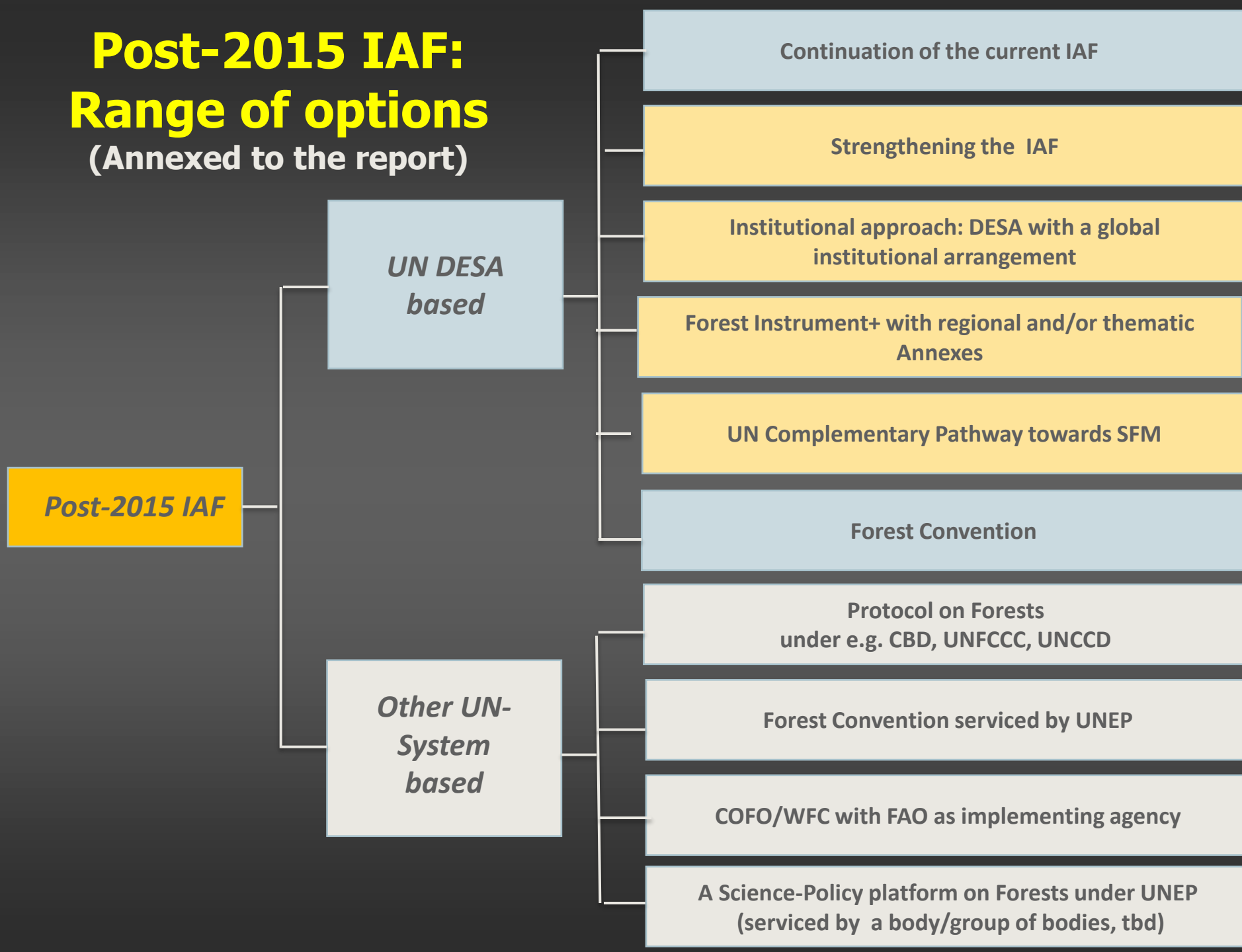
## (7) Adequate financial resources

- Post-2015 IAF funding requirements need to be identified and ensured
- Linking SFM/REDD+/Forest NAMA → New funding mechanisms (Green Climate Fund? An Instrument linked to the SDGs?)

→ Define the institutional setting, TOR and means of implementation to fulfill the defined (7) challenges of a future IAF → Task of AHEG2

# Post-2015 IAF: Range of options

(Annexed to the report)



# **Rethinking: the future for IAF**

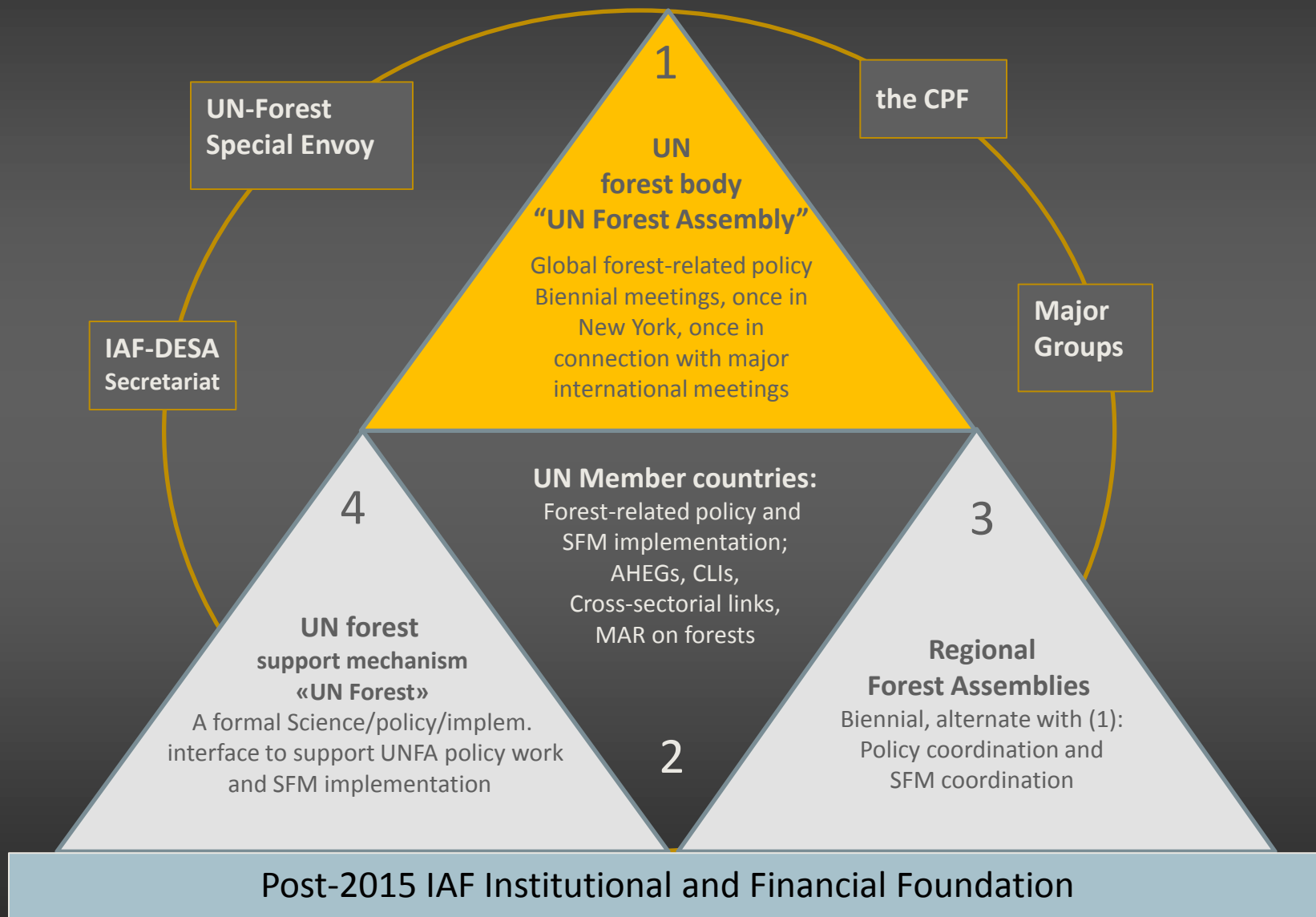
- (1) Shift to a more affirmative language and approach that helps to engage, rather than to disengage in a post 2015 IAF**
- (2) Broaden the conceptual basis of the land-use “forest” within the wider landscape as proposed in the post-2015 development agenda (SDGs).**
- (3) Shift emphasis from preparing resolutions to facilitating substantive dialogue, cooperation and implementation with commitments.**
- (4) Assume ultimate stewardship for global forests in a global landscape  
Strengthen linkages to other international fora and entities that affect forests (MEAs, agriculture, trade and other agreements)**
- (5) Increase leverage of a science/policy/implementation interface to improve effectiveness of international forest-related processes**
- (6) Increase opportunities for meaningful participation by multiple stakeholders, including Major Groups and funding mechanisms**

# Rethinking: the future for IAF

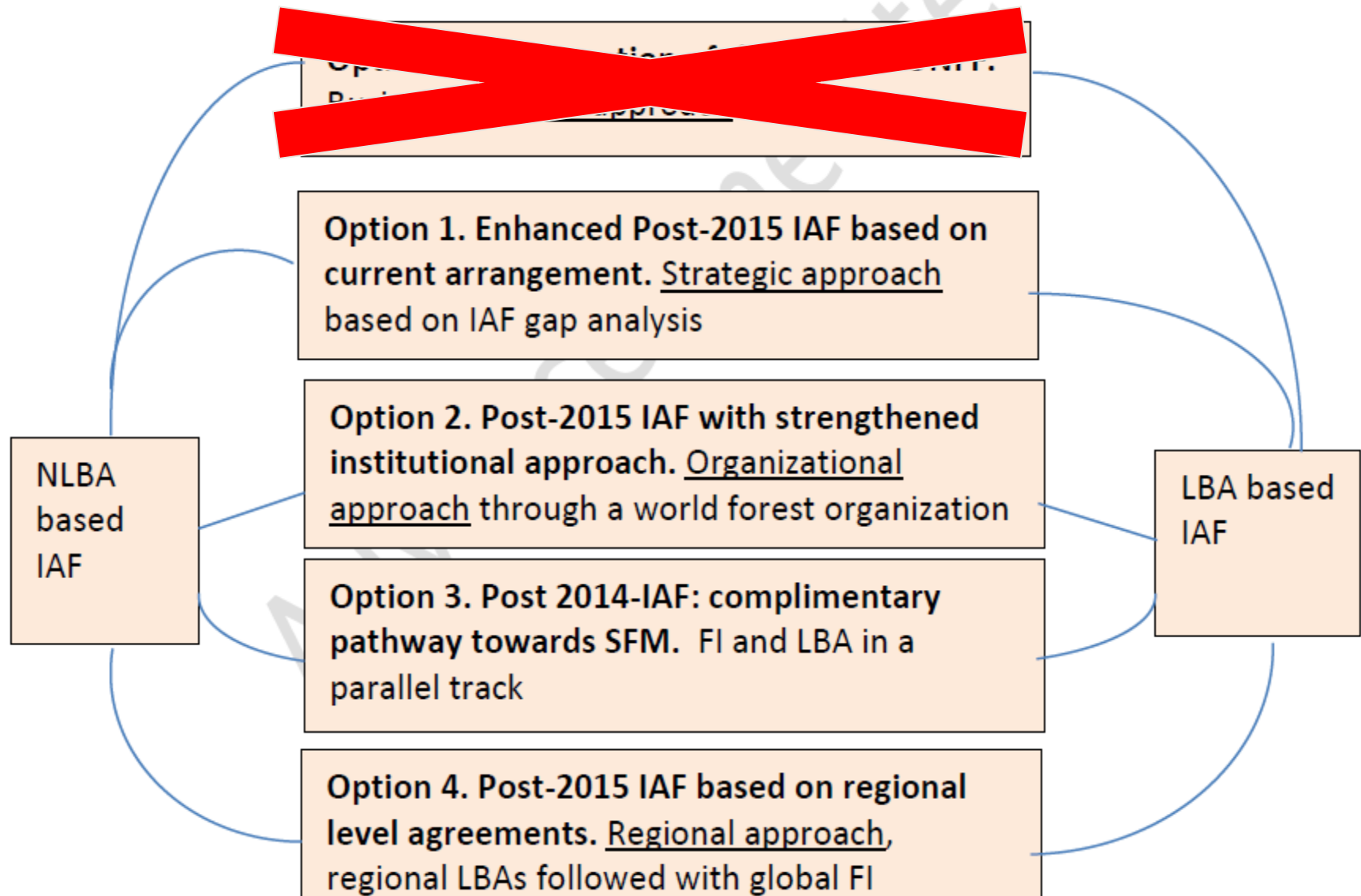
IAF Descriptor	IAF 2000-2015	Post-2015 IAF
UNFF (including AHEGs etc.)	"Forum" for debating forest policy SFM issues globally.	"Assembly" as an umbrella of international initiatives and agreements relating to forests
UN member countries (including CLIs)	Countries that actively participate in the UNFF	Countries that actively participate in the UNFA [or its equivalent under other options]
CPF	Voluntary partnership to inform and technically guide the UNFF (and support SFM implementation)	Voluntary partnership that supports the UNFA and members with regard to initiatives that concern forests and SFM
Regional level (including regional-led initiatives)	Coordination and information exchange, RLI	Assemblies of varying formality (UN region level) to deliberate on regional issues relating to forest policy and SFM; produce regional policy inputs to UNFA and encourage implementation in countries of respective regions
UNFF Secretariat	Service UNFF Support the IAF overall	Service UNFA. Supports IAF overall; Particularly support intra-UN coordination and the objective of "stewardship of forests" and linking to other major UN processes
Major Groups (including MGIs)	Inform UNFF and global forest policy processes	Input to UNFA and regional processes, participate in UN-Forest
UN Forest	-	Formal and structured science/ policy/ development platform consisting of interested current CPF members and other institutions supporting the post 2015 IAF
Special Envoy on Forests	-	Assumes link to HLPF/UNFA and other high-level platforms and give public face to global forest agenda in context of SDGs



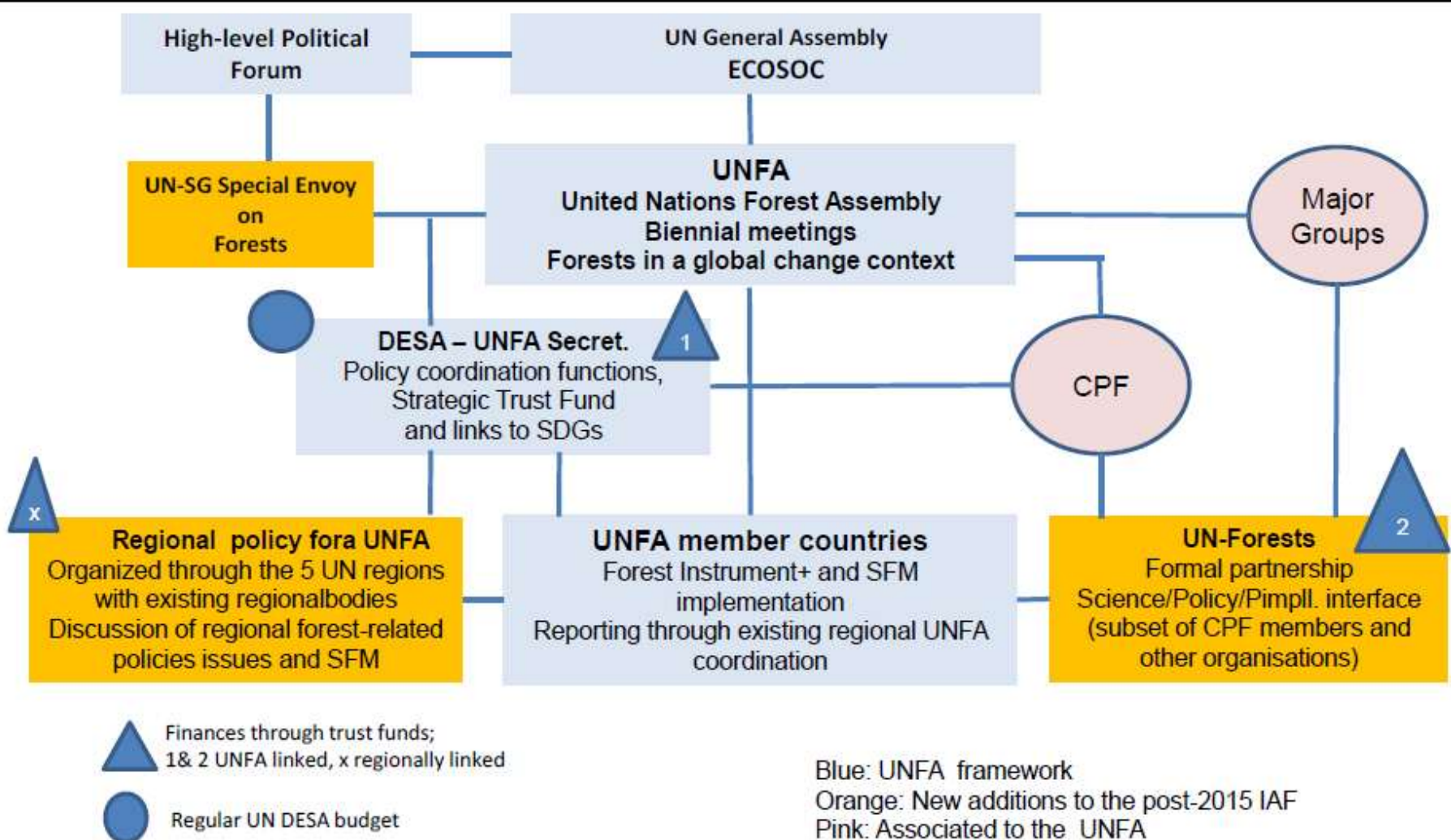
# Post-2015 IAF Building Blocks



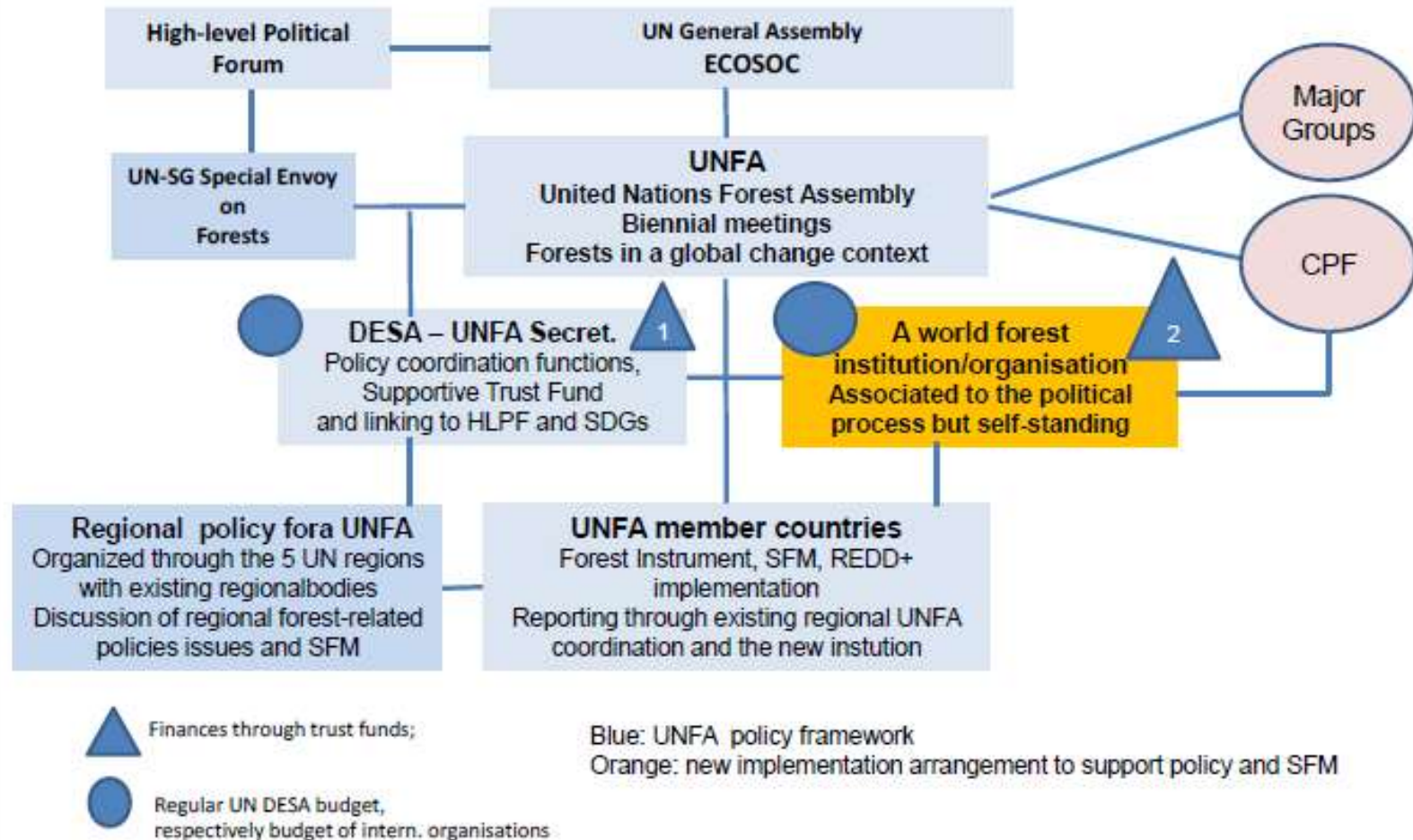
# Overview on proposed options



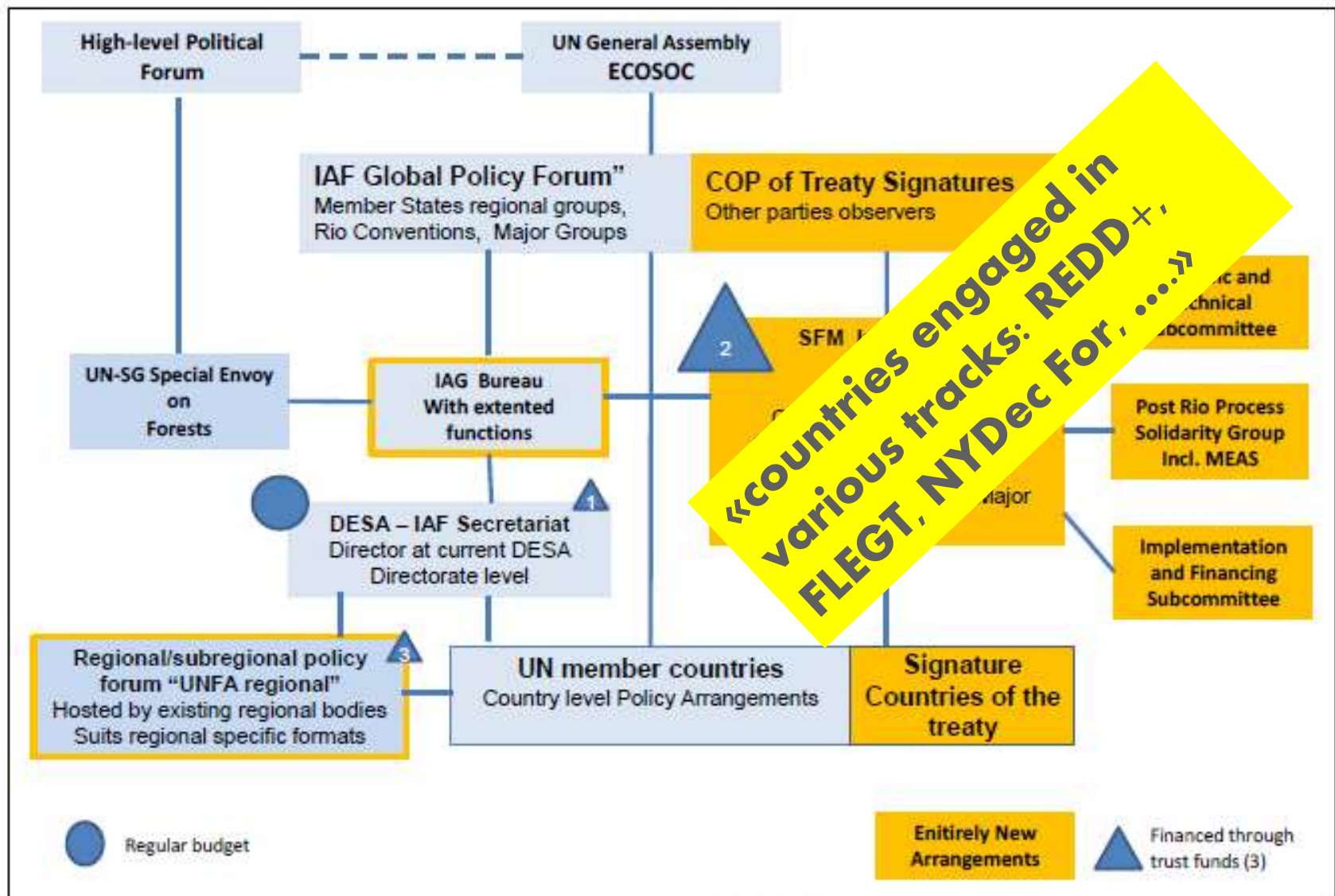
# Enhanced post 2015 IAF



# Strengthened institutional approach

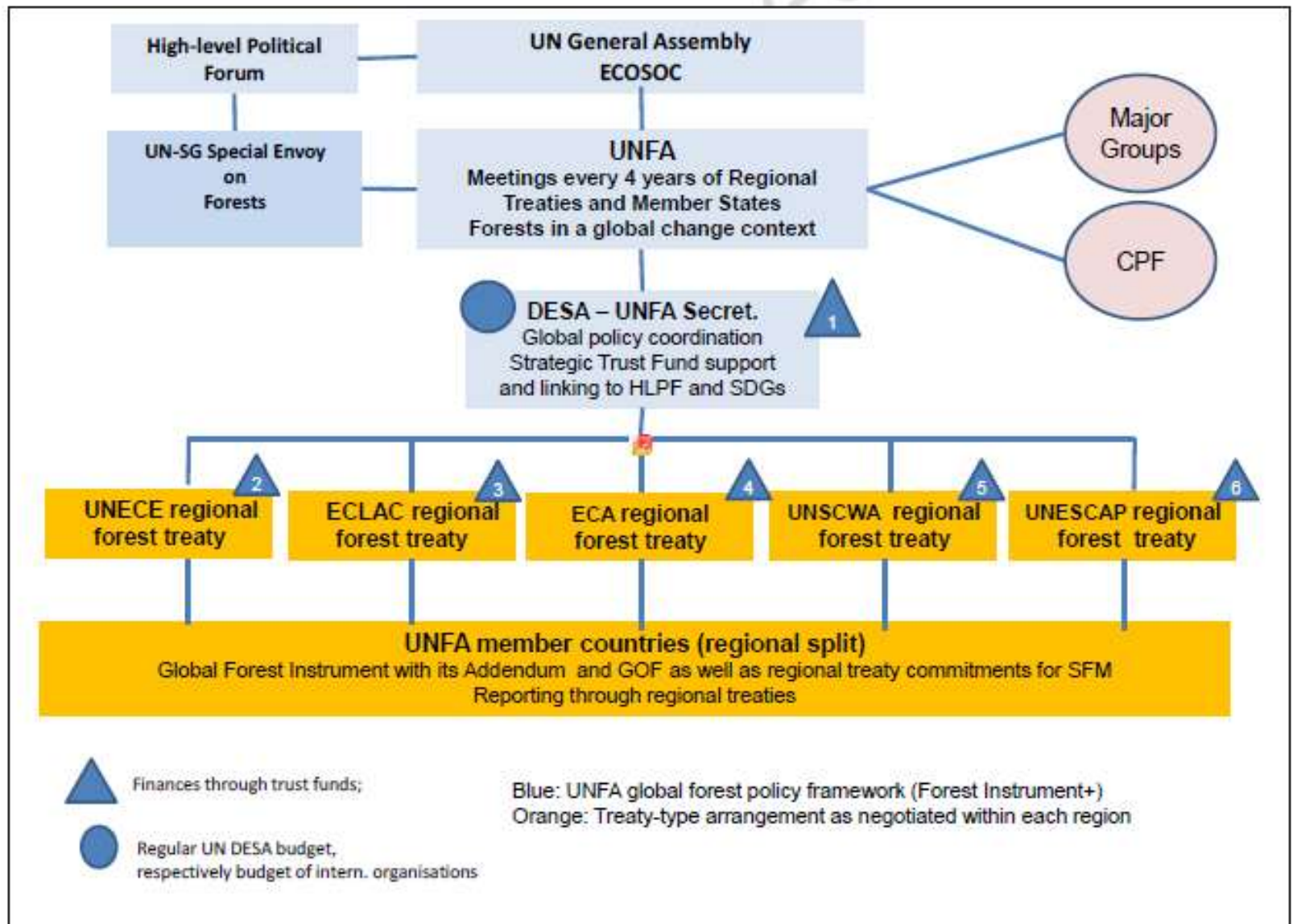


# Complementary political pathway





# Regional level agreements





# In summary for a post-2015 IAF: “do not act in isolation”

- ⇒ Comprehensive **Stewardship** for forests in international development/environmental/economic agendas (“policy”)
  - global forest policy harmonization (“umbrella”)
    - Address the fragmentation of global forest policy
    - More commitment in global forest policy, on all level of sustainability
    - Increased coherence between UN-Processes and others (IAF, UNFCCC, REDD+, CBD, and other initiatives such as NYDF, Bonn Challenge, etc)
    - A clear voice on forests in the UN
- ⇒ Policy support for **SFM implementation** in regions and countries
  - “sustainably managing all forests globally by the year 2030”
    - Common international comprehension/definition of SFM
    - National commitment for a comprehensive approach of SFM
    - Clear understanding on the use of financing instruments, such as GEF, GCF, FCPF/UNREDD etc and a possible SDG financing mechanism
    - A monitoring/compliance mechanism to support financial options.



# CLI China questions on the IAF-report

- 1) II A.2.2.h. Feasibility, practicality and projected costs of the proposed options."
- 2) II A. 2.2.o. The UN Forest Assembly needs to flesh out how this new body would materially differ in function and format from UNFF
- 3) III 3.2.a. "The general budgetary implications of the options presented including with respect to strengthening CPF, establishing a UN-Forest, establishing a UN Special Envoy on Forests, and convening biennial regional meetings in years the Forum does not meet, as well as the implications of these for the Secretariat."
- 4) III 3.2.b. Feasibility of moving forward on components associated with each option within the context of the UN system and ECOSOC in particular.
- 5) III 3.2.c. Modalities, TORs and funding sources and levels for possible models for strengthening and possibly formalizing the CPF



**Thank you for  
Your Attention**