

**2006/49**



Development,<sup>207</sup> bearing in mind the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;<sup>208</sup>

(b) Encourage and assist countries, including those with low forest cover, to develop and implement forest conservation and rehabilitation strategies, increase the area of forests under sustainable management and reduce forest degradation and the loss of forest cover in order to maintain and improve their forest resources with a view to enhancing the benefits of forests to meet present and future needs, in

4. *All* that countries, while taking national sovereignty, practices and conditions into account, should make all efforts to contribute to the above-mentioned global objectives through the development or indication of voluntary national measures, policies, actions or specific goals;

#### **Means of implementation**

5. *All* countries to make concerted efforts to secure sustained high-level political commitment to strengthen the means of implementation, including financial resources, to provide support, in particular for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in order to achieve the global objectives and to promote sustainable forest management by:

(a) Reversing the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management;

(b) Mobilizing and providing significant new and additional resources for sustainable forest management from private, public, domestic and international sources to and within developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition;

(c) Strengthening, through new and additional financial resources, provided on a voluntary basis, existing forest-related funds hosted by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including the National Forest Programme Facility, the Programme on Forests and the Bali Partnership Fund, to support national forest programmes and national actions aimed at implementing sustainable forest management as well as integrating forest issues in national development programmes and, where appropriate, poverty reduction strategies;

(d) Inviting the governing bodies of the National Forest Programme Facility, the Programme on Forests and the Bali Partnership Fund to enhance their contribution to sustainable forest management and the achievement of the global objectives by effectively managing and coordinating among themselves to facilitate access to the funds by developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, as appropriate;

(e) Assessing and reviewing the current funding mechanisms, including, if appropriate, the possibility of setting up a voluntary global funding mechanism as a contribution towards achieving the global objectives and implementing sustainable forest management;

(f) Inviting members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular the World Bank, as host of the Programme on Forests, to maintain and enhance support to analytical work and knowledge generation and to develop new tools and approaches to key issues within the forest sector, in particular those relevant to the global objectives, in order to support developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in accessing additional national and international funding;

(g) Welcoming the ongoing work of the Global Environment Facility to clarify its focal area strategies and operational programmes, and in this context inviting the Global Environment Facility Council to fully consider the potential for

strengthened support of the Facility for sustainable forest management, including the option to establish a separate operational programme on forests, without prejudicing other operational programmes;

(h) Inviting the governing bodies of international financial institutions, development agencies and regional banks to consider ways to generate and facilitate access to resources and to respond to requests from developing countries to finance forest-related activities;

(i) Creating an effective enabling environment for investment in sustainable forest management, including to avoid the loss of forest cover and forest degradation and to support reforestation, afforestation and forest restoration;

(j) Creating an enabling environment for the involvement of and investment by local communities and other forest users in sustainable forest management;

(k) Further developing innovative financial mechanisms for generating revenue to support sustainable forest management;



### **Working modalities**

10. *D* that, following its seventh session in 2007, the Forum shall meet biennially for a period of up to two weeks on the basis of a focused multi-year programme of work to be adopted by the Forum at its seventh session;

11. *I* forest-related regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes, in coordination with the Forum secretariat, as appropriate, to strengthen collaboration and to provide input to the work of the Forum by:

(a) Raising awareness of the work of the Forum at the regional and subregional levels;

(b) Addressing topics identified in the multi-year programme of work, with a view to sharing with the United Nations Forum on Forests regional and subregional perspectives on these topics;

(c) Encouraging participation of interested members of the Forum, especially from within the region, as well as members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, relevant regional organizations and major groups;

12. *D* that the Forum will seek to strengthen interaction with major groups and other forest stakeholders in meetings of the Forum;

13. that country-led initiatives address issues identified in the multi-year programme of work for a given cycle;

14. *E* that ad hoc expert groups referred to in paragraph 4 (k) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 could be convened to address issues identified in the multi-year programme of work;

15. that the Forum should consider inputs from regional and subregional forest-related bodies, mechanisms and processes and from country-led initiatives, as well as from major groups;

16. that the Forum should continue to support participants from developing countries, with priority to the least developed countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, in accordance with General Assembly decision 58/554 of 23 December 2003;

17. *D* to consider ways of strengthening the secretariat of the Forum, within existing resources, as well as through increased voluntary extrabudgetary resources to enable it to fulfil its function more effectively, bearing in mind paragraph 163 (b) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome;<sup>204</sup>

18. *C* interested donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations to make voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Forum on Forests Trust Fund, and urges other countries in a position to do so and other interested parties to contribute to the Trust Fund;

### **Monitoring, assessment and reporting**

19. *A* that countries should, on a voluntary basis, submit national reports to the Forum, in accordance with a timetable established by the Forum, on progress in implementing national measures, policies, actions or specific objectives towards achieving the global objectives set out in the present resolution, taking into

consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management;

20. I invite the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in collaboration with the Forum, to further harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account the seven thematic elements for sustainable forest management, with a view to reducing the reporting burden on countries;

21. I invite the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to report in a consolidated manner to the Forum on its initiatives and activities, including progress on the means of implementation, in support of the work of the Forum;

### **Collaborative Partnership on Forests**

22. I invite that the Forum will provide guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and invites members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests:

(a) To strengthen their collaboration and coordination on forest issues in order to foster progress towards sustainable forest management at the global, regional and national levels;

(b) To continue and further develop its ongoing initiatives on monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest resources, on streamlining national forest reporting, on the sourcebook on funding for sustainable forest management, on harmonizing forest-related definitions and on the Global Forest Information Service;

(c) To translate relevant policy recommendations of the Forum into their programmes of work;

(d) To explore ways to involve major groups in the activities of the



25. *E, <sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>, <sup>3</sup>* countries and parties interested in the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support its joint initiatives by making voluntary financial contributions to the respective lead organizations of the Partnership, as appropriate;

**Non-legally binding instrument**

26. *E, <sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>, <sup>3</sup>* the importance of strengthening political commitment and action at all levels to implement effectively the sustainable management of all types of forests and to achieve the global objectives set out in the present resolution by requesting the Forum to conclude and adopt at its seventh session a non-legally

**Annex****Elements or proposals for a non-legally binding instrument on forests****I. Proposal of the African Group****Elements of a voluntary code/guidelines/international understanding**

1. Enhanced capacity-building mechanisms.
2. Recognition of the global importance of forests.
3. Must facilitate or attract strong political support.
4. Must build on strengthening subregional initiatives.
5. Must provide for technological transfer as a means for achievement of sustainable forest management.
6. Must address the three elements (social, environmental and economic) of sustainable forest management.
7. Should include reference to the role of Major Groups.
8. Should accommodate regional nuances and variations.
9. Should have appropriate institutional arrangements for implementation, including strengthening the role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
10. Clear funding mechanisms to ensure that implementation is facilitated in developing countries.
11. Effective institutional arrangements and working modalities.
12. Enhanced international cooperation and assistance.

**II. Proposal of Australia****Potential elements of a voluntary international instrument to support sustainable forest management****Summary****1. Purpose and preamble**

Including an explanation of context and relationship to other instruments.

**2. Adoption/endorsement****3. Principles and definitions****4. Strategic objectives/goals**

Including reference to agreed international standards and objectives for sustainable forest management.

**5. National policies**

Policies and strategies that are relevant to, and adopted by, the participant country.

Including special requirements for developing countries/economies in transition; cross-sectoral coordination; research.



Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, in a manner consistent with and complementary to existing international legally binding instruments relevant to forests,

and about continued deforestation and forest degradation and its adverse impact on the livelihoods of over a billion people (including many of the poorest and most vulnerable), and about the need for more effective implementation of actions to facilitate the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests,

the United Nations Forum on Forests, with the assistance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests as the key intergovernmental mechanisms to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels, and stressing the importance of their appropriate strengthening,

that the implementation of policies and measures to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests

3. *Reaffirms* in the implementation of the Understanding that:

(a) Each country is responsible for the conservation and sustainable management of its forests and the enforcement of its forest laws, which are essential to achieving sustainable forest management;

(b) International cooperation plays a crucial and catalytic role in reinforcing the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve the management of their forests;

(c) The private sector, forest owners, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders can contribute to achieving sustainable forest management and should be involved in a transparent and participatory way in decision-making on forests that affects them;

### **Strategic objectives**

4. *Adopts* on the following strategic objectives to be achieved through the implementation of the Understanding:

1. Increase significantly the area of protected and sustainably managed forests and reverse the loss of forest cover around the world;

2. Eradicate poverty in forest areas and improve the quality of life in forest-dependent communities through social and economic policies and measures and sustainable forest management;

3. Reversing the decline in official development assistance allocated to forest-related activities and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources to the implementation of sustainable forest management;

4. Consistently increase the economic value and market share, including for export, of forest products originated from sustainably managed forests and their associated environmental functions;

### **Policies and measures**

5. *Recommends* that the following actions should be developed at global, regional and subregional levels to achieve the above-mentioned strategic objectives:

(a) Initiate or strengthen public-private partnerships with the private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to promote implementation of national forest programmes, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, good business practices and improved market transparency;

(b) Promote research and development of forests by means of a network of established centres of excellence in all regions of the world, especially in developing countries;

(c) Promote international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, and the participation of local communities;

(d) Promote long-term political commitments and strengthen existing commitments at national level;

6. ¶ ¶ that the following actions should be developed at the national level to achieve the above-mentioned strategic objectives:

(a) Formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national programmes containing measures to support and increase sustainable forest management and combat deforestation;

(b) Establish and make public national goals related to strategic objectives (1) to (4) established in paragraph 4 of the Understanding;

(c) Develop, periodically update and make available to the Forum national reports on actions and instruments adopted to achieve the strategic objectives of the Understanding, using comparable methodologies to be agreed upon by the Forum and taking into account reports required by other multilateral environmental agreements;

(d) Countries should seek, through the respective governing bodies of member States of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to ensure that their forest-related programmes are consistent with the priorities and are supportive of the actions adopted to implement the Understanding;

(e) Include forests in national poverty reduction strategies and, as appropriate, in strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to carry out the actions agreed upon in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, with a view to mobilizing new and additional financial resources for sustainable forest management;

(f) Integrate conservation and sustainable forest management within national development policies;

#### **Means of implementation**

7. D ¶ to develop the following means of implementation:

(a) Secure high-level political commitment and support to provide financial and technical resources to meet the strategic objectives of the present resolution, including by the establishment of a global forest fund, with the aim of providing specific financial resources for achieving the objectives of the Understanding;

(b) Establish a clearing house mechanism to facilitate a better exchange of experiences and good practices and to facilitate access by developing countries to better technology for a sustainable forest management and an increase of in situ value added for forest products;

(c) Promote the transfer of technology to and capacity-building in developing countries to enable them to implement national policies and measures aimed at reversing the loss of forest cover in their territories as well as significantly increase the area of protected and sustainably managed forests;

(d) Invite the Council of the Global Environment Facility to strengthen its role in implementing sustainable forest management by establishing a new operational programme on forests with sufficient additional funds to be allocated by the current replenishment negotiations without prejudice to other operational programmes;

### **Institutional modalities**

8. *D* ¶ ¶ that the Proposals for Action adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests should be fully taken into account in the development of the actions referred to in paragraph 4 above;

9. *D* ¶ that the Forum should meet every two years to assess the implementation of this Understanding, review national reports, the provision of financial resources and the adequacy of the modalities for transfer of technology and to provide guidance for further action to achieve the objectives established above;

10. *D* ¶ that regional and subregional meetings should be held at least every two years to discuss practical steps at that level for the implementation of the Understanding; such meetings which should be conducted by regional or subregional organizations mandated by their member States and acknowledged by the Forum, would be prepared jointly by the designated organizations and the Forum secretariat;

11. *D* ¶ ¶ that the Forum should continue to encourage and facilitate the participation of stakeholders from all major groups in its work, in an open and transparent way;

12. *D* ¶ that the Forum should agree on a multi-year programme of work 2006-2015 and the strengthening of the secretariat to fulfil its mandate;

13. *D* ¶ that the Forum should review, in 2015, the progress achieved in international cooperation for the conservation, management and sustainable development of all types of forests and should consider ways for further strengthening the international arrangement on forests, taking into account the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35.

- Safeguard forests, as appropriate, from fire, insects, diseases, pollution and alien species
- Apply management plans
- Complete networks of protected areas
- Strengthen transparent forest concession allocation systems
- Require environmental impact assessments for projects with likely adverse effects
- Ensure the participation of stakeholders in forest policy decisions
- Encourage industry to develop and use voluntary codes going beyond national legislation
- Support the development of certification schemes that reflect “essential” principles
- Promote research, capacity-building, education and public awareness

(c) Promote cooperation among parties and between parties and international organizations (for example, through agreements);

(d) Consider enhanced access to public and private financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet their obligations (likely a new forest fund);

(e) Establish a compliance regime and dispute settlement process;

(f) Create a permanent governance body with the power to monitor, periodically review and recommend approaches to strengthen the effectiveness of the convention and advance its implementation through the establishment of subsidiary bodies and actions such as programmes of work;

(g) Establish a secretariat to provide coordination;

(h) Create a structure to enable periodic monitoring and reporting on global and regional progress in achieving sustainable forest management as well as peer reviews;

(i) Define its relationship to other international legally binding forest-related agreements.

## **V. Proposal of the European Union**

### **Part A: Strengthening of the International Arrangement on Forests**

- Preambular paragraphs, including reaffirmation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000 (reference to the 2012-2013 cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development)
- Global goals and national commitments
- Text on multi-year programme of work, including prioritization of implementation and emerging issues
- Means of implementation



- Invitation to the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, with support of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, to develop terms of reference for country reports
- Text on the Forum secretariat
- Text on Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including on its joint initiatives (such as continued work on streamlining forest-related reporting) and on monitoring, assessment and reporting on sustainable forest management (reference to criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management)
- Text on working modalities (periodicity, location, regionalization of meetings of the International Arrangement on Forests)
- Text on interim review (2011) and review (2015), including consideration of the establishment of a legally binding instrument on all types of forests at the latest in the context of the review in 2015
- Discontinuation.

## **Part B: Draft international instrument on all types of forests**

### **Preamble**

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- Reconfirmation of the Rio Declaration, the Forest Principles and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action;
  - Recognition of valuable contributions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests towards building consensus on forest policy and sustainable forest management;
  - Reconfirmation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Millennium Development Goals and the 2005 World Summit Outcome;
  - Underscoring of multiple economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits provided by forests;
  - Emphasis on contribution of sustainable forest management to sustainable development and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals;
  - Expression of concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation;
  - Affirmation that the sustainable management of forests is a common concern of humankind;
  - Recognition of contribution of regional processes;
  - Recognition that the shared global goals are mutually supportive and intersect with the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management;

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\* For the European Union, the added value of subscription depends on the level of adherence to and the contents of the international instrument on all types of forests and on negotiations at the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

- Desire to enhance and complement existing international arrangements for the sustainable management of forests;
- Determination to sustainable forest management for the benefit of present and future generations;

Have agreed as follows:

## **I. Purpose**

I.1 Purpose of the international instrument on all types of forests is to:

- Strengthen the implementation function of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000;
- Strengthen the long-term commitment to sustainable forest management;
- Achieve the global goals;

## **II. Use of terms**

II.1 Definition of terms used for the purposes of the international instrument, including:

- States;
- Regional economic integration organizations;
- Collaborative Partnership on Forests;
- Forests;

## **III. Principles**

III.1 Principles should include:

- National sovereignty over and responsibility for forests;
- Common, but differentiated responsibilities;
- Role of international cooperation in supporting national efforts;
- Recognition of the importance of forest governance;
- Recognition of the role and contribution of the private sector and stakeholders;
- Recognition of the importance of partnerships;

## **IV. Global goals and national commitments**

IV.1 With a view to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, [subscribing] States agree to achieve, by 2015, the following shared global goals on forests:

*G 1*

[Agreed ad ref.] Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

*G* 2

[Agreed ad ref.] Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits and the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;

*G* 3



*C* *F*

VIII.6 Text explaining the relationship between the international instrument and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests [to be informed by the outcomes of the Forum deliberations];

VIII.7 The Forum secretariat shall serve as secretariat of instrument;



**4. Global goals or strategic objectives**

- Reversing forest cover loss
- Promoting forest benefits through sustainable forest management and legally harvested forest products

**Annex**  
**List of subscribing States**

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**VII. Co-Chairs' draft indicative elements for a non-legally binding instrument**

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**Context/preamble**

- Recognition of global importance of forests
- Economic, social and environmental benefits
- Principles
- Need for political support
- Recognizing regional differences

**Strategic objectives/goals**

- Same as in resolution

**Policies and measures**

- Strengthening subregional initiatives

**Means of implementation**

- Technology transfer
- Funding mechanism
- Capacity-building
- Enhanced international cooperation and assistance
- Involvement of major groups

**Institutional modalities**

- Review in 2015
- Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests as secretariat for the instrument

**Annex**  
**Proposed list of elements of an understanding/instrument**

**Context/preamble**

- Importance of forests and multiple benefits
- Concern over deforestation and forest degradation
- Sustainable forest management for benefit of present and future generations



- Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/ Intergovernmental Forum on Forests processes
- Role of forests in sustainable development (World Summit on Sustainable Development)
- Contribution of forests to the Millennium Development Goals (2005 World Summit)
- Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35
- Need to strengthen the International Arrangement on Forests
- Need for adequate means of implementation
- Special needs (developing countries, including least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition)
- Need for strong political commitment
- Shared global goals/strategic objectives
- National sovereignty over forests
- National responsibility for forests
- International obligations
- Need to reflect regional nuances and variations
- Need for policies and strategies to be relevant to national circumstances
- Role of international cooperation in supporting national efforts
- Importance of dialogue and cooperation at regional and subregional levels
- Importance of cross-sectoral coordination at all levels
- Importance of forest governance
- Contribution of major groups, for example, the private sector, communities and other stakeholders
- Need to address social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainable forest management, using framework of seven thematic elements

**Strategic objectives/goals**

- Same as in resolution

**Policies and measures**

- Identify policy measures for country action through development and implementation of national forestry programme (or equivalent)
- Set national goals
- Integration with other policies (for example, national development plans, poverty reduction strategies)
- Identify/implement measures to improve cross-sectoral coordination

- Strengthen regional and subregional processes
- Strengthen public/private partnerships
- Secure participation of major groups
- Promote mutually supportive forest-related programmes of members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

**Means of implementation**

- Official development assistance for forest-related activities
- Mobilizing finance from private, public and voluntary sources
- Enabling environment for investment
- Existing forest-related funds
- Global forest fund
- Innovative financial mechanisms
- Payment for environmental services
- Transfer of environmentally sustainable technology
- Research and development (including clearing house)
- Support to scientific and technological innovations
- Capacity-building
- Tackling illegal forest-related activities/forest law enforcement
- Better coordination of existing programmes and processes
- International cooperation (including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation)
- Peer review and monitoring, assessment and reporting

**Institutional modalities**

- Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests as secretariat for the instrument
- Submit voluntary national reports to the United Nations Forum on Forests on progress in implementation
- Assess effectiveness of instrument in 2015
- Adoption/subscription