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Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF10

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General Information

The multi-year programme of work (2007–2015) of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) sets a new focus on regional collaboration and partnerships. Since its eighth session in 2009 the Forum has solicited inputs from relevant regional and subregional forest related mechanisms, institutions, organizations and processes as an integral part of session deliberations.¹

At its ninth session, the Forum invited regional and subregional organizations to strengthen their contributions to the work of the Forum and to provide input, in the context of the overall theme for UNFF10, on their efforts towards the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, (herein after referred to as the forest instrument) and its four Global Objectives on Forests, through sharing regional perspectives, approaches and experiences. Regional activities on North-South and South-South cooperation, including

document. Otherwise, you may provide the reference or document itself to the UNFF Secretariat, indicating the relevant section.

The size of the report of the Secretary General will be a maximum of 8,500 words (approximately 16 pages). In view of this, the Forum Secretariat suggests no more than five pages of written input. We would be most grateful if you could send your inputs to unff@un.org, fax: 917-367-3186) by **30 September 2012**. In light of time constraints and financial limitations, you are kindly asked to provide your input in English.

Section I: Progress towards the implementation of the ft ott

environmental decision-making processes, and existing initiatives that we should become involved with to meet our objectives, and how should IABIN be structured and governed to be successful in Phase II.

Next Steps: At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants agreed to continue working for the second phase of IABIN to i) continue to advance objectives of Phase I, ii) contribute to sustainable development to have real impact of the ground, iii) ensure mechanism that will allow all countries to benefit from the data and tools, iv) build capacity, to communicate and market the utility of this network, and v) measure the successful implementation of the IABIN project.

IABIN, as a Hemispheric Network will continue to monitor progress utilizing the following CBD generated indicators:

Table 1: An initial list of variables/datasets/indicators for monitoring progress towards Target 19. Observation dataset	Sources and Organisational Holder/s	Start year	Frequency of update	Geographical
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Education: Number of students from developing countries receiving education in developed countries; Number of people from developing countries trained on biodiversity related knowledge support by developed countries; Budget for biodiversity related research	National agencies; NGOs; Academics; Private sector	No global systematic database exists	Annual	Global	National
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Section II: Characteristics of regional and sub-regional cooperation and partnerships Department of Sustainable Development

Strategic Goals

In the context of the complex dimensions of the concept of sustainable development, the specific OAS mandates and the international commitments of the OAS member states, including the Millennium Development Goals, the DSD is focusing its work in the support of the countries towards the following strategic goals:

Assuring quality water for human consumption and multiple uses and ensure its sustainable use for the current and future generations by improving water resources management practices;

Supporting access to energy that is diverse, reliable, secure, and affordable through the development of sustainable energy policies and promotion of sustainable energy technologies and services;

Promoting sustainable use of land and biodiversity resources through sustainable cities activities, land conservation, and sustainable use of land and biodiversity resources through fostering integrated approaches to land use that mainstream conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the land-use planning and land management process;

Reducing environmental health risks and people's vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards by supporting OAS member States in adapting to and managing the risk associated to environmental disasters and climate change and those associated to the management of hazardous chemicals, with the ultimate goal of mainstreaming risk management into development policy and planning;

Fostering good environmental governance, by supporting the development and strengthening of environmental laws, policies and institutions, as the foundation for sustainable development in the region.

A key lesson of the sustainable development challenge is the pivotal role that institutions and governance plays in translating targets into concrete action. Given limited resources, efforts continue to examine how best-practices from one project or region can be transferred and replicated elsewhere. One of the comparative strengths of the OAS in identifying institutional and capacity-building needs is through a network of dedicated partnerships. Each network consists of a national representative from each OAS member states, as well as centers of excellence, research centers and universities. The networks concentrate on a

particular theme, and provide a platform to exchange technical, legal, financing and other information at a hemispheric-wide level. The current system of networks includes :

Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN)
Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-making for Sustainable Development (ISP);
Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA)
Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law (FIDA).
Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR);
Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN)

Current initiative

Consistent with the roles that the DSD has played in previous global conferences on environment and development, the Department is gearing up to play a pivotal role in the preparations for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) through the actions within its *Roadmap to Rio+20*, as well as in the High Level International Advisory Committee for the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability (World Congress), which is being co-sponsored by the OAS and which will be held in June 2012, also in Rio de Janeiro. The World Congress is aimed at supporting the Rio+20 process by promoting global consensus among relevant stakeholders and outlining the future actions required to promote the pursuit of sustainable development in the 21st century founded on the rule of law and governance.

In addition to its support for the World Congress, the General Secretariat of the OAS has been hosting a series of hemispheric dialogues in a variety of sustainable development themes, such as Energy and Climate Change, Integrated Water Resources Management,

2. What advances has your organization made in such