

**Resolution on forests in a changing environment, enhanced cooperation
and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, regional and sub-regional inputs**

PP1 *Recalling* the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 62/98 on 17 December 2007, including its purposes;

PP2 *Reaffirming* their commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the UN and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and development policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries, as set out in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

PP3 *Also recalling* the overall theme of the 8th session of the UN Forum on Forests: “Forests in a changing environment”, and its related themes on forests and climate change; reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including in low forest cover countries; and forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas, as established in the Forum’s MYPOW;

PP4 *Concerned* about the interrelated impacts on forests in many regions of the world of climate change, loss of forest cover, forest degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss, and the associated impacts on over 1.6 billion people who depend on forests for subsistence, livelihood, income and employment, while also recognizing the contribution of forests in addressing climate change, biodiversity conservation and combating desertification;

PP5 *Recognizing* the special needs and requirements of countries with fragile forest ecosystems, including those of low forest cover countries,

PP6 *Emphasizing* that sustainable forest management, as a dynamic and evolving concept, aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental benefits of all types of forests and as such can significantly contribute to addressing climate change, desertification, forest and land degradation, forest biodiversity, and soil and water conservation;

PP7 *Also emphasizing* that the NLBI offers an integrated framework to implement sustainable forest management and in turn contribute to addressing the interrelated challenges of climate change, forest loss and degradation, and desertification, as well as contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, in a coherent, coordinated and cross-sectoral manner at local, national, regional and global levels;

PP8 *Taking note of* the IPCC 4th Assessment Report, and of the recent joint initiatives of the CPF on forest and climate change, including the Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change and the report prepared by the Global Forest Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change;

PP9 *Welcoming* regional and sub-regional initiatives to identify and address the interrelated challenges of forests in a changing environment, as well as the contribution of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in this regard;

PP10 *Recalling* relevant decisions and objectives of the UNCCD, UNFCCC, CBD and UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) recognizing the work of the UN

Forum on Forests and *noting* the opportunities for cooperation and coordination provided by the upcoming Conferences of the Parties to the UNCCD (September 2009, Buenos Aires), UNFCCC (December 2009, Copenhagen) and CBD (October 2010, Nagoya) and the next session of the CCPCJ (April 2010, Vienna);

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

1. Decides to:

1 (a) Encourage Member States to strengthen the implementation of SFM in addressing the challenges of “Forests in a changing environment”, including climate change, loss of forest cover, forest degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss, in the context of sustainable development;

1 (b) Encourage Member States to use national forest programmes or other strategies, as appropriate, for SFM to integrate measures to address climate change, conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, desertification, deforestation, degradation of forest ecosystems and water resources management, and to seek coherence with national development and poverty eradication strategies as well as with strategies and action plans under the UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC;

1 (c) Encourage Member States to strengthen coordination, in particular among their national focal points for the United Nations Forum on Forests, CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC, as well as, where applicable, for other CPF members, CITES and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to facilitate implementation of SFM at national and other applicable levels;

1 (d) Encourage Member States to share their experiences at the 9th session of the Forum in the context of the overall theme on “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication” and the related themes on community based forest management; social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure; and social and cultural aspects;

1 (e) Invite Member States, CPF members, the CITES Secretariat, and regional entities to enhance cooperation on the Forum’s cross-cutting issue of forest law enforcement and governance, including combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, as well as sharing of relevant information;

1 (f) Encourage Member States to promote in the framework of SFM the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity in all types of forests;

1 (g) Invite Member States to undertake national forest inventories, covering the economic, social and environmental aspects of SFM, for example, forest health, biodiversity, forest products and socio- economic and cultural aspects, with a view to enhancing the coherence and timeliness of information on forest resources, taking into account the need to further develop methodologies and the availability of resources, and encourage the international community to provide assistance to build national capacity in this regard;

1 (h) Invite Member States to consider the proposals contained in the CPF Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change and invite the CPF member organizations, consistent with their mandates, to promote the Strategic Framework;

1 (i) Invite Member States to use market-based approaches to develop and promote production and consumption of forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested according to domestic legislation;

2. Also decides to:

2 (a) Underscore the urgency to address the threats and sustainable development challenges posed by climate change, loss of biodiversity and desertification and their interrelation with forests, as well as underscore the role of SFM, which takes into account the full range of forest goods and services, in addressing these threats and challenges and contributing to poverty eradication;

Invite the governing bodies of member organizations of the CPF, in particular the COPs of the UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD, to continue to integrate, as appropriate, the sustainable management of all types of forests into their strategies by:

- Considering the NLBI, which offers an integrated framework to implement SFM and the four global objectives on forests and to enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, as a means to help ensure coherence and avoid duplication and
- Building on existing and well-established forest-related tools, processes, programmes and activities available at the national, regional and international levels to implement SFM, for example, national forest programmes; Criteria and Indicators for SFM and other related monitoring methodologies and assessment tools; and measures for capacity building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

2(b) Encourage FAO, UNDP and UNEP, as members of the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, to collaborate with the Forum secretariat and other CPF members in promoting SFM;

2 (c) Invite CPF member organizations to support, within their capacities, consistent with their mandates and upon request, South-South cooperation initiatives concerning SFM, including through convening workshops and providing technical assistance, subject to available resources;

2 (d) Invite regional and sub-regional organizations and processes, as well as major groups and other forest stakeholders, to provide inputs to the 9th session of the Forum on the theme of “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication”, inter alia, through sharing regional perspectives, approaches and experiences;

2 (e) Encourage Member States and *request* the UNFF secretariat to explore ways to increase stakeholder and civil society participation, including indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, and other holders of traditional forest-related knowledge, in future sessions of the Forum,

3. Invites the CPF to:

3 (a) Provide information on recent developments in the areas of SFM, climate change, deforestation, land degradation, desertification and biodiversity, including impacts on indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, with a focus on the themes of the 9th session of the Forum;

3 (b) *Continue* to provide, consistent with its mandate, science-based information relevant to the themes of future sessions of the Forum, through adequate modalities, including the global forest expert panels, which should continue to include experts from developing countries;

4. Requests the secretariat of the Forum to:

4(a) *Explore* with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions a format and opportunities for collaboration and cooperation and develop targeted joint activities related to SFM, the four global objectives on forests and the NLBI, including in the context of developments in the UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC and the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and the International Year of Forests in 2011, and report progress to the 9th session of the Forum;

4(b) *Explore* with CPF members opportunities for collaboration with the secretariats of CITES and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, in particular, on issues relevant to SFM, and report on progress to the 9th session of the Forum;

4 (c) *Collaborate* with FAO, other CPF members and Criteria and Indicator Processes on the application of indicators, considering the seven thematic elements of SFM and national priorities and conditions, as applicable, and to develop a format, with a view to assisting, upon request, Member States to report to the Forum on progress towards SFM and on national policies and measures and international cooperation and means of implementation as set forth in the NLBI;

4(d) *Seek* participation in the Joint Liaison Group for the Rio Conventions when forest-related matters are discussed, with a view to highlighting and exchanging information on the important potential contribution of the NLBI to the achievement of the Group's respective goals and objectives and to enhancing cooperation and coordination in the area of forests.

4 (e) *Further promote and facilitate* regional and sub-regional dialogue and cooperation on forests, including through country-led and region-led initiatives, to enhance regional and sub-regional contributions to implementation of SFM and inputs to future sessions of the Forum within the framework of the MYPOW;

4 (f) *Arrange* for an interactive panel on the food, energy and economic challenges and opportunities for the implementation of SFM and the achievement of the global objectives on forests at the 9th session of the Forum, in the context of the overall theme on "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication".

4 (g) *Seek* ways, in consultation with Member States and the CPF, to raise awareness of the linkages between SFM and the situation of women and youth who depend on and use forest to meet their basic daily needs, including for food, shelter and fuelwood, and to highlight this urgent issue at the 9th session of the Forum in the context of the overall theme on "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication".

4 (h) *Synthesize*, in cooperation with the CPF members, current information on studies and implementation activities related to the recognition of the range of values derived from goods and services provided by all types of forests and trees outside forests, as well as ways to reflect such values in the market place taking into account relevant national legislation and policies, and present result at the 10th session of the Forum in the context of the overall theme on "Forests and economic development";

4 (i) Develop a strategy, in consultation with Member States, for consideration by the Forum at its 9th session, to promote North-South as well as South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, on SFM, which also identifies options of support by the international community, while noting that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

Advance Unedited Text