

## **ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49**

### **Outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling and reaffirming* its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000,

*Also recalling* General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003,

*Further recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>1</sup>

*Reaffirming* its commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Deve9f06Bpronmome,

*Emphasizing*

(a) Enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to the implementation of the Johannesburg

*Global objective 4*

Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

4. *Agrees* 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. *Urges* countries to make concerted efforts to secure sustained high-level political commitment to strengthen the means of Urd Tc0.026.6increased e-le-me

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;

(l) Encouraging the development of mechanisms, including systems for attributing proper value, as appropriate, to the benefits derived from goods and services provided by forests and trees outside forests, consistent with relevant national legislation and policies;

(m) Fostering access, where appropriate, by households and communities to forest resources and markets;

(n) Supporting livelihoods and income diversification from forest products and services for small-scale forest owners, indigenous peoples, including forest-dependent local communities and poor people living in and around forest areas, consistent with sustainable forest management objectives;

6. *Also urges* countries to make concerted efforts to develop and implement national forest programmes, policies and strategies, as appropriate, in order to achieve the global objectives set out in the present resolution and to promote sustainable forest management, through capacity-building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including traditional technologies, and taking into account economic, social and environmental priorities specific to countries by:

(a) Providing greater support to scientific and technological innovations for sustainable forest management, including innovations that help local communities undertake sustainable forest management;

(b) Enhancing the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

(c) Integrating national forest programmes or other forest strategies into national strategies for sustainable development, relevant national action plans and, where appropriate, poverty reduction strategies;

(d) Promoting international cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;

(e) Promoting the active participation and empowerment of all forest-related stakeholders, especially local and forest-dependent communities, indigenous peoples, women and small-scale private forest owners and forest workers, in the development and implementation of sustainable forest management policies and programmes;

(f) Strengthening of mechanisms that enhance sharing and use of best practices in sustainable forest management;

(g) Strengthening the capacity of countries to address illegal practices according to national legislation and illegal international trade

- (iii) Collaborate on implementation activities;
- (iv) Exchange experiences and lessons learned;
- (d) Establishing or strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships and programmes;

8. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to enhance cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination by promoting the exchange of forest management-related experiences and good practices and considering the feasibility of serving as a clearing house to facilitate access by developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to better technology for sustainable forest management;

9. *Invites* the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, instruments, processes and United Nations bodies to improve collaboration and cooperation with the international arrangement on forests;

#### **Working modalities**

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

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

14. *Emphasizes* 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. *Stresses* 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. *Reaffirms* 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. *Decides* 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. *Calls upon* 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. *Agrees* 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. *Invites* the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in226.62ei3( in)-5.6(ship o)-5.6TDh6o0.0ctive 1rtner6(n)0.8 1rtneshouefur



(d) To explore ways to involve major groups in the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and to strengthen the Partnership's contribution to activities at the regional level;

(e) To provide, if requested by the Forum, an assessment of scientific knowledge-based actions needed to achieve sustainable forest management and the global objectives at all levels;

(f) To continue to strengthen the Tehran Process, consistent with their mandates and programmes of work, through developing and implementing strategies on conservation and rehabilitation of forests in low forest cover countries;

23. *Welcomes* the joint initiative by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the Center for International Forestry Research and the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, in collaboration with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, on science and technology in support of the Forum by assessing available information and producing reports on forests-related issues of concern to the Forum;

24. *Urges* States members of the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to help ensure that their forest-related priorities and programmes are integrated and mutually supportive, consistent with their mandates;

25. *Urges* 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. *Emphasizes* 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 binding instrument on all types of forests, and, in order to facilitate the work of the Forum in this regard;

27. *Requests* the secretariat of the Forum to circulate to the member States, by 31 July 2006, a compilation of the draft indicative elements and other proposals submitted by members during the sixth session, which are contained in the annex to the present resolution, as well as any further proposals submitted by members by 30 June 2006;

28. *Invites* the member States to provide comments on the compilation circulated by the Forum secretariat by 31 August 2006, and requests the secretariat to circulate these comments to the member States;

29. *Decides* that the Forum should, within its existing resources, convene an open-ended ad hoc expert group for up to five days to consider the content of the non-legally binding instrument to assist the Forum in its deliberations, drawing on the compilation and comments referred to in paragraphs 27 and 28 above; the group should be convened in time to allow its outputs to be made available in all

languages before the seventh session of the Forum and should be open to all member States, members of the organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and representatives of major groups;

30. *Invites* the member States to consider sponsoring country-led initiatives to contribute to the work of the Forum, emphasizing that such initiatives should be open to and facilitate participation by all members of the Forum, as well as members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and representatives of major groups;

31. *Invites* member States to contribute to the United Nations Forum on Forests Trust Fund in support of the actions outlined in paragraphs 29 and 30 above;

32. *Decides* that the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests will be reviewed in 2015 and that on this basis a full range of options will be considered, including a legally binding instrument on all types of forests, strengthening the current arrangement, continuation of the current arrangement and other options;

### **Input to the Commission on Sustainable Development**

33. *Decides also*

## **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.

##### **6. Means of implementation and modalities**

Including financial arrangements; international and regional cooperation; capacity-building; transfer of environmentally sound technologies; and involvement of major groups and relevant stakeholders.

Assumes institutional arrangements and governance are covered in the relevant Economic and Social Council resolution.

##### **7. Process for assessment/monitoring/reporting**

##### **8. Process for information exchange/cooperation/peer review**

##### **9. Mechanism to review future effectiveness/renewal of the instrument**

## **III. Proposal of Brazil**

### **International understanding on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests**

*The United Nations Forum on Forests,*

*Reaffirming* the relevance of the forest-related commitments made in Agenda 21, in the non-legally binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation,

*Reaffirming also* the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals within their time frame and concerned that some countries may not be in a position to do so in view of lack of adequate financial and technical resources,

*Reaffirming further* the Principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular those relating to the sovereign right of countries to take advantage of their own resources according to their policies on environment and development as well as to the common but differentiated responsibilities of the countries, based on their historical contribution towards the degradation of the global environment,

*Reaffirming* the decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the proposals for action identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, and welcoming ongoing efforts to implement such actions,

*Reaffirming also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, which stated that the main objective of the international arrangement on forests is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to that end; that the purpose of such an international arrangement would be to promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests at the national, regional and global levels in order to provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development and to carry out principal functions, based on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the non-legally binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles), chapter 11 of vimpleme.11(1)284-5.7( or49. nciples )-5.8(for a Global Co)-5.6(nses )-5.9

*Convinced* that policies and measures adopted at global, regional, subregional and national levels should enhance the capacity of countries to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed sources,

*Aware* that States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries to better address the problems of environmental degradation and that trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade,

*Reaffirming*

### 3. Reversing the decline in official development

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. *Decides* 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. *Decides also* that the Proposals for Action adopted by the

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12. *Decides further* 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. *Decides* 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.

#### **IV. Proposal of Canada**

##### **Possible elements of an international convention on forests**

An international convention on forests should build on the many recommendations produced by the international dialogue of the past 15 years and, at a minimum, should:





## **Preamble**

*The [subscribing] States,\**

- 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

## **II. Use of terms**

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

- States;

[Agreed ad ref.] 1. Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

IV.2 [Subscribing] States agree to develop national targets contributing to the achievement of the global goals;

## **V. National measures**

V.1 In order to achieve sustainable forest management and the global goals and to meet the related national commitments, [Subscribing] States shall:

(a) Develop, further elaborate, where appropriate, and implement national forest programmes or other forest strategies;

(b) Integrate national forest programmes or other forest strategies into national strategies for sustainable development, national action plans in relation to multilateral environmental agreements and, where appropriate, into poverty reduction strategies;

## **VI. Strengthening of coordination and international cooperation**

VI.1 [Subscribing] States to cooperate, at the regional and global level, with other [subscribing] States, directly or, where appropriate, through competent international organizations, on matters of mutual interest, for sustainable forest management and the achievement of the global goals;

VI.2 [Subscribing] States to promote cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination;

VI.3 [Subscribing] States to involve stakeholders in a transparent and participatory manner in forest decision-making;

## **VII. Monitoring, assessment, reporting, and multilateral consultative process**

VII.1 [Subscribing] States to monitor contributions to global goals, the achievement of national targets and the implementation of national forest programmes and other forest strategies and report to the United Nations Forum on Forests;

VII.2 Development of terms of reference for country reports;

VII.3 Establishment of a process for facilitation, peer review and dialogue;

## **VIII. Institutional modalities**

*United Nations Forum on Forests/[subscribing] States*

VIII.1 The United Nations Forum on Forests to monitor the implementation of the international instrument, including through monitoring of:

- Mobilization of resources;
- Activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests related to the international instrument;

- Cooperation with other forest-related international processes;
- Forest law enforcement, governance and trade;

VIII.2 To identify forest-related priorities;

VIII.3 To consider and adopt amendments to the international instrument;

VIII.4 To consider and undertake any additional action at the international level that may be required for the achievement of the global goals of the international instrument in the light of experience gained;

*Regional cooperation*

VIII.5 Work with existing regional bodies related with forests or the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, through its Regional Forestry Commissions, to:

(a) Facilitate and strengthen regional cooperation and close collaboration with relevant regional and subregional organizations and processes and through building regional partnerships;

(b) Be complementary to and avoid duplication of existing processes;

(c) Be open to members of the Forum, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, major groups and interested parties;

(d) [Should be held in alternating years to the Forum];

(e) Address issues identified in the multi-year programme of work, including through assessing implementation and progress towards achieving the global goals;

(f) Provide regional input to the Forum;

(g) Build awareness of the work of the Forum and the agreed Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action;

(h) Ensure participation by the Forum secretariat;

*Collaborative Partnership on Forests*

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];

*Secretariat*

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

VIII.8 Functions of the secretariat;

**IX. Means of implementation**

[to be informed by the outcomes of the deliberations of the Forum]

*Financial resources*

IX.1 [Subscribing] States to:

**Structure and elements for a Voluntary [?] for Sustainable Forest  
Management  
(Codex Sylvanus)**

The subscribing States/Members of the General Assembly of the  
United Nations:

– Strengthen public-private partnerships



**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

- 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)