



United Nations Forum on Forests

**Report of the seventh session
(24 February 2006 and 16 to 27 April 2007)**

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I

1. *Decides* to adopt the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as contained in the appendix to the present resolution;
2. *Invites* members of the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, consistent with the mandates

World Summit Outcome;⁶ and existing international legally binding instruments relevant to forests,

Welcoming the accomplishments of the international arrangement on forests since its inception by Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, and recalling the decision, by Council resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006, to strengthen the international arrangement on forests,

Reaffirming their commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental 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,

Recognizing that sustainable forest management, as a dynamic and evolving concept, aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations,

Expressing their concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the slow rate of afforestation and forest cover recovery and reforestation, and the resulting adverse impact on economies, the environment, including biological diversity, and the livelihoods of at least a billion people and their cultural heritage, and emphasizing the need for more effective implementation of sustainable forest management at all levels to address these critical challenges,

Recognizing the impact of climate change on forests and sustainable forest management, as well as the contribution of forests to addressing climate change,

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

Stressing the need to strengthen political commitment and collective efforts at all levels, to include forests in national and international development agendas, to enhance national policy coordination and international cooperation and to promote intersectoral coordination at all levels for the effective implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests,

Emphasizing that effective implementation of sustainable forest management is critically dependent upon adequate resources, including financing, capacity-development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and recognizing in particular the need to mobilize increased financial resources, including from innovative sources, for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition,

Also emphasizing that implementation of sustainable forest management is also critically dependent upon good governance at all levels,

⁶ General Assembly resolution 60/10.

Noting

processes, as a reference framework for sustainable forest management and, in this context, identify, as appropriate, specific environmental and other forest-related aspects within those elements for consideration as criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management;

(c) Promote the use of management tools to assess the impact on the environment of projects that may significantly affect forests, and promote good environmental practices for such projects;

(d) Develop and implement policies that encourage the sustainable management of forests to provide a wide range of goods and services, and that also contribute to poverty reduction and the development of rural communities;

(e) Promote efficient production and processing of forest products, with a view inter alia, to reducing waste and enhancing recycling;

(f) Support the protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices in sustainable forest management with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, and promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization, according to national legislation and relevant international agreements;

(g) Further develop and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management that are consistent with national priorities and conditions;

(h) Create enabling environments to encourage private sector investment, as well as investment by and involvement of local and indigenous communities, other forest users and forest owners and other relevant stakeholders, in sustainable forest management, through a framework of policies, incentives and regulations;

(i) Develop financing strategies that outline the short-, medium- and long-term financial planning for achieving sustainable forest management, taking into account domestic, private sector and foreign funding sources;

(j) Encourage 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 marketplace, consistent with relevant national legislation and policies;

(k) Identify and implement measures to enhance cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination among sectors affecting and affected by forest policies and management, with a view to integrating the forest sector into national decision-making processes and promoting sustainable forest management, including by addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and by promoting forest conservation;

(l) Integrate national forest programmes, or other strategies for sustainable forest management, as referred to in paragraph 6 (a) above, into national strategies for sustainable development, relevant national action plans and poverty reduction strategies;

(m) Establish or strengthen partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and joint programmes with stakeholders to advance implementation of sustainable forest management;

(n) Review and, as needed, improve forest-related legislation, strengthen forest law enforcement, and promote good governance at all levels in order to support sustainable forest management, to create an enabling environment for forest investment and to combat and eradicate illegal practices according to national legislation, in the forest and other related sectors;

(o) Analyse the causes of and address threats to forest health and vitality from natural disasters and human activities, including threats from fire, pollution, pests, disease and invasive alien species;

(p) Create, develop or expand, and maintain networks of protected forest areas, taking into account the importance of conserving representative forests, by means of a range of conservation mechanisms, applied within and outside protected forest areas;

(q) Assess the conditions and management effectiveness of existing protected forest areas with a view to identifying improvements needed;

(r) Strengthen the contribution of science and research in advancing sustainable forest management by incorporating scientific expertise into forest policies and programmes;

(s) Promote the development and application of scientific and technological innovations, including those that can be used by forest owners and local and indigenous communities to advance sustainable forest management;

(t) Promote and strengthen public understanding of the importance of and the benefits provided by forests and sustainable forest management, including through public awareness programmes and education;

(u) Promote and encourage access to formal and informal education, extension and training programmes on the implementation of sustainable forest management;

(v) Support education, training and extension programmes involving local and indigenous communities, forest workers and forest owners, in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests, particularly fragile ecosystems;

(w) Support the development of national forest policies and plans, including the implementation of forest management plans, and the promotion of forest management transparency;

VI. International cooperation and means of implementation

7. To achieve the purpose of the instrument, Member States should:

(a) Make concerted efforts to secure sustained high-level political commitment to strengthen the means of implementation for sustainable forest management, including financial resources, to provide support, in particular for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as to mobilize and provide significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from private, public, domestic and international sources to and within developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition;

(b) Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional

(k) Enhance and facilitate access to and transfer of appropriate, environmentally sound and innovative technologies and corresponding know-how relevant to sustainable forest management and to efficient value-added processing of forest products, in particular to developing countries, for the benefit of local and indigenous communities;

(l) Strengthen mechanisms that enhance sharing among countries and the use of best practices in sustainable forest management, including through freeware-based information and communications technology;

(m) Strengthen national and local capacity in keeping with their conditions for the development and adaptation of forest-related technologies, including technologies for the use of fuelwood;

(n) Promote international technical and scientific cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, in the field of sustainable forest management, through the appropriate international, regional and national institutions and processes;

(o) Enhance the research and scientific forest-related capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, particularly the capacity of research organizations to generate and have access to forest-related data and information, and promote and support integrated and interdisciplinary research on forest-related issues, and disseminate research results;

(p) Strengthen forestry research and development in all regions, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, through relevant organizations, institutions and centres of excellence, as well as through global, regional and subregional networks;

(q) Strengthen cooperation and partnerships at the regional and subregional levels to promote sustainable forest management;

(r) As members of the governing bodies of the organizations that form the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, help ensure that the forest-related priorities and programmes of members of the Partnership are integrated and mutually supportive, consistent with their mandates, taking into account relevant policy recommendations of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(s) Support the efforts of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to develop and implement joint initiatives.

VII. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

8. Member States should monitor and assess progress towards achieving the purpose of this instrument.

9. Member States should submit, on a voluntary basis, taking into account availability of resources and the requirements and conditions for the preparation of reports for other bodies or instruments, national progress reports as part of their regular reporting to the Forum.

VIII. Working modalities

10. The Forum should address, within the context of its multi-year programme of work, the implementation of this instrument.

B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

2. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Term of office of the Bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006, in which, inter alia, it decided that following its seventh session, in 2007, the United Nations Forum on Forests would meet biennially for a period of up to two weeks, and also recalling decision ORG/2 of the Forum's organizational session held on 12 and 16 February 2001, in which the Forum provided that members of the Bureau of the Forum would hold office for a term of one year, decides that, commencing with its eighth session, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Forum shall hold office for a term of two years.

Draft decision II

Dates and venue for the eighth session of the Forum

4. Regional and subregional inputs.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

9. Dates and venue for the ninth session of the Forum.
10. Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Forum.
11. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its eighth session.

C. Resolution brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following resolution adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests is brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 7/1

Taking into consideration the lessons learned from the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for 2001-2005, and current multi-year programmes of work of the functional commissions of the Council,

awareness-raising, education and information-sharing)” and “Forest law enforcement and governance at all levels” will be addressed in the context of the discussions of the themes of that session;

(e) At each session, the Forum will also address the common agenda items achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests; regional and subregional inputs; multi-stakeholder dialogues and participation; and enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, including activities and inputs of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(f) At each session, the Forum will provide, including through interactive panels, a platform for dialogue with:

(i) The members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and, on invitation, the Chairpersons of the governing bodies of relevant environmental multilateral agreements, as appropriate;

(ii) Representatives of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, and other relevant stakeholders;

(iii) Regional and subregional forest-related and other relevant processes, mechanisms, instruments and organizations;

(g) The discussion at each session will focus on the exchange of national and regional experiences, activities and sharing best practices and lessons learned, identifying constraints and challenges in the advancement of elements in 1 (a) above;

(h) Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, high-level ministerial segments, including a dialogue with the heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as other forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, will be held in 2011 and 2015;

(i) At its ninth session, to be held in 2011, the Forum will also celebrate the International Year of Forests 2011;

(j) The Forum secretariat will report on activities and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions related to the multi-year programme of work and will prepare a summary of relevant decisions of the Forum to contribute to the work of the Council, as needed;

2. The outcomes of the deliberations could be, as appropriate, the Chairman’s summary (or summaries) and the negotiated resolutions and decisions containing policy guidance for Member States and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

3. The Forum will hold its sessions at United Nations Headquarters in the first half of 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015;

B. Intersessional activities of the Forum

4. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49, the Forum may convene ad hoc expert group meetings;

5. The Forum welcomes the convening of country-, organization- and region-led initiatives in support of the work of the Forum and focused on topical issues of the multi-year programme of work;

6. During periods between biennial sessions of the Forum, the Bureau and the Forum secretariat will coordinate to effectively prepare for the sessions, drawing on the outcomes of the following:

- (a) Consultations with Member States;
- (b) Forest-related, and other relevant regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes;
- (c) Member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;
- (d) Major group activities;
- (e) Country-, organization- and region-led initiatives on topics relevant to the upcoming Forum session;
- (f) Ad hoc expert group meetings;
- (g) Expert meetings and/or preparatory working meetings that the Forum may decide to organize for the preparation of its future sessions.

C. Regional and subregional inputs and dialogue on regional priorities

7. Relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes are invited to address issues and agenda items planned for each Forum session and to provide a concise summary of their deliberations, to be submitted well in advance to the secretariat prior to the upcoming Forum session, and are encouraged to contribute to the discussions of the Forum sessions, according to their respective mandates;

8. The Secretary-General is requested to prepare a report summarizing the submissions described in paragraph 8 above;

D. Emerging issues

9. The Forum may include in the agenda of any of its sessions emerging issues of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and sustainable forest management and which are urgent, unexpected and not already addressed in the agenda of the respective session;

10. The Bureau of the session, in consultation with Member States, will decide on the inclusion of emerging issues, taking into account contributions from members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, major groups, regions and subregions and the Forum secretariat;

E. Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination

11. The Forum will continue to provide policy guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

12. At each session, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are invited to continue to report in a consolidated manner to the Forum on the Partnership's initiatives and activities, including progress on the means of

implementation, in support of the work of the Forum, and are encouraged to participate actively in the discussions of the Forum;

13. The Forum will further encourage partnerships involving multi-stakeholders and relevant forest-related international, regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes, as well as the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to develop synergies and to explore possibilities for joint activities towards the achievement of sustainable forest management, the global objectives of forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

14. Major groups and other forest stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to and participate actively in the discussions of the Forum and, where appropriate, in relevant regional and subregional discussions with a view to providing their perspectives and input to the Forum's programme of work and engaging in an exchange of views and experiences with other Forum participants;

F. International Year of Forests 2011

15. Member States, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional groups, major groups and other stakeholders are invited to share information on their activities in support of the International Year of the Forests;

G. Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

16. The Forum will address, within the context of its multi-year programme of work, the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

H. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

17. 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 f

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session will also include an assessment of the international arrangement on forests and the contribution of forests to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

Appendix

United Nations Forum on Forests: multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015

	<i>Eighth session</i>	<i>Ninth session</i>	<i>Tenth session</i>	<i>Eleventh session</i>
Main task	Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests			Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the international arrangement on forests
Overall themes	Forests in a changing environment; Means of implementation for sustainable forest management	Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication	Forests and economic development	Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests
Themes	<p>Forests in a changing environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests and climate change • Reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including low forest cover countries • Forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based forest management • Social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure • Social and cultural aspects <p>International Year of Forests 2011 Assessment of Progress High-level segment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest products and services • National forest programmes and other sectoral policies and strategies • Reducing risks and impacts of disasters • Benefits of forests and trees to urban communities <p>An emerging issue may be also considered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options, as stated by the Council in its resolution 2006/49, paragraph 32 • Reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Eighth session

Ninth session

Tenth session

Eleventh session

Chapter II

Multi-year programme of work

1. The Forum considered agenda item 3 at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 16 and 27 April 2007. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/CN.18/2007/2);

(b) Letter dated 23 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2007/7).

2. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the Forum considered agenda item 3 jointly with item 4, “non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests”, and heard an introductory statement by the Coordinator of the secretariat of the Forum.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Minister of Forestry of Indonesia.

4. Also at the same meeting, presentations were made by two representatives of the secretariat of the Forum.

Action taken by the Forum

Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2007-2015

5. At its 7th meeting, on 27 April, the Forum had before it a draft resolution entitled “multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2007-2015”, which had been submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations and which was contained in an informal paper in English only.

6. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Vice-Chairman, Arvids Ozols (Latvia), in his capacity as Co-Chairman of Working Group 2.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary read out an oral statement prepared by the Programme Planning and Budget Division, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts of the United Nations Secretariat.

8. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, the United States of America, Argentina, Germany, Mexico, Costa Rica and Switzerland.

9. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft resolution (see chap. 1, sect. C, resolution 7/1).

Chapter III

Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

1. The Forum considered agenda item 4 at its 3rd, 4th and 7th meetings, on 16, 17 and 27 April 2007. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the revised composite draft text for developing a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/2007/3);

(b) Report of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on the consideration of the content of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/AC.1/2006/4).

2. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the Forum considered agenda item 4 jointly with item 3, "Multi-year programme of work", and heard an introductory statement by the Coordinator of the secretariat of the Forum.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Minister of Forestry of Indonesia.

4. Also at the same meeting, presentations were made by two representatives of the secretariat of the Forum.

5. At the 4th meeting, on 17 April, on the proposal of the representative of Australia, endorsed by the Bureau of the Forum, the Forum agreed to hear a presentation of a background paper on means of implementation contributed by the Programme on Forests hosted by the World Bank.

6. At the same meeting, an introductory statement was made by a representative of the World Bank.

7. Also at the same meeting, the background paper was presented by two consultants on behalf of the Programme on Forests.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Germany, Cuba, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Action taken by the Forum

Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

9. At its 7th meeting, on 27 April, the Forum had before it a draft resolution entitled "Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests", containing in an annex, for adoption by the General Assembly, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, and which was contained in an informal paper in English only.

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, Hamidon Ali (Malaysia), in his capacity as Chairman of Working Group I.

11. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Brazil, Australia and Nigeria.

12. At the same meeting, the Forum decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A).

Theme 1
indigenous peoples and local communities

8. At the same meeting, on the theme “Indigenous peoples and local communities”, a statement was made by the facilitator in her capacity as representative of the indigenous peoples major group.

Theme 2
engaging the private sector

9. Also at the same meeting, on the theme “Engaging the private sector”, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: business and industry; workers and trade unions; farmers and small forest landowners; scientific and technological communities; children and youth; and women. Statements were also made by the representatives of Guatemala, Pakistan and Australia.

Theme 3
strengthening major groups’ involvement

10. At the same meeting, on the theme “Strengthening major groups’ involvement”, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: women; farmers and small forest landowners; children and youth; scientific and technological communities; non-governmental organizations; and indigenous peoples. Statements were also made by the representatives of Guatemala, Uruguay, Switzerland, Ecuador and the United States.

11. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chairman of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Chapter V

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme

Chapter VI

Chapter VII

Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Forum

1. At its 7th meeting, on 27 April 2007, the Forum had before it an informal paper submitted in English only, containing the provisional agenda for its eighth session.
2. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Mexico and Australia, after which the Forum adopted the provisional agenda (see chap. I, sect. B. draft decision III).

Chapter VIII

Adoption of the report of the Forum on its seventh session

1. At its 7th meeting, on 27 April 2007, the Chairman introduced the draft report of the Forum on its seventh session (E/CN.18/2007/L.1).
2. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Forum decided to annex to its report a Chairman's summary of the launch of the preparations for the International Year of Forests 2011; a Chairman's summary of discussion of the panel of chairmen of the governing bodies of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; and a Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue.
3. The Forum adopted the draft report and authorized the Secretariat to finalize it with the support of the Bureau.

Chapter IX

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests held its seventh session at United Nations Headquarters on 24 February 2006 and from 16 to 27 April 2007. The Forum held seven plenary meetings (1st to 7th).
2. The session was opened by the Coordinator of the Forum secretariat.

B. Attendance

3. The Forum was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies. Representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and of intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in document E/CN.18/2007/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 24 February 2006 and 16 April 2007, the Forum elected the following officers for its seventh session:

Chairman:

Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairmen:

Hamidon Ali (Malaysia)

Cristián Maquieira (Chile)

André-Jules Madingou (Gabon)

Arvids Ozols (Latvia)

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 April 2007, the Forum was informed that Cristián Maquieira (Chile) had withdrawn from the position of Vice-Chairman.

D. Adoption of the agenda

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 16 April, the Forum adopted the following provisional agenda for its seventh session (E/CN.18/2007/1):
 1. Election of officers.
 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
 3. Multi-year programme of work.
 4. Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests.
 5. Multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Annex I**List of documents**

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
E/CN.18/2007/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.18/2007/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2007/3	4	Note by the Secretariat on the revised composite draft text for developing a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
E/CN.18/2007/4	5	Note by the Secretariat on the multi-stakeholder dialogue
E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.1	5	Discussion paper contributed by the children and youth major group
E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.2	5	Discussion paper contributed by the workers and trade unions major group
E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.3	5	Discussion paper contributed by the non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples major group
E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.4	5	Discussion paper contributed by the scientific and technological communities major group
E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.5	5	Discussion paper contributed by the women major group
E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.6	5	Discussion paper contributed by the farmers and small forest landowners major group
E/CN.18/2007/5	6	Note by the Secretariat on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination
E/CN.18/2007/6	6	Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2007
E/CN.18/AC.I/2006/4	6	Report of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on the consideration of the content of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
E/CN.18/2007/7	3	Letter dated 23 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.18/2007/INF.1	1	List of participants

Annex II

Chairman's summary of the launch of preparations for the International Year of Forests, 2011

1. By its resolution 61/193, the General Assembly decided to declare 2011 the International Year of Forests. On 17 April 2007, a special event was held to mark the launch of preparations for the Year. The present summary highlights the hopes, commitments and possible constraints expressed during the discussions.
2. In his opening remarks, the Coordinator of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests explained that the International Year of Forests should provide a stimulus to enhance awareness and mobilize action for the successful promotion of sustainable forest management. He emphasized the need to bring about real change in how the world's forests were managed and stressed the vital role of broad public participation and education in raising awareness of nature and forests. He expressed his wish that Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, as well as relevant major groups, would collaborate in making the Year a success.
3. The Assistant Minister at the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water

Government of Indonesia to implement sustainable forest management. Specific actions included a national campaign for forest and land rehabilitation, effective management of protected areas, decentralization of forest resource management and tackling illegal logging. Noting that, at the current pace of illegal logging, natural forests in Indonesia could disappear within 10 years, he explained that the Government crackdown on illegal logging gave grounds for optimism.

6. The Minister for the Environment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo noted that the international community was paying increasing attention to the forests of his country, which were one of the world's richest areas of biodiversity. He outlined the themes in the area of forests and the environment, including good forestry governance; tackling illegal exploitation; participative multi-use zoning; preventing deforestation; valuing carbon storage and hydrographic functions; fostering non-extractive usage; promoting innovative funding mechanisms; restoration of major protected areas; reforestation; afforestation; redistribution of profits to local indigenous peoples; education; and closer collaboration with civil society and the private sector. He emphasized the importance of appealing to partners to help finance those activities to safeguard the "second lung of the planet" and ensure economic revitalization.

7. The Vice Minister for the Environment of Costa Rica said that, after the agreement on the Rio Forest Principles and the establishment of the Forum process, the most important international decision on forests had been the declaration of the International Year of Forests 2011. Action in Costa Rica had shown how deforestation could be reversed, the forest area having doubled between 1980 and 2005 as a result of political will, commitment to the planet and schemes to ensure payment for environmental services. The International Year of Forests provided an opportunity to consolidate sustainable forest management around the world and to give effect to the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. Human life depended on successful management of the environment and, in recognition of that fact, the International Year of Forests should promote the idea of "peace with nature".

8. The Under-secretary of State in the Ministry of Environment of Poland, noted that global forest resources continue to disappear at a frightening pace and that a concerted effort by the international community was required to raise awareness at all levels to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations. The International Year of Forests provided a means to that end. She declared that Poland actively supported the Year as a means of strengthening international dialogue on forests and further promoting sustainable forest management worldwide.

9. The Director General of the National Forest Commission of Mexico explained that a major priority for the Mexican Government was to seek international coordination and cooperation to bring the needs of mankind and natural resources into balance. The objectives of Mexico's ProTree initiative included poverty reduction in forest areas, improvements in the quality of life and better forest management. The initiative was an ambitious programme that provided support for those who lived in forests, promoted payment for environmental services and encouraged sustainable forest management through producer associations. There was also a major tree-planting programme in support of the Plant for the Planet:

Billion Tree Campaign, coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

10. Shamsul Momen Palash of the Organization of Art for Children and proprietor of the BanChashi nursery, Bangladesh, said that action was urgently needed to help “our sick planet”. Today’s environmental challenge was too big for any one country. The consequences of climate change were especially serious for low-lying countries, such as Bangladesh. In support of the UNEP campaign, he was planning to help a million children in Bangladesh to plant a million trees. That would involve personal visits to around 1,000 villages from now un

Annex III

Chairman's summary of discussion on the panel of chairmen of governing bodies of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

change; the spread of invasive species; and the concentration of financial power. He highlighted the importance of the work of the present session, stating that it would help reorient the international forest agenda as it moved into a new phase. At the same time, there was a need to strengthen the role of environmental institutions

underlying causes of forest loss, which included unsustainable consumption and production patterns and unsustainable financial and timber trade flows, was emphasized.

empowerment, they pointed out that the global objectives on forests would not be achieved without taking those standards into account.

11. Governments welcomed the contributions from major groups and noted the importance of stakeholder involvement in the work of the Forum. Several Governments called for participation by major groups in the working group negotiations and requested major groups to provide text for the non-legally binding instrument and the multi-year programme of work. The need for greater participation by local authorities and business and industry was emphasized. It was also noted that a representative from business and industry would be participating in the second segment of the multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Part 2

Moving beyond dialogue to action

12. While multi-stakeholder dialogues had been effective in involving major groups in the Forum's work, the need for innovative approaches to take the dialogue further, to enhance stakeholder engagement in policy deliberations and implementation of sustainable forest management was stressed. The substantive contributions of major groups on a variety of issues, including the root causes of deforestation, the role of traditional forest-related knowledge and gender aspects of sustainable forest management, were noted. The hands-on experience of major groups in grass-roots-level obstacles and challenges of sustainable forest management implementation was highlighted.

13. Major groups stressed that the status quo was unacceptable, and called for immediate definitive action to stem the loss of forests. They expressed their readiness to make concrete suggestions to ensure that the major groups were active partners in the solution.

14. It was pointed out that, while the major groups were poised to partner with Member States, the draft text of the non-legally binding instrument did not highlight stakeholder involvement sufficiently. Referring to references in the draft text on partnerships, the major groups likened their current role in the Forum to that of a "neglected wife" seeking reconciliation.

Participation by indigenous peoples and local communities

15. Indigenous peoples and non-governmental organizations pointed out that many indigenous groups were complex nations with a distinct legal status, which could cause difficulties for their participation in intergovernmental forums in which some Member States did not recognize their distinctive status.

16. The close relationship between indigenous peoples and their natural environment was stressed. The interconnection between the survival of indigenous communities and their knowledge of the natural world, which transcended issues of subsistence was highlighted. The central role of the environment and forests in the

of Governments centred on policy development and the facilitation of sustainable forest management at the local level.

Private sector in sustainable forest management

18. Business and industry stressed the important role played by the private sector in funding and supporting sustainable forest management. They called for the non-legally binding instrument to make a strong statement on sustainable forest management principles, noting in particular the need for stable policy settings to encourage long-term investment and a strong partnership framework for best practices, economic growth and employment. On the issue of illegal logging, addressing the issue was seen as a moral and environmental imperative, critical to ensuring the legality and sustainability of forest products. The role of forest certification schemes in supporting national and international markets for forest products was also stressed.

19. Non-governmental organizations highlighted the different elements of private sector involvement in the forest industry and the multifunctional nature of forests, pointing out that the forest industry was broader than the wood and paper industry. They called for greater application and enforcement of existing laws to support sustainable forest management and provide a level playing field. Non-governmental organizations expressed their willingness to continue to work with industry and called for the involvement of civil society and major groups in certification schemes.

20. Farmers and small forest landowners pointed out that sustainable forest management should not be based solely upon subsidies. While Government involvement in certification schemes was seen to be critical, it was also felt that certification should remain a market-led initiative. Examples of certification schemes developed by forest owners, along with other examples of mutually supportive initiatives by Governments and private sector were cited. Noting that lack of recognition and resources were the key barriers to effective implementation of partnerships, the group called for a mechanism for effective recognition of public-private partnerships in the draft text of the non-legally binding instrument.

21. Women highlighted inequities when contracts were prepared between the private sector and local communities, and stressed that marginalized communities were often unable to negotiate effectively to protect their own interests. They called for mechanisms to ensure equitable distribution of new resources and investments in forestry.

22. The scientific and technological communities pointed out that, in previous decades, it had been thought that private investment would provide the funds needed for developing forest sector development in developing countries. Noting the new public-private partnership approach, the group stressed the need for further analysis of the new obligations and responsibilities for both receiving and investing partners under that system. The critical role played by science and technology in research and development and building capacity at the national level was highlighted. The importance of education and raising awareness, and of financing for the implementation of sustainable forest management tools in education systems and extension programmes for local communities and land management practitioners, was also stressed.

23. Children and youth pointed out that while the portfolio approach put emphasis on private sector investment for sustainable forest management, the current demand for certified timber on the global market had not been very high. Given this lack of demand for certified timber, they voiced their concern as to whether the private sector would be willing to continue investing in sustainable forest management. They also raised a question on the potential role of the private sector in education and capacity-building for sustainable forest management.

24. Governments noted the importance of private sector investment in sustainable forest management, stressing the role played by long-term investments in providing incentives for forest production and management. The need for strong private-public partnerships was reiterated by several Governments. Significant additional investments towards developing partnerships with the private sector were called for, while the need for an enabling environment for such initiatives was also noted. The role played by forest certification schemes at the local, national and international levels was stressed, and several examples were presented.

Major group involvement in the implementation of the multi-year programme of work

25. Major groups described their vision of what would constitute a successful non-legally binding instrument and multi-year programme of work, and how each major group could contribute to that success.

26. Farmers and small forest landowners stated that, from their perspective, the non-legally binding instrument would be successful if it contributed to the implementation of sustainable forest management and the Millennium Development Goals. In that regard, the need for intersectoral cooperation and coordination, balanced involvement of major groups and recognition of regional differences and regional forest policy processes were seen as key factors in the success of the instrument. It was pointed out that forest owners offered strong constructive partner organizations, which could also serve as an effective mechanism for capacity-building at the local level.

27. Children and youth emphasized the need for real commitment, stressing that a strong non-legally binding instrument would need to show how, and with what resources, the global objectives on forests could be reached. The need for the involvement of major groups in the development, implementation and evaluation of the instrument was also stressed. Pointing out the important role played by education in sustainable development, the group emphasized the need for education curricula that raised awareness of sustainable forest practices.

28. The scientific and technological communities called for recognition of the importance of science and technology, and also called for the non-legally binding instrument and the multi-year programme of work to provide an appropriate means for inclusion of scientific knowledge as a capacity-building measure, particularly in developing countries, where the link between science and policy was less visible. The importance of science for training, capacity-building and collection and the

Forum on Forests. Several examples of the positive and substantive contributions of previous initiatives led by major groups were cited, including the initiatives led by indigenous peoples on traditional forest-related knowledge for the third and fourth sessions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests in Leticia, Colombia and San José; and the initiative led by non-governmental organizations for the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests in San José on the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. Calling for greater major group involvement in the policy arena, the non-governmental organizations stressed the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships that included all stakeholders, rather than private-public partnerships.

30. Indigenous peoples stated that a successful outcome would include improved working relationship between indigenous peoples, Governments and other major groups. They expressed their readiness to work with other stakeholders to save forests not only for themselves, but also for all future generations.

31. Women called for an action-oriented outcome from the seventh session of the Forum that was grounded in community-level action and solutions. A partnership for action between Governments, Collaborative Partnership on Forests members and major groups was proposed, focusing on equitable participation and benefit-sharing, social issues, monitoring and assessment of the non-legally binding instrument and innovative solutions. The contribution of women's groups to mainstreaming gender in forestry and to forming community networks was highlighted.

32. Women presented two concrete proposals. Firstly, that a Member State host a major group-led initiative in 2008 to develop a plan of action for the multi-year programme of work; and secondly, that a partnership fund be created to foster development of partnerships between Governments, Collaborative Partnership on Forests members and major groups. The proposed partnership fund would provide funding for pilot projects demonstrating new and innovative ways of working together collaboratively.

33. Business and industry reiterated that a successful outcome would be a strong statement on principles and framework for sustainable forest management, outlining a clear commitment to stable policies and an enabling environment, along with an understanding of the need to engage with the private sector.

34. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests reiterated that the initiative and its individual members were ready to actively participate in the non-legally binding instrument, and to collaborate with major groups.

35. Governments welcomed the implementation-oriented focus of the discussion and stressed the need for commitment from all stakeholders to a successful outcome. The need for greater coordination, collaboration and consultation between all stakeholders through capacity-building and partnership mechanisms was mentioned by several Governments.

36. The Chair remarked that the proposal for an innovative, major group-led initiative was a good sign that stakeholder participation was evolving from dialogue to concrete action on the ground. He remarked on the insightful and informative perspectives that the major groups had brought to the session and stated that, in future, the Forum should seek more innovative ways of engaging and incorporating the perspectives of those stakeholders into its deliberations and discussions.

