

UNITED STATES

US Submission on a Non-Legally Binding Instrument on Forests

INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (*CODEX SYLVANUS*)

The Subscribing States/Member States of the United Nations General Assembly,

Recalling ECOSOC resolution [2006/# of day and month] on the Outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000 on the Report of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, wh720yST

Recognizing the importance of domestic law enforcement and governance to sustainable forest management, and the contribution in this regard of regional forest law enforcement and governance ministerial processes and related trade initiatives;

Also recognizing the important contribution of voluntary public-private partnerships and private sector initiatives at all levels to achieving effective implementation of sustainable forest management and support national strategies, plans and priorities related to forests, and noting in this regard, *inter alia*, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and Asia Forest Partnership; *from P11 of draft resolution contained in E/2006/42*

Also stressing

- c. Each country is responsible for the sustainable management of its forests and for the enforcement of its forest laws, which is essential to achieving sustainable forest management;
- d. International cooperation plays a crucial catalytic role in reinforcing the efforts of developing countries and countries with

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people; *from Para 3 of draft resolution contained in E/2006/42*

Global objective 3

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests; *from Para 3 of draft resolution contained in E/2006/42*

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; *from Para 3 of draft resolution contained in E/2006/42*

NATIONAL POLICIES AND MEASURES

4. Resolve, while taking national sovereignty, practices and conditions into account, to make all efforts to contribute to the above shared global objectives through the development or indication of voluntary national measures, policies, actions or specific goals as follows: *from Paras 4 & 6 of draft resolution contained in E/2006/42*

a. Develop and implement national forest programs, policies and strategies, as appropriate, and integrate national forest programs or other forest strategies into national strategies for sustainable development, relevant national action plans and, where appropriate, poverty reduction strategies; *from Para 6 Chapeau and Para 6(c) of draft resolution contained in E/2006/42*

b. Create an effective enabling environment for foreign and domestic investments in sustainable forest management, including investments to avoid the loss of forest cover and forest degradation and support reforestation, afforestation and forest restoration, as well as where appropriate an enabling environment for the involvement of and investment by local communities and other forest users in sustainable forest management; *from Para 5(i) and 5(j) of draft resolution contained in E/2006/42*

c. Develop and implement forest conservation and rehabilitation strategies, as well as strategies to increase the area under sustainable forest management and reduce forest degradation and loss of forest cover *of er resolution3 -1155 00003 T-00028 contained in*

management, and prepare, periodically update and widely disseminate national reports reflecting such assessments;

- e. Involve forest owners, local communities, the private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders in a transparent and participatory manner in forest decision-making that affects them;
- f. Initiate or strengthen public-private partnerships to promote implementation of national forest programs, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and good business practices;
- g.

that support sustainable forest manage

public awareness, consumer education, law enforcement and information networks;

- h. Strengthen cooperation and partnerships at the regional level, as needed, to: (i) Increase political, financial and technical support and capacity; (ii) develop regional strategies and plans for implementation; (iii) collaborate on implementation activities; (iv) exchange

- v. Establish a clearing house to facilitate access by developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to better technology for sustainable forest management; *from Para 8 of draft resolution contained in E/2006/42*

REPORTING AND REVIEW

6. Agree, on a voluntary basis, to submit national reports to the Forum, as well as members of the CPF and other relevant organizations, instruments and institutions, consistent with their programs of work, on progress in implementing national measures, policies, actions or specific objectives set out in paragraph 4 above, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management; *from para 19 of draft resolution contained in E/2006/42*
7. Also agree to together review the effectiveness of this Understanding and assess progress made in its implementation in 2015 and identify further actions needed.

INSTITUTIONAL MODALITIES

8. Decide that the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests will provide the necessary institutional support to this Understanding.