

**Expert Meeting on Strengthening Major Groups and Other Stakeholders
Engagement in the International Arrangement on Forests
October 5-6, 2016, Ottawa, Canada**

Summary of Discussions

Summary:

Stakeholders (MGoS), along with several representatives of Member States, met in Ottawa, Canada on October 5 and 6, 2016 to discuss ways to strengthen MGoS work in UNFF, with the broader International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), and in their work within regions and countries. The meeting was structured to elicit key points around expectations by the MGoS, both of the meeting and of the broader roles and responsibilities of MGoS as envisioned by the experts participating in the workshop. On Day 1, the group focused on strengthening MGoS understanding of where and how they can have increased impact and relevance within the IAF. A gap analysis looked at what should be maintained or improved by the MGoS, as well as practices that could be introduced or discontinued. Day 2 focused on recommendations for inclusion in the IAF Strategic Plan 2017-2030 and the Quadrennial Program of Work (4POW) for 2017-2020.

The outcome of the discussions was a clear vision of priority elements to be included in a roadmap of the future work of the MGoS at all levels, including a view of the contributions needed by MGoS from

Roles and Responsibilities for MGoS for Submission to AHEG2 and UNFF Working Group on the IAF Strategic Plan

(Consensus text by MGoS)

Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) ar

Background

As per the ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33, para VI(ii)(vi), the UNFF Secretariat organized a meeting of Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) in Ottawa, Canada on October 5 and 6, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to strengthen MGoS work in UNFF, with the broader International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), and in their work within regions and countries. The meeting was hosted by Canada and co-moderated by Joseph Cobbinah, Ghana and

Identification of prioritized options and mechanisms, building blocks, to add to the Strategic Plan

Understanding of the catalytic role MGoS have to contribute and an articulation of the value proposition of MGoS into the IAF

Identify mechanisms to address and develop strategies, with timeframe and level of effort (note ECOSOC resolution 2015/33)

Crystalize major ideas from past Major Group Initiatives in Strategic Plan

MGoS to introduce new themes and be part of agenda setting for the new Strategic Plan and 4POW in, *inter alia*, illegal logging, and land and forest tenure and benefit sharing

2

Find time for the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) during the one week session

Identify what can be done, working with the constraints and taking advantage of creative opportunities

Improve MGoS performance in interventions, preparations and convening power

3 *With respect to capitalizing on diversity*

Underscore the importance of diversity as a strength

Learn about how MGoS issues are addressed in other international organizations

Identify and implement best practices from other fora

Identify and develop strategy for more MGoS participation in the Forum, noting that many are absent, e.g., business and industry

4

Inject a sense of urgency into the Strategic Plan and the 4POW and their implementation, this point in time is a watershed moment

Identify how to link global actions, subject for further action

Develop and implement actions to link concrete local and national actions to the global level

Identify what governments think MGoS can bring and develop actions to convince governments to support MGoS initiatives and to give MGoS a role in decision-making at the national level

Support Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and UNFF implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI) and the Global Forest Financing Facilitator

MGoS Roles and Responsibilities

Participants identified the following roles and responsibilities:

1 Represent MGoS Views

MGoS representative role is to make constituency views clear to UNFF
Contribute to concrete implementation of the goals and decisions of the IAF according to MGoS constituent priorities
Identify MGoS priorities and support member states in Monitoring, Assessing and Reporting (MAR)
Work with Member States (governments) in implementing Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

2 MGoS Raise Awareness

Raise awareness in civil society
Develop and implement cross-sectoral communication strategy, focusing on particular strategies MGoS can implement, e.g., Identify and develop outreach strategy to silos in government agencies: i.e., natural resource areas such as water, agriculture, mining, energy, transportation; Environment: climate change, biodiversity; international organizations; private sector, general civil society
Integrate specific audiences into communication strategy, including, *inter alia*, Member States, CPF, regional organizations/bodies, civil society
Identify key messages in communication strategy: relevance and impact, develop perspective
Identify and promote what MGoS do on the ground in forests with concrete examples of programs and actions, e.g., community and family forestry
Develop and implement national-level communication strategies for targeted groups, e.g., UNFF active participants, communities

Urgency
Values and equity

Gap Analysis on MGoS

Participants were divided into small groups. Four flipcharts were placed around the room with the following headings: maintain, improve, introduce and discontinue. The idea was to identify what was working well or not well, where MGoS could do better, and identify new ideas. Each group moved from during plenary. The results were:

Maintain	Improve
<p>Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Dialogue (MSD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain MSD as a platform for MGoS to contribute to discussions of the Forum sessions and as part of the official record ○ Development of joint papers by MGoS ○ Recommend MSD presentations constitute 1/3 of the time; brainstorming in subgroups 2/3 <p>MGoS Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MGoS hosted side events ○ MGoS participants in High Level Segment of UNFF ○ Planning session with Bureau ○ MGoS intersessional activities ○ Outreach for and to non-participation MGoS ○ Awareness creation and advocacy <p>Support for MGoS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF) as coordinator, including for support in involving all MGoS ○ For Focal Points at UNFF Sessions and Country-led Initiatives (CLI) ○ For High-Level Representatives ○ Define commitment to MGoS ○ For individual, as well as combined, MGoS papers ○ For interventions in UNFF Sessions ○ Increased funding for MGoS initiatives 	<p>MGoS Roles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand MGoS constituency to include, e.g., elderly, philanthropy, disabled and increase numbers participating ○

Key Outcomes

Participants were then asked to vote for their top 4 priority areas by placing a checkmark next to an area they felt was imperative. The areas with the most checkmarks were:

- 1.

Roles and Responsibilities for MGoS

Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) are recognized by the United Nations Forum as

Closing

UNFF Bureau Chair, Peter Besseau (Canada), thanked participants for their contributions over the 2 days, which he described as highly productive. He reminded MGoS experts that the Strategic Plan offers and urged them to take advantage of it. The co-moderators also thanked participants, the UNFF Secretariat for organizing the meeting, and the excellent facilitation of this meeting by the Canadian Forest Service which allowed for the entire group to actively organize the next Major Group intersessional meeting.

Annex A

I. Further elaboration in 4 Key areas: Connecting Silos, Strengthening MGoS Effective Engagement in IAF, Increasing Visibility of MGoS in IAF, Intersessional Activities

V.a Connecting Silos

V.a.1 Goals:

- a. Share best practices
- b. Dialogue with other MGoS on treatment of forests and SFM in other processes

V.a.1.a Short-term

- a. Prioritize which processes
- b. Identify MGoS Focal Points
- c. Contact and discuss methods for Dialogue

V.a.1.b Medium-term

- a. Build permanent communication system
- b.

V.c **Increasing Visibility of MGoS in the IAF**

V.c.1 Goals

Increase visibility of MGoS in the IAF
IAF recognizes expertise of MGoS and uses it
Attract missing MGoS members

V.c.2 Indicators

- a. Number of MGoS actions included in the IAF Strategic Plan
- b. Increased number of MGoS represented in IAF work
- c. Formal Observer on the UNFF Bureau

V.c.3 Actions

- a. Develop communications strategy
NOTE: Need to explore further why some stakeholders are not attending, need to look at the structural reasons why industry is not active in UNFF.
Communications has to be nested in value proposition, need to identify the valued-added of MGoS. Need to establish relevance of MGoS to governments.

V.d **Intersessional Activities**

V.d.1 Goals

V.d.1.a Short-term

- a. Convene at least once (virtual or face-to-face)
- b. Determine and explore modalities, tools, technology, best practices, regional, sub-regional for intersessional activities
- c. Consider broader consultative group (CPF, other MGoS)
- d. Explore links between modalities and desired outcomes

V.d.1.b Medium-term

- a. Plan announced, roll out
- b. Deliver, assess, adjust
- c. Strengthen outreach and dialogue
- d. Focus on bringing value and ideas forward

V.d.2

- c. Clear, consistent output, analysis, guidance, deliverables, recognized by target audiences
- d. MGoS listened to and supported: views incorporated in work of Member States and UNFF Secretariat
- e. UNFF better able to meet and publicize progress
- f. MGoS invited as default (all scales)

V.d.3 Action Plan

- a.

Annex B: List of experts:

1. Mr. Peter Besseau
Chair of UNFF12 Bureau & Special Advisor to the Director General, Canadian Forest Service,
Natural Resources Canada
2. Mr. Thiago Medeiros Da Cunha Cavalcanti
Third Secretary, Division of Environment, Ministry of External Relations of Brazil
3. Mr. Joseph Cobbinah
Coordinator, Forestry Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA), Ghana
4. Ms. Marian Chiu
Manager, International Affairs, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada
5. Mr. Resham Bahadur Dangi
Joint Secretary, Chief, Foreign Aid Coordination Division (FACD)
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), Nepal
6. Mr. Peter De Marsh
Chair of the International Family Forestry Alliance, Canada
7. Ms. Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild
Senior Programme Officer, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, Department of

12. Mr. Lambert Okrah
President and Chief Executive Officer, Major Groups Partnership on Forests, Ottawa, Canada
13. Mr. Joseph Osiakwan
Principal Planning Officer, Forestry Directorate, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources of Ghana
14. Mr. Ghanshyam Pandey
Coordinator, Global Alliance of Community Forestry (GACF) c/o Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal, (FECOFUN), Nepal
15. Mr. Hubertus Samangun
Regional coordinator (Bahasa region), International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, Indonesia
16. Mr. Gan Kee Seng
Executive Secretary, Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI Secretariat) c/o Forest Research Institute of Malaysia
17. Ms. Sonia Smallacombe
Social Affairs Officer, Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Headquarters New York, USA
18. Ms. Anna Stemberger
a, Canada
19. Mr. William Street
Building and Wood Workers' International, BWI, Switzerland
20. Ms. Lotta Tähtinen
Stakeholder Engagement Programme Coordinator, Division for Sustainable Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Headquarters