

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) are recognized by the United Nations Forum as key partners in the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). Decisions of the Forum should be informed by the perspectives of Major Groups, collectively holding a deep multi-dimensional understanding of forestry issues. The forum shall recognize that Indigenous Peoples and local communities including women, as holders of Traditional Knowledge, have a long history of practicing sustainable forest management (SFM). Implementation of the Strategic Plan, including its “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/ targets” cannot be achieved without the help of the Major Groups and a wide range of forestry stakeholders.

In carrying out their functions, the MGoS will:

MGoS Roles and Responsibilities

- Relevance to interests
- Urgency
- Values and equity
- Feasibility and “low hanging fruit.”

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 one flip chart to the other, building on the previous groups’ points. Clarification of any point was offered during plenary. The results were:

Maintain	Improve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Dialogue (MSD) <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 • MGoS Activities <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 • Support for MGoS <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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MGoS Roles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand MGoS constituency to include, e.g., elderly, philanthropy, disabled and increase numbers participating ○ Developed improved communication strategy ○ Communicate dialogue/consultation impact of MGoS more effectively ○ Engage with MGoS from the grassroots to policy level ○ Improve equality and equity between MGoS, including at local level ○ Strengthen intersessional activities and profile ○ Identify Member States “change agents” – who have knowledge and influence • MGoS Linkage to Others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop deeper, more strategic, linkage to other entities, e.g., regional, CPF, Member States ○ Improve targeting of audiences ○ Strengthen link between global and local ○ Improve dialogue/consultations with other processes, including UNFF, including engaging in CPF stakeholder processes

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. Stop working in silos
2. Strengthen MGoS engagement in IAF (including support to the MG Partnership on Forests)
3. Increase visibility of MGoS in the IAF
4. Strengthen intersessional activities

They then identified objectives and developed measurable actions for each priority area. See Annex A for a complete list of actions.

Context Setting

With its focus on developing recommendations for inclusion in the IAF Strategic Plan and 4POW, Day 2 began with a presentation by Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild of the UNFFS who reminded participants of the objectives of the IAF and the Bangkok meeting as background context for the day ahead. Co-moderator Cobbinah presented MGoS contributions to the first post UNFF11 Ad Hoc Experts Group meeting in New York in May of 2016.

Lotta Tahtinen of the Sustainable Development Goals High Level Policy Forum (HLPF) shared best practices from MGoS involvement in that forum, including yearly reports from MGoS (currently not a UNFF MG practice), dedicated funding to support MGoS travel and their coordination mechanism. She encouraged the UNFFS to use online tools to gather input and offered to work with the UNFF Secretariat to summarize their best practices for further distribution to the IAF.

Jan McAlpine gave a brief overview of the background paper on 10 Intergovernmental bodies and their relationship to MGoS. She highlighted UNFF's innovations in working with the MGoS and underlined key recommendations that would further integrate MGoS into active implementers of UNFF work. Furthermore, she urged the MGoS representatives to recruit new representatives to participate in the coordinating roles of those representing the MGoS constituencies.

Visioning Dialogue: Where from Here?

The remainder of the workshop focused on content development for input into the Strategic Plan. By working in small groups and then returning to plenary, participants developed key elements of a statement describing their roles and responsibilities. Those elements were further refined in the days following the workshop. The statement below was subsequently submitted to the UNFF Secretariat with the understanding that there would be time for further refinement ahead of UNFF12:

UNFF Bureau Chair, Peter Besseau (Canada), thanked participants for their contributions over the 2 days, which he described as highly productive. He

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.b Strengthen MGoS Effective Engagement in IAF

V.b.1 Goals

Strengthen MGoS for Effective engagement in IAF

V.b.1.a Short-term Goals

1. Organize MGoS side event at 2017 UNFF Session
2. Contribute to AHEG2 and UNFF12
3. Establish and reach out to UNFCCC MGoS at COP 22 in 2016
4. Establish and reach out to CBD MGoS at COP 13 in Mexico in December 2016

V.b.1.b Medium-term Goals

1. Capacity building and awareness creation project in collaboration with UNFF Secretariat

V.b.2 Success Indicators

MGoS position themselves for implementation of the Strategic Plan the Quadrennial Programme of work
Number of MGoS events and participation

V.b.3 Action Plan

Organize an Major Group Initiative in Cameroon
Engage in AHEG 2, the UNFF Working Group and UNFF12
Advocacy

V.b.4 Key Players

MGPoF Secretariat
UNFF Secretariat

V.b.5 Resources

Material: Documentation on potential Donors
Financial: Seed money for fundraising
Human resources: Staff of MGPoF and UNFF Secretariat

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 Success Indicators

- a. Number and quality of, inter alia, reports, policy briefs
- b. Increase support overtime

- 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. Brainstorming options and opportunities for intersessional activities
 - Priorities theme
 - Specific plans to deliver
 - Criteria: Most interesting, easy, low-cost, high-outcome
- b. Convene at major events: create shoulder-to-shoulder side events, e.g., COP, COFO meetings
- c. Keep ambitions scaled to abilities and opportunities, build on small successes

V.d.4 Key Players

- a. MGoS and open solicitation, especially with known supporters, like-minded, beneficiaries of outputs (institutional, country,, donors, etc.)

V.d.5 Resources

- a. Financial
- b. Leaders, leadership
- c. Ideas, creativity
- d. Technology
- e. Team approaches (small, flexible, outcome oriented)

Annex B: List of experts:

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
International Forestry Students' Association, The University of British Columbia, 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 – New York, USA