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16 July 2013

Excellency,

It is my pleasure to submit herewith two documents for your consideration: (i) a format for soliciting views and proposals of Member States and other stakeholders on the international arrangement on forests (IAF), and (ii) a concept note for the 1st Facilitative Process workshop on the IAF (22-23 October 2013, Vienna-Austria).

You may be aware that Member States, during the 10th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF10) in April 2013 in Istanbul, decided to undertake several intersessional activities to ensure that the next session of the Forum in 2015 has a strong basis to review the effectiveness of the IAF and make a decision on the future of the IAF. According to Resolution 10/2 of UNFF10, one of the main intersessional activities is to solicit views and proposals from Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the IAF. To facilitate submission of these views and proposals and their compilation for consideration by the first meeting of the ad hoc expert group on the IAF, the Secretariat has prepared the attached "format", with a self-explanatory cover note. The deadline for submission of the completed "format" to the UNFF Secretariat is **30 October 2013**.

To deepen understanding about the history, scope and components of the IAF and the agreed intersessional activities, the UNFF Secretariat is also organizing the 1st Facilitative Dialogue Workshop on the IAF. This workshop will be held on 22 and 23 October 2013 in Vienna, Austria. All information concerning this workshop is provided in the attached concept note. Member States and other relevant stakeholders are invited to nominate their representatives for participation in this workshop by **30 August 2013**.

It would be highly appreciated if these matters could be brought expeditiously to the attention of the UNFF national focal points in your respective countries.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Jan L. McAlpine



Director

To: All Permanent Missions in New York