

EUROPEAN UNION

ELEMENTS INTO UNFF 7 DRAFT RESOLUTION

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61[/number] of [date] 2006 (resolution on the outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests),

International Instrument on All Types of Forests

1. Expresses its deep appreciation to the United Nations Forum on Forests for its valuable work on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;
2. *Adopts* the International Instrument on All Types of Forests, which is contained in the annex to the present resolution;
3. *Invites [name of State]* to convene a high level conference to bring the International Instrument on All Types of Forests into operation;
4. *Invites* States and regional economic integration organizations to subscribe to the International Instrument on All Types of Forests;^{*1}
5. *Decides* that the United Nations Forum on Forests is responsible to promote and monitor the full implementation of the International Instrument on All Types of Forests.

Annex. International Instrument on All Types of Forests

Preamble

The subscribing States and regional economic integration organizations,²

* For the European Union, the added value of subscription depends on the level of adherence to and the contents of the International Instrument on all types of forests.

¹ *Non-binding model for diplomatic note.* The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of [name of subscribing State] presents its compliments to [name of immediate central contact] and has the honour to inform the latter that [name of subscribing State] wishes to become a subscribing State to the International Instrument on All Types of Forests and that it wishes that [name of subscribing State] to be included in the List of subscribing States that serves as an Annex to the aforementioned Instrument.

² From here onwards the term "subscribing States" refers also to regional economic integration organisations for ease of reference. All terms are defined under Section 3.

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 principle 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; the non-legally binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests; chapter 11 of Agenda 21; the proposal for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests; resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests; the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development; the 2010 Biodiversity Target; and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, *(from preamble UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Recalling the existing international legally binding instruments relevant to forests, *(from preamble UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Recognizing the importance of the multiple economic, social and environmental benefits derived from goods and services provided by forests and trees outside forests, *(from preamble UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Emphasizing that sustainable forest management can contribute significantly to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, *(from preamble UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Recognizing the outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests,

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, *(from preamble UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Desiring to strengthen the international arrangement on forests, as set out in the Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, and to focus on the effective implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, sub-regional and regional levels,

Have decided as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

Objective and purpose

1. The overarching objective of this International Instrument is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end.
2. The purpose of this International Instrument is to:
 - a. Provide a policy framework for sustainable forest management and for closer cooperation and collaboration;
 - b. Strengthen the implementation of the principal functions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000 and the additional principal functions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/[number] of [date];
 - c. Strengthen the long-term commitment to sustainable forest management;
 - d. Achieve the global objectives on forests.

Global objectives on forests and national commitments

3. Subscribing States decide to set the following shared global objectives on forests and to decide to work globally and nationally to achieve progress towards their achievement by 2015, with a view to achieving the main objective of this International Instrument and enhancing the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, and emphasizing in this regard the importance of political commitment and action at all levels for effective implementation of the sustainable management of all types of forests:

Global objective 1

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

Global objective 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;

Global objective 3

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

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 UNFF 6 Resolution)*

4. Subscribing States, while taking national sovereignty, practices and conditions into account, will make all efforts to contribute to the above global objectives through the development or indication of voluntary national measures, policies, actions or specific goals. *(from para. 4 UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Use of terms

5. Definition of terms used for the purposes of the International Instrument, including:
 - *Subscribing States;*
 - *Regional economic integration organizations;*
 - *Collaborative Partnership on Forests;*
 - *Forests.*

Principles

6. Principles should include:
 - Sovereign right of subscribing States to exploit their own resources and responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other subscribing States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;
 - Common, but differentiated responsibilities;
 - Role of international cooperation in supporting national efforts;
 - Recognition of the importance of forest law enforcement and governance;
 - Recognition of the role and contribution of the private sector and stakeholders;
 - Recognition of the importance of partnerships.

Scope

7. This International Instrument relates to all types of forests.

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS

National policies and measures

8. Subscribing States will in order to achieve the objectives of this International Instrument, as appropriate:
 - a. Develop, further elaborate and implement national forest programmes, policies and strategies, including forest conservation and rehabilitation strategies, to increase the area under sustainable forest management and reduce forest degradation and loss of forest cover; *(from para. 2 (b) and para. 6 chapeau UNFF 6 Resolution)*
 - b. Integrate national forest programmes or other forest strategies into national strategies for sustainable development, relevant national action plans and into poverty reduction strategies; *(from para. 6 (c) UNFF 6 Resolution)*
 - c. Continue to implement the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and decisions of the UNFF.

Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral coordination

9. Subscribing States will in order to achieve the objectives of this International Instrument:
 - a. Enhance cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination; *(from para. 7 chapeau UNFF 6 Resolution)*
 - b. Promote the active participation and empowerment of all forest-related stakeholders, especially local and forest-dependent communities, indigenous peoples, women and small-scale private forest owners and forest workers, in the development and implementation of sustainable forest management policies and programmes; *(from para. 6 (e) UNFF 6 Resolution)*
 - c. Establish or strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and programmes. *(from para. 7 (d) UNFF 6 Resolution)*
10. The UNFF will facilitate the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests through clustering and further simplification of the language, as needed, taking into account existing work, and through promoting greater stakeholder understanding of the intent of these proposals. *(from para. 7 (a) UNFF 6 Resolution)*
11. The UNFF will establish and maintain cooperation with relevant international organizations, institutions, treaty bodies and major groups on matters covered by this International Instrument in a mutually supportive manner.

12. The relevant multilateral environmental agreements, instruments, processes and United Nations bodies are invited to promote the implementation of this International Instrument and to improve collaboration and cooperation with the UNFF. *(from para. 9 UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Regional cooperation

13. Subscribing States decide to strengthen regional cooperation and partnerships, as needed, to:
- a. Increase political, financial and technical support and capacity;
 - b. Develop regional strategies and plans for implementation;
 - c. Collaborate on implementation activities; and
 - d. Exchange experiences and lessons learned. *(from para. 7 (c) UNFF 6 Resolution)*
14. Regional and sub-regional forest-related bodies, mechanisms and processes are invited, in coordination with the UNFF Secretariat, as appropriate, to strengthen collaboration and to provide input to the UNFF in order to achieve the objectives of this International Instrument by:
- a. Raising awareness of this International Instrument at the regional and sub-regional level;
 - b. Addressing topics identified in the multi-year programme of work under this International Instrument, with a view to sharing regional and sub-regional perspectives of the UNFF on these topics;
 - c. Encouraging participation of interested members in this International Instrument, especially from within the region, as well as members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, relevant regional organizations and major groups. *(from para. 11 UNFF 6 Resolution)*
- 15. *The UNFF will consider inputs from regional and sub-regional forest-related bodies, mechanisms and processes and from country-led initiatives, as well as from major groups. (from para. 15 UNFF 6 Resolution)***

Collaborative Partnership on Forests

16. The UNFF will provide guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
17. The members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are invited:

- a. To strengthen their collaboration and coordination on forest issues in order to foster progress towards sustainable forest management at the global, regional and national levels;
 - b. To continue and further develop ongoing initiatives by the Partnership on monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest resources, on streamlining national forest reporting, on the sourcebook on funding for sustainable forest management, on harmonizing forest-related definitions and on the Global Forest Information Service;
 - c. To translate relevant policy recommendations of the UNFF into their programmes of work;
 - d. To explore ways to involve major groups in the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and to strengthen the Partnership's contribution to activities at the regional level;
 - e. To provide, if requested by the UNFF, an assessment of scientific knowledge-based actions needed to achieve sustainable forest management and the global objectives at all levels;
 - f. To continue to strengthen the Tehran Process, consistent with their mandates and programmes of work, through developing and implementing strategies on conservation and rehabilitation of forests in low forest cover countries. *(from para. 22 UNFF 6 Resolution)*
18. The UNFF and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests will review the programmes of work of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in order to identify opportunities for synergies as well as duplications and gaps with the International Instrument with a view to enhancing cooperation between the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular by developing joint action plans.
19. State members of the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are urged to help ensure that forest-related activities in their programmes of work are in line with this International Instrument. *(from para. 24 UNFF 6 Resolution)*
20. Subscribing States and stakeholders interested in the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are urged to support its joint initiatives by making voluntary financial contributions to the respective lead organizations of the Partnership, as appropriate. *(from para. 25 UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Forest law enforcement, governance and trade

21. Subscribing States decide to strengthen their capacities to address illegal forest related practices according to national legislation and associated trade in forest products, through the promotion of forest law enforcement and governance at the national and subnational and regional and sub-regional levels, as appropriate. *(from para. 6 (g) UNFF 6 Resolution)*
22. Subscribing States will encourage the private sector, including timber processors, exporters, and importers, as well as civil society organizations, to develop, promote and implement voluntary instruments with a view to adopting good business practices and improving market transparency. *(from para. 6 (h) UNFF 6 Resolution)*
23. The UNFF will address illegal forest related practices and associated trade in forest products through greater information sharing and international cooperation.

PART III. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Financial Resources

24. *(The same text as in para 5 and its sub-paragraphs (a)-(n) of the UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Incentive measures

25. Subscribing States will, as appropriate, adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable management of forests.

Technical and Scientific Cooperation

26. Subscribing States will promote international technical and scientific cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, in the field of sustainable forest management, where necessary, through the appropriate international, regional and national institutions. *(from para 6 (d) UNFF 6 Resolution)*
27. Subscribing States will provide greater support to scientific and technological innovations for sustainable forest management, including innovations that help indigenous and local communities undertake sustainable forest management. *(from para. 6 (a) UNFF 6 Resolution)*
28. Subscribing States will strengthen forest education and research and development through global, regional and sub-regional networks, as well as relevant organizations, institutions and centres of excellence in all regions of the world, particularly in developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition. *(from para. 7 (b) UNFF 6 Resolution)*

29. Subscribing States will support the joint initiative by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the Center for International Forestry Research and the International Center for Research in Agroforestry, in collaboration with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, on science and technology in support of the UNFF to assess available information and to produce reports on forests-related issues of concern to the UNFF. *(from para. 23 UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Access to and Transfer of Technology

30. Subscribing States, recognizing that both access to and transfer of technology among States are essential elements for the attainment of the overarching objective and purpose of this International Instrument, will provide and/or facilitate access to and transfer of technologies to other subscribing States, that are relevant to the achievement of the overarching objective and purpose of this International Instrument.
31. Subscribing States will promote sustainable forest management through capacity-building and access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including traditional technologies, and taking into account economic, social and environmental priorities specific to countries. *(from para. 6 chapeau UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Technical Assistance

32. Subscribing States will promote the provision of technical assistance to other Subscribing States, especially those that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition, either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organizations, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of this International Instrument.

Public Education and Awareness

33. Subscribing States will promote and encourage understanding of the importance of and the measures required for the sustainable management of forests, as well as its dissemination through the media, and the inclusion of these topics in educational programmes; and
34. Subscribing States will cooperate, as appropriate, with other subscribing States and international organizations in developing educational and public awareness programmes, with respect to the sustainable management of forests.

Exchange of Information

35. Subscribing States will facilitate the exchange of information, including exchange of results of technical, scientific and socio-economic research, as well as information on training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, and indigenous and traditional knowledge.

36. A clearing house mechanism will be established, to be managed under the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, for promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation, including the sharing and use of best practices in sustainable forest management. *(from paras. 6 (f) and 8 UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Monitoring, assessment, reporting, and facilitative process

Monitoring, assessment and reporting

37. Subscribing States will monitor progress in implementing national measures, policies, actions or specific objectives towards achieving the global objectives on forests, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management.

38. Subscribing States will submit, on a voluntary basis, to the UNFF, a national report on progress in implementing national measures, policies, actions or specific objectives towards achieving the global objectives on forests, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management, in one of the official languages of the UN within two years after the adoption of this International Instrument by the General Assembly, and thereafter in accordance with any further decisions of UNFF on the submission of such national reports. *(from para. 19 UNFF 6 Resolution)*

39. The UNFF Secretariat will prepare, on the basis of the national reports and any other relevant information, a synthesis report including recommendations to UNFF on decisions to enhance the implementation of this International Instrument. Relevant members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are invited to participate in the preparation of the synthesis report.

40. The members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in collaboration with the UNFF, are invited to further harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account the seven thematic elements for sustainable forest management, with a view to reducing the reporting burden on countries. *(from para. 20 UNFF 6 Resolution)*

41. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests is invited to continue to report in a consolidated manner to UNFF on its initiatives and activities, including progress on the means of implementation, in support of the work of UNFF. *(from para. 21 UNFF 6 Resolution)*

Facilitative process

42. A Committee of experts is hereby established to promote and facilitate the implementation of this International Instrument, by *inter alia* giving advice and assistance to the UNFF upon its request regarding international and regional

implementation, and any subscribing State upon its request regarding national implementation of this International Instrument.

43. The Committee will conduct its work in a constructive and timely manner, and be non-judicial.
44. The Committee will consist of [x] members nominated by subscribing States and elected by UNFF on the basis of [y] from each of the five regional groups of the United Nations.
45. Members of the Committee will have recognized competence in the field of sustainable forest management or other relevant fields of this International Instrument, including scientific, technical or legal expertise, and they will serve as experts in their individual capacity.
46. Members will be elected for a period of [z] years. Members will not serve for more than two consecutive terms.
47. The Committee may draw upon outside expertise as it deems necessary.
48. The Committee will be serviced by the UNFF Secretariat and hold sessions as necessary and, whenever possible, in conjunction with sessions of UNFF.
49. The Committee will report to each session of UNFF on all aspects of its work for consideration and appropriate action by UNFF.
50. The Committee will, upon a request received in accordance with paragraph 18.6, consider questions regarding the implementation of this International Instrument in consultation with the subscribing State concerned and, in light of the nature of the question, and may:
 - a. Clarify and resolve of questions of implementation;
 - b. Provide advice to the subscribing State concerned, including on the access to technical and financial resources for the resolution of these difficulties;
 - c. Assist, as appropriate, the subscribing State concerned to further develop national forest programmes, policies and strategies with a view to the implementation of this International Instrument within an adequate time frame;
 - d. Invite the subscribing State concerned to submit progress reports to the Committee on the efforts it is making to implement the provisions of this International Instrument.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

UNFF

51. The UNFF will function as the intergovernmental forum for this International Instrument.
52. The functions of the UNFF will be to monitor and promote the full implementation of this International Instrument, keeping in view its overarching objective and purpose, *inter alia* by adopting plans and programmes, including a multi-year programme of work for the UNFF and for the implementation of this International Instrument.

UNFF Secretariat

53. The UNFF Secretariat will serve as the secretariat of this International Instrument.
54. The UNFF Secretariat will perform functions, including:
- a. arrange for and service sessions of the UNFF and of any subsidiary body that may be established;
 - b. assist the UNFF in carrying out its functions, including the performance of specific tasks that the UNFF may decide to assign to it;
 - c. report on its activities to the UNFF with respect to this International Instrument.
55. The Secretariat will cooperate with relevant international organizations, institutions and treaty bodies, in particular through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and major groups in achieving the objectives of this International Instrument.

Modifications of the International Instrument

56. The UNFF may decide on modifications to this International Instrument subject to adoption by the General Assembly.

Supplementary Instruments

57. The UNFF may decide on supplementary instruments to this International Instrument subject to the adoption by the General Assembly.

Review

58. The effectiveness of this International Instrument will be reviewed in 2015, in the context of the overall review of the international arrangement on forests and on this basis, a full range of options will be considered, including a legally binding instrument on all types of forests, strengthening the current arrangement, continuation of the current arrangement and other options. (*from para. 32 UNFF 6 Resolution*)

Subscription

59. The International Instrument will be open for subscription by States and regional economic integration organizations through submission of a diplomatic note to the Secretariat.
60. The Secretariat will serve as an immediate central contact for receiving and announcing the subscription of States or regional economic integration organizations to the International Instrument.
61. The present International Instrument becomes operational on [*day of inauguration*].

Authentic texts

62. The original of this International Instrument, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, will be deposited with the Secretariat.