

JAPAN:

Japan's Proposal on a Non-legally Binding Instrument (NLBI)

Japan's basic positions on NLBI are as follows:

1. The objectives of NLBI should be clearly understood and shared by among all member states prior to UNFF7 through an open-ended working group and country-led initiatives, if any. Even at the very last stage of UNFF6, there still seemed to be different expectations and perception gaps on NLBI between member states. Therefore, it is extremely important to have a common understanding and a shared vision on the objectives of NLBI prior to the formal session of UNFF7.
2. Elements of NLBI should conform to the draft resolution adopted at UNFF6. Given the fact that participants spent quite a long time and much energy at UNFF5 & 6 to come up with the draft resolution which covers almost all concerns raised by all participants, the elements we already have before us should be the basis of preparation of NLBI, to build on the efforts we made to date. Especially, the issue of illegal practices and illegal international trade under the "Means of Implementation", and the direction of strengthening collaboration with forest-related regional processes under the "Working modalities", of which importance Japan has continuously been stressing should definitely be covered by NLBI.
3. Time-line and procedures in paragraph 26 of the draft resolution should be strictly abided by. In order to come to an agreement on NLBI within limited time frame, Japan stresses the importance of abidance to the time-line and procedures in paragraph 26 of the draft resolution. To achieve this, we should respect and utilize compilation of proposals on NLBI to be prepared and circulated by UNFF Secretariat as a basis for further discussions and make sure that a draft text of NLBI will be available before UNFF7.