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Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF11

Regional/Sub-regional Organization/Process:

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General Information

The multi-year programme of work – MYPOW (2007–2015) of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) sets a new focus on regional collaboration and partnerships. Since its eighth session in 2009 the Forum has solicited inputs from relevant regional and sub-regional forest-

related mechanisms, institutions, organizations and processes as an integral part of session deliberations.¹

The eleventh session of the UNFF (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New York. In accordance with the Forum's MYPOW, the overall theme of UNFF11 is *Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the international arrangement on forests (IAF)*, with the following sub themes:

1. Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options
2. Reviewing the progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (hereinafter referred to as the "Forest Instrument")
3. Reviewing the contribution of forests and the IAF to the internationally-agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

In completing this questionnaire, you may choose to extract the relevant information and include it in your submission, if information is already available in existing reports and/or documents. Otherwise, you may provide the reference or document itself to the UNFF Secretariat, indicating the relevant section. Please note that the Year 2007 – the year of the adoption of the Forest Instrument (2007), should be used as a baseline throughout the document.

Moreover, in view of the limitation of sizing of the pertinent Secretary-General's report, the Forum Secretariat suggests no more than 250 words of written input per answer. We would be most grateful if you could send your inputs to **unff@un.org**, fax: +1 917-367-3186, by **30 September 2014**. In light of time constraints and financial limitations, you are kindly asked to provide your input in English.

¹The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the parent body of the Forum, through its resolution 2006/49, agreed to "Strengthen interaction between the Forum and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes, with participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, and relevant stakeholders to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum." (paragraph 2)

Section I: Progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument and the achievement of the GOFs as well as the contribution of forests and the IAF to the internationally- agreed development goals, including the MDGs

A. Progress towards implementation of the Forest Instrument

1. Briefly describe actions (e.g. regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational) taken by your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process to foster political commitment for sustainable forest management (SFM).

- Four workshops in cooperation with UNFF secretariate on forest finance issues in LFCCs and SIDS
- A workshop on C&I for SFM in Japan with cooperation of ITTO (presentation of C&I for SFM in LFCCs)
- Workshop on urban and pre-urban forestry – Tehran
- Policy and legal issue in LFCCs – Mali – Bamako resolution
- Study on LFCCCs situation – by UNFF
- Site event on dry land forest and presentation on LFCCs – COFO 22 – 2014 - FAO

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

- In national poicy level: less priority to forest sector in LFCCs
- In nature: Harsh climate and water stress
- In general: poverty, forest degredation and climate change

2. Briefly describe efforts taken at the regional level to foster economically, socially and environmentally sound measures that act as incentives for the sustainable management of forests.

- Consideration of forest finance in cooperation with UNFF secretariate
- Consideration of forest finance in regional and national level incooperation with ECO and UNFF

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

- Low financial resources

3. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to promote international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested.

- Not on the international trade but in general cooperation with UNFF, FAO and ECO

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

- In most LFCCs forest degradation with take place for illegal use and fuel needs

4. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance.

- The issue briefly discussed in workshops (UNFF and FAO)

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

- Not all countries participated in the workshops.

5. List and briefly describe activities aimed at mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for SFM.

- Study the issue and reporting
- Workshops
- Communications

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

- Few case studies and not cover all countries
- Few countries representatives participating in the events

B. Progress towards the achievement of the GOFs

1. Please describe actions taken by your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process and/or by other major stakeholders in your region/sub-region to help achieve the following:

GOF1, “Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation”

- Forest protection program
- Limitation of forest harvesting
- Research program on C&I for SFM
- Forest rehabilitation
- Tree plantation and afforestation

GOF2, “Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people”

- Promote non wood products
- Medicinal plants
- People participation in forest management

GOF3, “Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests”

- Allocate 10% of the land for protection and preservation
- Biodiversity

GOF4, “Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM”

- Allocation of new resources for forest protection and improvement

2. Please provide additional information specific to your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process progress towards the achievement of the GOFs.

- In LFCCs, GOFs and Forest Instrument are suffering in the same line

C. Contribution of forests and the IAF to the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs

1. Please describe studies or initiatives in your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process that capture the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

- The role of forest in MDGs is not as it should be
- LFCCs in international level suffer from very low attention of international organizations and a few case just taken place on related forestry issue

2. What indicators have been, or could be, used to assess the contribution of forests to the MDGs?

- Climate change is a very important phenomena
- afforestation and tree plantation

3. Please provide additional information specific to your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process on MDGs forest-related work.

- Dry zone with hard climatic condition are very vulnerable to climate change and have very limited vegetation cover and have big potential for plantation

Section II: Review of the effectiveness of the current IAF and the future options

1. From the perspective of your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process, please provide a general evaluation of the strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement of the current IAF.

- I can not find a suitable place for LFCCs in IAF, but in future IAF will cover their needs and requirements

2. Has the input of your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process been adequately taken into account in the Forum's deliberations?

- No

3. What measures has your organization undertaken to strengthen the current IAF? Please list the most important measures (maximum five):

- very weak

4. How would your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process envisage a strengthened regional/sub-regional component in a future IAF?

- IAF must consider LFCCs as big potential for plantation and improvement of vegetation cover
- and need to bring them in international forest negotiation game more actively
- and provide adequate support, technically and financially

5. Has your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process worked jointly with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)² and/or major stakeholders to support the work of UNFF? If yes, please evaluate the overall collaboration.

- Yes mainly UNFF and then FAO and IUFRO and limited with UNCBD

6. How would your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process envisage a strengthened collaboration with CPF member organizations and/or major stakeholders in a revised IAF?

- CPF members are engaged with internal matters and totally forget LFCCs and forest and forestry issues in dry land zones

² CPF member organizations: Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Secretariat of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFF), Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), The World Bank, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)