



**საქართველოს მუდმივი წარმომადგენლობა გაერთიანებული ერების
ორგანიზაციასთან**

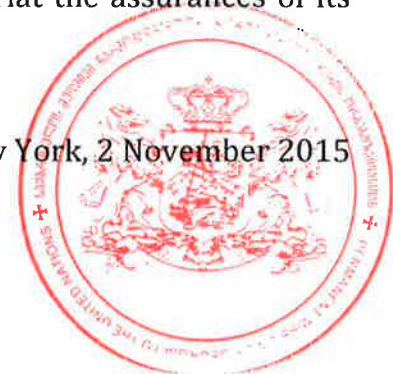
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

№ 19/41314

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat and with reference to the Note of the Secretariat of the United Nations № DESA-15/00819, dated 5 August 2015, has the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter of Mr. Besarion Abashidze, Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia that was previously transmitted to the UNFF Secretariat by the respective Ministry.

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 2 November 2015



**United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
New York**



საქართველოს გარემოსა და ბუნებრივი რესურსების დაცვის
სამინისტრო
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION OF
GEORGIA



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01 / October / 2015

To: United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, I would like to express my gratitude for your excellent collaboration and cooperation in supporting forestry sector development and strengthening the global policy dialogue in the forest sector.

Likewise, we highly compliment and appreciate the Ad-Hoc Expert Groups, UNFF Secretariat and all the stakeholders involved in the UNFF process for their contributions towards the development of IAF beyond 2015 and efforts for its implementation, also for the progress made towards building the framework for strengthening cooperation globally between the parties in the field of forestry.

Georgian side fully supports the proceeding towards the implementation of the commitments derived from previous UNFF sessions and to further make progress in the implementation of the provisions of the UNFF11 Resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests Beyond 2015. We are prepared to implement them in our national strategies, programmes and initiatives.

Currently, one of the biggest challenges the Georgian forestry sector faces is how to advance forest management practices in order to improve condition of forests devastated during the periods of political instability in the past so that ecological, social and economic functions of forests are balanced and sustainability ensured. In 2013, Georgia started the forestry sector reform, aiming at improving quantitative and qualitative characteristics of Georgian forests. Elaboration of National Forest Programme and improvement of institutional and legal frameworks for the sustainable management of our forests are also taking place. Georgia greatly appreciates the assistance we are already receiving from other countries to achieve best practices in forest sector development and we look forward to more substantial intergovernmental cooperation in terms of stronger networking of forestry experts.

With regard to nominate designated expert to the UNFF/AHEG1, we are giving you a notice that Mr. Gigia Aleksidze, the Chief Specialist at Forest Policy Service of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, will be the contact person for UNFF Secretariat and the designated expert to the AHEG1 to join the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad-Hoc Expert Group (AHEG1) on the Development of Proposals on Matters Referred to in Paragraph 44 of the UNFF Resolution 11/1.

In case of availability of designated extra-budgetary resources as mentioned in your letter (*DESA-15/00819*), we would highly appreciate if you could consider the possibility to provide full financial support for Mr. Gigia Aleksidze to ensure his participation due to the importance of the meeting and steps to be taken further for the implementation of the provisions developed under the UNFF framework.

Thanks for your time and cooperation.

Best Regards,

Deputy Minister

Besarion Abashidze