

Country: Liberia

Dear Colleagues:

Please see the below responses to the Secretariat of the United Nation on the request for Inputs by Member States and Stakeholders View and Proposal on the matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the UNFF11 resolution.

44 (a) Replacement of the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the sustainable development goals and targets.

View on the Replacement of reference to the Millennium Development Goals

Liberian Government view is that the Millennium Development Goals is about to expire by the end of 2015 and another international commitment to end poverty and hunger as well as ensuring that sustainable development becomes the model for all countries, societies for an inclusive economic growth. Sustainable Development Goals is expected to pick up from where the MDGs stopped, fill in its gaps and take the world to the next level.

Proposal:

Liberia Government agreed with experts that have suggested the design of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should use the principles of landscape approaches if much of the goals and target are to be achieved on date.

Liberia being a country where agriculture, mining, and other productive land uses compete with environmental and biodiversity goals (sustainable Forest Management), the adaption of landscape approaches as a basic tools for managing the country's landscape (natural resources) will lead to the achievement of social, economic, and environmental objectives. The approach is crucial and must be recognized. This is where the IAF and the Forest Instrument discussions should now focus.

44(b) The IAF Strategic Plan for the period 2017 – 2030 and the quadrennial program of work for the period 2017 – 2020 consistent with section XI of the present resolution.

Proposed Vision on the IAF Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial program of work for the period 2017 -2020

To urge the Forum and the member states to consider the incorporation of the Post 2015 development agenda in the IAF and the Non-legally Binding Instruments.

In order to implement this vision, the following policy measure needs to be considered.

- Enhance the involvement of major groups and other stakeholders;
- Provide support to member states to enhance the implementation of IAF Strategic Plan at national level.
- Ensure coherence and consistency between the IAF and the Post-2015 development agenda and other forest –related agreement

Mission Statement on the IAF Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial program of work for the period 2017 -2020

The Forum aims to provide decisive strategic direction to the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), so that all elements are aligned with the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda and other forest-related instruments.

The IAF Strategic Framework should take into consideration all actions that are related to Sustainable Forests Management to ensure comprehensive achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other related instruments.

- It should also include issues that will be carried out by member countries to reduce deforestation and embark on forest restoration programs of degraded landscapes;
- The Strategic Frame work should emphasize on inter-sectorial coordination among the forests and the landscape use management and sectors especially issues related to policies and strategies of each sector;
- The Strategic Plan should emphasize that developing countries with landscape use competition must be capacitated to enhance their Inter-sectorial coordination;
- The quadrennial Programme of work (2017-2020) should emphasize the participation of more developing countries especially countries with more forest cover to get involved in decision-making on forests;

- The 2017-2020 quadrennial programme of work should emphasize the Strengthening of the Regional Committee to be proactive in ensuring that member countries are highly involved.