

UNFF Secretariat  
UN Forum on Forests Secretariat  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Two UN Plaza, DC2-2300  
New York, NY 10017

15<sup>TH</sup> Oct 2015

Sir/Madam

Following your request for inputs vide through the Note Verbale, please note the following inputs that have already been sent by Mr V Tezoo, the Focal Point for Mauritius to the Ministry for onward transmission.

The inputs are as follows:

**Paragraph 45** of **Section XIII** of the follow up to the eleventh session of the Forum invites Member States and relevant Stakeholders to provide their views and proposals on the matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the present resolution as inputs to deliberations.

**Paragraph 44** of the **same Section** decides that the Forum should consider proposals on the following matters:

- (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 that will be considered by the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post 2015 development agenda, to be held in September 2015;

- (b) The strategic plan for the period 2017 – 2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017 –

2020, consistent with **Section XI** of the present resolution.

The Millennium Development Goal (MDG7) (2000–2015) focuses on ensuring environmental sustainability, to reduce biodiversity loss, achieving by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss. The Goal included a set of indicators, among them, on the proportion of land area covered by forest; total water resources used, terrestrial and marine areas protected; and species threatened with extinction. The significance of forests under this goal and related targets, however, is restricted to their environmental contributions, and their crucial social and economic contributions are neglected. It is, however, important to note that while forests are only mentioned in MDG7, they contribute substantively to reaching all MDGs directly or indirectly.

The Forestry Service is agreeable to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs') with that of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs') as it reaffirmed the commitment to fully implement the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, the Programme for the further Implementation of Agenda 21 and inter alia the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

The proposed Sustainable Development Goals 15 which consists of Protect, restore and promote Sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

This goal captures the importance of forest for soil and water conservation as well as habitat for terrestrial biodiversity.

Goal 15.1 by 2020 ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland fresh water ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

Goal 15.2 by 2020, promotes the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation by x% globally.

Goal 15.5 take urgent and significant action to reduce degradation of natural habitat, halt the loss of biodiversity, and by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

Goal 15.8 by 2020 introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems, and control or eradicate the priority species.

Goal 15 b mobilize significantly resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management, and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance sustainable forest management, including for conservation and reforestation.

**Section XI** indicates that the Forum should develop a concise Strategic Plan for the future international arrangement on forests (IAF) for the period 2017 – 2030 to serve a Strategic framework to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and should incorporate a mission and vision, the global objectives on forests.

The Forum has to operationalise the strategic plan through quadrennial programme of work that set out priority actions and resource needs, beginning with period 2017 – 2020.

The Strategic Plan 2017 – 2030 must address some of the Convention's new challenges particularly with regards to climate change. More

financial resources mobilization to mitigate the effects of drought, biodiversity conservation. The strategic plan should contain quantitative targets on reforestation, afforestation, deforestation and restoration of degraded forests.

**(V. Tezoo)**

Conservator of Forests

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