



Major Groups Partnership on Forests

5th January, 2016

Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho
Director
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-2301
New York, NY 10017, USA

Dear Sir,

MAJOR GROUPS INPUT INTO UNFF QUADRENNIAL (2017-2020) STRATEGIC PLAN

On behalf of the following Major Groups:

- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Scientific and Technological Communities
- Business and Industry
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Farmers and Small Forest Land Owners
- Indigenous People
- Women

I wish to submit to you as attached, the proposed elements for consideration for the quadrennial strategic plan for UNFF as requested. In developing the proposals, we took into account the fact that both policy and implementation receive the required attention in the work of UNFF.

In addition, we believe that real results will only be achieved if concerted efforts are made at regional and national levels backed by the needed resources.

Above all we strongly believe that meaningful progress can be made only by engaging Major Groups and other stakeholders by adopting practical actions backed by political will and resources.

We hope that our proposals will receive the full support necessary towards the attainment of sustainable forest management for all types of forests.

We are counting on your usual cooperation.

Yours Sincerely,

Lambert Okrah
(President and CEO)

Advancing Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management in Partnerships

**INPUT OF MAJOR GROUPS
TO
QUADRENNIAL (2017-2020) UNFF STRATEGIC PLAN**

Introduction

We wish to acknowledge that the adoption of UNFF11 resolution has created a unique opportunity to build on the gains made over the years. We are particularly grateful for the emphasis put on implementation and further committing to providing the necessary resources for the implementation of the policies adopted towards the attainment of sfm. We further appreciate the recognition by UNFF11 of the importance of the Forum's direct involvement in the realization of the targets adopted in the SDGs particularly those that are directly linked to forests.

In particular, we are encouraged by agreeing to developing a strategic plan that will guide the work of the Forum as it seeks to enhance policies for the attainment of sfm and their implementation.

In this regard, the Major Groups listed above wishes to submit the following proposals for consideration in the development of the new strategic plan.

Involvement of Major Groups and other Stakeholders

The strategic plan must include actions that will be taken to enhance the participation of Major Groups and other stakeholders in UNFF at all levels including policy discussions and implementation. It must establish clear guidelines for enhanced UNFF Secretariat engagement with MGs.

Implementation

The strategic plan should include steps on how to monitor implementation and to include measures that will encourage Major Groups and other stakeholders to independently undertake Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) of performance of governments.

Funding for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders

The strategic plan should include mechanism for providing funding to Major Groups, other stakeholders and Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF) to enhance their effectiveness at all levels.

CPF

It should incorporate ways in which CPF as a group will work collectively to advance the goals of UNFF and also to include specific actions to be taken by individual CPF members in achieving those goals.

UNFF and SDGs

It must demonstrate the mechanism/s by which UNFF will ensure that international cross-sectorial coordination on forests issues take place among UN Forest related institutions. It should also show clearly how UNFF will play a leadership role and work with other UN Bodies in the implementation of actions relating to forest related SDGs particularly those of SDGs 6, 12 and 15. The strategic plan should show a direct link between UNFF activities and those relating to the SDGs.

Linking Activities with Resources

It should show the level of activities that will be undertaken, backed by both material and financial resources required to achieve those goals, including the listing of possible sources both internationally and nationally.

The plan should require countries to indicate those sectors and departments that will be responsible for playing the respective roles in implementing the activities above.

Funding Allocation

It must include the allocation of funds dedicated to the funding of sfm as called for by UNFF. The funding stream must require countries to set up national funds from internally generated sources and an international fund managed by UNFF Secretariat with contributions from donor countries: possibly percentage of ODA to support sfm activities of developing countries and countries in economy of transition. Such funds, both the national and international should create windows to support the activities of Major Groups and other stakeholders, their engagement in processes, collaborations with governments and their independent activities at all levels.

Governance

The plan should give guidelines and indicators on improving governance for the purposes of tackling illegal logging and corruption and enhanced participation of all stakeholders in the forestry sector at all levels.

UNFF Secretariat and Regional Bodies

It should also spell out the mechanism by which the UNFF Secretariat will engage with regional bodies and processes to participate in the implementation of UNFF decisions in the regions and sub-regions. In addition, it should include those actions needed to be undertaken by UNFF Secretariat to involve the UN Regional Economic Commissions to enhance its work with other regional bodies through the various Economic Commissions. In addition, it should include steps to be taken by both FAO and UNFF Secretariat to establish the linkages needed with FAO Regional Forest and Wildlife Commissions. This is to ensure cross-sectoral engagement of the various regional processes of countries, the UN Regional Economic Commissions, FAO Forest and Wildlife Commissions and Regional Banks to enhance follow-ups of UNFF resolutions at the regional level. The plan must therefore call for the establishment of a regional liaison desk officer at the UNFF Secretariat.

National Level Assessments

The plan should call on countries to undertake a situation analyses of the state of forests, forest industry and green/bioeconomy in their respective countries with the intentions of identifying countries' critical areas for intervention based on the GOFs and other targets as stated in SDGs, including Aichi targets of CBD, FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, and FAO's Forest and Farm Facility "Roadmap" with capacity building measures in areas that countries are lacking.

UNFF Secretariat and Implementation

The Strategic Plan must show clearly what role is expected of the UNFF Secretariat in facilitating implementation by countries.

Conclusion

It is hoped that the adoption of these proposals in the quadrennial strategic plan will go a long way in achieving the goals of sfm.