

## **Ukrainian remarks on the building blocks for the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030**

### *Introduction, Part A.*

We propose to combine part A and paras above aiming to start from the importance of forest at global scale and then provide short description of existing international arrangements on forests. Besides it is advisable to provide comprehensive definition of sustainable forest management after four global objectives on forests. As the definition of sustainable forest management we propose to use the definition developed in framework of the Forest Europe.

Statement 3, page 2 we propose to remove or reformulate as soon as at the moment not all forest globally are highly protected or resilient.

### *2. Introduction, Part B.*

We propose to place para 3 after para 4 for the purpose of the logical sequence of information provided. Besides that:

Paragraph 3 should be more focus on the fact that some challenges are beyond forest sector competence, which requires strengthening intersectoral cooperation. It could be amended as follows: "Many factors have a direct impact on the forest sector, namely the level of economic development, climate change, issues of poverty reduction, changes in land use, population growth and are beyond the primary influence and responsibility of the forest sector. Prevention and mitigation of its negative impact on the forest sector is possible in case of joint cooperation and consideration of the forest sector challenges within the national development strategies".

In paragraph 4 it should be noted that forest degradation is also possible as a result of climate change impact.

### *3. Introduction, Part C.*

In para 4 it should be added provision on the importance of forest adaptation to climate change.

### *4. Chapter II, Part A.*

Sustainability of forest management foresees the forest protection. So we propose to delete "protected" in the second option. We can further work with the edited option 2 or option 3.

### *5. Chapter II, Part B.*

We propose to work on the basis of options 3, 5 or 6.

### *6. Chapter III, the Title.*

We propose to use the 'strategic approach' aiming to avoid misinterpreting with similar already used terms.

### *7. Chapter III, Part A.*

We suggest further work on the basis of option 1.

Para 1 we propose to amend as follows: 'halt deforestation, restore degraded land and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation, promote the full set of measures of sustainable forest management including forest protection, reforestation, afforestation and rational forest use'

### *8. Chapter III, Part B*

We are elaborating the UN Strategic Plan up to 2030 but propose to approve targets only until 2020. Either we should prolong targets validity until 2030 or move them to the 4POW which will be valid until 2020. And in this case in 2020 we will be able to prolong targets validity or add something more relevant without changing the UN Strategic Plan itself. Keeping in mind above mentioned the second option is more suitable.

When considering interpretation of SDG targets in relation to forests it is worth to mentioned follows. Targets should be formulated in a way preventing repetition. We do not agree on targets 1.4 and 2.4 in current formulation. It is also required modifying interpretation of targets 4.4, 15.5. In 15.b it is advisable to add "as well as for countries with economies in transition."

We agree on adding targets related to achieving international agreements on forests, but these goals should be up to 2030, otherwise they should be removed to the 4POW.

### *9. Chapter IV on implementation, introduction and part A.*

In the first paragraph it should indicated that the UN Strategic Plan has been created framework to fulfill international agreements on forests.

Among other thing the UN Strategic Plan will fulfill the communication role which is required clear and understandable classification of presented information. In our opinion it is possible in two ways:

- 1) to work on the base of thematic areas and their clearly defined components. This thematic areas should be consistent with the main challenges (introduction, part B).
- 2) to work on the base of thematic elements of sustainable forest management (criteria) and within each element indicate areas for further action.

The UN Strategic Plan should contain only main directions where to move aiming to reach the objectives. Specific measures should be indicated in the 4POW for every four years. This is especially valid for recommended actions at national level. Besides proposed list of actions is too large and required to be edited. Part on international cooperation is an universal and is acceptable to all thematic areas / thematic elements, so it can be left in the UN Strategic Plan but also requires editing and shortening. More precise version could be added to the 4POW.

*10. Chapter IV on implementation, part B.2.*

If we agree that countries define Voluntary Planned Contributions (mentioned in B3) in the framework of the UN Strategic Plan implementation it would be appropriate to extend the responsibility of the UNFF secretariat on the collection and accumulation the relevant information and coordination of efforts to assist countries in implementing such obligations if necessary.

*11. Chapter IV on implementation, part B.5.*

Aiming to improve the cooperation on forest related issues at regional level it is necessary to ensure the strengthening cooperation and synergies between existing forest related institutions and processes in order to avoid duplication of work. It would be appropriate to ensure coordination between implementation of their work programs if appropriate. In this regard, it would be useful to determine the UN Regional Economic Commissions and / or FAO Regional Forestry Commissions to be responsible for possible coordination / liaison between forest related institutions and processes in the relevant region. Besides keeping in mind the significant number of international forest related events it would be appropriate to try to find a mechanism to combine the efforts of various organizations and processes in this regards by considering the concentrating of meetings conduction in one place in particular within the regional and global forest weeks held under the auspices of FAO, International Days of Forest etc.

*12. Chapter IV on implementation, part C1 and C2.*

If we agree that countries define Voluntary Planned Contributions (mentioned in B3) in the framework of the UN Strategic Plan implementation it would be appropriate in the chapter on GFFFN and other funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan to foresee assistance to countries in the implementation of such obligations if necessary.

Besides there are following remarks on C2:

*As for the GEF.* The program on forests should include support for sustainable forest management in the broadest content, not just assistance in reporting obligations.

*Regarding global climate fund.* There should be provided support not only for increasing the stability of forest ecosystems, but also to forest adaptation to climate change and the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes. In order to avoid and prevent deforestation there is a necessity to support strategies aiming improving land use.

## **Ukrainian remarks on the draft 4POW for 2017-2020 years**

### *1. General remarks.*

4POW as well as the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 will fulfill communication purposes. Therefore, the 4POW should include priorities for national / regional / global level for the next 4 years as part of the overall program. It is helpful to define/stress some priorities at the regional level (for example among others for arid regions or the Mediterranean region). Also we consider it appropriate to include in the 4POW the most relevant activities of CPF Members work and other forest related regional organizations and processes.

### *2. The structure of the document.*

We propose the following structure of the document:

#### Introduction

Clearly defined objectives to address over the next 4 years (as a possible option to transfer the relevant section of the draft UN Strategic Plan). It is important to isolate the problems raised recently and urgently needed to tackle (for example adaptation to climate change, SDG implementation, restoration of degraded forests and landscapes, etc.) and tasks carried out continuously, but required constant attention and improvement (for example national forest programs, reforestation, afforestation, forest protection, etc.).

Matrix of recommended actions at the national level within the objectives framework. Matrix should not be large and activities should be clearly and simple formulated.

Matrix of recommended measures at regional / global level within the objectives framework.

Plan for UNFF meetings and intersectional activities.

### *3. Topics for consideration within of UNFF meetings.*

In general we agree to the proposed topics. But in this case each session of UNFF will have negotiation status. It is worth also to add to the proposed agenda of each session the regional exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learnt for example on the relevant theme of the International Day of Forest. Responsible for providing such information may be regional UN Economic Commissions and / or Regional Forestry Commissions of FAO.