

Statement by the Scientific and Technological Major Groups for the 2020 High Level Segment

The Scientific and Technological Major Group welcomes the invitation to submit inputs/building blocks for the segment declaration and hereby submit the following brief statement for consideration.

Science and Technology is crucial for our understanding of the dynamics of forests and pivotal for the achievement of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). The central vision of the UNSPF is to achieve sustainable management of all types of forests. The six Global Forest Goals embodied in the UNSPF are the key interventions to achieve SFM and contribute to sustainable development.. When SFM is achieved remarkable welfare would be brought to mankind through direct contribution to poverty alleviation (SDG 1), food and nutrition security (SDG 2), health and wellness (SDG3), clean water (SDG 6), sustained supply of forest-based biofuels (SDG 7), climate change mitigation and adaptation (SDG 13), biodiversity conservation and reversal of land degradation and desertification (SDG 15).

Among the common principles underpinning the UNSPF and the post-2015 Development Agenda is the need for evidence-based framework for Monitoring, Assessing and Reporting. Data are fundamental assets and central to designing, monitoring, assessing and reporting implementation and achievement of goals and targets. Data gaps currently exist in social, economic and environmental trends in the forestry sector and there is massive inequality in availability, accessibility and usability. **Progress toward SFM requires enhancing scientific research to generate data and new knowledge to inform policy.** Indeed, just as in commerce and business the state of scientific and technological activity in a country or region will in large measure serve as a metric in determining the drive towards SFM.

Several studies have shed light on the contribution of scientific research to improved income, forest productivity and protection, environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Scientific and technological advances and tools have helped in forest inventory and land-use planning, rehabilitation of degraded forests and mined sites, in identifying ecophysiological markers for selection of provenances for tree plantations, for improved processing and utilization of wood and wood traceability including tracking of illegal logging activities. **UNFF should therefore raise the discourse on the role of S&T on SFM and the Science-Policy interface and seek support for the Scientific and Technological Communities in developing countries in particular to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the UNSPF and the post-2015 development agenda through scientific capacity enhancement , R&D financing and networking and partnerships**

In this regard we urge UNFF to establish Science and Technology Platform to;

- facilitate inputs from the scientific community to policy-makers and practitioners
- promote dialogue and mutual understanding between science and policy communities
- strengthen international cooperation and coordination in scientific research
- facilitate knowledge transfer and information sharing on SFM
- identify critical questions that need to be addressed at local, regional and global levels
- deliver solutions supported by scientific evidence

We urge member states to scale up national scientific activities and encourage collaboration across scientific and policy communities.

We also urge the scientific communities to redesign the national and regional scientific research agenda to reflect the relevant goals and targets of the UNSPF and the SDGs to ensure the timely achievement of the goals. The forum should actively promote the application of science and technology for sustainable management of all types of forests.