

Major Groups Meeting on the International Arrangement on Forests (9-10 January 2014, New York)

Brief Note

Background:

According to resolution E/2000/35, the participation of a wide range of forest-related stakeholders is considered a key component of sustainable management of forests (SFM). For this reason, the UNFF welcomes the participation of the nine major groups as identified in Chapter 23 of Agenda 21¹. The UNFF Major Group focal points are uniquely positioned to educate and engage individual citizens and stakeholders, work with diverse constituencies, and contribute effectively toward the implementation of SFM and the review of the IAF.

Major Groups Meeting in January 2014

As part of the Forum's intersessional activities, from 9-10 January 2014, the UNFF Secretariat organized a meeting entitled "Civil Society Perspectives on the International Arrangement on Forests: Expert Group Meeting" at UN Headquarters in New York.

Nine representatives of the nine UNFF Major Groups² attended and participated in the meeting which provided them an opportunity to directly interact with the IAF Independent Assessment Team on issues relevant to the IAF, and in particular, on how to enhance the involvement of the major groups in the future IAF.

During the meeting, the UNFF Major Groups Focal Points also discussed the best course of action for their effective involvement in the IAF intersessional activities, in particular, the first meeting of the ad hoc expert group meeting (AHEG1) on the IAF, which will be held from 24-28 February 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya and their input to UNFF11. They also discussed various aspects about their inputs to the eleventh session of UNFF.

¹ <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>

² http://www.un.org/esa/forests/contacts-major_groups.html