

# UNFF 11 FACT SHEET

JUNE 2015

## UNFF11 agrees on roadmap until 2030, outlines key actions to strengthen SFM

In May 2015, Member States at the 11th session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF11) adopted a historic Resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) beyond 2015 and a Ministerial Declaration. The Declaration highlights how sustainable forest management (SFM) is vital to transformative change and to addressing development challenges - from poverty eradication and economic growth to food security and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Delegates from over 125 Member States participated in UNFF11, including 30 forest Ministers and Vice Ministers.

UNFF11 delegates decided to strengthen the overall IAF, and in particular with regard to implementation and financing, and coherence and consistency with the post 2015 development agenda. Member States extended the timeline of the IAF to 2030, defined IAF objectives and components, and outlined the strategic direction for the Arrangement. Countries also strengthened the Forum and its Secretariat, and agreed to develop a strategic plan for the IAF (2017-2030) with quadrennial programmes of work.

## The International Arrangement on Forests

The main objectives of the IAF are to promote implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM), in particular the UN Forest Instrument and to enhance the contribution of forests to the post-2015 development agenda. The components of the IAF are the UNFF and its Member States, the UNFF Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), and the UNFF Trust Fund.

## Focus on SFM Implementation, Financing and Technical Advice

Implementation of the UN Forest Instrument will be a key task for the IAF beyond 2015. Countries at UNFF11 reiterated the validity and value of the UN Forest Instrument and agreed to extend its Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) until 2030. Starting in 2017, the Forum will meet annually, with an increased focus on monitoring, assessing and reporting on the UN Forest Instrument implementation, mobilising resources and sharing technical advice. UNFF sessions will assess progress in implementation of the Forum's resolutions and decisions, the UN Forest Instrument and the UNFF strategic plan.

On financing, UNFF11 decided to upgrade the UNFF Facilitative Process to the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), to promote design of national forest financing strategies and serve as a clearinghouse on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities, and best practices. The main objective of the GFFFN is to mobilize and enhance access of countries to financial resources for forests. The UNFF11 Resolution also calls for systematic collaboration with the multilateral financial institutions like the GEF. In particular, the Forum requested the GEF to consider establishing a new focal area on sustainable forest management during its next replenishment period.

*"To build a sustainable, climate-resilient future for all, we must invest in our world's forests. That will take political commitment at the highest levels, smart policies, effective law enforcement, innovative partnerships and funding." UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*



*“A meaningful decision on strengthening the International Arrangement on Forests will put us on a path towards a greener economy and a more equitable and sustainable future for all.”*  
UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson

UNFF11 strengthened the monitoring, assessment and reporting function of the Forum by deciding on continuation of national reporting to the Forum and calling for streamlining and harmonizing reporting with efforts by the CPF, and requesting a new cycle and format for reporting.

### **Integrating Forest contributions in the post-2015 development agenda**

UNFF11 paved the way for the Forum to play a more active role in contributing to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and to the implementation, follow-up and review of the forest-related aspects of the post-2015 development agenda, including its forest-related SDGs and targets. Delegates also agreed to integrate the forest-related SDGs and targets into the UN Forest Instrument. Member organizations of the CPF and regional and sub-regional organizations and processes are expected to support the work of the Forum in this regard.

### **Cooperation through strategic partnerships**

UNFF11 encouraged strengthening collaboration between the Forum and relevant forest-related international, regional and sub-regional entities, Major Groups and CPF. In particular, UNFF11 decided that the core functions of the CPF are to support the work of the Forum and its member countries; provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum; promote implementation of the UN Forest Instrument and the contribution of forests to the post-2015 development agenda.

### **2015, a time for global action for forests**

At UNFF11, forest Ministers pledged to cooperate internationally and bilaterally to address the drivers of deforestation and degradation, including by promoting secure land tenure rights and stakeholders' participation. Ministers recognized that the UNFF, with its universal membership and comprehensive mandate plays a vital role in addressing challenges related to forests in a holistic and integrated manner. The Ministerial Declaration emphasized the need to integrate forests in the outcomes of key international conferences taking place in 2015, including the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Development, the UN Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and its SDGs, and the Paris Climate Change Conference.

### **Periodic reviews of the IAF**

The UNFF11 resolution contains provisions for a mid-term review of the effectiveness of the IAF to take place in 2024, and a final review in 2030. In particular, UNFF11 decided that the mid-term review might consider a full range of options for the IAF, including a legally binding instrument on all types of forests; and a full range of financing options, including establishment of a voluntary global forest fund.

### **Forum-related meetings in 2016-2017**

The twelfth session of the UNFF is expected to be held in mid-2017. During the intersessional period, a concise strategic plan for 2017 -2030 will be developed through meetings of UNFF ad hoc expert groups (2016) and a UNFF working group and UNFF Special Session (late 2016 /early 2017). The Forum will operationalize the strategic plan through quadrennial programmes of work beginning with 2017-2020.

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