



*Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas
to the United Nations*

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The Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, and has the honour to refer to latter's Note No: UNFF-13-L-HMM-219 dated 16th July, 2013 soliciting views and proposals from Member States and other stakeholders on the International Arrangement on Forest (IAF).

In this regard, please see the attached Views and Proposals of The Bahamas on the same.

The Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

2 December, 2013 New York, N.Y. 10017

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic & Social Affairs
Two United Nations Plaza
DC2-2300
New York, N.Y. 10017





**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Immigration
P.O. Box N-3746
Goodman's Bay Corporate Centre
Nassau, N.P.,
The Bahamas**

30th October, 2013

Note No. MFA/269

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat in New York and has the honour to refer to the latter's letter No. UNFF-13-L-HMM-219 dated 16th July, 2013 soliciting views and proposals from Member States and other stakeholders on the International Arrangement on Forest (IAF).

The Ministry has the further honour to transmit the Views and Proposals of The Bahamas on the same.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat in New York the assurances of its highest consideration.

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
United Nations
New York, USA.



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Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: *MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING*
Name of official submitting the views: *CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL / Director of Forestry*
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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- Strengthening of the current IAF
- Continuation of the current IAF
- Other options (please describe)

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000 and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

Needs more legitimacy to enable member countries to take necessary action, + consequences for non-compliance

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49⁴:

Average performance.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:

To move towards a legally binding instrument on all types of forests

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:

Implementation role

⁴ Please see these documents at:

- http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/2000_35_E.pdf
- http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/iaf/2006_49_E.pdf

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B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:
NOT very impactful

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:
NOT very effective

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:
not very impactful

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

Adequate
 Inadequate
 Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: *Needs to be legally binding on member countries*

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOF2:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOF3:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOF4:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: *[Same as c.2]*

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:
NOT very effective in current format

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:
Needs to be legally binding on member states

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Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- Adequate
- Inadequate
- Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

Needs to be legally binding / constituted

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

(Same as D.2)

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

Not very impactful

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

Need more human + financial resources

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

Need creation of mandatory Global Forest Fund

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

Mandatory national forest financing fund.