



LE CABINET

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Abidjan,

05 DEC 2013

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir, ci-joint, pour transmission au Secrétariat du Forum des Nations Unies sur les Forêts (FNUF), les observations et propositions de la Côte d'Ivoire sur la revue de l'Arrangement International sur les Forêts (AIF), en réponse au questionnaire que lui a soumis le FNUF.

Par ailleurs, je vous prie de bien vouloir formuler une requête auprès du Secrétariat du FNUF pour la prise en charge de la participation de Monsieur KADIO Adjumane Aimé, Conseiller Technique du Ministre des Eaux et Forêts, Point Focal National du FNUF, au prochain atelier du Comité d'Experts intergouvernementaux, prévu du 24 au 28 février 2014 à Nairobi (Kenya).

Je vous en souhaite bonne réception et vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, l'assurance de ma haute considération,

**MONSIEUR L'AMBASSADEUR,
REPRESENTANT PERMANENT
DE COTE D'IVOIRE
AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

NEW-YORK


Le Directeur de Cabinet

KALOU Emmanuel

Country/Organization:

Date of Submission:

**UNFF Intersessional Activities on the International Arrangement on Forests
Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
July 2013**

1. According to the multi-year programme of work adopted in 2007, the overall theme of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) in 2015 will be “Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests (IAF).” At this session, the Forum will review the effectiveness of the IAF and decide on its future.¹
2. In preparation for UNFF11 in 2015, the Forum has made a number of decisions during the last fourteen years.² Most recently, Member States through Resolution 10/2 of UNFF10 decided to undertake several intersessional activities to ensure UNFF11 has a strong basis to review the effectiveness of the IAF and make a decision on the future of the IAF.
3. One of the three components of the intersessional activities on the IAF, as outlined in Resolution 10/2 of UNFF10, is to solicit views from Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the IAF. Specifically, the Resolution invites countries, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, its member organizations, other relevant organizations, relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders to submit views and proposals to the Forum’s Secretariat on the six key issues set out in paragraph 5 of the same resolution, and the full range of options on the future international arrangement on forests. The UNFF Secretariat should provide the compilation of these views and proposals to the first meeting of the ad hoc expert group (AHEG1) on the IAF³.
4. This format has been prepared by the Forum’s Secretariat to facilitate submission of the inputs on the IAF to AHEG1. The electronic version of this format is available at: (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/docs/Views-on-IAF.doc>). Member States and other relevant stakeholders are invited to download this format and use it to submit their views and proposals in English. The explanation in each box should not exceed 150 words. Member States and other stakeholders are kindly requested to submit the original copy of the completed format in word processing software, with a scanned copy of the official letter from their respective organization/ministry/mission, via email to: unff@un.org, with copy to Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi at: moeini-meybodi@un.org, and Ms. Thida Sam at: sam2@un.org. All inputs should be sent to the UNFF Secretariat by **30 October 2013**.

¹ Resolution 1 of UNFF7 and its annex (E/2007/42), please see:

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/349/31/PDF/N0734931.pdf?OpenElement>

² ECOSOC Resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49, Resolution 1 of UNFF7 and its annex (E/2007/42) and Resolution 2 of UNFF10 and its annex (E/2013/42)

³ OP 5 and 6 of Resolution 2 of UNFF 10 and paragraph 2 of its annex- Please see:

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/321/90/PDF/N1332190.pdf?OpenElement>

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

Ministry / Organization: MINISTERE DES EAUX ET FORETS (MINEF)

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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:

The UNFF Secretariat which performs valuable work seems very small staff to carry out all the tasks that Members of the Forum expect him to support States in the implementation of the Agreement.

But it would be desirable therefore to expand the current team by recruiting new experts and organize the monitoring of the implementation of the Agreement by homogeneous groups. Experts recruited will be used to support States and monitoring the implementation of the Agreement in these groups: LFCCs – SIDs – HFCCs- LDCs ...

The biennial UNFF sessions are sufficient to assess progress between sessions. But intersessional activities should be maintained to help preparation of next session.

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:

UNFF has made significant progress and produced an impressive number of studies and reports or summaries with the support of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), or by independent consultants or by voluntary contributions from States or individuals on key issues in the forestry sector.

Most CPF member organizations work together to promote sustainable forest management at the regional and national levels, forest governance and law enforcement as well as the promotion of legal timber trade. More recently, the study on forest financing led by the CPF Members and the support provided to developing States by the UNFF Facilitative Process, to help them identify ways of financing sustainable forest management were major achievements.

Most countries have undertaken efforts to implement at least some of the policy measures adopted by the Non-Legally Binding Instrument (NLBI) on all types of forests, mainly in the framework of their national forest

programs. However, ignorance of the IAF did not allow them to develop an evaluation in relation to the implementation of the Instrument on all types of forests.

Sensitization of stakeholders on the usefulness of this instrument is, therefore, fundamental to achieve its implementation and contribute to sustainable management of forest resources of States.

Modules on capacity building designed and delivered in some countries like Ghana, Liberia ... to facilitate the implementation of the Instrument and monitoring at the national level, should extend to a maximum of countries. This training may have contributed as well to improve the understanding of the instrument by stakeholders and show them how to integrate its implementation and monitoring in national forest programs in particular, and in the national development plans in general.

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

UNFF should go well beyond a framework for discussion and debate to turn the Secretariat into a coordinating body for implementation of forest policy at the global level. While recognizing each country's responsibility to sustainably manage its forests and enforce national laws, UNFF should adopt the following objectives :

- Strengthen the commitment of Member States and all stakeholders to identify and implement relevant strategies at national level to contribute to the achievement of global objectives shares;
- To assist States to develop and implement a national forest programs or equivalent ;
- To support the states and other stakeholders in the effective cross-sectoral planning and coordination on issues that affect forests;

UNFF already has significant capacities, mandate and a hearing should be utilized, with the support of the CPF Members, to play a central role in the governance of the global forest.

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

UNFF should be the high level interlocutor on forest issues and put all its weight to raise the profile of forests in intergovernmental discussions on the Post-2015 United Nations development agenda and within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UNFF Secretariat should be mandated member states to defend positions, define and propose objectives and targets that could be an international agreement. The central position of the UNFF allows him to have a better overview on all matters under discussion worldwide.

In view of hoisting the forestry sector as the main target of a goal on the natural resources on the SDGs, the UNFF Secretariat should gather around him all stakeholders (Member States, CPF, large groups ...) to present clearly the arguments in favor of forests.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:

Most states have taken initiatives for the implementation of the NLBI on all types of forests. These initiatives are marked in Africa and particularly in Côte d'Ivoire by the revision of forest legislation in order to take into account the measures of sustainable forest management. Côte d'Ivoire is also involved in the FLEGT process which marks the willingness of policymakers to promote forest law enforcement, governance and legal operations, wood processing and fair trade of forests products.

At West Africa level, the process of dialogue on forests initiated by the sub-regional institutions in the forest sector and fauna, with the support of institutions and organizations to international intergovernmental or non- governmental, led to the adoption by Member States of ECOWAS (Economic Community of west Africa), in a " Convergence Plan for the management and sustainable use of forest ecosystems in West Africa." This plan reflects the desire of these states to implement more efficient forest resources and strengthening sub-regional cooperation on sustainable forest management and wildlife management mechanisms. This plan, will

therefore serve as a frame of reference on the basis of which Member States agree to " federate " their national and sub -regional organizations, in order to achieve the sustainable management of forests and wildlife and ecosystem valuation forest in the sub -region.

Concerning Africa, the creation of the African Forest Forum (AFF) has had an undeniable impact on the promotion of sustainable forest management through the implementation of projects and editing many documents. AFF helped promote forest law enforcement, governance and trade. AFF has also provided support to African States through the organization of workshops, to better inform national focal points on the mechanisms and the overall objectives of the Agreement.

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:

The participation of Major Groups in multi-stakeholder debate contributed to associate all stakeholders to decisions for sustainable forest management. Written contributions that these groups produce are valuable input in the multi-stakeholder debate

The contribution of major groups should be encouraged because they are independent bodies who express themselves freely on issues of global interest. They should receive more attention and a little more space at Forum sessions to express their views.

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:

The International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests have resulted in a higher awareness and increase political and public commitment to sustainable forest management.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the Government made a statement read by the Minister in Charge of Forests on National Radio and Television antennas, to describe the initiatives taken by his department for the sustainable management and restoration of forests and invited everyone to get involved in the implementation of these actions. During demonstrations marking the International Day of Forests, government, people, and operators in the timber sector were mobilized around forestry issues.

Following these meetings, several important decisions were adopted, including the expulsion of people illegally installed in managed forests and the adoption of legislation to stop logging in savanna zones, considered as delicate ecosystem.

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:

To improve progress, extension of the Instrument on Forests should be undertaken in states that wish to all stakeholders: government, economic operators' wood and forestry sector and non-governmental organizations forest products sector. It must take into account the awareness of the usefulness of this instrument for achieving its implementation and contribute to the sustainable management of forest resources.

The training modules like those performed in Ghana, Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines in recent years have made to ensure the capacity building and understanding of the Agreement.

States should avoid frequent changes in focal points to prevent sudden breaks in monitoring records. They should rather develop light teams of two or three persons to monitor the process.

An effort should be made at the state level to translate the instrument on forests in the main languages and implement incentives to engage in forest management certification schemes for sustainable management measures.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Note sure
GOF1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Despite the implementation of the Instrument on Forests and progress in sustainable forest management, the forest loss, associated with massive clearings, have increased in developing countries and in Ivory Coast in particular. These losses are not fully compensated by the global gains in forest area in developed countries. In Côte d'Ivoire, reforestation and forest restoration is a priority of the national forest program. Maintaining the integrity of areas fully preserved (national parks) is ensured and the creation of an independent department (Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves - OIPR) to fulfill this mission contributes to a better protection of these ecosystems.

In addition, Côte d'Ivoire is engaged in process FLEGT and REDD+. This marks the country's willingness to enroll in certification programs of best practice, sustainable forest management, improving access to foreign markets. These programs also have a higher aspect of capacity building and technology transfer. The information is sufficiently developed with stakeholders involved in the process, to bring the same level of understanding than others.

Involvement in the REED+ process in particular, help to establish a framework for cooperation between different sectors (forestry - agriculture - energy - mining - transport ...). It will enhance the coordination of efforts for a better understanding of the causes of forest degradation and facilitate the understanding of misunderstandings that limit political approaches to implement in order to solve these problems.

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

To achieve the overall objectives at the global and national level, we will have set the problem of the status of the instrument and the establishment of a mechanism for financing forest.

At national level, the extension of the Instrument on Forests should be undertaken in order to achieve an understanding by all stakeholders in forest management.

Knowledge for sustainable forest management is available but the causes of forest problems are complex and their resolution requires application of a variety of policy instruments. The establishment of a framework for cooperation in the sectors involved in the implementation of these policies is a prerequisite for success.

National priorities should be identified and taken into account:

- Capacity building of forest workers , forest companies' managers, local communities and all forest stakeholders on approaches to rational management of forest resources to reduce pressure on forests;
- Promoting the efficient use of forest products to prevent waste;
- Increasing the contribution of forest management to reduce poverty mainly for people living close to the forest to attract the interest of people for sustainable management.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

The implementation of FLEGT and REED+ process identifies activities that contribute to the achievement of the four global objectives of Forest Instrument. This is the case for capacity building of stakeholders in forest management, promoting intersectoral coordination for sustainable development, strengthening forest law, the establishment of a framework for financing sustainable management sustainable forest management, promoting the development of non-timber forest products, etc ...

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:

The implementation of the Forests Instrument and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals can provide arguments to raise the profile of the forestry sector in the definition of sustainable development objectives.

Data on direct and indirect contributions of forest products to national economies and poverty reduction could be used to build an argument to show that this contribution also involves different sectors such as agriculture and food security, energy, tourism, water resources...

It would be possible to demonstrate that the investment in the forestry sector is an axis of economic growth in developing countries and thus poverty reduction.

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:

The UNFF Secretariat has an important role with great competence and professionalism. But its size is too small to enable it to effectively carry all loads can be expected from him. The existing staff Should be confirmed and recruited new expertise for better management of IAF. The Facilitative Process of UNFF Secretariat which played such an important role in recent years to assist Member States to strengthen their capacity in mobilizing funds for sustainable forest management should be continued and expanded in staff. Support and monitoring of the implementation of the instrument responsibilities could be assigned to these experts from the cluster on the basis of specific States: LFCCs, SIDs, HFCCs, LDCs...

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

See D1 and B1

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

Idem

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:

The establishment of the CPF by ECOSOC to support the activities of the Forum and its members and to enhance cooperation and coordination in forestry among members, is a significant initiative that must be maintained and strengthened.

The CPF has produced key results among which may be mentioned the study on forest financing and promotion of the International Year of Forests in 2011.

CPF should receive the financial support needed to cope with the financing of its activities.

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:

The Secretariat of the UNFF and the CPF Members should be able to define each year a list of commitments related to work plan, implement and evaluate the necessary implementation of these activities financial needs for seeking finance.

The contribution of member financial organizations like the World Bank CPF should be sought to finance this work plan.

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:

As part of the preparation for the tenth session of the Forum to be held in Istanbul (Turkey) in April 2013, the Forum adopted at its special session at its ninth session, the Resolution on the means of implementation (forest financing) for sustainable forest management which has been established an Ad hoc Group of Experts Intergovernmental open (AHEG) and a process of facilitation (PF). The results of the meetings held in Rome (Italy) in September 2012 and in Vienna (Austria) in January 2013, on the subject should be taken into account. The establishment of a global forest fund to finance sustainable forest management is sought by many Member States. This decision has unfortunately not been taken at the tenth session of the Forum in Istanbul and seems subject to the revision of the legal status of the Instrument on Forests.

According to Côte d'Ivoire, the development of national forest sustainable financing strategy, is a primary responsibility of States. However the overall plan funding must be available to provide a framework for collaboration and technology transfer. Strengthening the International Arrangement on Forests will be desirable for this purpose, without necessarily establishing a Legally Binding Agreement on all types of forests.

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

The establishment of a global forest fund to support forest management and the implementation of the Forests Instrument should be a window for financing decisions of the Forum. All other existing funding should be additional windows to the fund.

Access to this fund should be easier for developing countries in order to assist them in the implementation of measures adopted by the Forum on sustainable forest management.

This new and additional funding must come in addition to those already available for sustainable development and access by states based on national priorities and national forest programs development.