



**საქართველოს მუდმივი წარმომადგენლობა გაერთიანებული ერების
ორგანიზაციაში**

PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

№ 19/48311

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and with reference to the letter of Mr. Jan L. McAlpine, Director of UNFF N 006448, dated by 25 October 2013 and has the honour to convey the filled-in questionnaire, reflecting the views and proposals of the LEPL "National Forestry Agency", Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF).

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

Enclosed: 5 pages.

New York, 25 November 2013

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
New York

Country/Organization: Georgia, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, National Forestry Agency

Date of Submission: 15.11.2013

**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 UNFF10 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: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources protection,
National forestry Agency

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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: UNFF structure and biennial sessions are sufficient to ensure implementation of appropriate guidelines and activities;

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: According to ECOSOC resolutions UNFF's activities and performance can be evaluated as efficient and vital for further development, especially for increasing the list of participant countries and enhancing their capacities.

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

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Broadening and promoting UNFF's forest-related priorities and programs in new participant countries.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: UNFF's efforts to ensure involvement of developing countries. It is necessary to strengthen or amend forest issues in different Conventions administered by UN organizations.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: The role of AD HOC expert groups involved in UNFF activities should be observing implementation of multi-year programs, as well as identifying forest-related issues and evaluating their value and reasonability.

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: Engagement of major groups in the activities of UNFF represents a positive fact for further progressive performance and desirable outcomes. Involvement of groups other than "major groups" is also very important e.g. mountain people who are very much depend on forest products and services.

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: : Focusing on the importance of forest and biodiversity is the core purpose for their further development. Namely to this end, the role and impact of the International Year of the Forest and International Day of the Forest should be subject of discussion and promotion at any level.

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:

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

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

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: More active work at national level.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: Implementation of the forest instrument ensures coordinated and interactive cooperation between the UNFF and relevant global and regional MEAs is absolutely necessary. Achievements and findings of forest instrument should be taken into account by secretariats of MEAs and activities of UNFF should be guided by MEAs. Insure that forest issues are adeqiatly explained in these MEAs.

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: To put special clauses in post-2015 UN development agenda for developing countries as well as for countries in transition, as they should take special efforts to improve the management of their forests, inter alia, to mobilize financial resources and support.

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 secretariat should be strengthen.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Keeping participants updated with consequences of the sessions and credible news.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: Inceze visibility of the secretariat with active role at national level.

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: Recent activities of CPF have shown very coherent and effective direction towards the work of UNFF and its member countries. It's obvious that the mission of CPF gained extensive experience in enhancing cooperation and coordination on forest issues.

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: More active continuation of the current direction.

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: Creation of Global Forest Fund is a good idea, one of the main contributors should be forest companies dealing with forest harvesting (transfer of small part of their profit).

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: Option is the creation of separate section or direction in GEF.