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**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,  
LANDS, FORESTRY, FISHERIES  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
MINISTERIAL COMPLEX  
BOTANICAL GARDENS  
ST. GEORGE'S  
GRENADA, W.I.**

November 14, 2013

Ms. Thida Sam  
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat  
2 United Nations Plaza  
DC2 – 230813  
New York  
New York 1007  
**USA**

Dear Ms. Sam,

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment presents its compliments to the staff of the Secretariat.

Please find attached the submission of the Grenada/Forestry and National Parks Division of this Ministry on the stated subject. " UNFF Intersessional Activities on the International Arrangement on Forest Format for soliciting view and proposals on the International Agreement on Forest, United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariats July 2013".

We welcome the opportunity to participate.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Bernadette Lendore-Sylvester', is written over a dotted line.

**Bernadette Lendore-Sylvester (Mrs.)**  
**PERMANENT SECRETARY**  
*with responsibility for FORESTRY AND FISHERIES*

BL-S/at

Attach

Country/Organization: Grenada/Forestry and National Parks Department

Date of Submission: October 30, 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.<sup>1</sup>
2. In preparation for UNFF11 in 2015, the Forum has made a number of decisions during the last fourteen years.<sup>2</sup> 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 IAF<sup>3</sup>.
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](mailto:unff@un.org), with copy to Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi at: [moeini-meybodi@un.org](mailto:moeini-meybodi@un.org), and Ms. Thida Sam at: [sam2@un.org](mailto:sam2@un.org). All inputs should be sent to the UNFF Secretariat by **30 October 2013**.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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)

<sup>3</sup> 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 Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Name of official submitting the views: Aden Forteau

Address: Ministerial Complex, Botanical Gardens, Tanteen, St. George's, Grenada

Phone/Fax:

E-mail: michael\_forteau@yahoo.co.uk and adenforteau@yahoo.com

**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)  
A legally binding instrument may contribute to greater compliance by member states/parties on the four global objectives on forest, forest instrument and the MDG's. (The consequences of Non-compliance should be great enough to ensure compliance). Additionally, a legally binding instrument may result in greater consideration given by CPF to member states (particularly the SIDS) for new and additional resources to ensure implementation for sustainable forest management -  
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**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 current UNFF structure seems quite sufficient, however the biennial sessions are not enough to take necessary actions regarding all types of forest. For example, debate conclusions/recommendations from biennial sessions are based on consensus and does not necessarily mean that the conditionalities regarding all parties and all type of forests are reflected. Time limitation is also associated with the biennial sessions, thus making it

impossible for member states to sufficiently deliberate on the situation and circumstances regarding forest in their respective states. Additionally, not all member states are usually present at biennial session due to lack of financial resources etc.

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 2006/49<sup>4</sup>: In the absence of sufficient resources and a Legally-Binding Instrument, I think that the UNFF's performance regarding the promotion of management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest and strengthening of long-term political commitment was great. Accomplishment of the four Global objectives, the NLBI, and development goals including the MDG's requires the availability of technical and financial resources etc. UNFF through its awareness initiatives particularly the International Year of the Forest (Forest 2011) has raised forest consciousness and significantly contributed to increased efforts at national, regional and international levels for the sustainable management, conservation and development of all types of forest. UNFF has invited and facilitated the participation of Ministers from representative member states to biennial sessions in an effort to strengthen political commitment for sustainable forest management. UNFF also ensures that the recommendations from sessions are communicated to the CPF particularly the three major Rio Convention. However more effort is needed by UNFF in facilitating the provision of resources to ensure greater participation of member states to meetings/sessions.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: I think that the UNFF should continue functioning under its present structure but with more autonomy and support (legislative, financial etc.) from the CPF and other key partners to facilitate sustainable forest management in member states.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: UNFF potential roles in implementing UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs should speak mainly to coordination and facilitation. UNFF should actively liaise with key members of the CPF, intergovernmental agencies, major groups etc. to ensure that mechanisms are in place for implementation and feedback (monitoring and evaluation are crucial in this regard).

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: The work of the UNFF regarding Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups is fundamental because countries/Focal Points are given the opportunity to deliberate on key issues pertaining to the implementation of the Four Global Objectives on Forest, the Forest Instrument and Development Goals. Furthermore, countries are able to address implementation constraints confronting their capacity to effectively and efficiently implement SFM and contribute to meaningful recommendations for analysis and appropriate action by UNFF for Global SFM. Country-led Initiatives should be encouraged and intensified.

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<sup>4</sup> Please see these documents at:

- [http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/2000\\_35\\_E.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/2000_35_E.pdf)
- [http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/iaf/2006\\_49\\_E.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/iaf/2006_49_E.pdf)

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 intent of the major group network is good , however there is need for greater synergies between and within major groups for the implementation of the forest instrument and related areas. A strategic plan is needed for major groups. Such a plan should fully capture the roles and responsibilities of individual groups and must also capture the means of implementation for UNFF issues. Facilitation for strengthening coordination among groups is crucial.

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: I think that the role of the International Year of Forest (IYF) and the International Day of Forest (IDF) in promoting awareness and strengthening political commitment for forest were key and crucial. These events have raised individual, community and political consciousness on the use and importance of forest at the national, regional and international levels. The understanding and actions towards SFM are now more positive compared to prior the implementation of IDF & IYF.

**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: UNFF's role and capacity in facilitating SFM should be strengthened.

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: Need strengthening of synergies (corporation, coordination & collaboration) at all levels (CPF, major groups, intergovernmental organisations, NGO's, politicians etc.) to ensure adequate progress of the four Global Objectives on Forest.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: The objectives of the forest instrument are consistent with the goals and objectives of the forest related international conventions and consequently, the implementation of the conventions goals automatically mean implementation of the forest instrument and the four global objectives on forest and vice versa .

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 forest instrument and the GOFs are geared towards management, conservation, sustainable development of forest resources and strengthening of political commitment. These would contribute positively to the provision of livelihoods, poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation etc. All of the above mentioned contribution are consistent with the post-2015 UN development agenda and the SDG's.

#### **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 works /commitments of the UNFF secretariat are tremendous and it is therefore crucial that sufficient staff and associated resources be made available for the successful implementation of SFM.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Suggestions for the Secretariat of the UNFF to function more efficiently include the following: 1) Members of the CPF and other key stakeholders must provide support to ensure sufficient financial and other resources for the UNFF Secretariat. 2) All stakeholders including member states, intergovernmental organisations, major groups, NGO's etc. must ensure timely submission of reports and 3) Provide to the UNFF Secretariat , appropriate, timely and accurate feedback regarding meetings and workshops to ensure that the Secretariat logistical arrangements are effective and efficient.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: The Secretariat's role can be strengthened legislation, increased support from members of the CPF and through the implementation of instrument such as institutional analysis to determine gaps in role and responsibilities.

### **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 CPF programs are designed to meet internationally agreed upon objectives, however the action taken to accomplish the said objectives although necessary are not sufficient and varies from one region to the next. The impacts of some actions are not immediately apparent but will provide long-term social, economic and environmental benefits. This would contribute positively to climate change mitigation and adaptation, poverty alleviation and community livelihood security, particularly for the poor and vulnerable women. I think that the CPF members should do more to ensure that the UNFF can effectively and efficiently implement resolutions and other essential work.

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 CPF members need to comprehensively analyse the role of the UNFF

### **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: 1) Develop a special resolution for international forest financing (All relevant parties would derive strategies to implement the resolution).

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: 1) International Forum to derive consensus on forest financing strategy. 2) Hosting of regional meetings/workshops to decide on approach to implement strategy and 3) At the national level ensure consistency with international and regional financial strategies considering all circumstances affecting forest financing. Additionally members of the CPF and major groups should make necessary contributions that would contribute to SFM.