

# MAFF

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

13 November, 2013

To whom it may concern about Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) in United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat,  
CC: Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, Secretariat of UNFF  
Ms. Thida Sam, Secretariat of UNFF

Dear Sir/Madam,

Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit our Views and Proposals on IAF to UNFF Secretariat attached herewith as requested.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,



Satoshi AKAHORI  
Director of International Forestry Cooperation Office,  
Forestry Agency,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan

Country/Organization: Japan

Date of Submission: 13/11/2013

**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.<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**.

---

<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:** Government of Japan

Name of official submitting the views: Mr. HATTORI Koji (National focal point of Japan)

Address: 1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyodaku, Tokyo, 100-8952, JAPAN

Phone/Fax: +81 3 3591 8449(Phone)/+81 3 3593 9565(Fax)

E-mail: koji\_hattori@nm.maff.go.jp

**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) As legally binding agreement(LBA) on forest, there is the International Tropical Timber Agreement of 2006 equipped with funding mechanism as means of implementation of SFM, and Forest Europe has been negotiating to conclude an LBA on forest in Europe, which will be agreed at the extraordinary ministerial conference this November. UNFF is expected to be the interface for various activities of forest related organizations including C&I processes, and play a role as a platform for them. -
- \_\_\_\_\_

**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: As only one fourth member countries submit country reports and the secretariat of UNFF is not making comprehensive analysis of those submitted reports, the current UNFF structure cannot be considered as framework of providing policy advice and guidance. Instead, current UNFF structure seems to be sufficient if UNFF plays a role as a platform to assemble all multi-stakeholders such as member countries, international organizations and processes, and so on.

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>: Adoption of Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, and the Multi-Year Programme of Work

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: As answered in A.1 section, UNFF should play a role as a platform to interface various international frameworks on forest such as Collaborative Partnership on Forest (CPF) including ITTO and FAO, and C&I process through introducing and sharing information on projects implemented and outcomes produced to improve access to information and funding for member countries and facilitate networking each other as well as to activate their activities. Further UNFF reporting based on NLBI should be streamlined to reduce country burden of reporting by using CFRQ which is developed by collaboration of 6 C&I process and FAO, it is highly recommended.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: UNFF should provide the platform for various forest related organizations such as CPF member organizations and C&I processes, to discuss on the UN post-2015 development agenda and the new SDGs. UNFF is expected to form the consolidated opinions among them and to input the opinions appropriately to the UN post-2015 agenda and SDGs based on the discussion. In addition, UNFF should be responsible for their follow-up.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: Member countries including Japan organized many activities to contribute to UNFF discussions and resolutions, however complex and bureaucratic procedures to register them as UNFF Country-led initiative (CLI) should be improved not to decrease countries' motivation. We recognize that ad hoc expert groups (AHEG) discussed necessary themes requested for each UNFF resolution and produced fruitful outcomes in each session, meanwhile it is very sorry that the outcomes of AHEGs seem not to be taken into account properly during UNFF sessions.

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: No comment.

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: For the International Year of Forests (IYF), Japan hosted the kickoff event of IYF with attendance of Director of UNFF Secretariat in Ishikawa prefecture. We also held various publicity campaigns through newspapers, TV programs, forums, field events and so on to raise awareness of people for promoting measures on Forest and Forestry Revitalization in Japan and SFM worldwide, in collaboration with private sector as well as the National Movement on

---

<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)

Fostering Beautiful Forests. Through the campaigns, we could enhance the people's awareness to the importance of forest for sustainable management, conservation, and sustainable use. Japan recognizes that continuous campaign to raise people's awareness in Japan is important.

**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: In view of the context that the discussions and decisions made by UNFF have not accelerated the SFM of Member States, UNFF should introduce and share the activities of CPF member organization such as ITTO and FAO, and existing international organization related to forest such as C&I process, in order to improve member countries' accessibility to information and resources, and should take a role of a platform to activate their activities by promoting the network of the organizations to each other.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GOF4:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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: It seems that if member countries implement the forest instrument faithfully, it will contribute the implementation of forest-related international conventions.

Developed countries seem to have no difficulties on implementing "V. National policy and measures", while developing countries might have difficulties on implementing "V. National policy and measures" and developed countries which support developing countries, also have difficulties on implementing "VI. International cooperation and means of implementation".

"V. National policy and measures" of developing countries therefore, needs to be facilitated by promoting international cooperation with the resolution of funding problem.

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: Realizing SFM by implementing the forest instrument is important especially in accomplishing the GOF2 (reinforcement of economic/social/environmental benefits arising from forest). In this regard, the potential of the contribution of forest should be inputted to be considered in the discussions leading up to post-2015 development agenda and SDGs.

#### 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 current structure and resources both of human and finance will be adequate to take roles described in B. 3, B. 4, C. 2, C. 4, especially one as a platform that UNFF should play.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Same as described in the answers B. 3, B. 4, C. 2, C. 4.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: CPF was organized based on the ECOSOC resolution 200/35 to support the work of UNFF, so a basis should be given to say that UNFF is a CPF member and its secretariat.

The roles expected for UNFF are as described in B. 3, B. 4, C. 2, C. 4, and UNFF secretariat should work effectively and efficiently to play those roles.

#### 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: As the discussions and decisions made by UNFF have not accelerated the SFM of Member States, it seems that the CPF and its member organizations confuse in finding how to support UNFF and activities related to discussions and decisions of UNFF. As for the implementation of UNFF decisions, Japan does not think that CPF member organizations are making positive efforts bearing in mind the UNFF decisions outside of UNFF session.

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: In the first place, it is not appropriate to expect too much from the role of the CPF and its member organizations. To maximize the contribution from the CPF and its member organizations, clarification the short-term role of UNFF, identification the activities that are indispensable but cannot be implemented by UNFF alone, discussion and decide how the CPF and its member organizations can fulfill in these activities in each governing body, and asking CPF and its member organization to report those result, they might work as a solution.

#### **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: Several mechanisms that contribute to SFM such as ITTO, FCPF, UN-REDD and GEF, are already existed. If a Global Forest Fund was established, contribution to the Fund would cause reduction of the current ODA budget in forestry. This therefore, leads to fragmentation of the financial resources and duplication of activity so that it is inefficient. ITTO which is facing the problem of the decrease in the voluntary contribution received simultaneously projects and activities to be implemented in the recent years. Before considering GFF, we need to analyze causes of this ITTO financial problems first and find a new method of administration which could attract new donors including private sector. To this end, it is essential for SFM implementation agency like ITTO to present the impact of its result of activities and projects to the donor straightforwardly. It is also important for GEF to continue supporting in forestry sector.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: As stated in F.1, it is very important that CPF member organizations which have means of implementation for SFM with financial mechanisms, establish and implement strategies for fund raising. The role that UNFF should play in finance for SFM is described in B.3, C.2 and C.4.