



HA 56113

The Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) and with reference to the latter's letters Ref: UNFF-13-L-HMM-219 (16 July 2013) and Ref: UNFF-13-HMM-L-284 (25 October 2013), has the honour to submit herewith (as attached) Malaysia's submission of views and proposals on the international arrangement on forests (IAF) as requested by the eleventh bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

The Permanent Mission of Malaysia, further has the honour to inform UNFFS that similar submission has been transmitted to the UNFFS via email on 5 December 2013.

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

New York, 5 December 2013

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS)
New York, NY 10017



Country/Organization: MALAYSIA

Date of Submission: 30 NOVEMBER 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 NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

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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 current UNFF structure and the biennial sessions are sufficient to fulfill its' functions and obligations. However, Malaysia would like to propose that the current mechanism and activities should be strengthened to ensure that the objective of its establishment can be achieved.

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:

Since its establishment, UNFF as the only dedicated global forum related to forests has shown a moderate performance. The established AHEGs as mechanism to enable member states to

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

give views is good and satisfactory even though it is sometimes difficult to come out with a common position.

UNFF has recorded success in enhancing public awareness on forests through the organisation of International Year of Forests (IYF) in 2011 and by declaring 21 March as International Day of Forest.

On the overall achievement of Millennium Development Goals, the performance is partially achieved (Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability). This is due to lack of direct supports from UNFF to Member States especially on capacity building and financial. Member States took their own initiatives to implement global objectives of forests which contributed to the achievements MDGs. Even though some Member States received supports from CPFs, the support is not sufficient to fully achieve the ultimate objectives.

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

Malaysia believes that there are only two options on the future of UNFF, legally binding or continue with NLBI with a more strengthened IAF.

If it is going to be a legally binding instrument, the action towards establishment of a dedicated global forest fund can easily be activated. Internally, UNFF should also initiate and come out with an innovative funding mechanism to enable every Member State to acquire enough fund to manage their forest resource sustainably.

A new look of UNFF should be established with a clearer Terms of Reference with a support of strong funding mechanism to enable it to implement of any decided policy or objective. If it is decided that the current IAF to be continued, all the initiative will remain voluntary and the achievement of GOF will affected. The situation is going to be rather serious as a result of no dedicated funding to achieve all GOFs. UNFF should strengthen the financing mechanism and subsequently establish effective mechanism to distribute/disburse the allocation of funding accordingly, to expediate the implementation of SFM. UNFF should also play significant roles in mobilizing funds, including sourcing for potential donors to support the activities and initiatives of SFM.

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

UNFF should play important role in supporting all Member States in:

- implementing SFM,
- maintaining Forest health,
- minimizing forest degradation,
- improving biological diversity conservation,
- dealing climate change issues, especially on roles of forests in mitigation and adaptation,
- improving sosio economy & livelihood of local and forest dependent communities,

- promoting potentials of forest good and services for future wealth creation, and
- enhancing forest ecosystem services and functions.

It is also proposed that all forest related issues has to be brought to the informal negotiation by the Open Ended Working Group on SDG.

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

AHEG should be more focus in determining issues. The identified issues has to be discussed in detail and with the involvement of all representatives from all member states.

Whereas, CLI should be more consistent and focus in their role in the implementation of its' activities, with sufficient financial assistance from UNFF Secretariat. It is also suggested that CLI should be more focussed on matter related capacity building.

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:

It is proposed that UNFF should maintain and continue with the current engagement , but has to enhance the involvement of trade group. The major group should also be more supportive and action oriented on environmental conservation and in the implementation of SFM initiatives. It is also proposed that the disabled groups be included in the engagement.

To ensure a more effective future engagement, it is necessary to facilitate an effective communication to minimise lingual barrier, NGOs should consider and be responsible on the national sovereignty rights and interest and major groups should be supportive and action oriented on environmental conservation and SFM initiatives.

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:

IYF has created a higher awareness at all levels including policy makers, corporate and public. In addition the celebration of International Day of Forest on 21st March every year has significant impacts on the awareness at all levels. These programmes should be implemented continuously with the contribution and involvement of all parties including the private or trade sectors.

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:

Financial, Technology know-how and capacity building need to be further improved. A more proactive and committed role by CPF member is also required to support member states in achieving global objectives of forest.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

GOF4 : Require more funding as implementing SFM is not cheap. The urgent need to establish Global Forest Fund. Member States should also establish an effective mechanism to mobilize external and internal financial assistance from all sources to support the implementation of SFM

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

Forests play an important role in the maintenance of climatic and environmental stability, conservation of the invaluable biodiversity and in the supply of clean water resources in line with efforts towards achieving the Global Objectives on Forests as well as the Millennium Development Goals to ensure environmental sustainability. The Implementation of forest related international conventions (eg: CBD, CITES, ITTA, and etc) support the implementation of forest instrument.

Deliberations on new international arrangement on forest require further reflection on the achievements of the current arrangement. Since its inception as international arrangement on forest in 2000, the UNFF has been actively formulating and promoting various forest-related policies and framework to achieve not only the global objectives on forest, but also internationally agreed development goals. With the proliferation of various Multilateral

Environmental Agreements (MEAs) which look into multi-disciplinary component of forest, the cross-cutting issue of forestry have been deeply fragmented, with resources stretched and countries burdened with various commitments and obligations.

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:

There is a need to be a legally binding in order to monitor the implementation using monitoring mechanism and to ensure a sufficient fund is made available. There is also a need to formulate verifiers to assess the overall achievements of the 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: Insufficient enough especially in mobilizing forest fund and capacity building.

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

1. Provide adequate and sustainable trust fund
2. Those servicing the Secretariat should be well represented to ensure concerns and welfare of each region are addressed and considered.

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 current approach in providing support to member states appears to prioritize specific agenda to fulfill objectives and goals of CPF Members. There is a need to streamlining of priorities by the CPF in terms of programs and fund dissemination. This will encourage the inclusion of more comprehensive range of disciplines of forestry. It is therefore, the Secretariat has to work closely with other CPF members and to avoid duplication of works and to create a smart partnership with them in maximizing available resources and benefits.

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:

There is a need for the forum to identify and establish its niche which is not duplicative of the work of other organizations. It is concerned that the proliferation of organizations will necessitate further sharing of scarce resources and will divert focus away from key areas for implementation. It is recognized that there is a need for a collective effort to avoid fragmentation of resources and capacity in addressing forestry related 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:

To identify new area of collaboration for CPF and its member organizations (eg: establish new network with G8 and G77+China, APEC, etc) and identify new sources of funding as a result from the establishment of the networking. CPF members can also play important roles in implementing project that involves a smaller group of member states with similar forest type and sharing similar management problems.

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:

One of the pertinent issues in the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) particularly in developing countries are insufficient financial resources and lack of environmentally sound technologies. Due to the immense cost involved, it is believed that financing of SFM cannot be discussed within the context of national boundaries alone. There is an urgent need to mobilize increased, new and additional financial resources to enhance capacity development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries in order to support efforts in implementing SFM that contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication. It is strongly supported that the proposal to establish the voluntary Global Forest Fund (GFF) for SFM.

As for the future, international community should also consider the application of International Green Premium, Green Taxes and REDD+ financial incentives to producer countries to ensure good and sustainable management of their forest resources. Internally, the mechanism such as PES, REDD+, Carbon offset, and etc should also be encouraged.

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

Create and establish innovative mechanism with the involvements of other sectors such as transport, energy, oil & gas, agriculture, electronic, telecommunications, and other sectors to work together in providing and sharing of financial resources.