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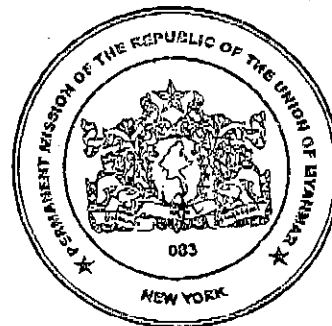
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No. 12/03 16 30

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and with reference to the latter's note no.UNFF-13-HMM-L-284 dated 25 October 2013 and UNFF-13-L-HMM-219 dated 16 July 2013, requesting to submit the views and proposals of Member States on the international arrangement on forests (IAF), has the honour to enclose herewith the views and proposals of Myanmar on IAF.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat the assurances of its highest considerations.

New York, 8 January 2014



The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
United Nations, New York
Fax: 917 367 3186

Country/Organization: Myanmar, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry

Date of Submission: 29 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 IAF.³
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/csa/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 Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Forest Department

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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: Current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions are sufficient to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forest. But it is not sufficient to take necessary actions because it is non-legally binding so that implementation of UNFF's Resolution and guidance are rather weak. The situations call for legally binding forest instruments.

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: Adoption of the multi-year programme of work, strengthening political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests through ministerial engagement, encouraging and assisting countries to implement forest conservation and rehabilitation strategies, increase forest area under sustainable forest management and reduce forest

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

degradation and all losses of forest cover,

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: UNFF should strengthen current of IAF and facilitate to develop a legally binding forest instruments on all types of forests

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: UNFF should be global leader in implementing MDG Goal 7 of Environmental Sustainability. UNFF should also be working as a leading role in MDG Goal 8 of Global Partnership of Development

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: REDD+, as country-led initiative, play very important role contributing to the sustainable management of forests. UNFF should emphasis more on development of REDD+ and financial mechanism.

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: As major groups are representatives from various sectors, they have very strong voice for policy recommendations and advocacy regarding with sustainable management of foresets.

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: Organizing the International Year of Foresets and the International Day of Forests are very powerful to promote the important role of forests in sustainable development of the country. However, sustantial inputs and efforts are still needed to lauch International Day of Forests for people who are residing in or near forests and rural areas. These events should not be limited only in urban areas and policy makers but also to rural areas as well.

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:encourage to have policy commitment and greater awareness to all levels.

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 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: resource mobilization, political commitment, engagement of personnels from non-forestry sectors.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: Implementing forest instruments contribute to the biodiversity conservation (UNCBD), climate change mitigation (UNFCCC) and combating desertification (UNCCD) by strengthening sustainable forest management.

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: Forest instruments and the GOFs can contribute particularly MDG 1, MDG 7 and MDG 8 directly as well as indirectly.

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:

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

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: By facilitating to shift from non-legally binding forest instruments into legally binding forest instruments

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: Implementation of resolutions and supporting works of UNFF is still weak as compared with the other Conventions such as UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNCBD.

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 ensure availability of necessary resources, CPF and its member organizations should persuade developed and OECD countries for regular contributions, create strong financial mechanism inviting development partners and private sectors, approaching member States for their mandatory contributions.

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: Putting an agenda to create a voluntary Global Forest Fund and include it as a part of UNFF resolutions. It is better to launch advocating activities to all international organizations, member states and private sectors for their contributions.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: UNFF 11 should be initial step of creating forest financing and should develop concrete step with the advices and consensus of member states and organizations.