

REPUBLIC OF KOREA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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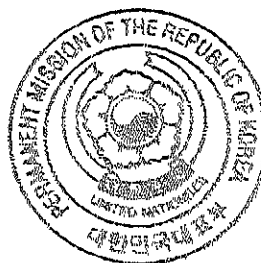
8 January 2014

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and, in reference to the latter's letter UNFF-13-L-11MM-219 dated 16 July 2013, has the honour to forward to the latter the Government of the Republic of Korea's completed "format" related to stakeholders' views and proposals on the international arrangement on forests (IAF).

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

Enclosed: As stated

United Nations Forum
on Forests Secretariat
New York



**Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests
(IAF)**

July 2013

Ministry / Organizations: Korea Forest Service

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Section A: Full range of option 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)

First of all, at the international level, a legally binding instrument on all types of forests will easily facilitate joint cooperation (both at regional and global level) in response to periodic forest-related issues, particularly for issues of transboundary concern, such as forest fire, diseases and insect pests, desertification (dust and sand storms). Second, through promoting an integral approach and enhancing cooperation on forest-related issues which are partially addressed in the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCED synergies on implementation and cooperation project as well as pooling of resources could be envisaged. Third, it can enhance the implementation of the Agenda 21, forest-related international conventions and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). Furthermore, it will lead to the strengthening of national and international commitments related to conservation and development of global forests.

At the national level, enhancing the implementation of SPM, including recommendations of IPF/IFF discussed in the United Nations system, will eventually contribute to sustainable socio-economic development. It will help prioritize forest related issues in the national policies and also enhance coordination and cooperation with other sectors, thereby improving the quality of forest management. It will also contribute to invigorating the domestic forestry sector and improving the public functions of forests through efficient forest management.

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests(UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and futures 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 consists of UNFF members, Secretariat and CPF members. Its

principle functions focus on the implementation of the four GOF's and seven thematic elements of SFM. Although the evaluation of the progress in the implementation is carried out biennially in accordance with the MYPOW (2007-2015), comprehensive assessment is difficult as the reporting by members is not mandatory. Also, its biennial sessions are insufficient to take necessary actions and to maintain coherency in providing policy advice and guidance on all issues.

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 2006/29:

The UNFF has called for international efforts from the forest sector on achieving the implementation of the recommendations by UNFF, GOF's and MDGs. In accordance with the MYPOW, the Forum also provided a venue for discussion on the means of implementation such as finance, technology transfer, capacity building, as well as progress made towards addressing major forest-related issues. However, there are insufficient achievements in translating outcomes into action (promotion of action-oriented cooperation).

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

There is a lack of concrete means to enable effective implementation of the UNFF's principle roles and functions. With a non-legally binding instrument, it would be difficult to push for the fulfillment of political commitments and to provide the means of implementation (securing resources for SFM, capacity building and technology transfer). It is necessary to transform and develop the Forum into a stronger international organization which is capable of bringing action-oriented cooperation. It would be ideal if the Forum could be given a mandate to become a powerful overarching (lead) organization/Convention dealing with all forest-related issues which are now dealt partially by the Rio Conventions within their respective mandate.

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

At this stage, it is imperative to raise the international profile of forest-related issues, especially the importance and need for the achievement of GOF's and SFM. Details and elements may change once the development of the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs is finalized, but it is still necessary to facilitate international efforts on eradicating poverty through SFM.

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

Country-Led Initiatives contribute to achieving the four GOF's and ad hoc expert groups were effective in discussing the pending issues and the work of the UNFF. In particular, they reported to the Forum the outcomes of their meetings which were held during the intersessions. This contributed to the efficient running of the Forum's sessional meetings. Furthermore, Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups also played the key role in sharing and disseminating the necessary information to the members while providing expert recommendations.

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 UNF meetings were participated by its members and major international organizations. In order for the UNF to gain a higher international profile and to promote participation from various stakeholders and observers, further engagement of major groups (such as NGOs) is needed.

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:

In case of the Republic of Korea, various outreach programmes and activities were carried out to celebrate the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests to promote further awareness-raising of the general public on the importance of forests. This has contributed to the strengthening and expansion of the foundation for policy implementation on forests and forestry at the domestic 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:

In order to secure political commitment on the implementation of the forest instrument, high-level commitment and participation on forest related issues are needed. Mandatory means of implementation and guiding principles to enable the monitoring, evaluation (assessment) and feedback of national objectives for the forest instrument and GOFs are also necessary.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs

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

Most fundamentally, the means of implementation for the achievement of the GOFs are necessary. Concrete and detailed guidelines for the reporting of the progress in the implementation of the GOFs are also needed. In addition, the development of methodology on MAR (monitoring, assessment and reporting) is required.

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

Compared to the 3 Rio Conventions that have characteristics of legally binding instrument, bringing about the high-level political commitment would be limited under a non-legally

binding forest instrument. In terms of providing the venue for discussion on forest-related issues, it will not be in the equal playing field with other forest-related international conventions. Therefore, the extent of contribution coming from the implementation of forest-related international conventions is much larger.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the COPs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

The UNFF needs to contribute and actively participate in the negotiation and development process of the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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:

If the Secretariat could receive support from the member countries in the form of secondment and gratis personnel, administrative costs will be reduced significantly. This will strengthen the role of the Secretariat in fulfilling its functions more effectively by enhancing its efficiency and performance. The Secretariat should also be well-represented to provide equal opportunity and diversity.

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 UNFF should play a central role of the CPF, rather than just providing services such as coordination and facilitation of the work of the CPF.

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:

CPF and its member organizations are contributing and supporting the work of the UNFF, but as they also have their own mandate and functions to fulfill, the extent of support would be limited

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:

If the CPF and its member organizations can mobilize their own resources to make secondment of officers to the Secretariat, it will strengthen the role of the Secretariat. It is also necessary to ensure that the works of the UNFF are not duplicated but parallel or complementing each other.

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:

Securing additional resources from the existing financial options such as GEF, PROFOR and Bali Fund, as well as ensuring their effective utilization are needed. Also, increasing investments on forests from the private sector is required.

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

The developed countries are for a legally binding forest instrument before mobilizing resources/funds. However, developing countries are calling for more financial support and technology transfer before they can accept a legally binding instrument. In such circumstances, as the developed countries are the ones that can provide financial resources, discussions on the creation of a voluntary Forest Fund could be possible with a view to bring about a legally binding instrument, provided that the priority is placed on securing/mobilizing resources on forests. However, measures should be taken to ensure that these resources will be distributed based on agreed criteria.