

Country/Organization: Sri Lanka/Forest Department

Date of Submission: 29 August 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 Environment and Renewable Energy

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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 process is sufficient for the time being and it is necessary to have a more concrete set of guidance to ensure sustainable management of all type of forests.

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:

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: UNFF has to be strengthen and legally binding instrument on all type of forests is the most suitable way forward for future UNFF process.

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

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: Seven thematic areas in sustainable forest management, Non legally binding instrument on all type of forests and four global objectives of forests have already been agreed upon through the UNFF process and this need to be continued with a better monitoring mechanism.

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 initiative and ad hoc expert groups provide valuble inputs to the UNFF sessions that can be used as the base for delebarations by the member countries and other partner organizations. Therefore, having these meetings in bettween two sessions provide a good opportunity to look in to important issues in detail prior to the bi annual 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: Engagement of major groups in the work of UNFF is essental as they are directly involved in the forest management activities. Exchanging views and experinece of member countries and knowing the role of the groups would be mutually beneficial for major groups as well as for member states

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: Though the forestry is one of the most important sectors in almost all countries it lacks the international recognition and it has to piggy back on other more recognized processes such as CBD and climate change. Declaring the International Year of Forests and International Day of Forests is very important under these circumstance in order to draw the attention of policy makers and politicians on the subject of forestry in one hand and carrying out various activities to promote sustainable forest management within the country during this period on the other.

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:Implementation of the forest intrument is done in voluntary basis and more commitment is needed to ensure sustainable management of all type of forests. A better monitoring system and systemic periodic reporting need to be built in to the process

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 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: Loss of forest cover, both quality and quantity, is the most important issue to address and some sort of binding mechanism, legally or otherwise, is needed to arrest the loss of forest cover. Proper implementation of REDD+ initiatives will help to meet the first 3 global objectives up to some extent.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: As mentioned above UNFCCC initiatives (REDD+) have direct link with the implementation of NLBI. Implementation of NLBI has a direct impact on the CBD and UNCD.

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: Sustainable forest management is a part and parcel of post-2015 UN development goals. Proper implementation of NLBI and meeting four global objectives of forests play a vital role in meeting 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: As presented in the 10th session of the UNFF dwindling resources has hampered the activities of the UNFF secretariat and it will affect the advisory and facilitation role of the Secretariat.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Strengthening the collaborative partnerships would help to overcome some of the difficulties facing by the UNFF Secretariat

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

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 member organizations are engaged in forestry activities for many years and their efforts have provided good support for the implementation of UNFF resolutions. These initiatives have a good impact on UNFF programs but not sufficient to meet all the commitments.

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: CPF member initiatives need to be harmonized with the UNFF program and should be taken into consideration in project design. Progress monitoring can be done against the agreed principles under 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: Sustainable forest management is practiced by many countries through national programs and lack of funding has been the main obstacle in achieving desired outcomes. Establishing a Global Forest Fund is one of the best initiatives to promote the SFM activities especially in the developing countries. Having a legally binding instrument for all type of forests would help secure more donor funding. Trees outside the forests (TROF) play a vital role in forest conservation and remains as an agricultural source. Due recognition need to be given to TROF through UNFF and other UN organizations in order to promote the development of this important resource.

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