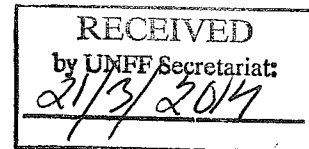


*Permanent Mission of  
Brazil to the United  
Nations*



N° 139

The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and has the honour to refer to letter UNFF-13-L-HMM-219, dated 16 July 2013, soliciting views and proposals on the International Arrangement on Forest (IAF).

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Brazil has the honour to submit, enclosed herewith, the views and proposals of the Brazilian Government on the international arrangement on forests.

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

New York March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat  
United Nations



Country/Organization: Brazil / Ministry of Environment & Ministry of External Relations

Date of Submission: 19 February 2014

**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. 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>2</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**.

**Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)  
July 2013**

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<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> 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>

**Ministry / Organization: Ministry of the Environment / Ministry of External Relations**

Name of official submitting the views: Counselor Saulo A. Ceolin, Head of the Environment Division, Ministry of External Relations

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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) -  
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**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 UNFF structure needs to be further expanded. As it stands, the UNFF does not have an institutional structure, staff or support to promote the necessary actions to provide political advice and guidance to matters relating to forests. Currently, the UNFF fosters a diluted debate on forests, lacking expressive outcomes or actions and not addressing the bottlenecks of forest management. A more robust structure is required in order to promote effective guidance and concrete decisions regarding forest management. Moreover, it could be more productive if the UNFF held annual meetings with shorter length instead of two-week biannual meetings.

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>3</sup>:

Key achievements: adoption of the NLBI; development of the 4 Global Objectives on Forests, raising awareness on forests and sustainable forest management.

<sup>3</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)

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

The UNFF should be strengthened and have a larger staff, to become the main international locus for political debate and guidance on forests, therefore centralizing the currently fragmented and diluted discussions on the subject. Also, it should be a forum that promotes sustainable forest management (SFM) in the world through the creation of an exclusive fund for SFM to finance projects. Furthermore, the UNFF should be a forum and a platform for countries to exchange experiences and to propose solutions to common problems faced in forest management. The UNFF should also serve as a catalyst for actions that promote SFM, assisting other forest-related conventions, agencies and organizations, taking into consideration the needs of developing countries, as well as activities and initiatives that promote sustainable forest management worldwide. Any future option must be applicable to all forests, not just tropical forests, in order to guarantee equity.

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

The UNFF may have a fundamental role in promoting and supporting the efforts to implement the SDGs and the UN post-2015 development agenda, especially in light of the possible inclusion in the SDGs of targets and indicators on the various services and functions provided by forests, and of the recognition of their importance in addressing many related challenges on the post-2015 agenda.

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

CLIs and ADHoC expert groups should be aligned with the UNFF objectives and provide general guidance. It is essential that they reflect the views of the majority of the participants.

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 a channel for the engagement of civil society, major groups have an important role in the work of the UNFF and must be encouraged to participate and provide suggestions to guide the actions of the Forum

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:

The initiatives are pertinent because they represent an attempt to create public awareness and generate/create political commitment for forest issues. However, they are insufficient, considering the dearth of effective actions/events so far. Initiatives with broader outreach should be fostered and stimulated in order to effectively call the world's attention to forest challenges and opportunities.

### **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:

It is necessary to guarantee adequate funding, including new and additional resources, in order to finance the improvement and progress in the implementation of the forest instrument in developing countries.

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

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

The creation of a results-based SFM fund to provide sufficient resources for the implementation of the GOFs, subject to quantifiable results in reducing deforestation, increasing protected areas and promoting SFM.

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

The forest instrument is a very comprehensive document which can be used as a solid basis for addressing forest-related themes in the various international conventions. Despite its non-legally binding nature, the forest instrument is the sole globally accepted document regarding forests and sustainable forest management. Considering that its text is very comprehensive, by implementing forest-related international conventions, countries will likely end up implementing (in part, at least) the NLBI.

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:

The post-2015 UN development agenda and the SDGs should incorporate the values espoused by the forest instrument and recognize the efforts to achieve the GOFs and to improve forest management worldwide. The discussion on the SDGs and the monitoring of their implementation may catalyze the strengthening of the UNFF.

#### 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:

Increase the number of staff (presently the smallest within the Ecosoc), enhance actions in supporting SFM, increase SFM funding through new and additional sources, and strengthen political commitments to forest issues.

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 Secretariat should have a more pro-active role, engaging all members of the CPF on the political commitment and technical support for SFM.

### **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:

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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:

The creation of a strong network supporting political commitments on forests, including financial commitments, is very important.

### **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:

Since SFM does not benefit from a specific multilateral fund to encourage/finance technical assistance, the creation of a voluntary fund for SFM should be a priority to UNFF. In this sense, the UNFF can work with other organizations such as the FAO. Without the provision of new and additional resources for SFM, it will be difficult to achieve the GOFs and promote progress in the implementation of the forest instrument.

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

Many multilateral funds and initiatives finance activities related to SFM, such as GEF, FIP, UN-REDD, World Bank Carbon Funds. However, there is no specific fund dedicated exclusively to this purpose. It is necessary to create a fund to channel financial and technical resources for SFM -- which effectively keeps forests standing -- especially for the purpose of adding value to forests and creating the necessary capacity to catalyze and implement policies. However, any fund to be created should be based on new and additional resources, without diverting resources allocated to other forest-related activities. Likewise, it is important to have a mechanism that ensures the effectiveness of activities. This new financial instrument should provide technical assistance to guarantee the implementation of its projects. The main donors and receivers for forest

activities should devise the rules and objectives for the fund.