

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General  
25 March 2003

Original: English

---

**United Nations Forum on Forests****Third session**

Geneva, 26 May-6 June 2003

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Common items for each session: enhanced cooperation  
and policy and programme coordination****Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination****Note by the Secretary-General***Summary*

Collaboration and cooperation in and outside the forest sector through innovative arrangements and partnerships are bringing about significant improvements in the management of forests and other natural resources. Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests have continued to work together to support the United Nations Forum on Forests and to strengthen international collaboration on forests. Closer ties were also established between the Forum and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on Sustainable Development. Furthermore, the World Summit on Sustainable Development provided the impetus for establishing many partnerships, three of which are directly related to forests, with Governments and civil society pooling resources to address global problems.

Closer collaboration is taking place among many multilateral environmental agreements in areas of common interest. Efforts are also being made to engage major groups more effectively in the work of the Forum through the multi-stakeholder dialogue and the Partnership Network.

The present report describes key developments in the area of enhanced cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination in the period leading up to the third session of the Forum.

---

\* E/CN.18/2003/1.

## Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction .....	1–2	3
I. Linking the United Nations Forum on Forests to the broader intergovernmental agenda .....	3–10	3
A. World Summit on Sustainable Development .....	3–6	3
B. The Millennium Development Goals .....	7–8	4
C. Economic and Social Council and other functional commissions .....	9–10	4
II. Collaborative Partnership on Forests .....	11–17	5
III. International instruments and mechanisms relevant to the forest sector .....	18–31	7
A. Convention on Biological Diversity .....	19–22	7
B. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora .....	23	8
C. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change .....	24–25	8
D. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa ..	26–29	8
E. Global Environment Facility .....	30	9
F. World Trade Organization .....	31	9
IV. Country-led initiatives in support of the Forum and other relevant meetings .....	32–36	10
A. Transfer of environmentally sound technology for the sustainable management of mangrove forests .....	32–33	10
B. Monitoring, assessment and reporting on lessons learned in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action .....	34	10
C. Role of planted forests in sustainable forest management .....	35	10
D. International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators to Sustainable Forest Management .....	36	11
V. Regional forest-related processes and initiatives .....	37–45	11
A. New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) .....	40	12
B. Asia Forest Partnership .....	41	12
C. Congo Basin Forest Partnership .....	42–43	12
D. International Model Forest Network .....	44	13
E. Forum secretariat database on regional initiatives .....	45	13
VI. Strengthening cooperation and collaboration with stakeholders .....	46	13
VII. Conclusions .....	47–50	13
VIII. Points for discussion .....	51	14

## **Introduction**

1. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 1/1,<sup>1</sup> the United Nations Forum on Forests decided that, inter alia, enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination should be addressed at each of the sessions of the Forum. In paragraphs 34-36 of resolution 1/1, the Forum welcomed the establishment of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the need for the Forum to develop and maintain contacts, cooperate and make active efforts to develop synergies with the members of the Partnership, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments.

2. The objective of the present note is twofold: (a) to report on new initiatives that foster cooperation and collaboration related to forests and (b) to propose to the Forum at its third session actions to enhance cooperation and collaboration between the Forum and other international processes at global and regional levels. It also identifies opportunities to further the work of the Forum with other intergovernmental processes.

## **I. Linking the United Nations Forum on Forests to the broader intergovernmental agenda**

### **A. World Summit on Sustainable Development**

3. The World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, marked the tenth anniversary of the Earth Summit at Rio and reaffirmed the global commitment to achieve sustainable development worldwide. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)<sup>2</sup> and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development<sup>3</sup> emphasize the links among poverty eradication, environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources. In addition, the Summit served as a venue at which to launch partnerships, some of which are forest-related.

4. Paragraph 45 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation focuses exclusively on forests and sustainable forest management and reflects the Ministerial Declaration and Message from the United Nations Forum on Forests to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,<sup>4</sup> adopted at the second session of the Forum. The paragraph stresses, among other things, the key role of the Forum and the Partnership in facilitating and coordinating implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels. It identifies sustainable forest management as essential to achieving sustainable development and as a critical means to eradicate poverty, reduce deforestation, halt the loss of biodiversity, arrest land and resource degradation, improve food security and increase access to safe drinking water and affordable energy.

5. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation also makes reference to forests in several paragraphs, inter alia, in the sections on agriculture, desertification, mountains, and sustainable development for Africa.

6. Several forest-related organizations including the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the World Conservation Union, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the World Agroforestry Centre held collaborative events in conjunction with the Summit on subjects such as tropical forest development and conservation, poverty and biodiversity, forest landscape restoration and the Rainforest Challenge programme.

## **B. The Millennium Development Goals**

7. The Millennium Development Goals derive from the Millennium Summit, which was held in September 2000 in New York. They are a set of time-bound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women, among other pressing issues.<sup>5</sup> The goal on environmental sustainability includes the target of integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reversing the loss of environmental resources. The proportion of land area covered by forests is an indicator for this target. Statistical data regarding this indicator are provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

8. Several organizations, including members of the Partnership, are more closely aligning their programmes and activities with the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in relation to promoting sustainable livelihoods and ensuring environmental sustainability. For example, the revised forest strategy for the World Bank Group, which was adopted in October 2002, has identified harnessing the potential of forests to reduce poverty as one of its three founding pillars. Within this strategy, the World Bank will focus on creating economic opportunities, empowerment and security for rural people, especially poor and indigenous people. The Millennium Development Goals are an integral part of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) fieldwork in assisting developing countries to reduce poverty. FAO is providing statistical data on the proportion of surface area covered by forests for the indicator on the relationship between national sustainable development policies and the reversal of degradation of the natural resources base.

## **C. Economic and Social Council and other functional commissions**

9. As two functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum and the Commission on Sustainable Development regularly hold joint meetings of their Bureaux. This practice has been mutually beneficial to both processes and is expected to continue. In July 2002, the Chairperson of the Bureau of the Council convened the first Meeting of Chairpersons of the Functional Commissions to exchange views on ways to strengthen collaboration. Ten functional commissions, including the Forum, were represented in the meeting.

10. The meeting agreed that opportunities for coordinating the multi-year programmes of work of the commissions should be further explored and that follow-up to the Millennium Summit and other United Nations conferences could be an additional way to foster coordinated and integrated approaches. The meeting also acknowledged the importance of non-governmental organization and private sector participation in the work of the commissions and that this should be further encouraged. All agreed that these meetings should continue.

## II. Collaborative Partnership on Forests

11. The Partnership was established in 2001 to support the work of the Forum and to enhance cooperation and coordination among Partnership members on forest issues. It consists of 14 international organizations, institutions and convention secretariats (see box). The Partnership is chaired by FAO and is serviced by the Forum secretariat. The Partnership meets on a regular basis.<sup>6</sup> The Partnership terms of reference and a description of its working modalities, including its focal agency system adopted to facilitate coordination in its work, are provided in the *CPF Policy Document*, Revision 1 (November 2002).

### **Partnership member organizations**

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

World Bank

World Conservation Union (IUCN)

12. Partnership members work collaboratively in the implementation of many Intergovernmental Panels on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) proposals for action. The Partnership and its members catalyse national, regional and international action, provide expertise and information, strengthen political commitment, mobilize financial resources and network with a wide range of partners. Partnership members also contribute to Forum sessions by assisting in the preparation of official documents, hosting side events and, as in the case of the second session, participating in a high-level dialogue with ministers in charge of forests.

13. The Partnership reports annually to the Forum on its progress and plans through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework, 2003, which will be available at the third session of the Forum as an information document (E/CN.18/2003/INF.1), highlights a number of initiatives that have considerably strengthened cooperation and policy and programme coordination among its members. Three joint Partnership efforts — developing a sourcebook on funding sustainable forest management, working to streamline forest-related reporting, and working to harmonize forest-related definitions — are described below. More detail on these activities and information on collaborative and individual activities of Partnership members in support of implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action are provided in the CPF Framework, 2003.

14. The Partnership developed the Partnership Sourcebook on funding sustainable forest management. The Sourcebook was launched on the Partnership web site in December 2002 (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf>). It is a searchable database that includes information on: sources of funds for sustainable forest management; policies and delivery mechanisms of bilateral donors, international organizations, development banks and private sector entities, among others; trends in funding sustainable forest management; and fund-raising and development of project proposals. The database comprises more than 300 entries of funding sources.

15. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting was established in July 2002. Since then, it has met twice (November 2002 in Bonn; and February 2003 in Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). As its first activity, the Task Force launched a web-based “portal”<sup>7</sup> that provides easy access to national reports submitted to the Partnership Task Force member organizations, the corresponding reporting formats and key information on related efforts regarding reporting. The portal is intended to assist countries in their forest-related reporting efforts by serving as an easily accessible source of national information on forests. The Task Force has also undertaken a comparative analysis of all the reporting requirements of member organizations. It has identified potential opportunities to reduce the reporting burden on countries. These include ways to help countries reduce duplication of effort in fulfilling existing reporting requirements, and development of joint requests from its members for information on forest resources, forest products and services, and policy and institutional frameworks. The Task Force will continue to work to identify streamlining opportunities and to help put these into effect.

16. Over the past year and a half, several Partnership members, including FAO, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Center for International Forestry Research, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), have been collaborating in an effort to harmonize forest-related definitions. Two expert meetings have been held, in January 2002 and September 2002, at FAO headquarters in Rome. This initiative examined a number of forest-related definitions used in reporting to international processes and organizations and identified potentials for harmonization. It recommended that the individual entities concerned continue to work to harmonize the terms. The reports<sup>8</sup> of the two meetings have been widely distributed.

17. The Partnership established an informal Collaborative Partnership on Forests Network in March 2002 to facilitate cooperation, interface and communication with a wide range of other partners.<sup>9</sup> The Network currently has about 100 members, consisting of a range of groups that contribute to sustainable forest management through their experience, resources and perspectives. The Network has met twice, and plans to meet again in conjunction with the third session of the Forum.

### **III. International instruments and mechanisms relevant to the forest sector**

18. Consistent with Forum resolution 1/1, increased cooperation and collaboration have been sought to promote synergies with relevant international instruments and related United Nations Conference on Environment and Development conventions.

#### **A. Convention on Biological Diversity**

19. The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>10</sup> was held in The Hague from 7 to 19 April 2002. It discussed forest biological diversity, among other things, and adopted decision VI/22 on forest biological diversity<sup>11</sup> (including the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity).

20. In paragraph 37 of decision VI/22, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention recognized the complementary roles of the Convention and the Forum and called for effective collaboration among the Convention, the Forum and their partners. It requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to work in collaboration with the Coordinator and Head of the Forum secretariat on certain activities. It also invited the members of the Partnership to support the implementation of the programme of work on forest biological diversity, recognizing that the Partnership provided a mechanism for enhancing collaboration on activities addressing common goals of the Convention and the Forum. It called for efforts to better understand the relationship between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management and promote compatibility and complementarity between national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes.

21. Also in its decision VI/22, the Conference of the Parties decided that the results of three proposed collaborative activities should be reported to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention at its ninth meeting in November 2003 and suggested that they also be reported to the Forum at its fourth session. This will involve a study comparing the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management; a report addressing the management, sustainable use and benefit-sharing of forest biological diversity; and an assessment of the relationship between IPF/IFF proposals for action and activities of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. The secretariats of the Forum and the Convention have discussed the proposed activities and await the Forum's guidance on the matter.

22. Work of the secretariat of the Convention, with inputs from Partnership members, on the analytical document assessing the relationship between the

ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management is under way. As mentioned above, this will be discussed at the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body. Also as noted above, the Conference of the Parties, in decision VI/22, suggested that the document be submitted to the Forum at its fourth session.

## **B. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**

23. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,<sup>12</sup> held in November 2002, drew attention to opportunities for information exchange and for closer collaboration among partners, including Partnership members, on issues of common concern. As a further step in this direction, the Secretary-General of the Convention was invited to the third session of the Forum, when economic aspects of forests, including trade in forest products, would be discussed.

## **C. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

24. The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>13</sup> took place in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002. The Conference of the Parties, inspired by the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development which put the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the context of sustainable development. It is expected that definitions and modalities for including afforestation and reforestation activities under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>14</sup> will be agreed upon at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Milan, Italy, in December 2003.

25. A number of members of the Partnership and the Forum secretariat attended the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As observers to negotiations, FAO and other organizations closely follow up discussions and provide technical information to countries that request it.

## **D. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa**

26. In 2000, 71 countries, with a population exceeding 800 million, were qualified as low forest countries. These countries are important to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.<sup>15</sup> The Convention secretariat joined the Partnership for a better coordination of international efforts dealing with forests in low forest cover countries and countries affected by drought and desertification. In addition, the Joint Liaison Group consisting of three Rio Conventions have envisaged considering areas of synergistic actions on forests.

27. The implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification takes place at national, subregional and regional levels. Each affected developing country is requested to elaborate a national action programme to combat desertification. Every such programme has a considerable forestry component, in particular with respect to reforestation and afforestation, for the two activities constitute important ways to combat desertification and to mitigate the effects of drought. Other benefits of afforestation and reforestation of degraded lands include: restoration of fragile ecosystems, reduction of the effects of drought, and production of wood and non-wood forest products which make a substantial contribution to local livelihoods.

28. The World Summit on Sustainable Development recognized that the Convention to Combat Desertification constitutes an important tool for poverty eradication in drylands. The geography of poverty often coincides with that of drylands. Their reforestation and afforestation contribute to poverty alleviation in those areas.

29. Further to the decision of the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to make land degradation a focal area of the Facility, deforestation is going to be addressed with more focus and more funding in the context of a successful implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. It is also expected that the sixth Conference of the Parties to the Convention, due to take place in Havana from 25 August to 5 September 2003, will take a decision on the Facility's offer to become a financial mechanism of the Convention.

## **E. Global Environment Facility**

30. The Global Environment facility is the largest single source of funding for the global environment with a portfolio worth more than \$16 billion for initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. These projects are implemented by UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank and involve an extensive range of partners. Since its establishment in 1991, it has allocated \$4 billion in grants and leveraged an additional \$12 billion from other sources. In October 2002, the Assembly of the Facility formally added land degradation and persistent organic pollutants as focal areas. The Assembly has indicated that the Facility is available to serve as a financial mechanism of the Convention to Combat Desertification, should the sixth Conference of the Parties to the Convention decide to accept the offer.

## **F. World Trade Organization**

31. The Doha Ministerial Declaration (A/C.2/56/7, annex), adopted in November 2001, calls for the enhancing of ways in which trade and the environment can be mutually supportive, and encourages cooperation between the World Trade Organization and relevant international and environmental development organizations. As a consequence, the World Trade Organization, through its Committee on Trade and Environment, invited the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements including the International Tropical Timber Agreement,<sup>16</sup> the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Forum secretariat to discuss how to improve information exchange among UNEP, multilateral environmental agreements and the World Trade Organization.

## **IV. Country-led initiatives in support of the Forum and other relevant meetings**

### **A. Transfer of environmentally sound technologies for the sustainable management of mangrove forests**

32. In March 2003, the Government of Nicaragua, with support from the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region<sup>17</sup> and the Central American Commission on Maritime Transportation as the secretariat of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific, adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Northeast Pacific Regional Seas Programme in Antigua, Guatemala, in 2002, hosted an expert workshop on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for the sustainable management of mangrove forests. The meeting, which was attended by 40 experts, was organized in partnership with ITTO, FAO, the secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention),<sup>18</sup> and the Forum secretariat, with the participation of the World Bank, UNEP, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, the United States Agency for International Development and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

33. The objectives of this country- and organization-led meeting were to: (a) analyse the barriers and enabling conditions for the transfer of technologies for the sustainable management of mangroves and (b) review draft regional programmes for the conservation and sustainable management of mangrove forests in the wider Caribbean and north-east Pacific regions. The report of the initiative (E/CN.18/2003/11) will be available to the Forum at its third session.

### **B. Monitoring, assessment and reporting on lessons learned in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action**

34. The Forum country-led initiative on the monitoring, assessment and reporting on lessons learned, in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action was held in Viterbo, Italy, from 17 to 20 March 2003. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Italy and was co-sponsored by the Governments of Brazil, China, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, with the support of FAO and the Forum secretariat. The key objectives of the meeting were to share country experiences and lessons learned about monitoring and assessing progress in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action and, through this, to identify how the Forum could access and use national information to facilitate further implementation. The report of the meeting (E/CN.18/2003/9) will be available to the Forum at its third session.

### **C. Role of planted forests in sustainable forest management**

35. The expert meeting on the role of planted forests in sustainable forest management was hosted by the Government of New Zealand in Wellington from

24 to 30 March 2003, and was sponsored by the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States as well as the Center for International Forestry Research, FAO, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and the International Tropical Timber Organization. The objectives of the meeting were to: (a) promote the role of planted forests and identify ways to maximize their contribution to global sustainable forest management; (b) support countries in promoting sustainable forest management; (c) build on the outcomes of the first Expert Consultation on the Role of Planted Forests held in Santiago, Chile, in 1999; (d) build consensus through informed dialogue among major interest groups; and (e) support the Forum in its work programme. The report of the initiative (E/CN.18/2003/10) will be available to the Forum at its third session.

#### **D. International Conference on the Contribution Criteria and Indicators to Sustainable Forest Management**

36. The International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators to Sustainable Forest Management: The Way Forward (CICI 2003) was convened in Guatemala City from 3 to 7 February 2003. The Conference was co-sponsored by FAO, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Governments of the United States and Finland and brought together 109 experts representing 73 Governments, international organizations, criteria and indicator processes and non-governmental groups to consider ways to strengthen elaboration and implementation of criteria and indicators, promote political commitment for their use, strengthen institutional capacity and stakeholder partnerships, and contribute to the work of the Forum. The results are highly relevant to the Forum's discussions on its monitoring, assessment and reporting function, in particular as related to progress towards sustainable forest management.

#### **V. Regional forest-related processes and initiatives**

37. Intergovernmental organizations and agencies as well as numerous international and national non-governmental organizations continue to support nine major international criteria and indicators processes<sup>19</sup> for the sustainable management of forests. Nearly 150 countries are involved, representing about 85 per cent of the world's forests. Many Partnership members, including FAO, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Center for International Forestry Research, provide significant support to these processes, especially in developing countries.

38. The six regional forestry commissions<sup>20</sup> of FAO have long been recognized as important players in promoting and facilitating sustainable forest management at national and regional levels. As a result of their active involvement, they foster the exchange of experiences; draw on extensive networks to enhance regional cooperation; and provide countries with information, knowledge and expertise to assist their efforts. Some of these regional commissions are already working closely with partners to implement IPF/IFF proposals for action. Others are initiating efforts in this regard.

39. The International Tropical Timber Organization, with a wide range of partners, carries out extensive projects, many of which are international in scope. For example, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the World Conservation Union, the World Wide Fund for Nature, FAO, the Center for International Forestry Research and other organizations jointly developed guidelines to promote the restoration of degraded tropical forests, the management of secondary tropical forests and the rehabilitation of degraded tropical forestlands.

#### **A. New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)**

40. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/57/304, annex) is critical to the continent's economic growth, environmental security, social well-being and efforts to alleviate poverty. Forest-related aspects of NEPAD include many issues that are embodied in the IPF/IFF proposals for action. The implementation of a NEPAD action programme on forests will thus contribute to the achievement of Forum goals and should be seen as a key means of strengthening collaboration and cooperation at regional and international levels.

#### **B. Asia Forest Partnership**

41. The Governments of Japan and Indonesia, with support from partners such as the Asian Development Bank, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Center for International Forestry Research, FAO, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the United Nations University, several Governments and a number of organizations representing civil society, launched the Asia Forest Partnership at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It aims to promote sustainable forest management in Asia by addressing the following issues over a five-year period: (a) good governance and forest law enforcement; (b) capacity-building for effective forest management; (c) control of illegal logging; (d) control of forest fires; and (e) rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded lands.

#### **C. Congo Basin Forest Partnership**

42. The Congo Basin Forest Partnership was launched by the United States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Thirty Governments, international organizations and environmental and business interests in the region, including six Central African countries (Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon), have formed the Partnership to meet the shared goal of sustainable management and protection of the forests of the region.

43. The Congo Basin Forest Partnership will seek to provide the people of the region with sustainable means of livelihood, stronger institutions, improved forest and natural resources governance, better-managed forestry concessions and national networks of parks and protected areas. The first meeting of the partners was held in Paris in January 2003. The Governments of the United States and an African country will serve as co-facilitators of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership during its first two years of implementation, after which the facilitation role will rotate to other partners.

## **D. International Model Forest Network**

44. The International Model Forest Network has grown from its origins in 1992 to include 19 international model forests, 9 of which are in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. A number of international donor agencies, institutions and intergovernmental organizations/non-governmental organizations are supporting a range of activities at local and regional levels. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Governments of Canada, Chile and Argentina as well as UNDP launched a regional model forest centre for Latin America and the Caribbean. The centre is based in Santiago, Chile, and is expected to promote and strengthen sustainable forest management and sustainable development in the region; document and demonstrate best practices for sustainable forest management and sustainable economic development for local communities; strengthen the transfer of technology from Canada to the region; and secure additional partners and donors.

## **E. Forum secretariat database on regional initiatives**

45. The Forum secretariat is compiling information on forest-related regional initiatives and processes with a view to examining common areas that characterize sustainable forest management and comparing these to the Forum elements contained in its plan of action.<sup>21</sup> It will study these processes to understand how they are mutually supportive and identify opportunities upon which other processes may wish to draw. Information on South-South and North-South partnerships will also be studied, along with strengths and weaknesses in regional cooperation.

## **VI. Strengthening cooperation and collaboration with stakeholders**

46. Sustainable forest management is predicated on the active involvement of stakeholders in the policy process and in implementation. The Forum secretariat has facilitated the establishment of a global Forum network of focal points for the major groups of women, youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, workers and trade unions, business and industry, scientific and technological communities and small forest landowners. The focal point system fosters collaboration and enriches substantive preparation for multi-stakeholder dialogues at the Forum. As requested by the Forum at its second session, the Forum secretariat is discussing with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat ways to facilitate non-governmental organization accreditation and to promote balanced and representative participation by major groups in the sessions of the Forum.

## **VII. Conclusions**

**47. Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests have worked collaboratively for the successful implementation of many IPF/IFF proposals for action. The Partnership and its members have a catalysing role in the provision of expertise and information, strengthening political commitment,**

mobilizing financial resources and networking with a wide range of partners. Partnership members have greatly contributed to the work of the Forum. Two particularly notable initiatives over the past year have been the launching of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Sourcebook on funding sustainable forest management and the establishment of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting.

48. Forum cooperation has led to development of better synergies with Partnership members, and the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments.

49. The intersessional activity, particularly country- and organization-led initiatives in support of the Forum, has been instrumental in establishing enhanced collaborations, and action-oriented and coordinated implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

50. There has been increased multi-stakeholder participation in activities aimed at sustainable forest management, and partnerships have been developed to foster synergies and enhance policy-making.

## **VIII. Points for discussion**

51. The Forum may wish to:

(a) Express its appreciation to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests for its strong support to the work of the Forum;

(b) Note the support that the Partnership, and other international organizations and multilateral agreements, have provided to initiatives on sustainable forest management based on the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and invite Partnership members to continue their individual and collective efforts to facilitate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and to enhance cooperation and coordination on forests;

(c) Note with appreciation the Partnership's joint activities, including the Partnership Sourcebook on funding sustainable forest management, the Partnership Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting; and efforts to harmonize forest-related definitions, and invite Partnership members to continue to support these initiatives;

(d) Note the efforts of the Forum secretariat to build synergies with relevant global and regional multilateral agreements, including improving information exchange in areas of common interest, and request the Coordinator and Head of the Forum secretariat, in close collaboration with the heads of the member organizations of the Partnership, to take concrete steps towards establishing strategic partnerships for practical implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action with forest-related international and regional multilateral agreements;

(e) Recognize the synergies between the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and welcome collaboration, particularly as regards the implementation of those IPF/IFF

**proposals for action and activities of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity that have shared goals; and if so, then, in this regard, the Forum would request the Coordinator and Head of the Forum secretariat to collaborate with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on these areas of common interest, and to report to the Forum at its fourth session on progress achieved;**

**(f) Welcome the participation of representatives of various regional institutions, bodies and processes in the Forum's discussions on lessons learned in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for actions and invite regional organizations and regional groups to continue their collective effort to facilitate the work of the Forum, particularly with regard to:**

**(i) Knowledge-sharing and joint efforts for capacity-building;**

**(ii) Coordinated action at subregional and regional levels for enhanced implementation;**

**(g) Request the Coordinator and Head of the Forum secretariat to facilitate coordination of intersessional activities, such as country- or organization-led initiatives in support of the work of the Forum;**

**(h) Also request the Coordinator and Head of the Forum secretariat to reinforce stakeholder participation through a strengthened and innovative multi-stakeholder process and through interaction with all relevant stakeholders, particularly the representatives of the private sector.**

#### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 22* (E/2001/42/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* ((United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>4</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 22* (E/2002/42), chap. II, sect. B, resolution 2/1, annex.

<sup>5</sup> See General Assembly resolution 55/2 containing the United Nations Millennium Declaration; see also A/56/326, annex.

<sup>6</sup> The summary reports of Partnership meetings are available on the Partnership web site (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/cpf/index.gsp>).

<sup>7</sup> The portal can be accessed at the following web site: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-mar>.

<sup>8</sup> Available at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fop/fopw/Climate/climate-e.asp>.

<sup>9</sup> A summary report of the first meeting of the Network is available on the Partnership web site at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf>.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>11</sup> The text of the decision is available on the Convention on Biological Diversity web site at <http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.asp?lg=0&dec=V1/22>.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>14</sup> FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1955, No. 33484.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

<sup>19</sup> The international/ecoregional processes and initiatives are: African Timber Organization; Dry Zone Africa; Dry Forests Asia; International Tropical Timber Organization; Lepaterique; Montreal; Near East; Pan-European; Tarapoto.

<sup>20</sup> The six regional forestry commissions are statutory bodies of FAO. They are: African Forestry and Wildlife Commission; Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission; European Forestry Commission; Latin America and the Caribbean Forestry Commission; Near East Forestry Commission; and North American Forest Commission.

<sup>21</sup> For the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 22 (E/2001/42/Rev.1)*, part two, chap. I, sect. B, resolution 1/2, annex, especially para. 15 thereof (elements).

---