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### United Nations Forum on Forests

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**Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests**

### **Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests**

#### **Report of the Secretary-General**

##### **Addendum**

1. National reports from Brazil, Lithuania and Mexico were received after the report of the Secretary-General was issued. A total of 58 national reports have now been received by the secretariat of the Forum, representing a total forest area of slightly in excess of 2 billion ha. This constitutes around 51 per cent of the global forest cover.
2. The actions and measures below have been taken by the above-mentioned three countries in support of the global objectives on forests.

##### **Global objective 1: reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation**

3. Efforts to reverse the loss of forest cover include the development of national forest programmes, national forest policies and forest legislation. Since the adoption by the General Assembly of the forest instrument in 2007, Brazil, Lithuania and Mexico have strengthened law enforcement and governance initiatives in support of sustainable forest management.
4. Brazil reported on cross-sectoral programmes to reduce deforestation and forest degradation through, among others, a low-carbon agriculture programme,

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aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable management of natural resources, a plan to prevent and control deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon area and a national plan on climate change. In the period 2008-2011, Brazil expanded its planted forest area from 6.6 million ha to 7 million ha.

5. Collaboration between the forest and agriculture sectors to reduce deforestation was also emphasized by Mexico. The forest sector established a cooperative approach through the alignment of policies and programmes with the agriculture sector. These programmes have contributed to climate change mitigation, poverty eradication and rural infrastructure improvements. The net annual deforestation rate has also declined compared with previous periods.

6. Since 2007, Lithuania has developed several strategies, for example, a rural development programme for 2007-2013, a national climate change policy management strategy, a national renewable resource development strategy and a national forest programme, taking into account the principles and measures of sustainable forest management. In 2011, the Forest Law was amended to allow forest land to be transformed into farming land or other types of land only in exceptional cases.

**Global objective 2: enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people**

7. All three countries reported actions to attain global objective 2, highlighting, among others, payments for ecosystem services.

8. In 2007, Brazil established a programme by which traditional communities are given grants for their commitment to stop deforestation. In the case of Lithuania, landowners and managers are compensated when profits are reduced or previous activities are no longer allowed owing to changes in legal regulations and jurisdiction over land use. Mexico developed a system of payment for environmental services to compensate forest landowners for maintaining tree cover and forests in good condition.

**Global objective 3: increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests**

9. In 2010 and 2011, Brazil created 194 new protected areas, or conservation units, and expanded its protected areas, which now comprise 22 million ha. Multiple law-enforcement activities in the Amazon region resulted in a 77 per cent reduction in deforestation in 2011 compared with 2004. Its Amazon region protected areas programme covers 43 per cent of the Amazon biome. In 2012, the new Forest Code set new rules aiming at enhancing biodiversity conservation and promoting sustainable forest management.

10. In Lithuania, strict forest reserves, special-purpose forests and protective forests make up more than 29 per cent of the total forest area of the country. As a member State of the European Union, Lithuania is implementing directives relating to forest protection that contribute to the conservation of wild birds and their natural habitats, wild fauna and flora. In 2012, a national forest programme was approved by governmental resolution, including many measures and activities aimed at protecting forest ecosystems.

11. The total protected area in Mexico increased by almost 10 per cent in the period 2007-2012. With funds from the Global Environment Facility and the Government, a biodiversity heritage trust was created to implement schemes to pay for environmental services in biodiversity hotspots. Through participatory approaches and the involvement of local communities, Mexico has enforced inspection and supervision measures to prevent the exploitation and illegal trade of wildlife.

**Global objective 4: reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management**

12. The Brazilian Amazon Fund was created in 2008 to raise donations for the prevention of deforestation and to support conservation and the sustainable use of forests in the Amazon biome. By 2011, it had raised approximately \$130 million. A national forest development fund was also created to foster the development of forest-based sustainable activities and to promote technological innovation in the sector. By 2011, that fund had a budget of \$750,000. Spending in 2012 on sustainable forest management-related projects is estimated at \$3 million.

13. In 2010, following the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mexico received support from various sources to boost the development of its strategy on the enhanced mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+). The country also developed a financing strategy to promote public-private partnerships and sources of financing. Many actions are being implemented to support access by the forestry sector and its supply chains to credits and other forms of financing.

14. The State forest sector of Lithuania is currently profitable and generates significant revenues. Since 2009, forest-related enterprises must give 10 per cent of their income to the State to meet the general State budget needs. State budget revenues are used to fulfil social needs.

**Contribution of forests to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals**

15. Lithuania, like the vast majority of developed countries, reported only on the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, stressing the protective role of forests, including against natural hazards.

16. Brazil and Mexico indicated other significant contributions of forests and sustainable forest management to Goal 1, on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

17. Although Brazil reported no quantitative indicators, it was stated that the connection between sustainable forest management, forests and poverty eradication was evident. Forests provide food and shelter for most traditional populations in the Amazon region.

18. In Mexico, part of the national development plan for the period 2007-2012 was aimed at halting the decline of forests in order to address the problems of poverty, since the forest sector helps poor and marginalized people by creating and strengthening social organizations and institutional capacity and by providing training to generate employment and income.