

## **The Scope and Process of FRA**

### **Draft suggestions from voluntary working group 13 June**

#### **Scope of FRA**

- The 7 thematic elements of SFM should continue to be a reporting framework for FRA. It makes FRA relevant to policy processes, especially C&I and UNFF.
  - However, it should be stressed that FRA only constitutes a part of the reporting needs under the 7 themes, and can not in itself deliver a complete analysis of progress towards sustainable forest management.
- “Forest resources” addressed by FRA include forests, other wooded land and trees outside forests
  - Consequently FRA reporting covers all land. However, in practice, it may not be possible for some countries to include reporting on trees outside forests and/or other wooded land.
- FRA reporting relates to the status and trends of forest resources, their management and uses, which can also be expressed as including the primary production of all forest(ry) goods and services on all land.
  - This includes, for example, information on removals.
- The further discussion on which tables and variables to include (and not include) in FRA should be done in light of the above.

#### **FRA Process**

- A longer term (> 15 years) strategy for FRA should be developed
- The extent of analysis and projections included in FRA should be investigated.
- The role and advantages of regional networks and regional reporting should be investigated
- The possibility for asynchronous country reporting to FRA was supported as it may (a) lead to more timely provision of new information from countries, and (b) help streamlining with other reporting processes.
  - However, the advantages of a common deadline to motivate country reporting were also stressed.

#### **FRA linkages and role**

- An important role of FRA is to serve as a global platform reporting on core, quality-controlled forest resources related information that can be used by a wide range of international and national processes.
  - The efforts on streamlining and harmonization of reporting on forest resources should continue, but it was noted that the expected gains in reduced working loads could be relatively small.
- The direct collaboration with, e.g., C&I processes and convention secretariats on information management was strongly encouraged
- The role of FRA in stimulation national networking and dialogue was stressed as an important feature of the FRA process. This is true for all countries, and particularly for smaller countries where resources for and attention of forest resources assessment are limited.

## FRA outputs

- The need for a specific FRA report (book) was discussed:
  - Pros:
    - Important to have a final output to strengthen the FRA process
    - It helps maintaining an identity and high visibility for the FRA process
    - It justifies timely reporting efforts by countries
  - Cons:
    - It is expensive
    - The analytical value may be limited
    - Risk for confusion with other reports, eg SOFO
  
- The biennial SOFO reports may be an alternative reporting vehicle to a stand alone FRA report and support was given to this approach, given that above considerations are taken into account. It was considered that the value and relevance of SOFO would be improved if it would be main reporting occasions for FRA. The status and visibility of FRA at higher levels may also increase.
  - It was stressed that a 2 year country reporting cycle is not realistic. However the SOFO two year cycle may open the possibility for including new information from some countries in each report
  - It was stressed that a two year cycle would mean that the news value of each report would go down and that the profiling of FRA would be important to keep the interest in and identity of the FRA process. The FRA releases must be Events in their own right.
  
- On-line reporting should be strengthened, and possibilities to streamline the reporting through internet applications should be investigated.
  
- FRA outputs of all kinds should be better marketed, especially stressing the quality-control dimension.