



**CPF Joint Statement**  
**Eighth Session of UNFF**  
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Presented by  
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Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Mr Chair,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Dear colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity, once again, to make this statement on behalf of the 14 members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

In the two years since I had the pleasure of addressing UNFF7, I am happy to report that the CPF has been strengthening its joint efforts to assist countries to achieve sustainable forest management. You will hear more about our collective activities later this morning and again tomorrow.

In many ways, UNFF8 will significantly advance the international forest dialogue if it sends clear messages to decision-makers and stakeholders both within and outside the sector on the key issues it has before it. After many years on the sidelines, forests are again featuring prominently on the political agenda as a critical component of the solutions that leaders are seeking to facilitate development. Now is our chance to gain a place at the bargaining table.

Forests and trees outside forests have multiple roles. No longer can anyone deny their importance to mitigating and adapting to climate change, combating desertification, reversing land degradation and increasing agricultural productivity or conserving biodiversity, for example. And no one can disagree with the need for significant new and additional financial resources to assist countries to implement forestry and other related commitments. While these facts are undeniable, moving from words to action has been far too slow.

The challenge for UNFF8 is therefore monumental, none the least of which is to reach agreement on a possible future financing arrangement. We need an arrangement that has all mechanisms and funds related to forests working together to implement sustainable forest management worldwide. We must also address the serious gap in forest financing to combat land degradation and desertification, as evidence has shown.

Mr Chair, there is much left to do and the CPF stands ready – as it has in the past – to provide whatever support it can, within the means at its disposal. We have met twice in the past month to discuss our future work plan and members will meet again this week to develop steps to put it into action.

Our immediate focus is on preparing for COP 9 of the UNCCD in October and COP 15 of the UNFCCC in December. Another priority is implementation of the CPF Strategic Framework on Forests and Climate Change, in addition to work that has already started. For example, IUFRO which leads the CPF initiative on *Global Forest Expert Panels* is making the first assessment report on adaptation of forests to climate change available to UNFF8 and has

developed a policy brief for UNFF's consideration. As part of its 5 thematic programmes, ITTO this month launched what is called *Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests* (REDD). The UN-REDD Programme, jointly managed by FAO, UNDP and UNEP, and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank are collaborating closely to support national REDD strategies; systems for measurement, assessment, reporting and verification; and the engagement of indigenous peoples and civil society. In this regard, they are drawing on the experience and expertise of the entire UN-system and other CPF members. Furthermore, along with other partners, including the UN-REDD Programme and FCPF, the Forest Investment Program of the World Bank is being designed to provide up-front bridge financing for REDD readiness reforms and investments.

Another good example of teamwork is the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the financial mechanism of the three Rio conventions related to forests – the CBD, the UNCCD, and the UNFCCC. It is supporting sustainable forest management, including activities related to land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) in the current fourth replenishment cycle and will expand its programmes in these areas in GEF-5. Within the UNCCD's 10-year strategic framework, efforts are underway to deliver global benefits and help to achieve the four global objectives on forests. Along similar lines, ICRAF is working on a policy to support decision making on trees in agricultural landscapes. You will no doubt hear more about these and other initiatives over the course of the next 2 weeks.

In closing, Mr Chair, allow me to state the obvious. There will be no sustainable forest management without the means of implementation and all that this implies – financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building. By the same token, there will be no progress in combating desertification and land degradation and there will be no climate change mitigation and adaptation without sustainable forest management. Let there be no mistake.

As I noted earlier, UNFF8 can be a turning point in the ongoing forest dialogue but only if member countries concentrate on finding solutions. The CPF is ready to support your work and to enhance collaboration and coordination on forest issues at global, regional, sub-regional and national levels. We are at your disposal over the next 2 weeks to share our knowledge as you deliberate issues of critical importance. Please do not hesitate to call on us.

Thank you.