

CPF STATEMENT AT THE OPENING SESSION OF UNFF 3

Presented by

M. Hosny El-Lakany

Assistant Director-General, FAO, Forestry Department

Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends: Once again I welcome the opportunity to make a statement on behalf of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

We have just held our tenth meeting yesterday. At that time, we reaffirmed our strong commitment to support the UNFF process and to assist member countries in their efforts to implement sustainable forest management. As part of its efforts, CPF continues to build on the comparative advantages of its members to enhance cooperation and coordination on forest issues at international, regional and national levels. Indeed, the more the partnership worked toward these objectives, the more it recognized the benefits of further rounding out its expertise. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that three organizations have joined us since UNFF-2: the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). Membership now numbers 14.

I am particularly proud of our accomplishments to date and the fact that the World Summit on Sustainable Development, along with other forest-related events during the last year, recognized the role CPF play in facilitating implementation of sustainable forest management world-wide.

We are effective and we are seen to be effective because 1) we are a relatively small group; 2) we operate as an informal arrangement; and 3) we share the same objectives. As our name implies, we are a close partnership of individual institutions, each taking direction from and each accountable to its own separate governing body, yet we all enjoy the support of our governing bodies. We very much welcome guidance and support from UNFF but, at the same time, would note that the Partnership *per se* does not have a budget to carry out all tasks that it might be invited to take on board.

Having said that, however, I am pleased to report that we have undertaken a number of joint initiatives over the last year, in response to the requests you made at UNFF 1 and 2. These include CPF Sourcebook on funding Sustainable Forest Management; CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting; and, efforts on harmonizing forest-related definitions and terminology.

We will inform you of the details of these and other activities when we report on our initiatives in the context of the *CPF Framework 2003* and when we host a side event, both scheduled for Wednesday 28 May. We look forward to hearing your views on our current and planned contributions, especially with regard to the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action. Similarly, when we convene a meeting of the CPF

Network on Tuesday evening, 27 May, we would very much welcome further discussion on the road ahead.

Mr. Chairperson, the members are very much encouraged, indeed are gratified, that so many delegates consider this Partnership as one of the key successful outcomes of the international forest dialogue so far. On behalf of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, I would like to acknowledge and thank countries for their foresight in calling for the establishment of this informal but effective arrangement and can readily see it continuing for the foreseeable future.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, the members of the Partnership have high hopes and expectations that the UNFF process, and this session in particular, will culminate in concrete and conclusive results in support of country efforts to implement sustainable forest management. Together, we are making a difference but we are far from where we need to be. Greater efforts must be made if we are to overcome the many challenges still confronting us. As it has since its establishment, CPF stands ready to assist in this regard and the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests look forward to working with you, as committed as ever, in achieving these goals.

Thank you.