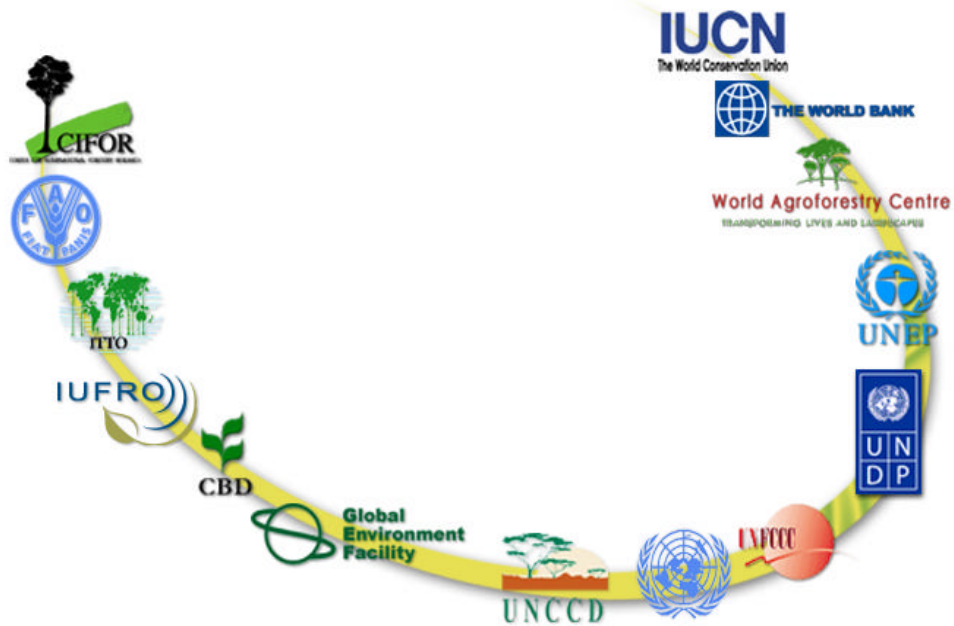


CPF JOINT STATEMENT

**UNFF Fifth session, high-level segment
26 May 2005, New York**

Presented by
Mr. Hosny El-Lakany
Assistant Director-General, FAO, Forestry Department
Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests



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Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to make this statement on behalf of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Mr Chair, since its establishment four years ago, CPF members have demonstrated their strong support to UNFF; to enhance collaboration and coordination on forest issues, and especially to assist countries in their endeavours to achieve sustainable forest management.

Indeed, as countries make up UNFF, they are also the ones responsible for the implementation of its decisions and recommendations. CPF's main function is to support such efforts, within their respective mandate and the available resources of its member organizations.

As part of the international arrangement on forests, members of CPF have assisted country-led efforts including:

- better recognition of the contributions that forests make to sustainable development and the MDGs;
- recognition of the importance of forests and trees outside forests to sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction;
- rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest lands, in particular in low forest cover countries;
- a greater degree of participation of civil society in decision-making at the national level;
- new financing mechanisms to capture the value of environmental services from forests, ?
- development and implementation of national forest programmes and criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management around the world;
- better recognition of diverse arrangements for forest ownership and use rights;
- new efforts to improve forest law enforcement and governance; and
- improvement of information base and scientific knowledge on forests.

We continue to work together to minimize duplication and overlaps in areas such as streamlining forest reporting; to providing information on forest funding; to harmonizing forest-related definitions; and to facilitating access to information through the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS). Awareness raising and capacity building to implement international forest commitments and the internationally agreed development goals are at the core of many of the members' activities.

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
CPF members wish to express their sincere appreciation to the Member States of UNFF for their support and guidance to this partnership – a partnership that one might describe as a multi-disciplinary adaptive network with an emphasis on practical implementation.

Based on feedback from UNFF, we firmly believe that CPF has provided a useful mechanism to enhance cooperation and coordination on forest issues and to avoid duplication of work among its members. Its success can be attributed to four factors: guidance from UNFF; strong commitment of member organizations to work together; support from their respective governing bodies; and the voluntary and informal nature of the partnership.

Mr Chair, despite these achievements made so far, we – the CPF members - feel that there is considerable room for improvements. Firstly, we would like to focus more on supporting national and regional efforts for implementation in a more coordinated and synergistic manner, in particular by making the linkages between forests and reduction of rural poverty more explicit. Secondly, we are committed to developing joint and especially cross-sectoral activities relevant to the priorities of the international arrangement on forests. Thirdly, we are also committed to building greater collaboration with the Major Groups of civil society.

Yet, Mr Chair and distinguished delegates, in order to make full use of CPF's potential, its work will require financial resources and continued guidance from a high-level policy forum on forests. However, I would like to emphasize the fact while CPF, as a partnership, welcomes guidance from UNFF, its individual member organizations receive their primary guidance from, and are accountable to, their own governing bodies. Therefore, consistent messages from countries to our governing bodies are more important than ever, in order to achieve the objectives of the international arrangement on forests.

Mr Chair, CPF would welcome modalities and identification of priorities that UNFF might recommend to enable us to continue and strengthen our collective support to countries, as part of the future international arrangement on forests. To this end, we would be ready to develop a targeted programme of work for our joint initiatives. Furthermore, we expect that countries would ensure adequate funding to support the activities they request CPF to undertake.

CPF members trust that the format to be decided for the future international arrangement on forests will enable more effective policy guidance and more support to action towards the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests, and thereby the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

In closing, Mr. Chair, Excellencies,

CPF members reaffirm their commitment to continuing to work together, and with governments and other partners to help achieve these objectives world-wide.