



CPF Joint Statement

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Presented by
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Mr Chair,
Distinguished delegates,
Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure for me to present this statement on behalf of the 14 members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Mr Chair, the CPF members look forward to a successful outcome of this seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. We have said this before, and I think this is shared by all: it is essential to move from dialogue to action.

Although not all expectations can always be met, a great deal of progress has been made in many areas since UNCED. The progress made in establishing the four shared Global Objectives on Forests at the sixth session of UNFF was an important signal, uniting the international community behind a common endeavour - that of sustainable forest management. We trust that the new instrument, together with the new multi-year programme of work of UNFF will further operationalize and guide the work toward achieving these global objectives.

Mr Chair, one of the critical issues to be addressed in this session is the need for resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management in developing countries. This is an issue to which CPF members can contribute and have contributed significantly. CPF members support capacity building, provide advice and information, promote exchange of experience; and in many cases even offer direct financial support.

Mr Chair, CPF members recognize the unrealized potential for even greater cooperation, delivery and visibility of our work. Recent initiatives, for example in the areas of forest finance; monitoring, assessment and reporting; scientific information, and best practices show the commitment among CPF members to work collaboratively and support the efforts of member States to implement the actions to which they have agreed. The comparative advantages of different CPF members complement each other, while we seek wider coherence in our work.

A number of challenges have emerged in the forest sector that require urgent, collective action. We need to find ways, for example:

- to increase forestry responses to climate change through adaptation and mitigation, such as in areas affected by land degradation and deforestation.

- to realize benefits from forest ecosystem services such carbon sequestration, water regulation, biodiversity conservation
- to support efforts in law enforcement in the forest sector,
- to effectively address competition for land between the energy, agriculture and forest sectors
- to enhance community and participatory forestry approaches and secure tenure arrangements
- to make international trade in forest products compatible with sustainable development e.g. by advancing certification and other SFM tools and mechanism; and overall,
- to further enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

We recognize that these are complex and important issues. At the same time, we also need to continue to support sustainable forest management in countries that are not forest-rich and to ensure that forest resources continue to support and enhance the livelihoods of forest-dependant communities world-wide.

It is worth emphasizing that the CPF members jointly possess a tremendous implementation power for assisting countries in enhancing sustainable forest management. But - we could do better in our efforts. However, without adequate resources, we cannot meet your expectations. In this context, we hope that UNFF member States will provide clear indications through the governing bodies of CPF members to support our forest related work, as well as through direct support to CPF joint initiatives.

You will hear more about our work and recent accomplishments tomorrow, when the Secretariat will present the CPF Framework 2007 document.

Mr Chair, in concluding, we the CPF members are ready to support the commitments that you, member States of UNFF, express through the outcome of this session, specifically the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument and the Multi-Year Programme of Work. This partnership was created for you, countries, to support your work and to enhance collaboration and coordination among the members of the Partnership.

Mr Chair, we are confident that under your able guidance and with the support of the UNFF Secretariat, the next two weeks will be successful. The CPF members are here at your disposal, and ready to provide their expertise and experience. Please do not hesitate to ask us.

Thank you.