



CPF REMARK

UNFF Ad Hoc Expert Group 11-15 December 2006, New York

Presented by
Jan Heino
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Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Mr Chair,
Distinguished experts and delegates,
Dear colleagues,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to make these remarks on behalf of the 14 members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

Members of the CPF reiterate their strong commitment to the International Arrangement on Forests. We thank the member States of UNFF and the UNFF Secretariat, for their continuous support to CPF and its work in enhancing implementation of sustainable forest management.

We hope that the outcome of this expert group meeting will set the stage for a fruitful conclusion and adoption of the non-legally binding instrument at UNFF-7. We trust that the instrument now being developed will significantly raise the profile of forests and forestry in sustainable development, including their global public good functions. Forests and trees outside forests deserve more attention world-wide. Adding value, the instrument could clearly determine ways for countries to progress toward sustainable forest management and mobilize resources accordingly.

CPF members continue to work on the joint initiatives such as the sourcebook on funding, the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) and efforts to harmonize definition and to better coordinate reporting. Through collaborative activities, CPF members also work to contribute to the global objectives on forests. I am also pleased to bring to your attention the increasing efforts on joint programming among a number of CPF members.

CPF members look forward to strengthening collaboration at all levels, specifically at the national and regional levels. We are pleased to see the continuous support for the CPF expressed in the Composite Draft Text. We recognize the unrealized potential for even greater cooperation, delivery and visibility of our work. Recent new initiatives among CPF members, for example the Joint Initiative on Science and Technology as well as in the areas of finance and development of other innovative approaches, show their commitment to work towards these objectives.

Mr Chair, CPF stands ready to support countries' commitments that they express through the non-legally binding instrument and the multi-year programme of work. As you can see, many members are present here, available to provide technical support in their specific fields and respond to questions throughout this meeting, and beyond.

Finally, Mr Chair, we trust in speedy and successful meeting under your and other Bureau members' able guidance, and we look forward to a valuable instrument on all types of forests. We look forward to working with you during the forthcoming days.

Thank you.