

In Attendance

FAO:	Maria Helena Semedo René Castro-Salazar (Chair) Eva Muller Peter Csoka Victoria Heymell	IUFRO:	Alexander Buck Andre Purret
CBD:	Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias Catalina Santamaria	UNCCD:	Sasha Alexander
CIFOR:	John Colmey	UNDP:	Danae Maniatis
GEF:	Gustavo Fonseca Ulrich Apel	UNEP:	Mette Wilkie
ICRAF:	Tony Simons	UNFCCC:	Katia Simeonova Jenny Wong
ITTO:	Steve Johnson	UNFF/DESA:	Thomas Gass Manoel Sobral Filho Ryo Nakamura
		WB:	Werner Kornexl

Regrets: IUCN

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met at FAO HQ in Rome from 16 to 17 June 2016 for the 2016 retreat of the Partnership.

1. Welcome and introduction by the Chair

René Castro-Salazar introduced himself as new CPF Chair and welcomed members to the 2016 retreat of the Partnership. The Chair invited members of the Partnership to introduce themselves.

Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General and Coordinator for Natural Resources, delivered opening remarks and welcomed the progress made by the Partnership through its previous meetings to respond to the recommendations of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33 for strengthening the Partnership. She informed that FAO is reviewing its strategic framework to better position and organize its work in the face of the challenges identified in the new global agreements, particularly the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. She highlighted that the work of FAO's governing bodies and regional conferences, including the Committee on Forestry (COFO), should play an important role in and contribute to the implementation of the new global agreements in view of the fact that forests and other natural resources, including their interlinkages with other sectors, are placed high in those agreements.

1.1 Adoption of the Agenda

The proposed agenda for the retreat was adopted.

The Chair proposed that each item be moderated by a different member and invited volunteering in this regard.

2. Brief summary of key developments

Moderated by the UNCCD Secretariat, members shared information on recent major developments related to forests and exchanged their views.

2.1 Outcomes of UNFF11

The UNFF Secretariat provided an overview on the outcomes of the UNFF11 pertinent to the Partnership, highlighting the milestones and achievements made by the international arrangement on forests (IAF) since its establishment and through the UNFF11, particularly those related to the UN Forest Instrument and the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN). The Secretariat stressed that the Forum is committed to further enhance the coherence and guide the work of the IAF and its components, including the Partnership, to achieve the IAF objectives.

The UNFF Secretariat outlined that the intersessional meetings and activities, including the second meeting of an expert group (AHEG2, 24-28 October, Bangkok, Thailand), the Forum's working group and the Special Session (16-20 January 2017, UNHQ in New York), will develop and adopt the IAF strategic plan and the first quadrennial programme of work (4POW). It was reported that the initial operationalization and pilot phase of the GFFFN has been successful and its activities have been planned and implemented in partnership with other members, particularly the GEF Secretariat, to assist select pilot countries in project formulation and capacity building.

2.2 SDGs and their significance for forests

Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, DESA, provided an overview of the 2030 Agenda and stressed the importance for all stakeholders, including Member States, the UN system and other international organizations and coordination mechanisms, to develop their own plan of action and strategy to operationalize and prioritize the SDGs to effectively implement the agenda.

The UNFF Secretariat provided an overview on the SDGs and their significance for forests, and informed the current status of consideration on the modalities of the global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda under the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, including the sequence of the annual themes for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 meetings, respectively, and a set of goals to be reviewed at the respective meetings. It was underlined that while forests contribute to the achievement of many SDGs through their multiple benefits and functions, the Partnership may wish to consider substantively contributing to the 2018 session when Goal 6 and 15 are reviewed along with other goals under the theme "Transformation toward sustainable and resilient societies", subject to the final agreement on the General Assembly resolution on this matter. Updates were also provided on the forthcoming 2016 meeting of the HLPF (11-20 July, UNHQ in New York) to be held under the theme "Ensuring that no one is left behind", including an input submitted by the UNFF12 Bureau in response to the invitation by the ECOSOC President to ECOSOC functional commissions to share inputs and deliberations.

Some members, including FAO, noted that they also provided contributions in response to the invitation of the ECOSOC President.

2.3 Paris Agreement and its impact on forests

The UNFCCC Secretariat provided an overview on the Paris Agreement and its impact on forests, including the status of its ratification, as well as the preparation and expected scope of the forthcoming UNFCCC COP22/CMP12 (7-18 November, Marrakech, Morocco), highlighting the role of forests in a pathway towards low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate-resilient development.

The UNFCCC Secretariat outlined the main areas of opportunities and a possible role for the Partnership in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including: i) national actions on mitigation and adaptation, including REDD+, in accordance with their respective nationally determined contributions (NDCs); ii) global stocktake of the implementation of the Paris Agreement scheduled to take place every five years starting from 2023; iii) a facilitative dialogue scheduled for 2018 to review progress made towards the long-term goal on GHG emissions;

and iv) a transparency framework to track progress of the NDCs, including by enhancing the current monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system.

The GEF Secretariat added that the GEF is supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement through the establishment and implementation of a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of developing countries to meet the enhanced transparency requirements in the Paris Agreement leading up to 2020 and beyond. It was added that the CBIT would be funded through voluntary contributions and has already raised over USD50 million to fund its initial phase.

2.4 Durban Declaration of the World Forestry Congress

FAO provided an overview on the outcome of the XIV World Forestry Congress (WFC), highlighting its Vision for Forests and Forestry 2050 and a set of Action Points to achieve the vision, particularly in relation to the implementation of the SDGs, forests for food security and climate change, as well as land uses. FAO also highlighted the need for channelling this input into the decision taking mechanism of the Organization and recognized the role of the forthcoming COFO in this regard. The substantive contributions of the XIV WFC to forests and other development challenges in Africa were noted.

3. How CPF members are responding to the new developments and opportunities for synergies

Moderated by the GEF Secretariat, members exchanged their experiences in responding to the new developments and opportunities for synergies, focusing on: i) in which way members are adapting their programme of work to the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and the IAF Strategic Plan; ii) concrete actions; and iii) added value in joint CPF action.

The CBD Secretariat informed about the status of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. The first meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Implementation considered the need to, among others: i) update the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs); ii) undertake activities regarding participation of indigenous peoples and local communities; iii) include targets of other conventions and the SDGs; iv) devise a strategy and targets for domestic and international resource mobilization. The forthcoming CBD COP13 (4 - 17 December, Cancún, Mexico) will consider actions to mainstream biodiversity within and across sectors with a particular focus on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, and tourism, taking into account the results of the partnership activities and regional workshops to support the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs). The COP13 is expected to adopt decisions and recommendations related to traditional knowledge, land tenure and access to natural resources, as well as the Partnership's role in supporting the implementation of the forest-related ABTs, among others.

FAO presented its idea and plan to scale up its support to countries for their implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in partnership with the Green Climate Fund and relevant regional development banks, highlighting the need to link projects and policy instruments under the global and regional partnership frameworks. FAO explained that the idea of a CO2 bank holds a potential to organically link up the existing projects and carbon trading programmes at all levels, connecting them with the existing financial resources that are currently scattered across sectors, including those for the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and NDCs, as well as transportation and energy. FAO invited members to consider this as a potential new priority area and to join forces including for presenting a convincing case for the forthcoming COPs and suggested to discuss this idea further under the related agenda items during the retreat.

UNDP introduced its integrated package to support countries containing a focus on forests as interface with other sectoral portfolios such as biodiversity, REDD+, land management and chemicals and waste. UNDP shared the information on its REDD+-related activities in partnership with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

and bilateral agreements, and its country-level activities to identify project ideas and proposals for consideration by the Green Climate Fund. Partnership with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) was noted.

WB shared that its Forest Action Plan 2016-2020 focuses on investments in SFM and forest-smart interventions across sectors with a view to increasing the level of ambition for forest financing. The plan involves a wide range of partners to ensure coordinated efforts, including the BioCarbon Fund, FCPF, the Forest Investment Program and the GEF. WB stressed the need for members to collaborate to enhance forest-related data in order to make a case for SFM investment and suggested that now may be the time for aiming bigger objectives and programmes.

The GEF Secretariat informed that resources allocated to the GEF6 SFM incentive programme have attracted a high level of interest by countries and have been utilized ahead of its initial schedule, indicating the increased recognition of the cross-sectoral role of forests in the implementation of the SDGs. It was highlighted that the IAF strategic plan should effectively guide the implementation and resource mobilization efforts by members. It is however often difficult to coordinate between sectors at country level, where institutions are often stretched. CPF may be in a position to help in this through the connections of different members with the different sectors.

ICRAF reported its cross-sectoral research activities on agroforestry and the SDGs, highlighting the importance of the involvement of the private sector in the SDG implementation to address commodity-driven deforestation and promote sustainable supply chain and land use; and stressed that to become really relevant the partnership needs to identify a limited number (suggested 3) issues that really matter. It was emphasized that there remained the need to enhance efforts to better reflect non-carbon benefits in the carbon price.

The IUFRO Secretariat suggested the Partnership to take a broader approach to forests and trees across sectors, and introduced as an example its priority research areas: i) forests for people; ii) forests and climate change; iii) forests and forest-based products for a greener future; iv) biodiversity, ecosystem services and biological invasions; and v) forest, soil and water interactions. An overview was provided on the IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress (19-22 September 2017, Freiburg, Germany), including its main focus on the future of forest research and their contributions to climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and water, among others. Members were briefed on the status of the GFEP Rapid Response on illegal timber trade and GFEP on water, as well as two forthcoming regional knowledge sharing workshops “Forest Landscape Restoration: From Policy to Practice” in Rwanda (July) and El Salvador (September).

CIFOR informed that its Strategy 2016-2025 envisions a more equitable world where forestry and landscapes enhance the environment and well-being for all, covering issue areas ranging from sustainable landscapes and food to value chains, finance and investment. CIFOR shared that the future editions of the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) will be organized separately from the UNFCCC COPs, and the GLF is expected to provide a platform for the implementation of the strategy, including through the organization of its regional forums and establishing its permanent base in Germany. It was reported that the second GLF Investment Case brought together over 65 financial service providers, including private and public financial institutions.

The ITTO Secretariat shared that its new biennium work programme took into account the need to support the implementation for the SDGs and maximize synergies with REDD+ funding. The ITTO Secretariat added that it is planning and implementing joint activities with other relevant members, particularly in the areas related to the GFFFN, criteria and indicators for SFM, and streamlining forest-related reporting and definitions. Related to the latter, ITTO suggested that the CPF could organize an OLI in support of UNFF. ,

UNEP informed that the second session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA2) agreed on 25 resolutions, including the UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy for 2018–2021 and the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements, aligned with the 2030 Agenda. UNEP is actively contributing to the UN Secretary-General's Climate Resilience Initiative and GCF Investment Readiness Programme, and launched a campaign against the illegal trade in wildlife. It was suggested for the Partnership to consider joint action on

forest financing and resource mobilization, including through the assessment of fiscal policies, partnership with stakeholders, including the private sector, as well as regional organizations. The role of regional meetings with ministries for environment was also noted.

The UNCCD Secretariat provided an overview of its capacity building activities to assist countries in implementing activities to achieve SDG15.3, for which over 90 countries expressed their interest and 14 pilot countries have been identified. It was shared that the UNCCD Secretariat is actively contributing to the work on the SDG indicators particularly for SDG15.2 and 15.3, highlighting the opportunity for the Partnership to further contribute to the development of SFM indicators.

4. Role of the CPF in supporting the implementation of the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, and the IAF Strategic Plan and priority actions

Moderated by the IUFRO Secretariat, members exchanged their views on the role of the Partnership in implementing the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the IAF Strategic Plan, focusing on key opportunities and areas for the Partnership's support, as well as priority actions for the Partnership.

A view was expressed that the Partnership's activities should be developed to strengthen and complement the regular programmes of members to maximize synergies among them. In this regard, it was stressed that better linkages need to be established between analytical and operational work at the global, regional and national levels.

There was general support to strengthening the role of the Partnership, as a vision for "CPF2.0", to serve as an intellectual powerhouse and enhance coherence, policy and programme cooperation and coordination at all levels. It was emphasized that CPF actions should be based on thorough analysis of the needs, the key clients and the work already being done, and that CPF should also reach out to other sectors. Members considered possible ways to create an incentive mechanism for members to take joint action and request financial resources from their governing bodies.

The main areas considered included: i) coherence and coordination on forest-related work of the members; ii) forest financing; iii) streamlining and harmonizing reporting and forest-related definitions; iv) SFM indicators; v) awareness-raising on the role of forests in the achievement of the SDGs; vi) NDCs, MRV, global stocktaking and transparency system for the implementation of the Paris Agreement; vii) forest-related national actions on climate change, including REDD+; viii) the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs); ix) forest landscape restoration; and x) participation in other forums and meetings organized by non-members.

It was also noted that CPF should aim making impact on the ground and demonstrate that "things can be done".

5. Enhancing coherence and coordination – the "how"

Moderated by UNDP, members held a thorough discussion on how to enhance coherence and coordination, focusing on: i) what has worked and what has not in the past; ii) key steps to improving coordination and collaboration; and iii) rules of procedure for working together.

Members considered possible approaches to strategize its future activities and make a case for funding. A number of suggestions were made to facilitate funding for joint action, including: i) development of proposals for joint action; ii) request for funding to member's governing bodies; iii) partnership with donors and other stakeholders; iv) organization of fundraising activities, including side events at major meetings organized by members.

The main ideas and suggestions for joint action considered included: i) mapping exercise on individual members' activities to identify gaps and possible areas for CPF joint initiatives; ii) organization of a CPF Organization-led Initiative (OLI) on SFM indicators; iii) policy briefs and factsheets on forests and all SDGs to identify gaps and their contributions; iv) compilation of information on members' portfolios in support of the SDG

implementation; v) information platform/portal on policy guidance and tools to mainstream forests in the implementation of the SDGs at the national level; vi) campaign on the interlinkages between forests and other sectors linked to the theme for the 2018 HLPF session; vii) support to countries in streamlining and harmonizing national reporting framework related to forests; viii) organization of a CPF side event at the forthcoming UNFCCC and CBD COPs to present the work related to the focus of their sessions; and ix) advisory support to countries to revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to integrate forests.

It was noted that communication and outreach should play an increased role in the future.

Key Action:

- WB will prepare a proposal for a mapping exercise on members' programmes to identify gaps and possible areas for CPF joint action.

6. Strengthening CPF

6.1 Review of the outcome of the 2nd Working Meeting: revision of the policy document and rules of procedure

Moderated by FAO and based on the document "Proposals for expediting the considerations of CPF Retreat in response to paragraph 22 of the UNFF11 resolution" that had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, members exchanged their views on the proposals for the revised policy document/statutes/charter and rules of procedure.

FAO provided an overview of the outcome of the second working meeting, highlighting the areas of emerging convergence and remaining areas for further discussion.

There was broad support among members to revise the proposed mission statement to reflect broader sustainable development challenges, consistent with the core functions of the Partnership, particularly through the integration of the objectives of the IAF. Other ideas and proposals included: i) coherence between mission, objectives and functions; ii) use of easy-to-communicate language; iii) inclusion of reference to beneficiaries in the mission statement; iv) inclusion of reference to support to on-the-ground actions; v) focus on knowledge service.

Key Actions:

- Members are invited to provide text proposals on the document "Proposals for expediting the considerations of CPF Retreat in response to paragraph 22 of the UNFF11 resolution", particularly on the text for the mission statement.
- The Chair will revise the proposal in consultation with the Secretariat for circulation to members, taking into account the discussions held at the retreat and text proposals to be submitted by members. Members will then be invited to submit their inputs on the revised proposal.
- The Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat, will compile the inputs from members in advance of the third working meeting to be held in conjunction with the AHEG2.

6.2 Membership: long term approach and current requests for joining

Moderated by ICRAF, members considered a long term approach and current requests for membership, including those made by the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR).

Members noted the need to dynamically expand the capacity of the Partnership as needed, including through temporary membership/collaboration/assignment, while recognizing the need to limit the number of membership to ensure operational effectiveness.

Members expressed their respective views on the current requests for membership. There was a strong sense of support to the membership request made by the CITES Secretariat.

Members considered a possible way forward on membership and agreed to set up a taskforce to: i) conduct an assessment of the current membership and its capacities to identify potential areas for strengthening; ii) recommend concrete criteria for membership and ways to involve strategic partners and other third parties; and iii) assess current requests for membership.

Key Action:

- FAO will chair a taskforce on membership to be established with the participation of CBD, ICRAF, IUFRO, FAO, GEF, UNCCD, UNFCCC, UNFF and WB, and report its findings at the next meeting of the Partnership.

6.3 Involvement of major groups and other stakeholders

Moderated by the CBD Secretariat, members considered the role of major groups and other stakeholders in the workplan of the Partnership and possible ways to identify thematic areas for collaboration.

Members held a discussion on the need and potential benefits of engaging a wide range of stakeholders, including but not limited to those currently attending the UNFF sessions, in the work of the Partnership, including through: i) involvement of major groups and other stakeholders as an activity in the CPF workplan; ii) contributions by major groups and other stakeholders to various workstreams to be identified in the CPF workplan; iii) more frequent organization of an interactive dialogue with relevant representatives of major groups and other stakeholders at the UNFF sessions and other meetings organized by members; and iv) use of social media and other online tools to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders and to provide a space for interaction with them.

There was general support to revitalize the CPF Network as “CPF Dialogue” to engage stakeholders in the work of the Partnership based on thematic areas for collaboration. Several members opposed a proposal to bring the cooperation with major groups and other stakeholders under a “CPF Forum” as it may be perceived as an overlap with the work of the UNFF and its multi-stakeholder dialogue.

It was suggested that the taskforce on membership or its subgroup could further consider and recommend ways to involve major groups and other stakeholders.

Key Action:

- The taskforce on membership or its subgroup will consider and recommend ways to involve major groups and other stakeholders. GEF will lead the discussion.

6.4 Joint initiatives

Moderated by UNEP and taking into account the findings contained in the consultant’s background study that had been circulated prior to the meeting, members held a discussion on the joint initiatives (JIs) as a key delivery mechanism for the Partnership.

Several members felt the need to decide on the objectives and criteria for JIs before considering the possible areas for further development and expansion. It was clarified that JIs should be led by a member or a group of members and formally endorsed by the Partnership while common positions and public statements should require unanimous support and approval by all members. It was suggested to include the criteria for JIs in the rules of procedure, including its decision-making process and a simple template for a concept note through which a proposal can be presented to the Partnership.

Members reviewed the current status and needs of the existing JIs in order to decide on their continuation or retirement. There was general agreement on the need to revisit and assess the existing JIs according to the priorities of the Partnership to be identified through the development of its workplan.

Other ideas and proposals included: synchronization of a cycle of JIs with the workplan of the Partnership; and identification of activities currently not branded as JIs but have been undertaken by multiple members, to consider their inclusion.

7. CPF Workplan

7.1 Elements and time-frame of the workplan

Moderated by CIFOR and based on updates provided by the UNFF Secretariat, members held a discussion on a roadmap for the development of the workplan, including the timeframe and key elements to be included in the plan. Members discussed the need to include in the workplan both regular activities and time-bound thematic activities such as the joint initiatives. The regular activities could include: i) substantive contributions to the UNFF sessions; ii) preparation of the CPF Framework Documents; iii) reporting on the joint initiatives; and iv) celebration of the International Day of Forests. There was general support to align the timing of the approval of the workplan with that of the quadrennial programme of work (4POW). Some specific elements that were discussed to be included in a four year work plan: two CPF meetings per year; annual reporting to UNFF; reporting on the JIs; dialogue with heads of agencies biennially; maintenance and updating of website as a recurrent task.

Members also considered activities leading up to the finalization of the first workplan, including: i) organization of a CPF side event at the forthcoming major meetings organized by members, particularly the CBD and UNFCCC COPs, to present the views on the contributions of forests to the themes of the respective meetings, as well as the ideas for the workplan and joint action (the release of the GFEP report by IUFRO and the Drylands monitoring tool by FAO were noted in this regard); and ii) organization of a CPF Organization-led Initiative (OLI) on SFM indicators to contribute to the implementation, follow-up and review of the global agreements related to forests.

Key Action:

- GEF in consultation with CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC will circulate a proposal for a joint CPF side event at the forthcoming UNFCCC and CBD COPs, including a possibility to organize a “CPF day” at the Rio Conventions Pavilion.

7.2 Relationship to the IAF SP and 4PoW

Members discussed this item with item 8 on the contribution to the Strategic Plan of the IAF.

7.3 Monitoring, assessment and reporting

Moderated by the UNFCCC Secretariat, members discussed possible ways to maximize synergies among members on the work related to monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR), including contributions to the development of a cycle and format for national reporting of the Forum to be considered at its next session (UNFF12, May 2017). The UNFF Secretariat informed that an informal half-day expert meeting on national reporting may be held in conjunction with the AHEG2 to advance the work on this matter.

There was general support to the proposed organization of a CPF Organization-led Initiative (OLI) on SFM indicators to consider ways to enhance MAR under the IAF, particularly how best to utilize existing data collection mechanisms while avoiding duplication and meeting demands from countries. It was suggested to explore a possibility to organize a CPF OLI on SFM indicators between AHEG2 and the end of the year, taking into account the results of the Forum’s expert meeting on national reporting.

Key Actions:

- UNFF will inform members of the dates and venue, as well as draft programme of the informal expert meeting on national reporting tentatively scheduled to be held in conjunction with the AHEG2.

- FAO will inform members of feasibility to organize an OLI on SFM indicators.

7.4 Support to the GFFFN

Moderated by WB and based on updates provided by the UNFF Secretariat on the activities of the GFFFN, members discussed how the Partnership could contribute to the GFFFN and forest financing in general. Members were encouraged to consider joining the project activities of the GFFFN. A view was expressed that support to the GFFFN could be incorporated in the workplan of the Partnership.

Members also considered possible ways to identify country/regional and thematic priorities on forest financing, using the existing platforms and financial instruments, including through: i) providing knowledge service and assessment on financing needs and opportunities; ii) joint action in the GEF7 replenishment cycle; iii) strengthening linkages to the existing National Forest Programmes (NFPs) to develop project proposals for forest financing; iv) joint action on the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) activities, for which the Partnership and/or a group of its members may wish to consider developing joint proposals for countries or regions, for funding to the regional development banks and the Green Climate Fund.

Key Actions:

- GEF will inform members of a possibility for joint action in the GEF7 replenishment cycle.
- FAO will organize a meeting for interested members during the forthcoming COFO23 (18-22 July, FAO HQ in Rome) to consider developing a joint proposal for funding to the Green Climate Fund.

8. Contribution to the Strategic Plan of the IAF

Moderated by UNFFS, members considered ways to contribute to the development of the IAF Strategic Plan. Members were reminded that the AHEG Co-Chairs are scheduled to provide their initial proposed options and building blocks on the IAF Strategic Plan and 4POW by the end of July 2016 on the basis of the inputs provided through the AHEG1 and the outcome of the Tokyo expert panel and the consultants' paper. Countries and stakeholders, including members of the Partnership, will be invited to submit their views and inputs for consideration. According to the feedback received from Member States and stakeholders, the AHEG Co-Chairs will provide a revised proposal to the AHEG2.

Key Actions:

- Members will be invited to provide their views and inputs on the AHEG Co-Chairs' proposed options and building blocks on the IAF Strategic Plan and 4POW.
- Members will be invited to participate in the AHEG2 (24-28 October 2016, Bangkok, Thailand).

9. Funding for CPF activities

Moderated by the ITTO Secretariat, members considered ways to address the funding issue, the potential benefits of a strengthened partnership in this regard and how to facilitate the implementation of paragraphs 23 and 24 of ECOSOC resolution 2015/33.

Members stressed the need to secure additional funding to implement the core functions of the Partnership. It was underlined that governing bodies of members may wish to consider providing funding when requesting joint activities. FAO and CBD informed that their governing bodies are invited to consider funding for CPF activities related to their mandates in the relevant documents for COFO23 and COP13, respectively. In addition, it was suggested that the Bureau Chair of the Forum consider sending a letter to the heads of CPF members' governing bodies to consider dedicated funding for Partnership activities consistent with their respective mandates, as called upon in the resolution.

10. Any Other Business

Moderated by FAO, members discussed the themes for the celebration of the International Day of Forests to take place in 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively, taking into account the results of survey conducted by the Communicators' Group. Members agreed on "forests and energy" as the theme for the 2017 celebration, while further exploring a possibility to align the 2018 and 2019 themes with the themes of the HLPF for those years.

The Chair recalled the discussion at the second working meeting that following the retreat, the third working meeting may be considered in conjunction with the AHEG2. Members informed their respective availability to attend the third working meeting.

IUFRO invited members to participate in the forthcoming GFEP scientific expert meeting scheduled to take place from 20-21 September in Vienna, Austria, to review the draft report of the GFEP Rapid Response on Illegal Timber Trade.

Key Action:

- The Chair in consultation with the Secretariat will inform members of the dates and venue, as well as draft programme of the third working meeting to be held in conjunction with AHEG2.

11. Wrap-up and closing remarks by the Chair

The Chair thanked members for their active participation in the retreat. He highlighted the importance for the Partnership to capitalize on a long-awaited, hard-earned window of opportunities that derived from recent major developments as well as renewed commitments to the Partnership by members. He recalled some key issues highlighted during the discussions, including the need to make impact on the ground, be able to focus on a limited number of key issues, enhance coordination, go beyond traditional boundaries, talk/work with other sectors, explain/present what forests could mean for the SDGs and think big in terms of working on finance.