

BRAZIL:

Non-Legally Binding International Understanding on the Management,

Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles), Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, and the Proposals for Action adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, in a manner consistent with and complementary to existing international legally binding instruments relevant to forests;

- g. Express their concern regarding the continued deforestation and forest degradation and its adverse impact on the livelihoods of over a billion people, including many of the poorest and most vulnerable, and the need for more effective implementation of actions to facilitate the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;
- h. Reaffirm that the UNFF, with the assistance of the CPF, is the key inter-governmental mechanism to support, facilitate and coordinate the

regional and sub regional policies and measures, within the International Arrangement of Forests and the mandate of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

2. The Understanding builds upon the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests.
3. Implementation of the Understanding should take into account that

- a. Each country is responsible for the conservation and sustainable management of its forests and for the enforcement of its forest laws, which is essential to achieving sustainable forest management;
- b. International cooperation plays a crucial and catalytic role in reinforcing the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve the management of their forests;
- c. The private sector, forest owners, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders can contribute to achieving sustainable forest management and should be involved in a transparent and participatory way in forest decision-making that affects them.

I. Global Objectives

4. The following Global Objectives should be achieved through the implementation of the Understanding:
 - i. Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;
 - ii. Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;
 - iii. Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, and increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;
 - iv. Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

II. Policies & Measures

5. The following actions should be developed at global, regional and sub-regional levels to achieve the above mentioned global objectives:
 - a. Initiating or strengthening, where appropriate, public-private partnerships with the private sector, civil society organizations, including community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to promote implementation of national forest programs, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, good business practices and improved market transparency;

- b. Promoting research and development of forests, by means of a network of established centres of excellence, in all regions of the world, especially in developing countries;
 - c. Promoting international cooperation, including South–South cooperation, and the participation of local communities;
 - d. Promoting long-term political commitments and strengthening existing commitments, which would allow countries to adopt concrete actions in institutional, economic and social fields, for the integration of conservation and sustainable forest management, within national development policies.
6. The following actions should be developed at national level to achieve the above mentioned global objectives:
- a. Formulating, implementing, publishing and regularly updating national programs containing measures to support and increase sustainable forest management and to combat deforestation, as well as measures related to the Global Objectives contained in paragraph 4(i) to (iv) of this Understanding;
 - b. Developing, periodically updating and making available to UNFF national reports on actions and instruments adopted to achieve the global objectives of this Understanding, using comparable methodologies to be agreed upon by the UNFF and taking into account reports requires by other multilateral environmental agreements;
 - c. Including forests in national poverty reduction strategies and, as appropriate, in strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to carry out the actions agreed upon in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, with a view to mobilizing new and additional financial resources for international cooperation on sustainable forest management;
 - d. Integrating conservation and sustainable forest management within national development policies.

III. Means of Implementation

7. In order to ensure the achievement of the Global Objectives set out in paragraph 4 above, the following means of implementation should be pursued:
- a. Securing high-level political commitment and support to provide financial and technical resources to meet the global objectives of this resolution, including by the establishment of a global financing mechanism with the aim of providing specific financial resources for achieving the objectives of this Understanding;

