

Open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group (AHEG2) established pursuant to paragraph 48,
ECOSOC resolution 2015/33

Australia thanks the Co-Chairs for providing the membership with the opportunity to comment on the Building Blocks/ Options for the 2017-2030 Strategic Plan of the International Arrangement on Forests and the Quadrennial Programme of Work for the period 2017-2020.

document, well after in-depth analysis of how the UNFF should engage with a plethora of international agreements and organizatio

While recognising that the list has been drafted to be inclusive (depending on what ultimately forms the goals/objectives etc), Australia notes that any list of actions should only seek to include the highest agreed priorities. If the list of actions is too expansive it risks the possible distortion of effort towards actions that are of less priority/impact.

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Australia suggests that the description of the core functions of the UNFF be elevated to earlier in the document (as it is relevant to the development of the Strategic Plan). We also suggest that much of the detail regarding the roles of other bodies could be described in brief summary form (with the detail to be included in Appendices as needed).

(pg 21) - first dot point

Australia believes that the UNFF Secretariat should consider exploring the potential for improved collaboration with the GEF Secretariat prior considering any invitation establish a new focal area and to provide additional finance (including an implied financial mechanism role).

(pg 21) - first dot point

Australia believes that advising member states to ‘

may not be overly helpful given widespread acknowledgement that many states have no capacity to successfully access funds.

This text may benefit from some additional wording, reflecting the role which member states can share to help expertise to help build the capacity of others to be able to access such funds and schemes.

Consistent with our earlier comments on reporting against goals and deliverables, in respect of the proposal to establish a cycle and format for voluntary national reporting, Australia emphasises the need to utilise existing processes and minimise the reporting burden on Member countries.

(pg 24) - first dot point

Australia recommends that the UNFF Secretariat consider exploring the potential for resources with the GEF and other forest funding institutions, as relevant to their respective mandates.

Australia appreciates the efforts of the drafting committee in preparing the Quadrennial Programme of Work for the period 2017-2020 and appreciates the challenges in drafting the work plan whilst the accompanying strategy paper remains outstanding.

Australia, noting the work undertaken on the Programme of Work 2017-2020, believes that this document really needs to be developed concurrently with the Strategy to ensure its relevance in relation to content and deliverables.