

BACKGROUND PAPER:

August 2015

BOXES

'.	Major Groups identified in Agenda +'	"
+	Categories of !GO accreditation to ECOSOC and - !..	'(

ANNEXES

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A<EG	Ad hoc expert group
CB\$	Convention on Biological Diversity
C8, ES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
C@8	Country-led initiative
CO=	Conference of the Parties
C=.	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
CS\$	Commission on Sustainable Development replaced the <@=. &
.AO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) has recognized that non-governmental stakeholders including the Major Groups (MGs) identified in Agenda 21 are critical to the implementation of sustainable forest management in all countries. The resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests (IA) adopted at UNFF-1 (2001) contains a number of elements related to strengthening the involvement of Major Groups and other stakeholders in the work of the Forum and the IA.

Other intergovernmental bodies with an impact on forests and trees established from the 1970s onwards have recognized the importance of engaging non-governmental representatives (NGOs) as observers and even as participants in some aspects of their work. This paper commissioned by the UNFF Secretariat looks at some of the history of the recognition and engagement of non-governmental organizations (referred to in this paper as "Major Groups and other stakeholders" // MGs) in nine specific intergovernmental organizations and the UNFF and provides a comparative review and analysis of current arrangements for NGO participation. The nine organizations are the

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)
- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
- Cga(e) - 1.65067.71N 426(d) - 4.36513() 10.8696(2lo) 17.6592() - 3.95667(s) - 4.6.65202s2t3481(!)

- Because all nine organizations and the UN are intergovernmental in nature, only States are Parties or members. The number of members/Parties varies. It is the only body with universal membership.
- In some cases (56) representatives may be treated as full members of a body or allowed equal input and discussion culminating in binding or final decisions. Since these organizations are inherently intergovernmental, changes of this magnitude would transform the very nature of these bodies and are highly unlikely to occur.
- All nine intergovernmental organizations have strict rules for the accreditation of observers including (56) to their formal sessions (Accreditation to UN meetings is governed by the rules of its parent body, the United Nations Economic and Social Council).
- In the rules of procedures (56) organizations are generally referred to collectively as non-governmental organizations.
- The majority of organizations require that all or a significant percentage of members or Parties agree to the (56) representatives' election, providing written input and participating in formal sessions.
- Some organizations have opened up participation even for politically sensitive decisions, such as the C&T. When there is an endangered species listing, there is controversy.
- In an informal basis, UN has one of the first organizations to allow (56) representatives into drafting groups (based on room size and agreement by member states).
- A few organizations, such as UNCCC, routinely have closed sessions for member states only.
- Several organizations have shown a new interest in extending the engagement of non-governmental participants in their work, or even allowing UN to carry out a comprehensive review on how to function more effectively with these stakeholders.

Recommendations

Below are a number of recommendations incorporated in this paper and reflected at the end. The following represent needs in which the - ! . . could benefit further from MGoS:

- Create a formal advisory committee made up of representatives of the MGoS which advises and informs the Bureau with the Secretariat, coordinates with the MGoS focal points and serves as an editorial board for a - ! . . /maintained website.
- Agree that at informal and intersessional meetings of the - ! . . (e.g., Ad Hoc Expert Groups, AEGs) all participants are treated equally in terms of ability to speak. Note: AEGs are not decision-making bodies, so doing a 4a2 with the flags will facilitate a more open and broad discussion.
- Agree to add a MGoS representative as an observer to the Bureau meetings.
- Request the Co-Chairs of the Bureau to host a half-day meeting with the (56) representatives prior to the 6th Assembly, providing an opportunity for a full discussion with the Bureau on (56) concerns and interests and providing an opportunity for submission of text for the Co-Chairs to consider in their development of future Co-Chair text during the session.

- 13 Non-governmental stakeholders including the 5 major groups (56s) identified in Agenda 21 are critical to the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) in all countries. Throughout the preparatory work for the 11th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in May 2015, governments and experts stressed the need to strengthen the involvement of 56s in the post-2015 International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) including through provisions or mechanisms to facilitate and promote their participation and contributions to the work of the Forum.
- 23 This background paper provides a review and overview

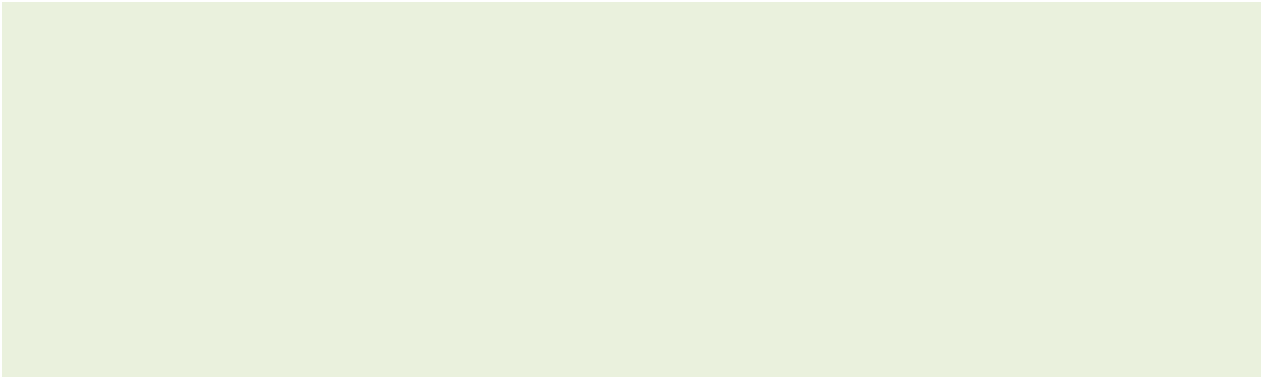
considerably across organizations. These variations created some challenges in comparing the provisions and arrangements related to governmental stakeholders across organizations.

3. Section 2.1 of the background paper provides a brief background on 5a;or 6 groups and their involvement in the UN. Section 2.2 provides detailed information on non-governmental organizations that participated in the meetings and how the B organizations specifically are the focus of this study. Section 2.3 reviews the outcomes of UN 11 regarding the involvement of 5a;or 6 groups and other stakeholders in the how of the A. Section C provides recommendations on how to strengthen the role and involvement of stakeholders, particularly in the UN.

A3. The author wishes to thank the many individuals who contributed to this study and in particular Dr. Manoel J. P. Director of the UN and the rest of the UN Secretariat for their guidance and support.

- Individuals, groups and organizations should have access to information relevant to environment and development held by national authorities, including information on products and activities that have or are likely to have a significant impact on the environment, and information on environmental protection measures.

103 Section 10.1 of Agenda 21 identifies nine categories of stakeholders in sustainable development (____). The framework makes clear that any policies, definitions or rules affecting access to and participation by non-governmental organizations in the work of United Nations (UN) institutions or agencies associated with the implementation of Agenda 21 must apply equally to all nine stakeholder categories.



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! GOs concerned with most of the activities of ECOSOC (its subsidiary bodies) are closely involved with the economic and social life of the people of the areas they represent and whose membership is broadly representative of major segments of society in a large number of countries in different regions of the world.

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between 5 member States of the UN and representatives of 5 or 6 groups on issues relevant to UN sessions) several months in advance of the UN session) the UN Secretariat issues a call for papers and commentaries from 56 representatives related to the topics of the current UN session in preparation for the 5) 5 or groups can use this opportunity to present their views on

- / “It is important for Governments to appreciate the fact that there is the need for more diverse species than the ones projected by government officials. At the national level it is important to collaborate with other forest stakeholders. Governments should facilitate the establishment of a functional Major Groups network at national level and consider including MG reps in their delegation to ... sessions and other important fora.”
- / “If the MSF is to be retained as a session for dialogue the period should be extended to hear real life stories of communities, indigenous people, forest workers, youth and children, women and challenges faced by forest scientists in developing world.”
- / Several respondents requested further active support from ... to facilitate their engagement in the forum

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!GO eAperts participate as full mem#ers of tas0 forces) eApert groups) etc.	K	K		K		K	K	K	K	K
=ro ides funding for !GO projects						K	K	K	K	K
/ /										
Maintains roster of !GO eAperts				K	K					
Consults 4ith !GOs	K	K	K	K		K	K	K	K	K
Supports dedicated 4e#sites for info/sharing	K		K							
<as MO - s 4ith !GOs	K		K	K		K	K	K	K	
=a2s for !GO reps to attend sessions		K				K				K ⁶
Staff si:e %approA.&	'(7		6((56		5('15			

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, he CB\$ entered into force in '""5 and currentl2 has '"5 parties. , he secretariat is #ased in Montreal 4ith a#out '(7 staff. , he o#jecti es of the Con ention are the conser ation of #iodi ersit2) sustaina#le

- For example, a science-policy interface meeting occurs twice a year. It has 15 representatives and one is an NGO selected from the accredited organizations. The repre

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- O er '>((!GOs and '((%GOs are admitted as o#ser ers to - ! . CCC Cops. , he !GOs represent an eAtremel2 #road spectrum of interests and include representati es from #usiness

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- It would be important to first recognize that the - ! . CCC has approximately 600 staff members and its proposed budget for 2017 is \$1.5 million of which 75% is staff.
- Consider the - ! . . . could potentially pattern some of the - ! . CCC practices including
 - o . further develop as a specific program the Children & Youth Major Group (CEMG) which has expressed a great deal of interest in participating more substantively in the .orum and the implementation of its decisions.
 - o , the CEMG could hold a parallel session to the .orum which could engage children and youth in advancing the decisions of the .orum and prepare decisions for the .orum's consideration.
 - o , the Secretariat could consider working with the CEMG to invite proposals for funding more extensive youth.
 - o , the CEMG has a website for - ! . . which is actively used it could be further promoted to member states as a vehicle for engaging youth in their countries.

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C& () entered into force in 1985 and currently has 113 parties. The secretariat is based in Geneva. It has about 35 staff. The aim of the Convention is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

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- Accredited NGOs may be admitted as observers to the COC and Standing Committee. The Convention requires an application which meets four criteria: 1. that the organization be one "qualified in protection, conservation or management of wild fauna and flora" and 2. that it be "an organization in its own right with a legal persona and an international character" remit and program of activities."
- Observer organizations can make interventions at the COC and Standing Committee but these may be time limited.
- The C8, ES Strategic Vision (which takes into account inter alia) the issue of "promoting transparency and wider involvement of civil society in the development of conservation policies and practices." Goal 5.5. is to enhance cooperation with relevant international environmental trade and development organizations.
- NGOs including industry organizations work together on an ad hoc basis during the COC on issues of joint concern and often prepare joint statements on like-minded issues.
- Nonetheless observers are invited to participate in working groups of the Plants and Animal Committees.
- NGOs participate in and contribute to intersessional working groups and other and other ad hoc processes which draw on their technical and scientific expertise. NGOs also participate in discussions of issues surrounding a possible decision of the COC.
- The COC has requested parties to work with communities including in offering incentives to assist in the enforcement of C8, ES legislation e.g. leading to the arrest of offenders.

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- , he Secretariat maintains a roster of ! GOs 4 ith eApertise in C8 , ES issues.
- , he Secretariat consults 4 ith ! GOs 4 ith eApertise in C8 , ES matters and #rings information pro ided #2 such “third parties” to the attention of the =arties.
- , he Secretariat uses information #2 ! GOs %as 4 ell as =arties and other sources& to assess the implementation of CO= decisions and the o erall effecti eness of the Con ention.
- , he Secretariat cannot sponsor %pa2 for& the participation of ! GO representati es in C8 , ES meetings.

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- o Stimulating and supporting public/private partnerships. In France for example the 4ater catchment area in the Alps above the city of Evian has been designated as a Ramsar Site. A strong collaboration between the Evian division of Danone Group and the City of Evian and surrounding communities has helped ensure purity of the bottled 4ater product and contributed to the economic success of the region.
- o Improving regional cooperation. Ramsar Regional Initiatives seek to improve regional cooperation between a wide range of stakeholders. Their activities and projects are geared towards the goals of the Ramsar Convention and they are accountable to the Contracting Parties.
- o The Secretariat maintains a diverse global network of partners ranging from formal collaborators on Convention implementation and organizations engaged in sustainable development and biodiversity to prominent companies.

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- UN could consider partners such as those developed by Ramsar in the private sector and international non-governmental organizations along with other COP partners to implement specific Decisions of the Forum
- Local partners could also provide a baseline for tracking implementation of Forum Decisions, monitoring and evaluating the need to expand on the details of a Decision or to take further Decisions related to the partners' goals

hosts the Council's annual discussions on the world timber market required under the 8, , A
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- CSAG comprises representatives of a range of environmental and civil society NGOs with interests in tropical forests and aims to provide an opportunity for local voices and experiences to be heard in the Council particularly on the key dimensions of the tropical timber trade. CSAG regularly participates in panels during Council sessions and hosts side events on key topics. <http://www.csag4e.com>
- Approximately 15 representatives for both , AG and CSAG attend Council sessions and more when the session is hosted in tropical countries.
- The Council has provided financing to support the participation of representatives of other groups in Council sessions including over 100 for the last 40 years. The Council has also provided 100 in project financing for these groups. These funds are provided as contributions of members as a part of an overall program of work.
- Since 1980 the , O Fellowship program has provided 07.6 million to support 150 fellowships to build the forestry expertise of young and mid/career government and non-government people in over 100 countries.

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- The secretariat works closely with the , AG in preparing annual market discussions and with the CSAG in organizing side events as well as in providing opportunities for , AG and CSAG to engage in the Council and committees.
- , AG and/or CSAG member organizations work with the Secretariat in organizing intersessional conferences and events on specific issues (land tenure, small and medium forest enterprises, market access)
- The secretariat has entered into MOAs with 9 world birdlife fund International and Birdlife International to foster joint work.

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- The model of the , AG and CSAG could be a very interesting approach to providing input to the forum and also potentially in advance of the development of the Secretariat/General's papers for the forum.

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The FAO was established in 1946 and is headquartered in Rome. The forestry department is one of six FAO departments with a staff of about 150 including nearly 100 outside Rome. The policy head of the forestry department is the Committee on Forestry (COFO) which was established in 1977. A Council resolution (B7) to provide advice and recommendations in the field of forestry to the Director/General (G) and Council. COFO is open to all member states of FAO and currently has 158 members.

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- The participation of NGOs in COFO is governed by the relevant rules of procedure established for the FAO Conference and Council. These are similar to ECOSOC rules (see section 88.B. Essential II) and NGOs which have been granted one of the following

intergovernmental meetings thus allowing for a more expansive and transparent dialogue about the issues and which could provide the basis for a broader input to the Forum.

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The 9 B provided an example of its stakeholder programs focused on the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). In the 9 B's internal evaluation in 2011, the following was said: "This review concludes that the FCPF has been an innovative program that has added significant value at the global level in defining the modalities of REDD+. It has created a space for inclusive and transparent dialogue among donors, forested developing countries, civil society, indigenous peoples' groups and forest/dependent communities around REDD+ P. Because of the requirements associated with REDD+, the FCPF has facilitated a level of consultation and dialogue at the country level that has not traditionally taken place in sustainable forest management projects."

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- Stakeholder engagement was built into the FCPF from the outset.
- The group of stakeholders recognized for the FCPF include:
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- 4. Broadened objectives for the Forum regarding the contribution of forests to sustainable development particularly to the post-2016 development agenda and associated SDGs.
- 5. Creation of a “- Forest” arrangement to significantly enhance the science/policy interface supported by a voluntary trust fund with an annual indicative funding target of - \$0.6 million.
- 6. Creation of a strategic trust fund to facilitate implementation of the Forest Instrument with an annual indicative funding target of - \$0.6 million.
- 7. Convening non-government actors at the CEO level including the private sector in conjunction with ministerial segments of the Forum.
- 8. Mainstreaming MGs and regional/sub-regional organizations into Forum sessions and in implementation of the Forest Instrument and
- 9. Regionalization of the Forum by convening regional meetings in 2 years the Forum does not meet.

The idea was to draw on the language transforming the - Forest Governing Council into the - Forest EA as a way to signal to the international community and stakeholders that the Forum had been revitalized and would function in future as more than a “talk shop” and platform for negotiating resolutions of interest not only to - Forest insiders. The proposed name change was also seen as a way of attracting higher level attention and participation in the Forum which has seen increasing lower level representation by many governments over the 2 years and enhanced participation by stakeholders including the private sector.

Many delegations at AEG considered the proposed name change from - Forest to - Forest A to be largely cosmetic and/or unnecessary. The - Forest resolution too often referred to some extent the Independent Assessment report's proposals on broadening the Forum's objectives. A number of them on the

- The core functions of the Forum should include:
 - o Providing a coherent, open, transparent and participatory global platform for policy development, dialogue, cooperation and coordination on issues related to all types of forests, including emerging issues, in an integrated and holistic manner, including through cross/sectoral approaches (para 5.a).
 - o Strengthening high-level political engagement, with the participation of MGs and other stakeholders, in support of S.M (para 5.e).
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' 1. Stresses the need for the forum to promote transparency and implementation #2 further enhancing the consultative role and participation of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions and in this regard decides that the forum shall be open to the major groups, other relevant stakeholders and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the General Assembly #2 building on arrangements and practices observed #2 the CS\$.

Development including ECOSOC decision ' '5+ '6 of ' + .e#ruar2 ' '5 and resolution ' '5' of +6 Jul2 ' '5' which shall be applicable to the forum.

' 6. Decides in this regard that while retaining the intergovernmental character of the forum the representatives of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders shall be allowed to

%a& , o attend all official meetings of the forum.

%#& , o have access to all official information and documents.

S , o intervene in official meetings.

%d& , o submit documents and present written and oral contributions.

%e& , o make recommendations.

%f& , o organize side events and round tables in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat.

' >. Encourages the major groups identified in Agenda + ' and other stakeholders - - 9 /

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- #. Coordination of Major Groups consolidated report to - ! . . as an Official \$ ocument
% ! oteG indi idual group su#missions should also #e permitted as either additional or
minorit2 reports&
 - c.) ecommendations on more open participation #2 MGoS representation at - ! . .
intersessional meetings) including A<EGs
 - d. Outreach to groups representing the interests of each of the Major Groups to ena#le
impro ed participation
 - e. A sur e2 of eAisting and potential MGoS to identif2 those acti el2 participating and
strategies for rein igorating those organi:ations 4hich ha e dropped out.
- +. Schedule a half da2 pre/meeting #2 the Co/Chairs of the Bureau 4ith representati es of MGoS

provide an input to the development of SG papers. Note that the development process model.

- g. Work with ECOSOC and its other subsidiary commissions to develop coherence on Major Group and stakeholder engagement processes.

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 more.

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COMPILATION OF PROPOSALS FROM UNFF11 PREPARATORY PROCESS ON STRENGTHENING THE INVOLVEMENT OF MAJOR GROUPS (MGs)

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Co/Chairs Summary report Areas and options suggested for actions or improvement in strengthening the involvement of the MGs in the SA.

- Consider the scope within the rules of procedure for addressing concerns of MGs regarding when and how MGs are given the floor.
- Consider establishing an advisor group as an additional mechanism to strengthen stakeholder engagement through detailed discussion and consideration of the needs of MGs and as a channel for input of MGs into the forum.
- Encourage Governments to collaborate with MGs at the national level and include representatives of MGs in their official delegations to forum meetings.
- Increase the time allocated to multi-stakeholder dialogues.
- When the forum does not meet regional meetings of the forum could offer an opportunity to further engage MG participation.
- Consider ways to ensure sufficient resources for participation of MGs in forum sessions and consider inviting them to join the C=.
- Consider creating networks of MGs to address cross/cutting forest/related issues such as poverty reduction and women's/youths' and children's rights.
- Encourage business and industry participation raising the profile of the forum in the private sector.
- The capacity of the Secretariat should be increased to facilitate greater engagement of MGs.
- Consider undertaking a comparative review of how conventions/odies - ! oodies and C= . mem#ers interact with MGs

In the report of the Independent Assessment on the SA. September proposals on strengthening the involvement of MGs in the SA.

- With its origins in the CE\$ process - ! . . set precedents for encouraging participation of MGs. This might be done through the following measures:

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- Successful implementation of the Forest Instrument at national and regional levels will depend greatly on stakeholder engagement and participation, in particular more active engagement of the private sector (business and industry) and mainstream environmental NGOs.
- It is essential that in future both commercial and philanthropic foundations as well as other MGOs and stakeholders take part in and support the work of the FAO, this could be accomplished through for example the organization in conjunction with FAO ministerial segments of a "World Economic Social and Environmental Forum on Forests" with major business companies and social and environmental NGOs.
- Member States may wish to consider how to make the global policy discussions of interest to commercial institutions.
- The agenda for the post-2016 FAO includes increased opportunities for meaningful participation of multiple stakeholders including MGOs especially forest and wood sector NGOs, business and industry, local authorities, communities and non-governmental funding organizations.
- Regional mechanisms may prove more effective than approaches from the EIU in stimulating greater private sector engagement in global discussions about S.M

- The term "Major Group" dates from 1992 and may not still be relevant.
- Participants noted that it would be useful if a comparative review were undertaken prior to AEG+ on how other organizations encourage and accommodate stakeholder participation including C= . organizations %e.g. . AO GE .D 9 orld Ban0D)io con entions&D other intergo ernmental initiatives %e.g. . C= .D - !/) E\$ \$D . orest 8n estment =rogram&D selected regional processes %e.g. CB . =& and more informal public/private partnerships %e.g. , ropical . orest Alliance +(+D . orest @egalit2 Alliance&.

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- The multi-stakeholder nature of the Forum should be maintained and the broad and active participation of all stakeholders should be strengthened as it is fundamental for the successful promotion of S.M.

- Building on current 4 or 0 #2 C= . mem#ers and others) encourage the C= . or its successor to strengthen support for and facilitate efforts #2 countries %incl

- The Forum should support the idea of the C= and the MG=o. of designing mechanisms for establishing collaborations with them and the idea of granting the Major Groups =artnership o#ser er status in the Colla#orati e =artnership.
- Institutional funding should #e pro ided to the MG=o. on an annual #asis and from a strategic trust fund to guarantee core funding to the organi:ation. Moreo er) ade?uate funding should #e pro ided for the acti e participation of MGs in .orum sessions. , he organi:ation 4ould thus #e a#le to raise funds from other sources to ena#le it to carr2 out its 4or0 at the glo#al le el in support of the .orum and to support the implementation of the international arrangement on forests #2 MG organi:ations.

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- 8ndi iduals) in their dail2 li es) through their families and communities) and) collecti el2) through organi:ations) through the MG=o.) see and feel the interconnections #et4een famil2 and communit2 4ell/#eing) including 4omen and 2outh) and the health of forests. , he socioeconomic #enefits arising from forests and respect for forests as ecos2st

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(Applicable to UNFF)

R#1 \$13 , ' \$s in category " or "" may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Council, its committee

48. Organizations in general consultative status may propose to the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations that the Committee request the Secretary-General to place items of special interest to the organizations in the provisional agenda of the Council.

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49. Organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. Those on the roster may have representatives present at such meetings concerned with matters within their field of competence. These attendance arrangements may be supplemented to include other modalities of participation.

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50. Written statements relevant to the work of the Council may be submitted by organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status on subjects in which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the

5+. The Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall make recommendations to the Council as to which organizations in general consultative status should make an oral presentation to the Council and on which items they should be heard. Such organizations shall be entitled to make one statement to the Council subject to the approval of the Council. In the absence of a subsidiary body of the Council with jurisdiction in a major field of interest to the Council and to organizations in special

which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated to the Secretary-General to members of the Commission or other subsidiary organs except those statements that have become obsolete for example those dealing with matters already disposed of and those that have already been circulated in some other form to members of the Commission or other subsidiary organs.

57. The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

a. The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages.

b. It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Secretary-General and the organization before circulation.

c. The organization shall give due consideration to any comments that the Secretary-General may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form.

d. A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 4000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 4000 words the organization shall submit a summary which will be circulated or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full where upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary organs.

e. A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status will be circulated in

undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the commission. The limitations of paragraphs 57(d) and (e) shall not apply in this case.

5B3 An organization whose consultative status or whose listing on the roster is #it%dra#n may be entitled to reacquire consultative status or inclusion on the roster not sooner than three years after the effective date of such #it%dra#a3

103 The members of the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) shall be elected by the Council on the basis of equitable geographical representation in accordance with the relevant Council resolutions and decision 14 and rules of procedure of the Council. The Committee shall elect its Chairman and other officers as necessary.

113 The functions of the Committee shall include the following:

(a) The Committee shall be responsible for regular monitoring of the evolving relationships between non-governmental organizations and the UN, in a view to fulfilling this responsibility. The Committee shall hold before each of its sessions and at other times as necessary consultations with organizations in consultative status to discuss questions of interest to the Committee or to the organizations relating to the relationships between the non-governmental organizations and the UN. A report on such consultations shall be transmitted to the Council for appropriate action.

(b) The Committee shall hold its regular session before the substantive session of the Council each year and preferably before the sessions of functional commissions of the Council to consider applications for general consultative status and special consultative status and for listing on the roster made by non-governmental organizations and requests for changes in status and to make recommendations thereon to the Council. Upon approval by the Council, the Committee may hold other meetings as required to fulfil its mandated responsibilities. Organizations shall give due consideration to any comments on technical matters that the Secretary-General of the UN may make in receiving such applications for the Committee. The Committee shall consider at each successive session (c) - 0.913.2614 () - 2.26095 (a) 0.740.303849 (u) 3.2614 (c) - 0.912.48 Td5 [(C) 0.91246 (o) - 5.

153 All organizations in consultative relations with the Secretary-General shall be eligible to consult the appropriate sections of the Secretariat on matters in which there is a mutual interest or a mutual concern. Such consultation shall be upon the request of the non-governmental organization or upon the request of the Secretary-General of the UN.

113 The Secretary-General may request organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status and those authorized to carry out specific studies or researches to submit reports to the relevant financial regulations.

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