

SPEECH BY PROF. JUDI W. WAKHUNGU, PhD; CABINET SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN KENYA DELIVERED DURING THE OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON FORESTS. 24TH FEBRUARY 2014. NAIROBI. KENYA.

Chairman of the Bureau of United Nations Forum on Forests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Globally, agriculture and timber extraction are the clear driving forces behind deforestation, with commercial and subsistence activities accounting for 40% and 33% respectively, and mining,

1. Formulating policies and legislations which drives the forest sector;
2. Defining the relationship between national and county government on the forest;
3. Formulating the relationship between national and county government and environmental

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- Major groups which take part in sessions of the Forum.

Keep in mind the objectives of the international arrangement in your deliberations, which are to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen political commitment to this end. Let the purpose of the arrangement guide you to promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests at the national, regional and global levels in order to provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development. Take into account the connection with and implications of the continuing deliberations on the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The discussions and report produced following this meeting will inform continuing work on the independent assessment, in addition to serving as a basis for further reflection, by the group of experts who will be preparing for a second inter-sessional meeting of the Forum. You are equal to this enormous task. With these remarks, allow me to wish you further fruitful discussions beginning today and for the rest of the week.

THANK YOU.