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FINLAND’S SUBMISSION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON

FORESTS
Dear Sir,

Please find attached Finland’s submission for the review of the International Arrangement on

Forests in response to the invitation by the UNFF Secretariat (ref. UNFF-13-L-HMM-

219).

The subrnission has been prepared in a participatory manner involving relevant

governrnent rninistries and stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

Juha Ojala
Director General

Å MAA-JA

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A ctivities on the International
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FINLAND’s Views on the International Arrangement on Forests

General

O Finland aligns itself with

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different topics and it is not sure how much it really created awareness outside the forest sector. It should

be carefully considered what the role of the UNFF Secretariat in communication is.

O Despite its broad mandate the UNFF has not really succeeded to be the leader in giobal forest policy

issues. Other forest related processes (notably the climate changes negotiations and to sorne extent

FLEGT-issues and land use issues) has achieved inuch more political attention. The corniuitment of

countries to UNFF work has weakened during the years and the impact of UNFF resolutions to national

policies and practices due to their sofi law nature has been modest. The UNFF in its present form can be

considered rather expensive, bureaucratic and inefficient and it has not managed to have any major impaet

to other forest related processes or to other sectors.

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Section E: Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and its member organizations

O The voluntary network of CPF organizations has increased networking, coordination and collaboration

between them. The support by the CPF and its rnember organizations in the work of UNFF has been

essential in sorne areas (e.g. forest financing). The Giobal Forest Expert Paneis have increased the use of

scientific information in the political decision making. Another good exarnple of the work of the CPF is

streamlining the forest related reporting. The joint statements by the CPF to otlier forest related processes

e.g. on climate ehange, biodiversity and land use issues have increased their weight and visibility.

O The CPF member organizations have supported directly the work of the UNFF by seconding senior

officials to the UNFF Secretariat. This direct support, however, have decreased over the years.

O The UNFF can only give guidance to the CPF and it is up to its member organizations to allocate resources

to the UNFF related work. Sorne CPF rnember organizations feel the CPF as an obiigation and many

member organizations are rather passive. Each CPF organization has its own agenda and there is

competition between them and so allocating resources for joint actions is a challenge.

O Linkage between the member countries, UNFF and CPF could be intensified. It would be worthwhile to

consider how to address this, e.g. the UNFF bureau or its Chair to attend the CPF meetings.

Section F: Forest related financing / Means of Impiementation
O Means of impiementation has been in the agenda of every UNFF session. The discussions have focused

mainly on forest related financing in developing countries although means of impiementation covers also

other issues.

O The key question is how the governments are willing to improve the enabling conditions and policy means

at the national level in order to channel investments from different sources into forest sector.

O Financing needs and opportunities have been analyzed thoroughly during the years and there is wealth of

information available. The CPF has produced the online Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest

Management, which should be used more efficiently by the governments. The active governments have

benefitted from different financing options which have increased considerably over the years. The

Facilitative Process has helped to some extent some countries in identifying funding sources.

O The discussion on forest financing and especially on the Giobal Forest Fund has dominated the UNFF

sessions and taken too much attention from other substantive issues. The discussion might have created

unrealistic expectations concerning increased forest financing through UNFF.