



THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

To Whom It May Concern:

The United States Mission to the United Nations is pleased to provide its submission of input for the review of the International Arrangement on Forests. Our mission thanks the United Nations Forum on Forests for allowing us to provide our views for this review.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Kim".

Julie Kim
ECOSOC Advisor

U.S. Mission to the

Country/Organization: United States

Date of Submission: November 30, 2013

**UNFF Intersessional Activities on the International Arrangement on Forests
Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
July 2013**

1. According to the multi-year programme of work adopted in 2007, the overall theme of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) in 2015 will be “Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests (IAF).” At this session, the Forum will review the effectiveness of the IAF and decide on its future.¹

2. In preparation for UNFF11 in 2015, the Forum has made a number of decisions during the last fourteen years.²

**Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013**

Ministry / Organization: Foreign Affairs/U.S. Department of State

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- Strengthening of the current IAF
- Continuation of the current IAF



international focus on reforestation and forest restoration, 6) raising awareness of forests issues in the UN system and more broadly, including through the International Year of Forests (IYF) and the International Day of Forests (IDOF).

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: As noted in A.1, above, the United States recommends enhancing the current International Arrangement on Forests, including through strengthening the role of the CPF to realize its full potential.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: The potential role of the UNFF might be to highlight the importance of conserving, sustainably using, and restoring forests for achieving broader development goals. It might also serve as a conduit for taking a more cross-sectoral view of forests. The UNFF is not an implementing agency and its role in "implementing" the post-2015 development and SDGs needs to be strictly consistent with its mandate for promoting dialogue and mobilizing political will.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- Adequate
- Inadequate
- Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: The United States believes that progress is accurately and usefully measured in terms of actual progress towards achieving the GOFs, and an accounting of actions taken to achieve the substantive actions recommended by the NLBI, although policy and programmatic references to the "Global Objectives on Forests" or the "NLBI" may not always be explicit. By this measure, we believe there has been significant action by many countries and organizations, and assessments of the NLBI and GOFs have helped recognize this. Assessments by UNFF and others should pay careful attention to assessing the extent to which content of the goals and the actions called for in the NLBI are being taken, even when the language is not identical to the specific text.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOF2:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOF3:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOF4:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Progress has been made in restoring degraded forest lands in some places, and at stabilizing gross forest cover in temperate and boreal regions. However, the loss of primary forests remains a central concern, particularly in the humid tropics, since this is where the greatest loss of forest cover has occurred.

the objectives of the NLBI.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

policy conditions that allow donor funds to be utilized effectively, and private sector investments to yield profits while benefiting forests and local communities. Just as important as mobilizing new funding for forests is redirecting finance away from activities that destroy or degrade forests. We need more investment in activities and programs that conserve and sustainably use forests. The question is not only "how much" forest finance but, critically, how to ensure "that financing for economic development and investment activities does not harm forests." SFM and timber markets are sources for employment and can play a role in economic development.

The United States does not favor the establishment of a "global forest fund", and does not believe