

PAKISTAN

Formulation of Non-Legally Binding Instrument on Forests Pakistan's Comments on the Compilation of Proposals on NLBI

- The proposals of South Africa, Indonesia and to some extent Brazil also, in the area of means of implementation are more or less similar to Pakistan proposal. All of these proposals focus on: capacity building, transfer of technology, clearing house mechanisms, public private partnerships and increased international of resources for GEF and forest related funds.
- In response to Brazil proposal, Pakistan considers that bringing SFM in domain of GEF will not be feasible since GAF is mandated to implement three Rio tvIEAs. Instead, Pakistan has suggested a separate and independent financial mechanism to cater for needs of developing county parties seeking to implement four global objectives through NLBI. Brazil seeks to classify forests into protective and managed forests, which is very broad division. Pakistan has suggested more concrete and precise classification of forests because objectives of their management are very different.
- Canada has proposed keeping a percentage of land area under forest cover. To be very precise, we can mention 1'vIDG targets fixed by the countries to be achieved by 2015. The proposal for compliance regime and dispute settlement is a good proposal, but it should be essentially a nondiscriminatory and justice-making body, as many developing countries anticipate such an international regime might harm their interests.
- European Union has asked for a process of facilitation, peer review and dialogue. Pakistan will favor it provided balanced representation of regions/ common interest groups.
- US has proposed safeguarding legally harvested forests, while Australia, Indonesia and Youth Group seek to discourage trade of illegal harvesting. Both are complimentary, but the real issue is to decide the legal status of harvesting. What is legal in national legislation may not be legal in international scenario. Pakistan considers that a clear indication of legal and illegal harvesting be given in NLBI. The most practicable approach may be for the Parties to report on existing forest resources, annual growth rate, and extractable volumes (with species) in line with practices of SFM. Anything in excess of reported volumes and species may be treated as "Illegal" and should not be traded.
- South Africa stands with Pakistan in proposing closer linkages of NLBI with other international environmental agreements including CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC that will certainly enhance ODA mainly from GEF sources.

- Pakistan supports Woman Group asking for including a clause in NLBI on gender mainstreaming in SFM
- None of the proposals has addressed the most important and key issue concerning forest protection, management and development, which is the legal ownership and tenural systems of forestlands. Pakistan's proposal asks for legal description for different legal categories of forests before suggesting measures and actions under NLBI.