

III. Proposal of Brazil

International understanding on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Reaffirming the relevance of the forest-related commitments made in Agenda 21, in the non-legally binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation,

Reaffirming also the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals within their time frame and concerned that some countries may not be in a position to do so in view of lack of adequate financial and technical resources,

Reaffirming further the Principles of the Declaration of Rio on Environment and Development, in particular those relating to the sovereign right of countries to take advantage of their own resources according to their policies on environment and development as well as to the common but differentiated responsibilities of the countries, based on their historical contribution towards the degradation of the global environment,

Reaffirming the decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the proposals for action identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, and welcoming ongoing efforts to implement such actions,

Reaffirming also Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, which stated that the main objective of the international arrangement on forests is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to that end; that the purpose of such an international arrangement would be 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 and to carry out principal functions, based on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the non-legally binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles), chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the proposals for action adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, in a manner consistent with and complementary to existing international legally binding instruments relevant to forests,

Expressing concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation and its adverse impact on the livelihoods of over a billion people (including many of the poorest and most vulnerable), and about the need for more effective implementation of actions to facilitate the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests,

Reaffirming that the United Nations Forum on Forests, with the assistance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests as the key intergovernmental mechanisms to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at

the national, regional and global levels, and stressing the importance of their appropriate strengthening,

Recognizing that the implementation of policies and measures to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests requires significant technical and institutional capacities and substantive investments,

Noting that sufficient new and additional financial resources have yet to be channelled to support national policies and programmes aimed at the conservation, management and sustainable development of forests,

Convinced that policies and measures adopted at global, regional, subregional and national levels should enhance the capacity of countries to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed sources,

Aware that States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries to better address the problems of environmental degradation and that trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade,

Reaffirming the special needs and requirements of low forest cover countries and other countries with fragile ecosystems,

1. *Decides* to adopt the following International Understanding on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (referred below as the "Understanding") as a voluntary instrument to enhance international cooperation and to support national, regional and subregional policies and measures, within the International Arrangement of Forests and the mandate of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

2. *Decides also* that the International Understanding on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests is based on the non-legally binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests;

3. *Recognizes* in the implementation of the Understanding that:

(a) Each country is responsible for the conservation and sustainable management of its forests and the enforcement of its forest laws, which are essential to achieving sustainable forest management;

(b) International cooperation plays a crucial and catalytic role in reinforcing the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve the management of their forests;

(c) The private sector, forest owners, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders can contribute to achieving sustainable forest management and should be involved in a transparent and participatory way in decision-making on forests that affects them;

Strategic objectives

4. *Agrees* on the following strategic objectives to be achieved through the implementation of the Understanding:

1. Increase significantly the area of protected and sustainably managed forests and reverse the loss of forest cover around the world;
2. Eradicate poverty in forest areas and improve the quality of life in forest-dependent communities through social and economic policies and measures and sustainable forest management;
3. Reversing the decline in official development assistance allocated to forest-related activities and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources to the implementation of sustainable forest management;
4. Consistently increase the economic value and market share, including for export, of forest products originated from sustainably managed forests and their associated environmental functions;

Policies and measures

5. *Resolves* that the following actions should be developed at global, regional and subregional levels to achieve the above-mentioned strategic objectives:

(a) Initiate or strengthen public-private partnerships with the private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to promote implementation of national forest programmes, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, good business practices and improved market transparency;

(b) Promote research and development of forests by means of a network of established centres of excellence in all regions of the world, especially in developing countries;

(c) Promote international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, and the participation of local communities;

(d) Promote long-term political commitments and strengthen existing commitments, which would allow countries to adopt concrete actions in institutional, economic and social fields for the integration of conservation and sustainable forest management within national development policies;

6. *Resolves* that the following actions should be developed at national level to achieve the above-mentioned strategic objectives:

(a) Formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national programmes containing measures to support and increase sustainable forest management and combat deforestation;

(b) Establish and make public national goals related to strategic objectives (1) to (4) established in paragraph 4 of the Understanding;

(c) Develop, periodically update and make available to the Forum national reports on actions and instruments adopted to achieve the strategic objectives of this Understanding, using comparable methodologies to be agreed upon by the Forum

and taking into account reports required by other multilateral environmental agreements;

(d) Countries should seek, through the respective governing bodies of member States of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to ensure that their forest-related programmes are consistent with the priorities and are supportive of the actions adopted to implement the Understanding;

(e) Include forests in national poverty reduction strategies and, as appropriate, in strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to carry out the actions agreed upon in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, with a view to mobilizing new and additional financial resources for sustainable forest management;

(f) Integrate conservation and sustainable forest management within national development policies;

Means of implementation

7. *Decides* to develop the following means of implementation:

(a) Secure high-level political commitment and support to provide financial and technical resources to meet the strategic objectives of the present resolution, including by the establishment a Global Forest Fund, with the aim of providing specific financial resources for achieving the objectives of the Understanding;

(b) Establish a clearing house mechanism to facilitate a better exchange of experiences and good practices and to facilitate access by developing countries to better technology for a sustainable forest management and an increase of in situ value added for forest products;

(c) Promote the transfer of technology to and capacity-building in developing countries to enable them to implement national policies and measures aimed at reversing the loss of forest cover in their territories as well as significantly increase the area of protected and sustainably managed forests;

(d) Invite the Council of the Global Environment Facility to strengthen its role in implementing sustainable forest management by establishing a new operational programme on forests with sufficient additional funds to be allocated by the current replenishment negotiations without prejudice to other operational programmes;

Institutional modalities

8. *Decides also* that the Proposals for Action adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) should be fully taken into account in the development of the actions referred to in paragraph 4 above;

9. *Decides further* that the Forum should meet every two years to assess the implementation of this Understanding, review national reports, the provision of financial resources and the adequacy of the modalities for transfer of technology and to provide guidance for further action to achieve the objectives established above;

10. *Decides* that regional and subregional meetings should be held at least every two years to discuss practical steps at that level for the implementation of the

Understanding; such meetings which should be conducted by regional or subregional organizations mandated by their member States and acknowledged by the Forum, would be prepared jointly by the designated organizations and the Forum secretariat;

11. *Decides also* that the Forum should continue to encourage and facilitate the participation of stakeholders from all major groups in its work, in an open and transparent way;

12. *Decides further* that the Forum should agree on a multiyear programme of work 2006-2015 and the strengthening of the secretariat to fulfil its mandate;

13. *Decides* that the Forum should review, in 2015, the progress achieved in international cooperation for the conservation, management and sustainable development of all types of forests and should consider ways for further strengthening the international arrangement on forests, taking into account the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35.