



संयुक्त राष्ट्र स्थित भारत का स्थायी मिशन  
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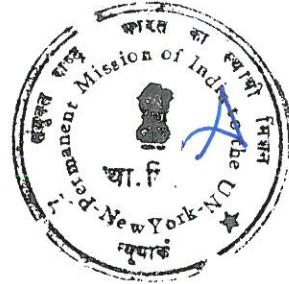
October 17, 2016

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and has the honour to refer to the letter of July 28, 2016 from two Co-Chairs of AHEG seeking views and comments from Member States. Views and comments received from the concerned authorities in India are attached.

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat in New York, the assurances of its highest consideration.

The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat  
Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-2300  
New York.

(Kind attention: Mr. Ryo Nakamura  
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The comments on the initial proposal on the building blocks/options for the strategic plan for 2017-30 and the quadrennial programme 2017-2020 of the work are as under:-

India takes this opportunity to thank AHEG Co-chairs for providing the opportunity to Member States to provide views/ comments (i) on the initial proposals on options and building blocks for the 2017-30 and (ii) the quadrennial programme of the work for 2020.

- The present document does not indicate title for this strategic plan. In the previous AHEG many experts had suggested that the title should contain the words United Nations to signal its connection with the United Nations and as a step towards global coherence. The present document does not suggest any options for the title. We may consider the titles proposed in the original background paper titled- Elements For The Preparation Of The Strategic Plan 2017-30 we favour title no. 2 of the said document i.e. The United Nation Strategic Plan for Forest 2017-2030:-

#### **Introduction Chapter 1:**

Para (A): The importance of forests to the people and planet should be moved up under the major heading of introduction followed by a comprehensive description of IAF.

- Para(A): It is suggested to add following
  1. Cultural, spiritual and aesthetic value of forests be added
  2. Importance of forests to biodiversity (Forests are rich in biodiversity and home to 80% of all the terrestrial animals plants and insects.
- Para (A) Bullet 4 needs rewording as all forests are not highly productive and resilient.
- Para (A) **Sub Section contribution of forests to the 2030 agenda'**: Bullet 9 and 10 referring to biodiversity values and cultural and spiritual values can be shifted from here and more appropriately placed under para (A) Sub Section Importance of forests to people and planet.

Chapter 1 Para (B) :Trends and challenges

- Bullet 1: After deforestation add forest degradation
- Bullet 2: Demand for fuel and fibre may not lead to forest area loss, however, this may lead to deforestation. Hence words fuel and fibre may be deleted.
- Bullet 3: In addition to the mentioned activities, **Mining** may be added (a major economic activity affecting forest areas).
- Bullet 4: In addition to stated factors responsible for degradation biotic pressure (Fuel wood and fodder collection) may be added
- Bullet 7 : needs to be reworded to include building capacities of the countries to access and effectively use the forest funds and developing better cooperation and integration amongst the existing and new emerging funds.

Chapter 1 Para C

- Bullet 2: One of the key messages from the State of World's Forests 2016 report can be mentioned as suggested: "Agriculture remains the most significant driver of global deforestation and there is urgent need to promote more positive interaction between agriculture and forestry."

Chapter 1 Para D

- Bullet 1: The language should be more affirmative

**Chapter 2 IAF Vision and Mission statement:**

- Para A: Vision for 2030:

Option 1: The word everywhere can be deleted.

Option 2: Sustainable management includes the component of protection and hence the word protected can be deleted. Para B: Option 2: SFM is the core of the strategic plan. Option 2 has no reference of SFM.

Option 4 provides a limited scope only related to forest degradation and deforestation.

Option 5 can be reformulated as enhanced political commitment at all levels in order to promote the implementation of SFM and enhance the contribution of forest to sustainable development and well being of all and future generations.

Option 6: present formulation is too long can be reworded.

### **Chapter 3**

- The goals should be built around the already agreed goals and no new goals should be included.

Para B: Options for global targets/ deliverables : while deciding the targets IAF must take into consideration the fact that we need criteria and indicators to report on these in a meaningful and accurate manner. The reporting burden should not be enhanced.

### **Chapter 4 : Implementation framework:**

- The elements of UNFI need not be the part of strategic plan. At best it can be added as an annex to the plan.
- Section C: Means and resources for implementation of strategic plan: Many developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition lack the capacity to access and effectively utilize the existing resources. This point needs to be highlighted under section C.

### **Chapter 5: Review Framework**

- We emphasize the need to utilize existing processes and minimise the reporting burden.

As the goals and target for the strategic plan have not be finalised no views are being suggested on the 4 POW.

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